
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

THE SENATE

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings on Wednesday, December 15, 2004, at 11.20 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Fred GOLLOP, K.A., J.P. (President)

Her Honour Senator Dame Patricia SYMMONDS, D.B.E., G.C.M., B.A. (Hons.) (PGCE) J.P. (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. E. R. GRIFFITH, G.C.M., J.P. (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Leader of Senate)

Senator T. E. BARKER, B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Econ.), J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Senator the Hon. J. E. D. WILLIAMS, B.Sc., (Hons.), M.Sc., M.B.A., J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of the Civil Service)

Senator Sir Roy TROTMAN, K.A., M.A.

Senator Sir John Stanley GODDARD, K.A., G.C.M., B.Com., F.C.A. (Honorary LL.D. (U.W.I.))

Senator R. W. GRANT, B.A. (Econ.), G.Dip., M.A. (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and International Transport)

Senator the Hon. Miss L. V. EASTMOND, LL.B. (Hons.) LL.M. (Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development)

Senator I. St. C. LINTON

Senator G. P. B. NICHOLLS, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B. (Hons.)

Senator G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL

Senator Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS, B.A. (Hons.)

Senator F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.

Senator Dr. D. S. LOWE, Ph.D., Dip. Theology, B.A., MED., ED.D.

Senator the Very Reverend H. E. CRICHLAW, GCM, B.A. (Hons.) Dunelm

Senator Dr. F. L. CHANDLER, Ph.D., B.Sc. (Hons.)

Senator Sir A. C. FIELDS

Prayers were led by Rev. Father E. Massiah.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have received apologies for the absence of Senator Williams, Senator Newton and Senator Parris.

This Senate is in Session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following Bills:

1. Value Added Tax (Amendment) Order, 2004.
2. Value Added Tax Refund (Rosemar Limited) Order, 2004.
3. Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 2004.
4. Annual Report of the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order Nos. 22(1) and 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the following Bill was read a first time.

ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007 (Guarantee) Bill, 2004.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, before we proceed with Public Business for the day, I crave the indulgence of the Senate to acknowledge the contribution of two persons who served in this Honourable Chamber and have now gone to the great beyond.

First, I would like to acknowledge the contribution which was made by the late Senator Collymore who was a sitting Member of this Chamber when he passed away on November 28, 2004.

Mr. President, some time in October we all received the sad news that the Senator had taken ill while chairing a meeting of The Barbados Association of Retired Persons, of which he was a long-standing member and was Chairman at the time of his illness. We all hoped and wished that he would have recovered from his illness so that he could return to this Chamber and continue to make his contribution. Unfortunately, that was not to be. We were further saddened when we heard that on November 28, 2004 he had passed away.

Sir, the late Senator Collymore, according to the records, entered the Barbados Public Service on September 8, 1949 as a temporary clerk and he remained in the Service until May 7, 1991, 41 years and 7 months. His entire adult life was spent working in the Barbados Public Service.

Mr. President, all those persons who had the opportunity to work with the late Senator during that time or to observe how he went about his duty spoke highly of him. During that 41 years and 7 months he worked in several departments in the public service. He worked in several departments of the public service. Some of them include, the

Currency Board, where he was a long grade clerk in 1951, the Transport Board, the Department of Science and Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, the Financial Secretary's Office, the General Hospital where he was an executive officer at one stage and the Chief Establishments office where he spent quite a bit of time, eventually in 1972, rising to the level of Chief Establishment Officer. Prior to that, in 1963-1964, he spent some time at Mona where he succeeded in passing the examination leading to a Diploma in Public Administration.
11.30 a.m.

Sir, if you look at his career in the Public Service, you would observe that while the first 13 years were somewhat slow in the sense that he had only two promotions during that time and after that period, he had what could only be described as a meteoric rise in the public service. Sir, by the time he reached the age of 40, he was at the level of permanent secretary, then described as the Chief Establishment Officer.

Sir, in other ministries he was a permanent secretary, the Ministry of Transport and Works, the Ministry of Housing and then he went back to the Establishment Office which had been renamed as the Ministry of the Civil Service. It was while there in 1986 that he was elevated to position of Head of the Civil Service and he remained as Permanent Secretary, in the Ministry of the Civil Service and Head of the Civil Service until 1991 when he retired.

It is clear from the records that he had always applied himself assiduously to his duties. In 1962 when he served as the secretary to a Committee which looked at the salaries of the Police Force, he received a commendation at the end of that exercise for excellent work. A similar thing happened later when he served as a secretary to a commission which looked at salaries. There again, he received another letter of commendation which is found in the records. In 1987, he was honoured and received the Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, an acknowledgment of his outstanding public service.

Sir, such was his love for service that even after he retired, he continued to serve in other areas. He served as a member of the Haynes Commission which looked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and he was one of those persons who recommended that the institution be moved from a Government department to a Board.

He served also on a Committee that was looking at pensions. In every instance, all those persons who were associated with him, spoke highly of his work. In addition, he served in this Chamber, Mr. President, from 1999 which was his first term, and he was reappointed in 2003. When he passed away, he was a member of this Body.

Sir, I am sure that all of us will miss his well-reasoned and sound contributions which he gave while in this Chamber, so that even when we disagreed with the conclusions which he reached, we were able, nevertheless, to see why he reached that conclusion.

I remember in my short time here, but even before I was here, I used to find time to follow the proceedings of this Chamber, and in the Other Place, as a matter of interest from the point of view of being a good citizen, and I always took note of the issues on which he rose with reference to the management of the public service, matters related to pensions and during the last year and a half, I was always intrigued by his speeches, even with reference to agriculture.

The point though, Mr. President, is that he made worthwhile contributions on all of the issues, whenever he got involved in the discussions, and we in this Chamber will certainly miss those contributions.

Therefore, on behalf of the Government Side and indeed on the behalf of the entire Senate, I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to his relatives and friends and to express the wish that he may rest in peace.

Thank you.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I rise to associate myself fully with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Leader of Government Business on the passing of Senator Branston Collymore. The last Sitting which Senator Collymore attended in this Chamber, I believe was on August 13, 2004. On that day, as was my wont, I had a conversation with him. How was I to know then that even as we spoke, death had marked him and would soon claim him as its own?

I first met Senator Collymore, I believe on the second Sunday in June 1986, after the Democratic Labour Party came back to office, at Lemon Grove which was the family home of the late Sir James Tudor. Sir, from that day began a friendship and a familiarity which grew and which have treasured over the passage of years.

Senator Collymore of course, spent the better part of his life in public service and rendered inestimable service to the people of Barbados in various parts of the public service. He got to know the public service so well that he was a veritable reservoir of information on any area of the public service. Whenever I had difficulty threading my way through that tortuous labyrinth that is the public service and its procedures, once I called him, he made every crooked path straight and every rough path smooth. It has not surprised me that he was able to secure for himself, the commendation and admiration of the young and not so young, across the public

service, whether male or female. I think it had to do with the fact that he understood quite early in his career and lived the fact that respect demanded really counts for nothing, but respect merited counts for everything. I have always known and heard the testimonies of those whose respect he merited simply by steering clear of unfair practices and of leaving his footprints on other than very worthy paths.

11.40 a.m.

Sir, it should surprise no one that he was thought qualified for national recognition, and as the Honourable Leader of Government Business indicated, was made a Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. It should surprise no one either that from very humble beginnings, born to none of those privileges which wealth and status are known to bestow, he was able to rise to the top of the Public Service by dint of hard work, by dint of steady application and by a commitment to ensuring that he left Barbados a better place than he found it.

I always found his manner charming and his conversations anything but dull. In fact, to converse with Senator Collymore was always to expose oneself to rare kinds of enlightenments. His conversations were usually illumined by strategic placements or strategic flashes of erudition and wit. After he retired from the Public Service he did not go home to vegetate but found other capacities in which to serve and he applied his neat and tidy mind to other areas of national service and national activity.

Senator Griffith mentioned that he was very active with the Barbados Association of Retired Persons and put their case whenever he had to with daunting eloquence and with a conviction that claimed the admiration of all. As a Member of this Chamber, I was exposed to him for just the very short while that I was here, but once he rose to speak I always felt inclined to listen. That is not to say, Mr. President, that I do not listen to everyone else. It was always clear to me that he intervened in debates only when he thought he had something meaningful to say, something to add to the argument and something to contribute to national enlightenment. Therefore, his contributions to the debates were solid, well researched and delivered with conviction.

His presence in this Sitting today will not be felt, in fact it has never been felt since August 13, and his voice will no longer be heard. One is almost tempted to exclaim with the Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

“... O for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!”

He made his contribution to Barbados and he has gone to his grave clothed in the gratitude of the nation he loved and of our Chamber of which he was a Member and in which he served.

I can think of perhaps no better words to say to Senator Collymore across “the valley of the shadow of death” than words written many years ago by the Roman historian Gaius Cornelius Tacitus as he paid tribute to his distinguished father-in-law Julius Agricola. Of course, Senator Collymore was not my father-in-law, let me make that very clear. However, Tacitus said quite deservingly of Agricola, “If there is a place for the spirits of the good, as if wise men are wont to think, great souls do not perish with the body, then may yours be a quiet rest.”

Recall us your fellow Senators from weak regret and maudlin lamentation to a study of your virtues over which it is wrong to weep or to wail. What we have loved, what we have admired in Branston Collymore endures and will continue to endure in the souls of men in the eternity of the ages and in historic fame.

May he rest in peace. My condolences are extended to his family.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR Sir A. C. FIELDS: Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Senator Branston Collymore who unfortunately is no longer with us. I would like simply to associate myself with the remarks of Senator Griffith and Senator Stuart. If there is one thing I could add I would add that I first met Senator Collymore in the late 80s and at that time I was struck by two particular qualities which were always very obvious with Senator Collymore, his integrity and his honesty. He always spoke with conviction with respect to matters of the Public Service primarily and he always had courage and conviction.

Those qualities, integrity and honesty, sometimes in this day and age do not seem to have the same focus that they had in the era that Senator Collymore would have been raised. I think those are two admirable qualities that we would all do well to emulate. Therefore, I am thankful not only that I knew him but that I was able to associate myself with him in this Honourable Chamber over the last 18 months. I think we all are better people for having known Senator Branston Collymore.

May he rest in peace.

SENATOR THE HON. J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, I, too, would like briefly to express my own sympathy and that of my family to the late Senator Branston Collymore whom I had come to respect in this Chamber. As a matter of fact, his knowledge with respect to the workings of the Public Service in things like pensions were something that was a treasure to behold. Incidentally, there are a number of matters that will engage the attention of this

Honourable Senate shortly and I must confess that I was looking forward to Senator Collymore’s contributions on those matters because they are matters that will impact and affect public officers and the Public Service in general. I must say that it would have been good to hear how he would have commented on the changes that will be taking place.

He, like the other Senators who spoke, was a person who had his own personal convictions. He was a man who believed in something. That is not always the case these days.

11.50 a.m.

Mr. President, I trust and hope that during this difficult period that his family would be able to come to grips with their loss but he certainly will be a loss to all of us in this Honourable Senate.

I, too, would wish that he rests in peace. May God be with him.

HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, there is very little left to be said since those who have already spoken have done so feelingly and eloquently. Sir, I could not let this occasion pass without expressing my very deep regrets at Senator Collymore’s passing.

Mr. President, as Chairman of the National Committee on Ageing and as a member of the Barbados Association for Retired Persons, I have spoken to Senator Collymore on a number of occasions about some concerns to do with elders and in many instances, I would confer with him privately or I would leave him on that matter.

Mr. President, I know how much he will be missed and how deeply his death has been felt by members of the Barbados Association for Retired Persons, who were kind enough to keep me informed when he was ill. I had planned to go see him a few days before I was told by one member that he had died. That is something that I regret.

Mr. President, what has impressed me so much about Senator Collymore was an almost, in today’s world, an old world portliness. As was said before, he was, in every sense of the word, a gentleman. Moreover, there was nothing arrogant about him. There are many persons who have achieved less and have been far more boastful, cocky and arrogant about their achievements but he had a peace in humility. At the same time, when he spoke in this Honourable Chamber, he spoke with authority, so that we all had to sit and listen with respect. He spoke with confidence and yet without any fuss or bombast. Whenever we went into

Committee, if he had to question anything, again there was that deep knowledge of affairs but at the same time he would not make any fuss. If he was assured something would have been dealt with, he accepted it.

Mr. President, therefore, I, like all Honourable Senators here, deeply regret his passing. His contribution in this Honourable Chamber, as in Barbados generally, is something which will be radiant. I offer to his relatives and close friends, my deep condolences.

May he rest in peace, or I might say, *requiescat in pace*.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, the great bard said some centuries ago, that the evil that men do lives after them. The good, he said, is often interred with their bones.

Mr. President, I am pleased that this meeting today provides us an opportunity to depart from that particular philosophical utterance of the great Shakespeare. I say so on two counts; one is that I know of no evil that one is able to speak of our departed brother and secondly, because we are taking the occasion today to reflect on a rich life, richly lived and also hopefully to inspire those who might hear, so that they might be able to take examples from this life of a good person, which we hope might be able to inspire others in their walk through this very difficult journey called life.

Mr. President, the words “thorough”, “methodical”, “reasoned”, “reasonable”, “sincere” and “honest”, are words which come very easily to my mind, and I am sure would come as easily into the minds of the family on whose behalf I speak, when we refer to Senator Branston Collymore. I refer to the family of the labour movement, particularly the labour movement within the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB).

Mr. President, I am sure that officers and members would have me make reference to the very reasoned positions that he took after careful reasoning, positions which sometimes put him in a situation where he negotiated, not only with trade unions but clearly with the Government who gave him the remit as he led in the negotiations.

Mr. President, although I would not wish to disparage other public servants within the Establishment Division, I would wish to single him out for special mention along with the relative of one of our colleagues here, Mr. Algie Symmonds, who with Branston Collymore, has to a very

great degree helped to shape my own industrial relations skills. It did help to give me some significant knowledge in how one is able to deal with issues relating to public servants. I would, therefore, wish even now as Senator Stuart speaks to him across the great valley – he said of the shadow – which we would have to use for the time being, if we hope to communicate with him.

Mr. President, in addition to the significant contributions that Branston was able to make as Chief Establishment Officer, I would wish to put on record our appreciation in the labour movement and in other ministries for his contribution as well as his assistance in guiding the fortunes of the Transport Board. I believe, were he still with us, he might have been called upon to assist, since there are problems to be resolved in that area.

Mr. President, I think very proudly of him as well in the work that he did in the Haynes Commission to look at the functioning of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and to make recommendations to the Government. I would wish to place on record, alongside his own name, the name of Sir Carlyle Burton, as two Permanent Secretaries of the Commission whose contributions were invaluable to the determination of the position of that Commission.

12.00 noon

Senator Griffith is right when he said that there was a unanimous decision for the establishment of a Statutory Board. I had the honour to serve on that Commission and I know that if there was one regret that Senator Collymore had it was the regret that he did not live to see the realisation that we should have a Board. I think that those of us who have been impressed by him and those whose lives that he had touched would be doing a signal honour to his memory if we do everything in our power to work with alacrity and dispatch to ensure that a Board is established without any further delay.

I wish to say that a life like that of Senator Collymore's is one which put him in a very difficult position for many years. I said before that he was Chief Establishment Officer and then he was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Civil Service and that is not an easy position at any time. Those persons who had to serve in such a job would know what I am referring to because quite frequently such an Officer is the meat between the slice of a sandwich and is likely to be chewed by the two sides or the three sides or many sides that might be trying to have their own interests pursued.

Sir, Senator Collymore was able to fill that position with a certain level of grace, maturity and aplomb which I think that all of those who dealt with him were able to benefit from and was able to give particular pleasure to us.

Mr. President, when we negotiated and did not manage to get exactly what we set out to achieve, Senator Collymore was able to disagree with us and agree that he had disagreed with neither side being disagreeable one to another. Mr. President, I understand that there are some institutions in the immediate public where it might be good for people to take an example from that kind approach.

Finally, I wish to speak to Senator Collymore as the President of Barbados Association of Retired Persons. It may not be widely recognised that Senator Collymore had for a long time treated a number of issues relating to ageing, as Senator Symmonds said, and to the problems that people in the public service had with their appointment status, pensions, rebates and privileges.

In fact, one would say that his role was a great role of facilitator in an effort to make the public, Government and sometimes colleagues and workers understand the tremendous role which public servants have played, are playing and, indeed, must continue to play if we are to grow Barbados into that *par excellence* society for which we are hoping to derive benefits; and Senator Collymore was foremost in this respect.

Sir, there were some problems that he had been working on very assiduously up to the time of his passing and it could only be our wish that those matters are not lost because he has passed on, but that they still remain within the domain of the discussion in the public sector even though he is not here to participate in the discussion.

I wish to say that his life is a life that has been given to service and that lives that are given to service are not necessarily heralded, but I am pleased that we are able in our simple manner today to pay tribute to a most deserving public servant, to a most humane creature and to a person to whose family I should like now to offer our deepest, sincerest condolences.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Mr. President, I want to add my tribute to the late Senator Branston Collymore. I first met Senator Collymore when he was Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital, perhaps, this was after he returned to Barbados after his studies in Jamaica. I recall that Senator Collymore called a meeting with the staff of the hospital to discuss the new pension and gratuity arrangements that were to come into being and conditions of service.

Mr. President, as I listened to him then, I recall signalling to him that I want to speak. I said, "Sir, these particular amendments do not concern the key scale workers." He said to me, "You are absolutely correct." So we had no further part to play in that meeting. Mr. President,

I left the public service soon after that but I followed his astute career of what I would call the perfect public servant.

Sir, I also had the privilege of visiting his house on three or four occasions and, perhaps, Honourable Senators may not know that he was a lover of good music. There were times when I discovered that music that his grandson was playing was music that his Granddaddy loved.

I also remember his wife, Phyllis, who is not as well as she would like to be at this time. As a former teacher she was one of my class members over the years and she made a tremendous contribution to our studies. I also want to give my regard to one of his daughters, Mrs. Stephanie Alleyne, who was a church member and an outstanding officer of that church in Grazettes, but, particularly, his three grandchildren, Nicole, Orson and Stephen.

Sir, I had the privilege to watch them grow and develop into three wonderful youngsters. I want to say to this Honourable Senate that I know that Senator Collymore loved his grandchildren and supported them in all their academic studies and helped guide and instruct them. Mr. President, they will miss him as well.

Mr. President, I came to the Senate and found him here. He had an affable personality and was kind thinking. He instructed those who served me lunch what they should and should not give to me, knowing my medical background and that was very kind of him.

I want to say to this Senate that I am tuned to voices and I can still hear his voice, ardent, clear and incisive in thought. Certainly, listening to him over time here and before, has taught me how to present myself in this Chamber. Sir, my family and I give our sympathy to his remaining family. May he rest in peace.
12.10 p.m.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with the comments made by all Honourable Senators who have spoken. I would also wish to express condolences on behalf of myself and my family. I first met Senator Branston Collymore in 1976 and at that time, he would have journeyed from St. Lucy to Christ Church to visit with his brother, sister and nephew who lived in the same community in which I live.

When I met Senator Collymore, I was a young boy some 12 years old at the time, and was struck by his confidence, the easy manner in which he related to me as a youngster and I had the opportunity over the years to receive from him good advice and to be able to request assistance in various areas where he was knowledgeable and had a lot of expertise.

Senator Collymore represented, I think, Sir, the best of what it is to be Barbadian. He was respectful and decent. Family meant a lot to him. He gave service, not to his own advancement but in service to his country.

Sir, as I said before, I want to join with all Honourable Senators, expressing deep regret at the passing of our beloved.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: I was deeply saddened to learn of Senator Collymore's death. Although I was aware that he was very ill, I understood that he was improving and I was therefore very surprised when I heard of his death.

Senator Collymore's contribution to the civil service and to Barbados in general is well known. I had only come into contact with him since I became a senator. However, I can say that he was always very helpful to me as a new Senator and we chatted often over lunch on various topics. He was always willing to share his wide experience and to give advice where necessary. His personality was such that you had no apprehension about approaching him on any matter.

As a member of BARP, I was very pleased when he became President and I, like many other members, looked forward to great things from him but unfortunately, that was not to be.

I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to Senator Collymore's widow, children and other relatives. May he rest in peace.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, I stand to join other Honourable Senators in extending my remarks to remember the life and contributions of this great Barbadian who also served in this Chamber with us.

I suppose, Sir, that the journey of life often takes us through certain avenues where we make contact with different people. It is not very frequent that we make contact with others who embody the true spirit of humanity and exemplify a level of character that causes us to want to be, in some way, shape or form, like that individual. Certainly Senator Collymore was one who, with a measurable sense of consistency, demonstrated a level of character and calm, that he could never be forgotten for that special character and quality.

I cannot boast of having known him for any extended period of time. I am glad for the opportunity to have met him

here in this Chamber and to have been able to observe, listen and be charmed by his knowledge, wit, confidence and the clear way in which he demonstrated his beliefs on matters related to life and work in this country called our own.

I suppose that at the end of the day when we reflect on his contribution, we cannot only look at his years of service, for indeed, it is admirable that one would have served one's country in such a devoted way and one's life would have ended in service to one's country.

I would want, if I would take anything from him to be one who would love country, who would serve country, but in doing so, sought not to make enemies for himself. He was truly independent in thought, in his ability to express his views and, Sir, it is no wonder that it took death to cause us to lay aside our ideological differences and collapse our views, thoughts and emotions in remembering the life of this great man. Sir, to say, "gentleman", is almost a common thing, but when we regard the life of Senator Branston Collymore, he was indeed a gentleman.

May he rest in peace and may his family accept the condolences of our colleagues.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I join with other Honourable Senators who paid tribute this morning to our late colleague, Senator Branston Collymore. As has been said, Senator Collymore enjoyed an outstanding career in the Public Service of Barbados. It is my view that he would certainly have achieved distinction, in whatever field he had chosen.

In this Chamber, he did not intervene in every debate as Senator Stuart said with his usual elegance. He spoke when, in his judgement he thought he could make a significant contribution to a debate. When he did, Senators gave him their undivided attention. I think this reaction was as a result of his knowledge born of rich experience and his quiet dignity. Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds called it "portliness".
12.20 p.m.

Senator Collymore had a certain gravitas which marked him out as a man always likely to command an entrance. He sat in this Chamber for five years and studiously observed its time-honoured traditions and conventions. Outside of this Chamber, I had the privilege of sitting with him as a trustee on the Arnott Cato Foundation. This Foundation which was founded in memory of my very distinguished predecessor, Sir Arnott Cato, provides grants, assistance, *et cetera* to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other health personnel and causes both in St. Vincent and Barbados. I am sure that the Chairman of that Foundation, Sir Carlyle Burton, will agree with me that Senator Collymore's contribution to the work and the success of that Foundation was invaluable.

I do not wish to repeat the many tributes that had been paid today particularly in relation to the Barbados Association of Retired Persons (BARP) of which I have the privilege to be a member. His funeral service at the St. Lucy's Church both in terms of the quality of the tributes paid to him and the attendance bore additional testimony to the esteem in which the late Senator was held.

I should like to convey on my own behalf and on behalf of my family our condolences to the widow, children and other relatives of Senator Collymore.

Requiescat in pace.

I will now ask all Honourable Senators to stand for two minutes in tribute to the memory of Senator Collymore.

[Senators stood in silence for two minutes]

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would just like to advise all Honourable Senators who are, I think, somewhat concerned about some extraneous noises emanating from a place just outside the precinct of the Chamber, some of which have come in, that I made our displeasure known. In fact, I did this through the Clerk and I think the authorities have now put the matter right.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, at this time I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the late Senator Justice George Moe, Q.C. who served as the Leader of this Chamber during the period 1971 to 1976. His life too was one of service to his country and to the wider region.

The late Senator studied at Oxford University and the Colombia University and was called to the Bar of Middle Temple in 1960. Shortly after that he sat on the Bench as a Magistrate. He then served as Senior Crown Counsel and acted as Solicitor-General. Later on he represented Barbados as a permanent representative at the United Nations. In due course, he would be recognised as a leading authority on the law of the sea. In fact, during that time he was one of the very few persons who excelled in that area of law.

In 1971 he contested the general elections in the constituency of St. James and was unsuccessful. That is what gave rise to his membership in this Chamber. At that time, he was appointed Leader of the Senate and also as the Attorney-General, Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Looking back, I was pleased to note that he was one of the few persons who served as Attorney-General from this Chamber.

I did not have the distinct pleasure of coming into personal contact with the late Senator but as a public servant

during that period of time I knew of his work and as a citizen I read from time to time in the newspapers some of the decisions he made when he was on the Bench. From speaking with persons who grew up with him, who went to school with him and who knew him personally, they all described him as being a very quiet and dignified person.

After 1976 he moved on to wider service and he served as a Judge of the Supreme Court in Belize in 1979. Three years later he was elevated to the position of Chief Justice in that country following in the footsteps of another eminent Barbadian jurist, the late Sir Erskine Ward. In 1991 he was appointed a Justice of the Barbados Supreme Court having earlier served on the Appeals Court of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. Unfortunately, his distinguished career was brought to a premature end through illness and he died on August 16 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

It is clear from the record, Mr. President, that his career has been a distinguished one, that he served his country well and the wider region equally as well. Therefore, on behalf of the Government Side in the Senate, I wish to extend condolences to his wife and children and other relatives and friends.

May he rest in peace.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I once again rise to add my voice to these tributes to the late Honourable Justice George Moe who passed from this life in the month of August this year. George Moe had a very distinguished life, a privileged education, and a very distinguished career. He went to Harrison College. His doctorate from Columbia University is well known.

I got to know George Moe in 1971 when he offered himself as a candidate for the general elections in the constituency of St. James.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. President, at that time St. James was only one constituency and did not become two constituencies until the year 1981. Mr. George Moe, the Democratic Labour Party's candidate in St. James, was the Honourable Leader of Government Business in 1980. He was unsuccessful, although performing quite credibly during the election by securing a score of over 3,000 votes, though his opponent secured obviously more than 6,000. Therefore, he made his presence felt in that constituency in 1971.

Mr. President, I well remember, as a young man, journeying to the various parts of St. James, to listen to public meetings in support of the candidacy of George Cecil Moe.

Mr. President, one can always say that he was not a quintessential politician but certainly one could have relied on his unrelenting support of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow and the late Sir James Tudor, who both fought manfully for him during that period. Sir, I have vivid memories of speeches made in his defence and support during that 1971 election.

Sir, it was after he lost in St. James and the Democratic Labour Party retained the Government that he was appointed to this Honourable Chamber as the Honourable Leader of Government Business, as Attorney General and as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. President, he discharged his responsibilities with such quiet efficiency, certainly with dignified speeches. Of course, during 1971 and 1976, the then Opposition somehow sensed that the people of Barbados would have unlikely given Government a fourth term in office and, therefore, very early in that third term of the Democratic Labour Party's reign, the political pressure was brought on.

Sir, George Moe, with such fortitude and dignity, bore the pressures and vicissitudes of that period. Sir, vicissitudes there were because in 1974, for example, George Moe, as Attorney General had to accept responsibility for the fame or notoriety of the Constitutional Amendments of that year. It was one of the most divisive issues in Barbadian politics.

Mr. President, one remembers with pleasure the calm with which he entertained criticism and the quiet dignity with which he defended those amendments. Of course, the record will now show that 30 years later, all of those amendments which he defended are still in place. Judges are still being appointed by the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General can still give directions to the Director of Public Prosecutions, which were the two most controversial amendments of that period.

Mr. President, the credit to George Moe is that when put under unprecedented pressure in that period, he would not wilt but would stick to his conviction that the amendments were good for Barbados and that they would bring improvements to the machinery of governance in this country.

Mr. President, during that period, and to George Moe's credit, the Succession Act, 1975, was passed, which was one of the most far-reaching and socially-transforming pieces of legislation ever to pass through this Parliament. It was the first piece of legislation passed in this Parliament to accord a legal recognition to illegitimate children, that is, children born out of wedlock. This was a distinction for succession purposes, between legitimacy and illegitimacy. It also

accorded, for the first time in Barbados, the formal legal recognition for common law spouses, again for succession purposes.

Sir, later legislation would accord that same kind of recognition under the Family Law Act and under the Status of Children Reform Act but thanks to George Moe, it was the Succession Act, 1995, that has brought about those earth-shaking changes. Therefore, long after he has gone, the people of Barbados will remember him with gratitude for those amendments.

Mr. President, one area of regret I would have thought, was that in 1976, as Attorney-General, according to the record, he had introduced a piece of legislation which fell victim of the dissolution of Parliament and, therefore, it died with that Parliament. Sir, it was a piece of legislation so designed which was to control ownership of property in Barbados by foreigners. In fact, I believe the short title was intended to be the Aliens Holding of Property Act, 1976. That piece of legislation was intended to limit the amount of real property that any foreigner could have owned in Barbados and, of course, it gave the Minister of Housing and Lands the authority to determine who should or should not own land in Barbados. That fell victim to the dissolution of Parliament and since the Democratic Labour Party lost the election, it vanished into the legislative landscape.

Mr. President, therefore, as a legislator, George Moe can be proud of his contributions to politics in Barbados. I well recall, I believe it was an American Senator, Allan Simpson of Wyoming, who, some years ago, was introducing the then President Gerald Forde to an audience at Harvard University. He made a statement which I think was applicable to George Moe as it was to Gerald Forde then. He said that in politics if you have the integrity, nothing else matters but if you do not have integrity, nothing else matters either.

Mr. President, it is to the credit to George Moe that throughout his brief political career no questions were ever raised about his personal integrity. After the 1976 election, he practised for a short while in the local courts and then went off on a judicial appointment, ending up as Chief Justice of Belize. There he rendered fearless service to the judicial service of Belize and gave well-thought out and well-reasoned judgments, which, of course, are a pleasure to read because they speak so loudly of his deep understanding of the law.

12.40 p.m.

Mr. President, he came back to Barbados and was appointed as Justice of Appeal. He served on the local Court of Appeal until illness softened his resonance and, of course, limited his mobility. Sir, even while serving on the Bench

here in Barbados as Justice of Appeal, he was a distinguished part of recent judicial history, for he sat on the Court of Appeal that decided the famous case, Gladwyn Ophelia King and the Attorney-General. You will recall that there was one dissenting judgement in that case in the Court of Appeal and George Moe was in the majority. Of course, when the matter went to the Privy Council they agreed with him.

Sir, his understanding of the law was deep. He was a very good listener. When anyone appeared before him, as I have had to do from time to time, one was always impressed with his willingness to listen and always had a sense of being understood.

Mr. President, you know that one of the perils of presiding anywhere is the need to sit and listen, very often listen when you would prefer to be doing something else. I say that deliberately because I hope the time will come when I will have a chance to comment in a more formal way on Your Honour's capacity to sit and listen.

Sir, that was George Moe's strength. When persons said that he had a judicial temperament one would understand what they meant because of that unparalleled ability to sit, stare Counsel in the face and just listen, interrupting only when necessary to get Counsel to correct himself or to get clarification when he wanted to.

Sir, there is small wonder then that he attracted the attention of those whose responsibility it is to award National Honours and he was given the award of Companion of Honour of Barbados entitling him to use the title of Honourable.

Sir, his contribution to law and politics in Barbados will long outlive him and we will remember him in gratitude as we look at the massive, substantial and wise contribution which he made in deliberations, not only of this Chamber but to the administration of justice in Barbados.

Mr. President, it is not the tendency for us to be prepared for the passing of people like George Moe or Senator Collymore, of whom we spoke earlier, but that reality we must never forget as we seek to recall the poem of the famous Thomas Gray's, *Elegy in a Country Churchyard*, reminds us very pointedly that:

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow'r,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike the inevitable hour,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Sir, we must never forget that this is our ultimate destination and, therefore, what good we can do in this life, we should do and do it quickly.

To his bereaved relatives, I take this opportunity to extend heartfelt condolences.

May he rest in peace.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sir Roy Trotman.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, the words, "dust thou art, to dust you will return" were not spoken of the soul and the soul of George Moe lives on and so we are able, if we are to take from the previous imagery when in a tribute we are able to speak and make him aware that this Barbados still holds him in very high esteem and we are hoping that people will take an example from his living.

I cannot speak to the late Honourable George Moe's life as a Justice but I do think that I can speak of his life as Attorney-General and a politician. Sir, persons might not now remember, since I left so long ago, but I did have a political life at one time and I refer to those better days of political camaraderie in the late 1960s, 1970s and thereafter. It is from that time I am able to reflect on the life and times of George Moe.

I remember the quiet and dignified manner in which he conducted himself and I remember that though he was a serious person, he was a very friendly and helpful person. Mr. President, recognising that persons like that who are quiet and erudite do not necessarily meet with the pleasure of the electorate at times when they are fisticuffs in the political arena. So, he and another person, C. Asquith Phillips, who tried in the north of the island and then in St. Michael, though they were excellent persons, very well learned persons and persons whose contributions to the well-being of Barbados should be recorded and respected, they did not have the quintessential characteristics of the politician.

Mr. President, I am not too sure what that is but I have been one who had been there and I did manage to get that approbation and support of the public, so, perhaps, I did have it, Sir. I will never know. I do know of the late Senator George Moe that he was a man of whom we should all be justly proud. A man with an illustrious career and personality.

Sir, I think that we have been able to recognise in his offspring, who have gone into the professions and have carried the same kind of humanity with their professionalism, and who should be given due accreditation for following in the very large footsteps of a big father.

Mr. President, that solid position which the late Senator Moe had was able to be of assistance to the Party that he served and a Party that I served in those days, which relates to the late 1960s and 1970s. Many of us young, aspiring, political persons were able to learn from the experience of

such persons. I do not necessarily say the experience that we were gaining but I say the experience of learning how to bring humanity to bear to whatever public cloak that we put on ourselves and it is in that framework that I think very much of the timeliness and excellence of the tribute paid to him by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in a programme which was broadcast shortly after his passing, when the General Manager left her office and went to the studio and prepared that programme where his family was brought before the cameras and his life was brought back before the public of Barbados. Sir, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation should be congratulated for a very excellent programme.

12.50 p.m.

I wish to think of those days in which he tried and did not succeed, not of times when Senator Moe failed to win the support of the electorate in St. James. He did, notwithstanding the fact that I was among those trying to help him to convince the electorate, but we should see that as a time in which great men were out there in the field and one of them had to win.

He did not win the seat but I think he won the hearts of many people because of the humanity which he brought to the task that was before him, and because he did not allow the loss at the polls to prevent him from recognising that all of us have a contribution, bigger than the contribution which we might make in another place; and as long as we are able to bring efficiency, proficiency and character to the task that is set to us, and we do that task with the same kind of vigour and energy, honesty and integrity as we might bring to another task, then we are in a position to have people say that we have served well, and made our contribution to this land, Barbados. Then, others who see our lives may be able to take examples from it, as in closing we would take from Gray's Elegy from the footprints in the sand that are left by others.

HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I knew Justice Moe socially, through some of my relatives who were close friends of his family. In fact, his wife Olga and I are godmothers of one of those relatives. I found it a very interesting and hospitable family. George was quiet and dignified, as those who have already spoken attested to him as unfailingly courteous and very hospitable.

He was a very cultured person and I remember one of the eulogists at his funeral mentioning his love for music. He had a very deep love for his family and when he was unfortunately stricken, from all accounts, he bore his illness with great courage and acceptance. I was reminded in quoting one of my favourite pieces of Shakespeare that was said of Lear could be said of George.

"Men must endure their going, hence even as their coming hither. Ripeness is all."

Sir, ripeness meaning maturity.

Sir, I wish again to offer condolences to his wife Olga, a lovely and wonderful person, and to his children. At this time when I am sure that he and Senator Collymore are with us, even from a far distant shore that we can rejoice at their having been here and made the sort of contribution which they did so that there is no need for tears at this time. We can be thankful that they did so much and gave so much.

Therefore, I am confident that they are resting in peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR G. P. I. GOODING-EDGHILL: Mr. President, I will be very brief but I would like to join with other Honourable Senators in paying tribute to George Moe. I did not have the opportunity to meet him in a political capacity but I had an opportunity over the last ten years of meeting with him in a private capacity as a Director of Companies. I must say that I found him to be very firm but fair and an excellent negotiator. I found in all my dealings with him that he demonstrated enormous compassion. When we speak of him as an entrepreneur I think it is fair to say that he did very well.

I would want to offer condolences to his wife, whom I have also had the opportunity to deal with on occasions, to his children, Cecilia and Stephen.

May he rest in peace.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should like to associate the Chair with the remarks made in tribute to the late Honourable George Cecil Rawle Moe, a former Attorney-General of Barbados and Leader of the Senate. Reference has been made of his distinguished academic and judicial career and, of course, he held high political office.

I would just want to say very succinctly that the late George Moe's service to Barbados was given without fanfare, but it was substantial and of high quality.

In his final years, I agree with Senator Dame Patricia Symmonds that he bore his illness with great fortitude. I often observed with admiration, the quality of care and attention which was lavished on him by his wife and children. I join in extending condolences to his widow, Mrs. Olga Moe, his children and his other relatives. He will long be remembered. May he rest in peace.

I will now ask all Honourable Senators to rise for two minutes of silence, in memory of the late George Moe.

[Senators stood in silence for two minutes]

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting be now suspended until 2.00 p.m. today was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Senate accordingly.
12.58 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 2 – CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (IMPLEMENTATION) (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (Implementation) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2004 which is before us is seeking to remove a number of restrictions and will therefore affect several pieces of legislation.

The pieces of legislation which are being amended are as follows:

1. The Franchises (Registration and Control) Act, Chapter 179A;
2. The Aliens Act, Chapter 185;
3. The Immigration Act, Chapter 190;
4. The Companies Act, Chapter 308;
5. The Insurance Act, Chapter 310;
6. The Legal Profession Act, Chapter 370A;
7. The Travel Services Act, Chapter 373A;
8. The Small Business Development Act (Act 1999-23);
9. The International Financial Services Act (Act 2002-5); and
10. The Architects Registration Act (Act 2003-5).

Mr. President, at the fourteenth Intercessional Meeting of the Conference of the Heads of Government in February 2003, Barbados, along with Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, committed themselves to removing the restrictions identified in the Bill before us by December 31, 2004. Thus, Mr. President, Barbados along with Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica intend to declare themselves CARICOM Single Market and Economy ready in January 2005.

The Conference at that time acknowledged that while there was a list before it of the restrictions which have been identified, it is quite possible that there may be other restrictions which would be discovered at a later date. Therefore, it agreed on a timeframe within which restrictions should be removed. The guidelines which were agreed to are that those restrictions which were in place prior to 1998 and were identified up to December 31, 2005 will be removed and that any restrictions which were discovered after December 31, 2005 will be deemed to be illegal and the Member States concerned will be required to remove them immediately.

The Bill before us is therefore seeking to remove a number of restrictions which now prohibit the free movement of services and persons.

The Franchises (Registration and Control) Act, Chapter 179A now states that persons other than citizens or permanent residents must obtain a licence from the Minister prior to operating a business using his or her own mark, product, service, techniques, device, copyright, industrial design or invention. The Bill therefore seeks to amend the Act to remove these restrictions which are found in section 3 of the Franchises (Registration and Control) Act, Chapter 179A.

The Aliens Act, Chapter 185 now states that an alien shall not hold a pilotage or shipping licence and shall not be the owner of a ship registered in Barbados. For the purposes of the Act, "alien" means a person who is not a Commonwealth citizen, a British protected person or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland. The Act as it stands therefore reflects in a negative way nationals of Haiti and Suriname. Therefore, the Bill before us is seeking to amend the Act to remove that restriction as it relates to persons from Haiti and Suriname who are members of the CARICOM arrangement.

The Immigration Act, Chapter 190 needs to be amended as well to facilitate the free movement of service providers and specified categories of CARICOM nationals entering Barbados with respect to the right of establishment.

Section 198 (1) of the Companies Act states that:

“A public company may by a special resolution amend its articles in accordance with the regulations to constrain the issue or transfer of its shares:

(e) to persons who are not resident Barbadians.”

Therefore, the Bill before us is seeking to remove that restriction from section 198 (1) of the Companies Act.

The Insurance Act, Chapter 310 now states that applications for registration of brokers will only be received from individuals who are citizens or permanent residents of Barbados and from companies and other corporate entities that are resident in or controlled by citizens or permanent residents of Barbados. The Bill is seeking to remove that restriction.

2.10 p.m.

Mr. President, with respect to the Legal Professions Act, Cap. 370A (5)(1):

“A person who after March 31, 1973, applies to the High Court to be admitted to practise law, and who satisfies the Court that

(f) he is

- (i) a citizen of Barbados, or
- (ii) a citizen of a country specified in the First Schedule in which there is a law in force conferring status of citizenship of that country, or
- (iii) regarded as belonging to a country specified in the First Schedule under any law in force in that country;
- (b) he has attained the age of 21;
- (c) he has obtained the prescribed qualifications; and
- (d) he is of good character,

shall, upon compliance with the requirements of this Act and, unless that person is exempt therefrom, on payment to the Registrar of the first registration fee for registration, be entitled to be admitted by order of the court, to practise law.”

Mr. President, the existing schedule excludes Haiti and Suriname. Therefore, the Bill before us is seeking to correct that problem.

Mr. President, the Travel Service Act, Cap. 373A

5. (1) “An applicant must satisfy the Registrar that

- (a) he has attained the age of 18 years;
- (b) he is a citizen of Barbados or is a permanent resident or an immigrant within the meaning of the Immigration Act;
- (c) the persons entrusted with the day-to-day management and control of the travel agency possess a working knowledge of the business of a travel agency and the premises to which the licence relates and the resources are adequate for the efficient running of the travel services to which the licence relates;
- (d) he is of good character and is a fit and proper person to carry on business as a travel agent.”

Sir, the Bill before us is seeking to remove that restriction.

Mr. President, the Small Business Development (Act 1999-23) states that small businesses be granted tax and other incentives. Therefore, under section 3(1)(d) a small business is defined as an enterprise that has 75 per cent of its shares locally owned. Therefore, the Bill before us is seeking to remove that requirement.

The International Financial Services Act (Act 2002-5) deals with the definition of Member States within the context of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the manner in which a firm is to be registered under the said Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

“Member State” means a Member State of the Caribbean Community, established by the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, signed at Nassau, the Bahamas on 5th July, 2001 but does not include a State admitted to associate membership under Article 231 of the Treaty.”

Mr. President, the Architects Registration Act (Act 2003-5) section 4 states:

“The Registrar shall

- (a) make the necessary alterations in the Register of the names or addresses of persons registered under this Act; and
- (b) remove from the Register the names of all persons registered under the Act who

6. are suspended by the Board;
7. are no longer to practise architecture;
8. are deceased;
9. have cause to be domiciled and resident in Barbados; or
10. are no longer holders of work permits.”

Sir, the Bill before us is seeking to remove that restriction.

Mr. President, as far back as 1989 at Grand Anse, Grenada, the Heads of Governments in the region signalled their intention to deepen the integration movement in the region and to strengthen the Caribbean Community in all aspects and dimensions. It was then determined that the region would work towards the establishment of a single market and single economy as one way of responding to the challenges that would be presented by the changing global environment and as a means of assisting these countries in the region to cope with the difficulties that may flow from the process of liberalisation.

Mr. President, in essence, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy was seen from the very inception as a vehicle which would facilitate the economic development of Member States and would put them in a position, through having access to the full amount of resources available in the region, to cope in a highly-liberalised, economic environment.

Mr. President, thus the Caribbean Single Market and Economy has as its objectives the following:

- (a) improved standards of living and work;
- (b) full employment of labour and other factors of production;
- (c) accelerated, co-ordinated and sustained economic development and convergence;
- (d) expansion of trade and economic relations with third States;
- (e) enhanced levels of international competitiveness;
- (f) the organisation for increased production and productivity;
- (g) the achievement of a greater measure of

economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States in dealing with third States, groups of States and entities of any description;

- (h) enhanced co-ordination of Member States' foreign and (foreign) economic policies; and
- (i) enhanced functional co-operation, including –
 - (i) more efficient operation of common services and activities for the benefit of its peoples;
 - (ii) accelerated promotion of greater understanding among its peoples and the advancement of their social, cultural and technological development;
 - (iii) intensified activities in areas such as health, education, transportation, telecommunications.

Mr. President, these are some of the objectives behind the conceptualisation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Sir, it therefore, means that if these are to be realised, the region has to move beyond the Free Trade Area of the Americas and even beyond the Customs Union.

Mr. President, it is a fact that at the moment about 98 per cent of trade in the region is moving freely without any barriers or without any tariffs to such but if we are to go to deeper integration, we have to go beyond the question of free trade and beyond the free movement of persons.

Mr. President, we are now talking about the movement of services and the movement of the factors of production, mainly capital and labour, though limited at first, and of the rights of establishment which take care of the other factor of production, namely land, so that persons have the right to move from country to country to establish businesses.

Mr. President, in contemplating the implementing of policies which would lead to these outcomes, the Heads of Governments, in March 2002, agreed to a number of protocols which would guide the development of the various policies which are necessary to bring the Caribbean Single Market and Economy into effect.

Sir, some of them are:

1. Institutions and structures;
2. Rights of establishment, the provision of service and the movement of capital;

3. Industrial policy;
4. Trade policy.

Sir, in a sense, this has already been put into practice because for some time now the countries in the region have been trying to co-ordinate their responses to negotiations which are taking place in the hemisphere, through the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the World Trade Organisation, and in relation to their discussions with the European Union Economic Partnership Agreement that is now being negotiated. The countries have for some time been trying to speak with the same voice.

Mr. President, there have been a number of difficulties because, as you know, old habits die hard. Therefore, the issue of sovereignty is one that keeps rearing its head but there has been an effort to work together.
2.20 p.m.

There is some temptation to duplicate what is being done on the basis that what is being done is not satisfactory and there is some strange logic that apparently says rather than fix it, you duplicate it. Sir, I imagine that time will take care of that and I hope that in due course all of us will see the wisdom of working together, pooling our resources and co-ordinating our positions in relation to certain parties.

Mr. President, there is agriculture policy, Protocol V. Sir, efforts are already being made to achieve this objective and there are a number of programmes which have been developed at the CARICOM level and one of which I am familiar is the Regional Agricultural Transformation Programme. Several other initiatives are being worked on and early in January 2005, the Ministers of Agriculture will be meeting in Jamaica to try to further that work.

Sir, certainly, we in Barbados are taking a very proactive approach and we have identified a number of areas where the region can work together to develop agricultural programmes and projects that will benefit all of us. For example, the West Indies Sea Island Cotton. We believe this is one where the region can benefit by working together.

Mr. President, not so long ago we went through the region and spoke to a number of our counterparts and invited them to participate in the activities of Exclusive Cotton of the Caribbean, which is the company based in Barbados. We do not believe that it is in the region's interest to pull against each other and undermine what we are doing but we should put all our resources together and develop an integrated industry, the West Indies Sea Island Cotton Industry.

Sir, there is also an opportunity for us to work together when it comes to sugar, even though ultimately we may have different objectives. Certainly, we in Barbados have taken the position that even with the existing price that where we see our sugar not being competitive, we need to transform that industry to one which could bring profits to the producers.

Sir, yesterday representatives of the Barbados Agriculture Management Company and the Ministry of Agriculture met with the sugar growers at the Dining Club to bring them up-to-date on the various initiatives which are being contemplated to transform the sugar industry into a viable cane industry. As time passes we will be in a position to say much more on that matter.

Sir, there are countries in the region that are expanding their existing operations because they have the capacity to do so and we fully support them in that endeavour. We believe that in agriculture there are many possibilities for the region to pool its resources and produce food to feed the region and also take advantage of export opportunities.

Mr. President, another area in which we think this can be done is in the area of research. We really believe that there must be a greater role for CARDI, if it is to make sense for the region to support that institution. We also believe that the University of the West Indies needs to get back to the stage where the Imperial College used to do a tremendous amount of research in the field of agriculture that benefitted the entire region. We think that the University of the West Indies and Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute working together in the area of research, will be able to provide a great service to the region as we seek to feed our people and take advantage of new opportunities resulting from the process of liberalisation.

Mr. President, Protocol VI deals with the transport policy, which is very important and critical. We in the region bemoaned the fact that it is easier to move to North America than to move across the region, particularly if we are dealing with produce or the export of other goods and services. It is time that we reach the stage where we find solutions to those problems.

Sir, Protocol VII deals with the disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors. This is a very important Protocol because this is where we will be promoting the use of the Regional Development Fund which would provide the necessary resources to facilitate the development of the depressed and the disadvantaged in the region.

Mr. President, it always amuses me when I reflect on the days I spent participating in the negotiations of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, in the areas of Government procurement. I raised the case for special and differential

treatment for small countries like ours and our small suppliers. I was met with negative responses from the developing countries that were participating in those discussions. I reminded them that in some of the agreements between themselves that they made provisions for disadvantaged groups, regions and indigenous people.

I pointed out to them that in many instances those groups were larger than our large group and yet they were making special provision for them because they were disadvantaged in relation to the bigger groups in their own setting. They told me that they were doing that but they were not going to provide it for others. Sir, they saw the need for it among themselves but yet they were not able to see the need for a similar arrangement for others. However, we must do it among ourselves.

Sir, one thing that I was always able to say when confronted with those kinds of situations was to look at the arrangement that we have among ourselves in CARICOM and we make special provisions for the lesser developed among ourselves. So we are not asking you to do anything that we do not do. We live by setting the example.

Therefore, we have to seriously deal with the issue of the disadvantaged regions and sectors of our economy. Whenever we speak about the Caribbean Single Market and Economy the one response that you get is that we are all for it in principle, we recognise that there are great advantages to be obtained from the implementation of such an arrangement but all of those people are going to move from where they live and come to Barbados because it is perceived that we are now enjoying a higher standard of living than some of the other countries. It is that same approach which had a lot to do with the destruction of the Federation. While it is true that persons will move from place to place in search of better conditions of living, I do not anticipate any mad rush from the rest of the region to Barbados.

2.30 p.m.

Sir, I think that if the integration movement is to be a success we have to put in place mechanisms to support those countries that are at a lower level of economic development and bring them up to an appropriate standard. This will guarantee that there is no mad rush from place to place but it also means that those countries would be able to be actively involved in advancing the integration movement.

Protocol No. VIII, Mr. President, deals with the competition policy, consumer protection dumping and subsidies. As you know, there is going to be the regional competition policy agency and the respective countries are expected to put in place certain agencies, if they do not have them already. We have our Fair Trading Commission in place already and there are other countries that have similar

arrangements and then there will be a regional body which will deal with the issue of competition and fair trade across the region.

The issue of consumer protection is very important and the problem of dumping and subsidies are areas where we always have to be vigilant and be in a position to detect when there is dumping from outside of the region into the region. And when highly subsidised products are coming into the region to disadvantage our regional and national producers. So, we must be in a position to deal with that.

Finally, there is a Protocol No. IX, which deals with disputes settlement. There will always be disputes and we must have in place a system to deal with them in a speedy and just manner when they arise so that we can move on with our business because disputes between friends do not mean that they will cease to be friends. We just need to deal with the issues and move on. Sometimes there are misunderstandings even with the best of friends.

These are the nine protocols which are to give substance to the integration movement. It is clear then, Mr. President, that what is required here goes beyond the free movement of goods.

On the issue of the movement of labour, all of us know that the Heads have adopted a rather cautious approach on this matter. While ultimately, there may be free movement of all categories for the time being, except in the instances where people are taken advantage of the right to establish and provide services, there are a number of categories that will be allowed to move freely. Ultimately, we hope that they will take care of the others.

Sir, when I looked at how things developed in the case of the European Union which is the best example, in my view, for us to look at, to see what lessons I can learn, I noticed, Mr. President, that there was also a very gradual approach in that situation. In 1957, there was the Treaty of Rome which followed the Treaty of Paris of 1961 that was on a more limited scale. In 1957, the Treaty of Rome envisaged much greater integration than was contemplated at the Treaty of Paris.

Mr. President, even though, as in our case, goods were moving freely across those European countries, it was not until 1986 with the Single European Act that all of the barriers were really removed and a single economy was created. It took them from 1957 to 1986. Of course, there was movement of people to a much greater extent than we now contemplate at this stage, even during that time, but there were still problems in terms of moving, because there were still barriers in place. The Single European Act sought to remove all of those barriers in 1986.

On the issue of the single currency which is part of the single economy, is a matter that within recent years reached a certain level in Europe but it is still not 100 per cent in place because the United Kingdom is still not part of the euro. They still hold dearly to their Pound Sterling, but among the other countries the euro is the currency that is being used and as you travel from one country to another, you use the euro.

In our case, the Ministers of Finance have taken the view that the issue of a single currency is one in the distance. It is a long-term objective because there are still a number of differences between the respective countries when it comes to the monetary situation. There are some countries with fixed rates and others with floating rates. For some time, there was the situation where there would be a monitoring of what was taking place as they contemplated convergence at some point in history.

Sir, the region, from all indications, is not ready yet to move in that direction. This is one area where the Ministers have determined that would be a long-term objective. Immediately what they are focussing on, is the implementation of the single market. Hopefully, they will continue to work on the issues that will eventually lead to the single economy.

Sir, one may say that the full potential of the region will not be realised until we reach the stage where the single economy is in place. No doubt that is true, but there are substantial benefits which we can derive from the implementation of the single market which we need to go after now.

For example, a few days ago, I got a proposal from a group in Suriname. Suriname has an abundance of land that is not being fully utilised. We in Barbados are not so fortunate to have a similar amount of land. We have a scarcity of land. What this group is proposing is to get into joint ventures with some willing partners to produce a number of products which they have identified, not for the Barbados market but for the market, external to the region. What they are proposing is that part of the production will take place in Barbados, utilising what land is available. The other part will take place in Suriname, utilising their vast amount of land and at that the two groups can work together to satisfy the demand which exists externally, and both can benefit. That is how we see the benefits of the integration of the region under the single market. We must not always think in terms of persons wanting to flood Barbados' economy, we must think in terms of the opportunities that could be created by joining with the persons that have greater resources.

2.40 p.m.

Mr. President, not so long ago I was talking with a manufacturer who drew to my attention that once when he

attended a trade show in North America and put a number of his products on show, he had some fantastic responses and persons started to place orders and then he had to hide from them because the first order he got was that they needed a 40-foot container every week and there was no way that he could have provided that amount of products in a year far less every week.

The example I just gave of the proposals that came from Suriname will help with situations like that. He could produce the portion that he is capable of producing and join with a partner in the region to produce the remainder and, under one umbrella, the two of them could satisfy the demand and both of them can benefit. So there is that possibility for the economic development of the region by persons pooling their resources and having access to the full resources of the region to deal with third partners. Yes, there will be opportunities created in the region but we must now put our focus on outside of the region to see how as a region we can get engaged in activities that will lead to its full development. All of our resources, land, labour and capital, will be put to work.

Mr. President, it is my view that when you weigh the possible benefits to the region against the possible negative aspects, the benefits far outweigh the negative aspects.

In respect to our situation in Barbados in particular and the discussions which one hears on a regular basis on the call-in programmes where the focus is very narrow and is mainly on the possibility of a number of persons coming from another country here, my view is that is a situation that if properly managed would not lead to the outcome that is being anticipated. So what we need to do is to look for positive ways to deal with these situations and not allow such a narrow focus to prevent us from seeing the real benefits that lie beyond the shadows.

Mr. President, it is with the greatest pleasure that I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, I rise to articulate the position of this Side relative to the Bill before this Honourable Chamber. Let me begin by saying that the Democratic Labour Party and Opposition, has never articulated a position that suggests that the pursuit of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is not a pursuit relevant to the times.

Indeed, with the advent of globalisation, trade liberalisation and those other mechanisms that would impact significantly upon the capacity of island states to be competitive, we do believe that it would be in good sense for us to begin to chart a course that would lead to the amalgamation of Caribbean States' capacities at trade, in manufacturing and a perpetuation of services based on a

quality continuum to be able to work together or to fight together to remain competitive as a bloc of Caribbean States. I would like to put it to rest at this stage of my presentation the notion that has been espoused by some that there has been uncertainty on this Side as to whether or not we embrace the concept of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy because that is not an issue that we have had any contention over.

Mr. President, I believe that responsible government and governance requires us all to take heed to the voices of the people since what governments do ought to reflect the will of the people because that is why we elect governments. We elect governments to look after our interest, to mobilise our development as countries and to negotiate on our behalf, especially since governments actions tend to roll over to future generations. I would want to be part of the current state of governance in this country where in the future when we look back at the annals of records that this Side can say we supported an effort that secured the well-being and the future of the region, specifically the future of Barbados.

Sir, I know that there are some who would like to discount what people say on the call-in programmes but many people use the call-in programmes as their Parliament where they take their message to the public domain and ask the public to take heed to some of the concerns they may have. That is where they are able to espouse their views and to articulate their concerns about what is happening in the country especially since in some cases when they seek answers from Government, Government does not respond. So I do not discount them. I know that parties in Opposition use that road from time to time to be able to sell their message.

I believe that the Democratic Labour Party is in the right to give serious contemplation to the concerns expressed by the citizens of this country as to what does the CARICOM Single Market and Economy mean to the future of Barbados as that future is reflected in the lives of the people, the average man and woman. I heard someone say that he is in search of the average people, I would assist him in finding where they are because they are somewhere out there.

Mr. President, as is the case with our brothers and sisters across the region, I must say that fundamental concerns are being voiced in Barbados as to the full ramifications of the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy even though there seems now to be some measure of retreat away from the single economy, but we shall get to that a little later in my presentation.

Sir, we understand the implications of globalisation as I said before. We also understand the dominant nature of the European/North American trade market. We understand

further that if Barbados and our sister islands in the region are going to be able to be a main player on the world market, we would have to join hands and hearts as we go forward.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. President, we must also understand that the development of the region's social, human and economic capital, can be best achieved if we go forward collectively in developing our people, our economies and our markets.

Mr. President, however, the Honourable Leader of Government Business has just made a very salient point when he indicated that it has taken Europe 30 years before they were able to implement what is now known as the Common Market. As the Honourable Member has articulated, that was instructive but while he did not go as far as to say that it was through a process of trial and error, he made it quite clear that it was a developmental process where they went from stage to stage to reach the level where they are. The Honourable Leader has also noted that until this very day, Britain has not included itself, which I think is very instructive. That is why when we noted earlier that Britain has refused to allow its currency to be absorbed with the euro but did not go as far as to tell us why, I think that in the process of giving full explanation as to what are the concerns, the advantages and the disadvantages might be, it would have been instructive to tell us why that may not have happened as yet.

Mr. President, our concerns tend to lay on the following planks. First of all, we are of the position that the Government of Barbados has not done enough to educate the public relative to the Single Market and Economy.

Asides.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Well, you have not been doing a very good job because the public are still in doubt. You should be ashamed to admit that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please address the Chair, Senator.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, therefore, we want to say that you cannot educate the public on matters relating to the Single Market and Economy by using a jingle. The most popular piece of education that the Government has on play now is a jingle on the radio, where a few calypsonians are singing about the Single Market and Economy. Sir, this is being done at a time when people are concerned about issues that are very pertinent to their security and to their future.

We believe it is important that some well constructed, well conceived effort to educate the public has to be put

on the ground, like in St. Vincent, for example, where a series of extended Town Hall meetings, publications and the like have been put in place so that the public can become aware of what needs to be done and what the implications of it would be. Barbados is yet to put on the ground the kind of sustained educational awareness policy and programme that would allay the fears of persons, whether those fears are real or imagined. Therefore, the responsibility of Government is to ensure that the people on whose behalf it negotiates policies and programmes, have been educated in that regard.

Mr. President, what I might want to suggest is that perhaps this education does not only need to focus on the private and public sectors but on private schools and the Government's secondary and primary schools. Sir, if these programmes are there, they are not having the impact they are supposed to have because too many persons out there are still unsure about what is going on with regard to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Therefore, if those on the Other Side have proof that their educational programmes are effective, let them present the evidence to this Honourable Chamber because so far, there are too many...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: I thank you, Mr. President. There are too many uncertainties in the public domain. Sir, I can imagine why there are those jingling symbols who would like to drown out the voice of truth but we shall proceed, with your assistance, uninhibited. Sir, therefore, we have concerns about those questions.

Mr. President, another reality in our society as we go forward with the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is that currently Barbadians have unanswered questions relative to the security of their jobs. I understand the Honourable Member's attempt to circumvent any argument about job security but it has to come up. Sir, I believe it was the Right Honourable Prime Minister who admitted that there was in excess of 25,000 workers in this country.

Mr. President, if that figure is true, I can understand why the carpenters, the labourers, the maids and any other category that can be identified, have concerns about whether or not the move towards the Single Market and Single Economy will have negative implications relative to their work. I do not know how many Honourable Senators on the Other Side get around and talk to people on the ground because apparently they are living on such lofty heights that they do not reach the people on the ground.

Sir, it is no wonder that they cannot find the average man, but people out there on the ground are people who ask questions when they see others with whom they believe they

can make contact. Sir, there are serious reservations as to what will become of the ability of Barbadian workers, particularly those at the low level jobs, to be able to achieve and to retain their employment.

Mr. President, some people might call it nonsense but you cannot deny people their reality. Therefore, a man who is realistically experiencing something, is not at the mercies of a man who has an argument.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: I am saying that there are scores of workers out there who are concerned that there are Caribbean nationals coming into Barbados, and from countries with a lower wage level than that of Barbados. Sir, for example, in one country the labour per day cost for a labourer is EC\$0.34. These persons would be coming into Barbados and would be seeking employment and would be paid at the level of which they would be paid if they were in their country or a little higher. On the other hand, Bajans who have been used to working for a certain kind of wage would no longer be able to compete in those markets. Sir, that is the reality. Therefore, as much as lawyers and others can fly around and say that it is unscientific, it is a reality and they cannot deny it.

Mr. President, if there is no need to be concerned, then educate the people as to why there is no need to be concerned. Sir, we are not arguing – I do not know why some persons are getting so frantic – that these issues cannot be addressed. We are asking the Government to address them, to lay people's fears at rest.

Mr. President, another question we have is that of sovereignty and we have heard people fooling around and playing with this issue. Sir, we have not, as yet, been told how our sovereignty will be preserved under this arrangement. Sir, let us make no mistake that Barbadians have fought too hard to achieve independence in this country, independence that guarantees self-determination. Therefore, we do not want to compromise our capacities to achieve self-determination because the Government of the day wants to take us blindly into an arrangement, without giving us the satisfaction of knowing the full implications of what are those arrangements.

3.00 p.m.

Sir, if the facts are there, there are more speakers on the Government's Side so they can take turns in telling us what the truth is.

Mr. President, labour practices is another area of concern. Will regulations be changed? Will there be a minimum wage across the region to decide what the wage

levels are or will we have a case where persons can come and work for what they think is feasible for them while at the same time they are going to be cheating Barbadian workers out of the opportunity to work for wages that are acceptable?

Sir, I also want to know how many people are leaving Barbados by the hundreds and going to St. Vincent, Antigua, Barbuda and other places to work. How many labourers? How many agriculture workers are going to those places by the plane loads? I would like to know.

Mr. President, as a matter of fact, I would say that the flight is into Barbados and the only flight going out of Barbados is the money.

Sir, we want to know what standards are going to be put in place to ensure us that our workers will not be cheated because we are importing a substandard-wages level that will put our people out of work and that question has to be answered. As I said, we are only seeking information to give us clarity.

Sir, the Government has consistently refused to pursue minimum wage legislation and we understand why this is so. The last 10 years that the Barbados Labour Party Government has been in office, there has been a cry for the pursuit of a minimum wage legislation. Perhaps, if that policy had been pursued Barbadians would be at more ease today with the pursuit of the single market and economy because at least there would be a guarantee that whoever comes into Barbados would have to satisfy the wage standard but that is not the case at this point and time. So, they have to tell us what the policy is and what the guarantees are for the Barbadian workers and we would keep saying it until they tell us what it is. There should not be anything to hide.

Sir, what does the free movement of people mean for our services? What does it mean for our health care services in Barbados? What does it mean for education? What does it mean for welfare? What does it mean for general social care? Does it mean that those who come into this country as a result of this arrangement have free access to the services of Barbados? We ask the questions because we want to know.

Mr. President, at a time when the health care services of this country are failing to meet the demands of Barbadians at a time when we are having our struggles with almost every social sector in this country, including welfare and services emanating from the Home Help Board and Child Care Board and at a time when we are struggling with those services in Barbados, we are seeking to enter into an agreement that potentially could put a heavier tax on the services already in the country.

Sir, we want to know what guarantees and arrangements that are not being spoken about that would be in place to secure the welfare of our social care in this country?

Mr. President, we are not suggesting that anyone who comes to these shores should not have the opportunity to access our services, but we are saying that at a time when the services have not been able to generate the level of satisfaction for the Barbadian consumer that something should be done to make sure that the cadre of services provided are of such quality that any man or woman can come and receive without bleeding the capacity of the current system to produce the services. That is all that we are saying. I do not know why some people are getting so heated.

Mr. President, when you talk about the movement of people, they move with their baggage. I want to know what will be the implication of the movement of crime. I heard the Commissioner of Police expressing concern on this issue and he expressed concern in the context of querying whether or not the present services can accommodate the challenges that we will face as a result of this single market and economy.

Sir, I am saying that it is important that those questions be answered and be responded to. The truth of the matter is they have to be able to tell us how they will secure our society because the Barbadian society will not move into Trinidad and Tobago. Nobody will take Barbados and put it in Guyana. Barbados will continue to exist here with or without the single market and economy. I am saying that if you give people the capacity to move freely, you should tell the people in the country how and what mechanisms will be put in place to address the possibility of the upsurge in criminal activity; and this is reasonable.

Mr. President, anyone who says that this argument is not a reasonable argument does not care about the Barbadian people. It is a reasonable argument because I want to know.

Sir, one of the fundamental needs in human development and growth is the need for security. It is a fundamental need and we are not talking about security in terms of work. We are talking about living in a safe, predictable society and they have to tell us. I am confident that one of my colleagues on the Other Side will, perhaps, want to address that issue because he is one driven by reason and not necessarily by myth.

Mr. President, we need to answer that question. If we must address the issue of the possibility of the upsurge or the inflow of criminal activities, then we must also address the issue of the legal system and we must ask ourselves whether or not there are any implications that will impact upon our legal system, the way we know the legal system works today,

and whether the Government is putting in place the necessary mechanisms to address the possibility of those dynamics. We have to know those. I speak not simply for myself and for us on this Side, I speak for the people who are asking these questions.

It is unfortunate that we have a Government who seems not to hear or wish to hear but the people are asking these questions. Anyone who suggests that these questions are not being asked is out of touch with the reality of this society.

Sir, I was listening to commentary on the recent West Indian tour to England, when they played the last test match there and after being savaged by the English team, one English commentator asked another commentator what he thought was the reason for the West Indians doing so poorly at this time. To my surprise that commentator responded by saying, "How do you expect to get persons who are playing as members of islands to demonstrate team spirit?" They are not playing as a team. They are playing as persons representing their respective territory.
3.10 p.m.

Mr. President, he went on to say that even in the area of selection, selectors are having problems in making sure that they pick the best. This is because they are trying to satisfy and appease the requests and calls by certain islands for their players to be on the West Indies team.

Mr. President, we are proposing through this policy to amalgamate the cultures of the region. Sir, the single market and economy are not just about economics and politics. It is also about the sociology of this decision. It is about the socio-economic factors that will be driven by this decision.

I am saying, Mr. President, that as far back as the Federation, efforts were made by political leaders who have certainly demonstrated more political wisdom than some that we know now. They had problems in maintaining the amalgamation of the Caribbean cultures and they come all the way into CARICOM. There are those out there who say that the jury is still out on the CARICOM.

Mr. President, I am asking, what has the Barbadian Government come to tell us that it now understands about the Caribbean cultures? What kinds of impact studies have been done by this Government which seems to be the lead and which seems to want to gallop this process along? It hires all kinds of consultants. What have they studied? What do they know about the cultures? What have they been able to develop in terms of a paradigm of how to deal with the social cultural factors that will impact upon whether or not people are in agreement to live together economically, and in terms of trade and other types of arrangements?

Mr. President, we have a live example. The Barbados Government promised us a fishing agreement with Trinidad and Tobago, and at a time when the Barbados Government still cannot achieve that arrangement, we want the people of Barbados to believe that we should gallop along with them and pursue a policy...

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, I rise on a point of order. I really hate to stop the Honourable Senator in his stride. He is going so well, and he is making a good case for his Party but I do not believe that it is correct to mislead the Senate to suggest that the Government at any time promised the people of Barbados a fishing agreement with Trinidad and Tobago.

Sir, what indeed the Government said is that the process of a fishing issue with Trinidad and Tobago is wrapped up in the maritime dispute issues. The Government has taken that issue to the appropriate international tribunal to determine the issue. Therefore, it is not correct to mislead the Senate by suggesting that the Barbados Labour Party Government has promised the people a fishing agreement with the Trinidad and Tobago Government.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, we still do not have a fishing agreement. This is the fundamental issue and the average man on the street where fishing is his livelihood, is still asking this question. If we cannot achieve under these circumstances that agreement, what guarantees do we have now, Mr. President, and why should we, on the back of an issue that has not been resolved, as fundamental as the fishing agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados.

Why should we now be pursuing this policy headlong, without being able to give the people of Barbados some satisfactory response, answer, commitment or reason why it has not happened? Sir, they made the promise that it would be one of the things that they would achieve. The Democratic Labour Party could not achieve it, but they would achieve it. This is now ten years later and they have not even achieved a fishing agreement.

Sir, we want to ask about the amalgamations? What has the Government done to bring the cultures together?

Sir, education awareness is driven by research. Education awareness is driven by the development of paradigms. You cannot just educate people and on the nebulous concepts of this single market and economy that some people on that Side agree, which are abstract at best.

Sir, people deal in concrete operations as adults and they want things that they can deal with, understand and factor out. Therefore, the reason why the education is so weak on the CSME, is because the Government has not done

the kind of impact studies necessary. They have not done the kinds of investigations and research to determine what the region is saying.

They go to their high-level meetings and you never know what happens there. Nobody comes back and enlightens the country. Nobody comes back and holds Press conferences except to reveal rumours. We want to know. We cannot go there, so come back and tell us what is happening. This is our country, not the Barbados Labour Party's country, and what happens here, affects us.

If we as people in these hallowed Chambers cannot be vigorous in ensuring that the State gives the people out there on the street, the kind of information necessary to allay their fears, then we are not doing our service with honour in this Chamber. I want to know how are we going to address those issues.

We know that there has always been, if not but a whisper, relative to the prejudices that exist in the region. I distinguish prejudice from racism. There are people out there who see Barbados in one light and Barbados sees other people in a different light.

Mr. President, people want to know if, based on the hard work of Barbadians to raise the standard of living in this country to where it is, whether or not going into a single market and economy arrangement is going to cause that standard to drop.

The Honourable Minister, as he so ably pointed out that is a concern that they can answer; but that is not the case. We want to know. Those are the bread-and-butter issues that affect ordinary people. I am prepared, Mr. President, to pursue passionately those queries because at the end of the day, I will be held accountable also for having gone through this debate and not raised those questions and I hear them almost every day.

Mr. President, I live in an area that is a farming community and there are a lot of foreign persons working in the area. I am saying to you that there are persons there who deal in agriculture, fishing, labourers, craftsmen and artisans and they ask these questions. I would be derelict in my duty to come to this Chamber and not raise these questions on behalf of these people.

Sir, it is not just the people in that area. I know that it is an undeniable truth that across this country, people are concerned about this, and I wish that they could see the mockery that is being made by some Honourable Members on the Other Side of these heartfelt issues. All people are saying is that they do not know and please tell them.

Sir, what is so wrong with that? This is what we have to ask. I want to know what will be the implications on family values because if you are dealing with the movement of people, and if you are dealing, Mr. President, with the free flow of people in and out of the country, we would like to ask a question on what are the family values, not only for family values but for religion and religious practices. Will there be some discourse in this country that will address these kinds of critical issues, because I will say this now, that there are some persons from other Caribbean territories who are being blamed casually for disrupting people's families in Barbados. Mr. President, I have not heard anybody address that issue. In a society such as this those are critical issues. 3.20 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, please. This is the third time I have had to appeal for order. There is one Senator on his feet. Every single Senator will have the opportunity to speak. Senator Lowe is being distracted and if it continues the Chair will also be distracted and that cannot be. Senator Lowe, please continue.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. President.

We would like to know whether or not there are any negative implications on the practice of family values in this country. Mr. President, we are simply probing what we consider to be questions left unanswered and we are simply asking those who may be in possession of the facts to come to the fore and educate us as to what we wish to know in that regard. Those are some of the political implications that we wrestle with and we join people across Barbados in wrestling with them because, Mr. President, in Guyana, in Trinidad and Tobago, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in other territories there are struggles over matters relating to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Sir, anytime you are taking on this kind of effort and the magnitude of this effort, you must expect some people to be further behind on the understanding of the issues than other people. What is so wrong and what could be so disturbing to Members on the Other Side if you take the time in this Chamber to probe these questions and simply ask that the answers be given? If they know the truth, there should be no difficulty in revealing it and if they have the answers they ought to be proud and happy to come forward with the answers. Are we to believe that the unease is because there may not be answers to the questions being proposed? Mr. President, I do not know.

We also have socio-economic concerns. The one concern which I have that is echoed by other persons is: will

the stronger countries in the region or territories become weaker as a result?

Mr. President, the Honourable Leader of Government Business has alluded to a development fund. I would like to know what is the status of that fund. I would also like to know from the Honourable Minister how much money is in that fund at present, how will allocations be determined and who would qualify for assistance from this development fund. What are the implications for Barbados? How will the people out there be satisfied that once the determination has been made that there are weaker territories, and we know there are, that there would also be a standard of how this distribution of what I call enablement money be allocated to these weaker States?

Mr. President, if they are telling us that they are not going to pursue the single economy at this time when the CARICOM Single Market and Economy came as a package I want to know why. I understand the Honourable Minister as saying that things may have to go gradually. However, I want to ask a few questions in case the Honourable Leader of Government Business may have the answers to them.

Mr. President, if we pursue the single economy which by extension means that there would be a single currency, what currency would be accepted as the single currency? Mr. President, as I understand it, the EC dollar is currently the dollar that is tradeable on the European market. Mr. President, I also understand and know that in the Caribbean the most dominant dollar is the Barbados dollar. Therefore, if the single economy is pursued would it mean that the Barbados dollar would have to lose its value to accommodate the standard of the EC dollar or will the EC dollar be the currency accepted? Mr. President, what will be the state of the currency in the Caribbean because they have galloped away from it without any explanation?

If the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is coming in a package and you are leaving out one of the tenets of the package, we want to know why. That is not unreasonable, Mr. President, for we all need to know. We work, live and breathe in this country and therefore we are the economy of this country, so we want to know what would happen. So I am hoping that the zeal of those who seek to interrupt this presentation would be used to respond to these questions in that regard.

Mr. President, the Honourable Minister talked about the development of agriculture. Obviously, if we are going to be trading within the region domestically, we have to have tradeables. We know that goods and services are becoming or will become the hallmark of the commodities market of Barbados since agriculture is now trying to get back on its feet. To the Honourable Minister's credit, he has injected some very good ideas into agriculture and I believe that he

has a heart for the good, so let us hope that the last rites have not yet been read.

Mr. President, what will be the case? We will revitalise agriculture in Barbados. We have to compete in this arrangement. We are thinking about the global environment but we also have to compete and we are still trying to decide if it is a foreign policy or a domestic policy but for all practical purposes let us say it is a domestic environment since it is a single space. Therefore, we are asking, what will we do to allow Barbadians to be brokers on this market and not just on the receiving end of goods.

Tourism, we know, is said to be doing well. We understand that once this single space comes into play we will have new challenges in the tourism industry. All I am asking is how will we diversify within this context? Will the Minister responsible for agriculture, the Honourable Leader of Government Business in this Chamber, be able to tell us how we are going to diversify because we know that there is a significant trade imbalance between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago? How is that going to be taken care of? How is it going to be handled? What are we going to do? Are we going to continue to import from Trinidad and Tobago and not be able to export? What new opportunities are there that we could explore in terms of the development of products that can become tradeable in this space?

Those are the questions I am asking, Mr. President. I do not understand why people are so restless as a result of probing those questions. Those are pivotal questions because once you have decided that there are new product opportunities and there is new product development you are going to create the opportunity for employment plus you are going to have a better trading arrangement. We have one dominant player in the region who continues to be dominant and who pretty much decides what this region does and does not do. The only thing it has not decided in our favour is whether we could fish in their waters, and it has to be answered. There are more people out there who have questions than the few who have the answers and we want the people to know what the deal is for them.

Mr. President, we talked about standards and we are talking now about the National Initiative on Services Excellence which is a fantastic concept that we buy into.
3.30 p.m.

Mr. President I want to give one caution, when it comes to changing people's attitudes about service, you simply cannot attack their behaviours, you have to deal with their beliefs. Sir, what drives a man's behaviour is what he believes. Therefore, part of the problem in the service industry is that, from a very early age, we have failed to cultivate service attitudes in our citizens. Therefore, when we

interview them, we ask them about their competencies and attributes and then seek to place them in an area in our enterprise, hoping that the salary they would be paid would translate into their commitment to the organisation but we cannot change people's attitudes until we understand their beliefs.

Mr. President, it is true with the NISE programme, with HIV/AIDS education and with all of the social issues that we are trying to deal with in this country but we are trying to change people's attitude or behaviour without understanding their beliefs.

Mr. President, what are the Government's plans relative to assisting this programme that has great merit to be a success? Will it be another million dollar effort that yields short-term to no-term results, then a year later, as we have gone from Public Sector Reform now to NISE, will we go to something else and still not achieve the desired results? Mr. President, all we are saying is that in order for us to be able to maximise those efforts, we have to understand the dynamics that go into determining how people respond.

Sir, I believe sincerely that in the days of the 4-H Clubs and the other service clubs, such as the Lions Club and Leo Club, that we need to encourage more of our young people to become more involved. These organisations did a fantastic job in helping to create an environment of service. It is called a human development industry. It is a critical developmental milestone in human growth and development and it is said that one can either develop industry or you can develop despair.

Mr. President, the truth of the matter is that along the continuum of human development, industry is identified as early as the pre-adolescent years, where you try to get the importance of not seeing service as servitude into people's consciousness. Therefore, the distinction between the two is that any notions of servitude are the remnants of our slave history. That is why one would find a lot of people not wanting to serve because it conjures up images of slavery. Sir, services on the other hand, is perhaps best captured in the Scriptures. Service is that desire to give of oneself for the betterment of others. And we have not been able to get that.

Sir, again we must look at education. We have to get it into the secondary and primary schools. We have to begin to create an environment where people want to respond in that kind of way. Therefore, a programme such as NISE is only a complement to what is already cultivated in the bosom of the society and is not a starting point to create a service culture that does not exist.

Mr. President, since we are bringing in so many people, as would be allowed through this arrangement, how are we

going to control their service attitude levels? Is the NISE programme a regional programme, or is it a Barbados programme? Sir, obviously there would be workers outside of Barbados who would be impacting on the work culture on the island.

Mr. President, I believe it is critical that if we are thinking regionally, then let us think regionally. We cannot say that we want to improve the platform of service in Barbados by treating Barbadian workers to this programme and at the same time, we have not made provisions for persons who are coming in, to perform service in this country.

Mr. President, as I have said before, I will always be concerned about matters relating to self-determination. I believe that the founding Fathers of Independence have worked assiduously to ensure that Barbadians of all walks of life, would have some ability to decide where they go in life. As the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow would say: "Regardless of your station in life, Barbados has an obligation to ensure that it creates an environment where every boy, every girl, every man and every woman, can have the comfort that this society would provide them with the platform for success, at whatever level they wish to succeed."

Mr. President, all I am asking is that Government tells us and gives us the assurance that matters dealing with sovereignty would be addressed vigorously and that when the Heads meet, that the individual Head would come back and would speak to the need of the nation on this issue. Sir, I see this as being so critical and important.

Mr. President, would our social and economic rights be protected? Are they now being protected? There are still people in this country who would lay legitimate claims that they have not been able to advance in the society, that they have lived a cycle of poverty from birth to death, that they are still in search of the Barbadian dream, and that they are still hoping, against all hope at times, that this would be realised before their generation passes on.

Mr. President, as you know, I say in this Honourable Chamber and I say it all the time, that the greatest sadness that can come to someone who passes on in this life to another, is to realise that he or she has given sacrificially to the building of the nation but, at the end of the day, have nothing much to show for it.

Mr. President, I would wish to request of the Honourable Leader of Government Business, that if he cannot give us the answer now, please ensure that the answer would be given to him, to guarantee every Barbadian citizen

that under this new socio-economic and political arrangement, that no Barbadian would be left behind.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Mr. President I want to preface my remarks with the statement that I am very much in favour of any move which will further the integration process in the Caribbean.

Mr. President, any sensible thought-out move which will make this region a region which has so much potential, so much promise, being stronger and more united, has my full support.

Mr. President, I want us to remember that the two things for which the Caribbean is noted are cricket and the University of the West Indies. These are two excellent examples of what we can achieve when we pull together as a region. Indeed, Sir, Senator Lowe, in his speech, has highlighted the fact that in cricket, people complained that we were not a team. Sir, is it not coincidental that we are undergoing our severe test, that we, in terms of cricket, are at our lowest ebb, at a time when there is an apparent disunity? I want to make the point that when West Indies cricket, to a large extent, removed a lot of the insularity, it became stronger. Anytime as a region we ignore the fact that we are one, then we will suffer the consequences. I am proud to be a West Indian.
3.40 p.m.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: It is an excellent institution and it produced scholars of note who have made their mark on the world scene. Sir, if we can do this in cricket and education, then it should spur us on to be more steadfast in our desire to carry it to other areas of activity.

Sir, after an hour listening to Senator Lowe, I have to come to the conclusion that the Democratic Labour Party, which he represents, is against the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I have no other option after listening to him than to come to the conclusion that they are against the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, what are the facts? In 1997 CARIFTA was signed. The late Right Excellent Errol Barrow took us into the CARIFTA. There were the three 'Bs', Barrow, Bird and Burnham. In 1973 the Treaty of Chaguaramas was signed and the Democratic Labour Party was in office. In 1989 the Declaration gave rise to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and the Barbados Prime Minister was given the leading responsibility to put the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in place.

Sir, these important developments took place under the leadership of the Democratic Labour Party and we, in Opposition, gave them our fullest support because we understand where this region must go. Sir, they signed the agreements and we recognised that they were in the best interest of Barbados, and by extension the region, and we supported them.

Mr. President, in 1989 when the Heads of Government got together and made an important declaration that the region should go the way of a single market and economy, that was a gigantic step towards what we eventually must achieve in this region for full and total integration, and in my view political integration, because that must be seen as the next logical step in the whole process.

Sir, we are living in a hostile world where, unless we as a region and people stand up for our rights and defend our rights to the fullest, we will be trampled on.

Mr. President, a few years ago we had the OECD Harmful Taxation Initiatives and we had to fight in order to safeguard the interest of Barbados. There are going to be more attempts of this nature to bring us into some sort of economic supplication but we must as a region steadfastly resist all those attempts.

Sir, I want to contend that in 1989 when the Leaders sat down, they looked through time and saw that in the future the region would be subjected to all sorts of pressures and economic warfare. In order for the region to survive, they must be strong. There is an old maxim, united we stand, divided we fall.

Sir, I agree with the Opposition Senator that it was visionary. However, if they were visionary, how come the Party that signed the Grand Anse Declaration is now, 15 years after the signing of this Declaration, pouring scorn on our attempts to put into practice what they signed.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: On a point of order. The Senator is misleading the Senate. I started my presentation by stating clearly that we embrace the principles of Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I went on to say that there are a number of questions unanswered that we would ask those in possession of answers to give them to us.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I can only go by what I heard. I would say that we have the hand of Esau and the voice of Jacob.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please continue.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, I want to make the point that the Democratic Labour Party is using what I call legitimate fears not to educate the people because they must take the responsibility for educating the people also. There is an old saying, I do not like a noise but I adore a riot. The Democratic Labour Party must be involved in the process of education when they hold their Friday session. They should be having intelligent discussions on the whole matter. They must be involved in the whole process of education.

Mr. President, I am sure that if they ask any of us on this Side to address one of those Friday sessions, we would bring a bit of class to the place.

Asides.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I want to address some of the points that the Senator made. Nobody said that there is going to be a single currency. Sir, if France, Germany and Italy with a long history behind them can see it in their best interest to have a euro currency and have given up what we might call sovereignty in search of greater interest, the question is, is the Trinidad dollar more important than the currencies of those countries?

Sir, we have a history behind us because for years the OECS countries had a strong single currency. Sir, the currencies of Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica were devalued but the Eastern Caribbean currency is one of the strongest currencies in the region. Sir, we do not think that we should be having all these currencies floating about, so it makes economic sense.

3.50 p.m.

Sir, the rich European countries saw the benefits to be gained by giving up the currencies, so in the course of time, I think that will happen. It may not happen today, but as we go further in the process, we are going to have to examine these things.

Sir, the US currency is almost the currency in the region and all this talk ignores that vital fact. I would like to see a single currency. I have no problem with it and the Barbados dollar is not going to be devalued. There is talk about devaluing the Barbados dollar. To assume that you are going to have one dollar whether it is the Trinidad and Tobago and all the other dollars will move to that, is nonsense. It does not work so and it will never work like that because we have precedent and we see how it worked in other regions. Sir, if it is too high for them, we understand, but the point is that these are issues they should be discussing on Friday afternoons.

Mr. President, we must see sovereignty as a wider issue and not in a narrow definition. Sir, look at what happened in our sister island Grenada, where one hurricane in one day almost wiped out the whole island and it could have been worse. We are small and vulnerable, both in terms of political shocks and weather shocks, and it makes sense for us to pool our resources, wisdom and everything we have, in order to build a stronger region.

I believe, Sir, that if we allow CSME to work, it will make this region stronger. All the signs are there. Even in advance of CSME what do we notice? The insurance companies, the banks are into their CSME already. The whole production system is into CSME, because a lot of manufacturers have gone to Trinidad and Tobago, not because they like Trinidad and Tobago but because it makes sense in terms of the cost of their inputs, especially the cost of energy which is much cheaper. Sir, the whole question of carrying production to where the cheapest inputs are, makes sense.

Mr. President, in the final analysis, if we do it properly and produce where the costs are cheaper, the whole region would get goods cheaper. Sir, it means that some countries would not have certain types of manufacturing but they might have other types of activity, such as services or agriculture. Therefore, you locate your industry in a strategic way in order to take advantage of differences, whether in geography, resource base or whatever.

Sir, people do not understand, but the USA, stretching from the Pacific to the Atlantic and from Canada to Mexico, is a vast country which has different time zones and different soil types. Therefore, while one part can grow corn, another part can grow more tropical food, so you have a massive country which can take advantage in the differences in weather pattern and various patterns, and that is what makes the country strong.

Mr. President, I see the Caribbean in a similar light. You have Guyana and Suriname with massive land resources, water and no people. Jamaica with a lot of land, Barbados with people and some land but not to the same extent as others and we have Trinidad and Tobago with massive energy resources. We have fish all through the Caribbean, so it makes sense for us to pool together.

Mr. President, you can transport services and entities across borders but not people? Sir, people must be the centre of your activity. Sir, you tell me it is all right to move services, industries, and the banks and insurance companies can operate freely from country to country, do you mean that these are more important than people?

Sir, we are small countries. Barbados has a population of 207 000, Jamaica is the biggest with two and a half million but we are minuscule countries. Our ability to equate demand and supply of labour is extremely limited.

Sir, in the USA for example, if Georgia in the South needs carpenters, there may be an excess of carpenters in New York, so the fellows would leave New York and go to Georgia where there is work. Historically, people have always been known to follow work. In the 1950s and 1960s, Barbadians followed work when it was in England, Canada and the United States of America. This is the way mankind lived from time immemorial and it makes economic sense.

Sir, what do we have in the Caribbean? We have some regions that are doing better than others. Traditionally, if you study economic history, you notice that whenever a country is developing at a fast rate and doing well, it seems to never find enough labour, especially at the lower end of the labour scale. This is also an historical fact.

Sir, Barbados has been doing well, especially in the last ten years. It means that our ability to produce labour to meet the growing economy is limited. Hence, and again this is historical, there are always going to be opportunities for migrant labour which is a fact of life and anybody who studied history, would recognise that as an historical fact.

Sir, one would wonder where England would be today, were it not for migrant labour. I do not think England would have developed to the extent after the war, when the industries were booming as a result of the money that the Americans put into Europe. So, the economies were blooming and growing at a very vast rate.

I wonder where America would be without migrant labour whether it is from Mexico, the Caribbean, or wherever. Therefore, if people come to Barbados, that is a sign we are doing something good, because a person is not going to leave his country unemployed, and come to another country to be unemployed. This does not make sense because people go in search of work.

Sir, I find little to agree with Senator Lowe on but the point of how we treat labour is of concern to me. There are unscrupulous employers who would seek to take advantage of the fact that the people, especially from the depressed regions of the Caribbean, cannot do any better because if they go back home, they do not have any jobs, so they are going to work for the little money that is paid to them in the hope of better days, and this is wrong. I think the Prime Minister expressed this also. I see that at least Senator Lowe listens to the Prime Minister. This is something that we as a nation have to address because it is wrong and it does nothing for the good name of Barbados. I am sure that the Union Leader has spoken to that on some occasions.
4.00 p.m.

Mr. President, the question of a minimum wage is not going to help any. Barbados has not had a minimum wage in its history and wages in Barbados are better than most in the Caribbean. We do not have any minimum wage legislation. My fear is that unless we are careful, minimum wage would become the wage. I am sure the Government is looking at the whole concept of a minimum wage but we have to move very carefully on the whole question of a minimum wage. Mr. President, the point must be made that in spite of the fact that we have not had minimum wage legislation, wages have been rising consistently among the average man. Also from all reports, wages are moving faster than the rate of inflation.

Sir, I take strong objection to the question of family value because hearing the Senator talk about crime it gives a view of Barbados as arrogant, that nobody is like us and that we are better than everybody else and that sort of thing, which I think is very unfortunate. There is no evidence that migrant workers are involved in crime to any large extent. So to say that they are going to have a negative influence on crime and on family values is most unfortunate. I am sure that the Honourable Senator did not mean it in that way but he got carried away. When he is more reflective, he might say that he wished he did not say it.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: On a point of order. Mr. President I regret to interrupt the Honourable Senator but I never said that. What I did query is whether or not as a result of the free movement of people there exists a possibility that there could be an upsurge in criminal activity. I also made the point that the Commissioner of Police raised the same query, so let the Honourable Senator answer the Commissioner of Police.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would treat that as a point of explanation. Standing Order 31 (4), I will read it for future reference, states that:

“A Senator who has spoken on a question may again be heard to offer an explanation of some material part of his speech which he claims has been misrepresented...”

Therefore, I think that was probably an explanation rather than a point of order.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: I am glad for the Honourable Senator's explanation, but it leaves me more in the dark. What is he saying? Is he saying that there is going to be an upsurge in criminal activity and that the logical thing to assume by any reasonable person is that it is as a result of migration. Is he saying that if you have a level of criminal activity and it increased coincidentally at the same time that the people are coming that you have to go to the next logical step to say that they are the cause of it. That would be unfortunate because there is no evidence as far as

I know to blame family disruption on migrant workers. It is a new step in a logic. It does not make sense. I have no quarrel with the Honourable Senator making his point, but at least he should stick to logic and if he is going to ask questions, he should ask questions that have some semblance of logic.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barker you have two minutes left.

SENATOR T. E. BARKER: Sir, the whole question of job security assumes again that people are going to come here to take away Barbadian jobs. Sir, I find that the Honourable Senator was using irrational fears to justify a position. Sir, I want to tell the Honourable Senator that he is a leader and that a leader sets out the way the debate would go and he must not be a follower. He is a leader because he carried himself to the people saying that he wants to lead them and if he wants to lead the people he has to show a little bit more...

Sir, with those few words I want to wholeheartedly support this Bill. It is an important step for the people of the Caribbean and this Chamber should join us and unanimously agree to support the Bill and to agree that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is an important part of our future. It must not be the subject of narrow, political ambition. The Opposition must not be using the CARICOM Single Market and Economy to curry favours. They should be the leaders leading the issue and not the followers of a small minority.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Sir A. C. FIELDS: Mr. President, we are here debating what could best be described as a monumental undertaking in the history of Barbados and in the history of the CARICOM countries.

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy is being implemented at a time when doubt prevails bearing in mind the history of various attempts to have a union of these CARICOM countries. Generally, I think that people are not convinced that anything meaningful is going to be accomplished other than lots of words on bits of paper. We all know that there is a well-known saying that paper does not refuse to take ink.

Mr. President, there seems to be various factions of people especially in the private sector who are approaching this with some trepidation and some who are approaching it with doubt that it would take place. We all know the Barbadian syndrome where they think that God is a Barbadian and as a hurricane approaches it would go north. Unfortunately, there are a lot of people in the private sector who simply do not think that this is going to take place and then there are some that have significant concerns.

Mr. President, we need a clarion call from this House for Barbadians not only to understand fully the implications of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy but to understand what would happen if the CARICOM Single Market and Economy does not take place. We live in an age where electronic commerce is a reality. We live in an age where as we speak certain back-pocket functions are taking place in Trinidad and Tobago for companies doing business in Barbados. That begs another issue because the protocols are not complete. To the best of my knowledge there are currently no protocols on electronic commerce, Government procurement or the well-ventilated fisheries and maritime issue. So we are not yet complete but we are embarking on a course which is vitally important to the future of this country.

Sir, there would always be issues and there would always be explanations that are necessary. When I was President of the Private Sector Agency, I well remember Prime Minister Owen Arthur in 1994, one decade ago, exhorting the private sector to prepare itself not only for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy but for the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the attendance problems and difficulties with the Free Trade Area of the Americas. I stand here today having to apologise because the private sector seems to function in a very private capacity and I would almost say self-centred capacity and they do not seem to ever gain the capacity to recognise that without proper research and the expending of money to come together and have a common research facility that can speak to these issues so that when they are invited by the Government of Barbados to join other governments in CARICOM to negotiate agreements which would reflect on their ability to do business, they simply do not come to the table, and when governments not understanding how the private sector functions, go ahead and make agreements, then they bellyache about what the agreements cause them to do or not to do.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. President, there are two issues which I would like to address, these being the free movement of capital and the free movement of labour, which are two very emotional issues. Sir, the free movement of capital would obviously be essential to carry forward the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. We well know that the Barbados dollar is pegged to that of the United States of America dollar. People who understand these matters, people who understand economics, would understand that as long as that is a reality, then there has to be some form of monitoring or control on exchange control matters.

Mr. President unless we can move money freely among the CARICOM countries, then we would never have a genuine Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Therefore, I would suggest that a foreign exchange control, vested in

the Central Bank, has to be looked at once again to ensure that companies in Barbados will not be hindered in doing what a natural person can do, whereas companies in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Guyana, which have no foreign exchange controls to worry about, can freely go about their daily business.

Mr. President, additionally, the Regional Stock Exchange has been much talked about but unless it becomes a reality, like that of the Caribbean Court of Justice, we will not be able to function properly because there would be shareholders who would be disadvantaged by having three, four, or five different stock exchanges with different rules and regulations.

Mr. President, I wonder how many people know that in Barbados, if a company procures or somehow acquires 25 per cent of another company, it has, by law, to make a take-over bid for that company. In Trinidad and Tobago, it is 70 per cent. In Jamaica, it is 40 per cent. Can a person in Trinidad and Tobago, where Barbadian companies are listed, buy more than 25 per cent of that company without the take-over bid being done? Can anyone answer that? Certainly, no one has been able to answer that question put to them.

Mr. President, therefore, if we are going to have one common market, then things must be common in each country. Certainly when it comes to capital in the Regional Stock Exchange, like the Caribbean Court of Justice, it has to be absolute priority that we normalise the various rules and regulations so that everyone would be batting on the same wicket. We cannot have cross-listed companies and then have different rules and regulations for shareholders who would be buying shares in these companies.

Mr. President, I would now turn my attention to the free movement of labour. This is a much debated subject and it is very emotional. Sir, the real concern, in my opinion, is in respect to the possibility that may generate some unemployment among Barbadians but there is an over-riding concern that I have not really heard mentioned. I was in the United Kingdom earlier this year around May 1, 2004. It so happened that there were 15 new European companies joining the European Market, a model that is often referred to when discussing the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, the big concern that the British, Germans and the French had, was the impact on the welfare state, that is, a company's influx of new labour. There was long and boisterous debate about how these new entrants would be treated. Sir, it was suggested and my understanding was that anyone moving to a new country would have to be in gainful employment for at least six months before they could tap into free education, free health care, free national insurance, and all of the other things that would go with it.

Mr. President, we in Barbados seem to be silent on this issue. It has been suggested to me that persons coming here to work under this new regime, if they do not have a Barbadian registration card, then they will have to pay for these benefits. Sir, I have heard this, not seen it and if, indeed, it is so, one has to ask if these potential new entrants to the market have a job that is on paper only, how do we ensure that at the appropriate time they would qualify for the right, not only to live and to work in Barbados but for these other benefits that the State would provide. The question is, what monitoring systems, if any, is going to be put in place, to see that these people continue in gainful employment, which would allow them to contribute to the national purse, so that they can tap into these many benefits which Barbados provides, which I think we all believe are more generous than in most other countries surrounding us.

Mr. President, would there be a monitoring system so that when these migrant workers arrive here legally under the new system, they will be able to tap into our State's safety net systems, which are our medical, health, educational and national assistance systems, without contributing to the national purse? I am not sure of the answer but I would like to hear it. I have not heard the answer to this question anywhere in the debate.

Mr. President, I think this needs to be spelt out so that when these people come in from abroad, they can be welcomed by Barbadians into this society, that they can operate here on par with other Barbadians and not have people being suspicious of their activities or suspicious of whether Barbadian tax dollars are going to support these people from other places.

Mr. President, what happens in a case where these people come? Do they simply become a burden on the State and on the taxpayers of this country? Sir, in the past we have had the experience of Barbados signing many agreements within CARICOM and having them fully implemented, then to discover that Barbados was the only country to have fully implemented them to its detriment.

Mr. President, we have seen a situation in the late 1970s and early 1980s, where there was a Common External Tariff. How many countries have implemented a Common External Tariff? As far as I know, Barbados was one of the few countries to have implemented that to the fullest. Therefore, there would always be questions in our minds as to whether there is going to be true reciprocity in the protocols because it is very easy to pass legislation but it is another matter to police that legislation and to ensure that the playing field is, indeed, level.

I, therefore, hope that great care would be taken to ensure that there is reciprocity, to ensure that the playing field is truly level, and that these pieces of legislation are not only enacted but are carried through in all of the 15 countries

that are going to participate in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to be part of this historic debate in this Honourable Chamber and to be part of the decision-making process in this legislation that will allow for a united expanded Caribbean to the many attending benefits, with a larger market for the private sector to exploit. It would be wonderful for businesses in Barbados to have legitimately ten million customers and unimpeded access to ten million customers, rather than having access to only 270,000 residents. Therefore, we must move cautiously. All of the sectors must buy into the concept of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy if we are going to succeed. It cannot succeed if it is only driven by political directorate. It cannot succeed if it is only driven by pieces of legislation being put in place. It can only succeed if Barbadians from all walks of life and the private sector in particular, would embrace this legislation to enjoy the benefits that would attend this legislation.

Mr. President, I am happy to support this legislation. I am much obliged to you.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (Implementation) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2004.

Mr. President, I must admit that I rise to speak with a very heavy heart because I have listened very closely to the presentation that was made by the representative of the Democratic Labour Party, Senator Denis Lowe. I must tell you that personally it leaves me very concerned. A number of questions that were posed by Senator Lowe, some of them were simple and can be answered and some of them cannot be answered.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. President, sitting here I thought back on those days – I am a descendant of the slave people of Barbados and would imagine that in those days when those people were contemplating freedom there was somebody who stood up and said, if you do that where are you going to live? Where will you find work? Where will you get anything to eat? I was not there but I am sure that there were people who asked that.

I am sure that in the 1930s when people felt that they had to rise up against oppression that there were people who said, “if you go out on the streets you might get killed and what would happen to your children? Somebody might burn down your house and then what would happen to you?” Sir, if that had not happened, where would I be as a citizen of this country?

Sir, we then had Independence and there were people who would have said, if we become independent who would look after us? Would we still get aid from the United Kingdom? Would we be able to forge relationship with countries like the United States of America and Canada? Would we be able to join the United Nations? Would we be able to afford to set up Diplomatic Missions abroad? There are always questions that you can ask whenever people are trying to make a progressive step for themselves and for the next generation.

Mr. President, we thought that we would have learnt from those milestones in our history, especially someone like Senator Lowe who is also predominantly a descendant of the slave people. One would think that for the further advancement of our own people that he would recognise that to go down this road asking questions that we cannot answer, because there are some uncertainties, that we would not be able to answer. That is a fact. I would not stand here to say that we can answer every single question. There are uncertainties.

Mr. President, I found myself in the position where I was working in Government as a technician at the time when we were negotiating the final provisions of the Treaty of Chaguaramas. I assisted in negotiating the removal of restrictions. At that time, we were also in negotiations with the OECD and that is when it was galvanised in my mind more clearly than ever before that we needed each other within the region and we need a Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, I can only hope that the people in Christ Church East were not listening to Senator Lowe’s presentation, those persons who came from St. Vincent, Grenada and Guyana and who are on the voters’ list, because they would be very concerned. I would also be very concerned.

Sir, it is clear in my mind that I heard that with the Caribbean Single Market and Economy there would be a rise in crime in Barbados. I heard about the upsurge in crime in Barbados because of the implementation of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy, which would suggest that somehow our brothers and sisters from other CARICOM countries, some of whom came on the same ship where some of us were dropped off in Barbados, Grenada, and St. Vincent, somehow, if they come to Barbados there would be an upsurge in crime.

Sir, all I can do is to apologise to them on behalf of all of us for making such a suggestion because that certainly is not the case. The issue is, as far as...

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: On a point of elucidation, Mr. President. Obviously, the Senator was asleep as usual and did not hear what I said.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, I am not going to allow that. You could perhaps say that she misunderstood you but I do not think that you should suggest that the Senator was asleep.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Sir, the Senator misunderstood me because I made it quite clear that echoing the sentiments of the Commissioner of Police, a query was raised as to what were the implications for a rise in crime as a result of the free movement of people. I will not sit here and allow an Honourable Senator to try to mislead the public by suggesting something that I did not say.

Sir, if the Honourable Senator did not hear she should say that she is not sure but she should not say that is what was said.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Eastmond.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: I am very clear in my mind and I think that it is also a personal affront to suggest that I come to the Senate to waste time by sleeping. I do not like sleeping in chairs.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think that the Honourable Senator corrected that.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Mr. President, the provision which we are dealing with today, and I will look at that specifically, has to do with removing discriminatory provisions in Barbados' legislation because the fundamental underpinning of the Treaty of Chaguaramas has to do with non-discrimination. Therefore, the pieces of legislation that we are dealing with in this particular Bill contain amendments to several different pieces of legislation. Those several different pieces of legislation are being amended to ensure that they remove any discrimination against CARICOM residents.

Sir, more fundamentally, this piece of legislation is about building the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I would like to emphasise building because the Caribbean Single Market and Economy cannot be created overnight and it will not be created simply by the passage of one piece of legislation. Indeed, there are several other pieces of legislation that have been passed before.

Sir, we had the Caribbean Community Movement of Skilled Nationals Act and the Barbados Accreditation Council Act. There are other things which we do not speak too much about. For example, the Establishment of Caribbean Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality

(CROSQ) which is the institution within CARICOM that deals with the establishment of standards. There is a lot of work going on at that institution in terms of ensuring that standards are put in place in the Caribbean which is fundamental to trade both imports into Barbados and exports out of Barbados. Sir, Caribbean Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) has been established in Barbados.

Mr. President, apart from the legislation, there are also going to be administrative changes, in Barbados, especially in matters relating to the tourism sector. There were certain sectors, especially small business areas, that were reserved for Barbadians. That is going to change as part of the amendments that are being made.

Finally, with respect to those administrative arrangements, there is the issue of transparency. In Barbados, in order to get information regarding procedures in the public service you have to know who to call. Obviously, if you wish to do business in Barbados from another CARICOM country, it would not be as easy as asking someone who should I call, and they say that you should call John Brown. Therefore, there is an issue of transparency where Barbados is going to be required to have all of this information available to the public generally. This is not only with respect to CARICOM, it is also a requirement with respect to the FTAA and the WTO, so there is a lot of work that has to be done in that regard.
4.30 p.m.

In the Prime Minister's Financial and Economic Statement you will see that reference was made to rolling out the Government's project with respect to the Barbados Portal, where Barbadians and the world would be able to have access to information on Government and on procedures.

I think that is a major revolutionary step as far as I am concerned, because people talk about public sector reform but they do not seem to understand what it is but public sector reform includes putting in place facilities whereby individuals can access Government 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Sir, to me, this is one of the biggest aspects of public sector reform.

Sir, often people stand in long queues, simply to get a bit of information or to get a form. If all the forms are on a website, you simply have to print them off, if the instructions are on a website, you simply need to read them. I say that in conjunction with the fact that Government, as part of its social transformation, has a Community Information Technology Programme, where thousands of Barbadians are graduating every year with the basic skill to use the Internet

and to use computers. So that is the other side of public sector reform.

Sir, from what we have been seeing, individuals who leave that programme and never use a computer develop an interest in acquiring a computer for themselves in the same way as many people in Barbados see it as a priority to acquire a television or a stereo set, so that is where we are moving to, in Barbados.

Sir, Article 7 in the Treaty of Chaguaramas is the one that deals with discrimination on the grounds of nationality and the Treaty outlaws all discrimination. Of course, I would also make the point that – and sometimes this is not understood clearly – but when one is talking about providing national treatment, it does not mean that there are no exceptions. If there is a requirement for a national to be present in Barbados, for example, and it is not a barrier to trade is simply regulatory in nature, that can be maintained. That is at all levels, at the WTO, FTAA and within the context of the CSME.

These particular agreements that we are entering into, do not mean that you cannot have regulations. Of course, you must have regulations. In fact, I believe that after these Agreements are put in place, there will be more regulation than ever before, because there would be a need to manage free markets more effectively.

The process which was agreed to, is that we should put no new restrictions in place. Going forward, there should be no new restrictions on the movement of goods, capital, services and people, to the extent agreed upon by the Heads already. Those categories include university graduates, sports persons, media workers, and entertainers.

Sir, we hear the discussion all the time which seems to suggest that unskilled workers that are working in Barbados are in Barbados through the facility of the CSME, and that is not true. They are here through the normal immigration process, and that is a fact.

Sir, I become concerned because the CSME is being blamed for something that it is not really responsible for, that has to do with a demand for workers coming into Barbados, who come through the normal immigration process. Those categories have not been liberalised under the CSME regime. These restrictions were agreed to be removed by a particular time and Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica are going ahead.

Sir, within this context, I think it is important to see what is happening in the rest of the world because we talk about the European Union a lot and I know individuals probably say, well I know that is the European Union. They are rich countries. Believe me all of the countries around the

world are looking for a bloc with which to associate themselves.

Mercosur, for example, which includes Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay have an arrangement among themselves which they are also pursuing. Those together constitute probably the largest bloc by landmass that you will have anywhere in the world and they are proceeding with that arrangement.

The Andean community is also proceeding with their work. Central America is proceeding with their work and it would seem to make sense to me that this tiny region... Whenever I am making a presentation on this, I always take a world map with me, because I think it really comes home to people just how small, minuscule and sometimes insignificant we are to the rest of the world, when they see the size that we are. On some maps they do not even bother putting Barbados or any of the other CARICOM islands. You would see Guyana and you might see the Dominican Republic and you might see Jamaica, but you certainly do not see the OECS and you do not see Barbados very often.

There are a number of concerns that have been raised by individuals such as loss of jobs, depressed wages, and the burden on social services. I think that these are legitimate concerns. From a personal perspective there is not an individual on this earth who is not concerned about movement of people. It seems to be something that we are born with, despite the fact that the earth was made and people were placed on it. From very early days, people started to mark out their boundaries to say that you must live here and I will live here and if you want to cross you have to ask me a question.

Sir, it seems to be instinctive within us to try to guard our territory. It is using your logic that actually helps you to overcome this because of our basic instinct, like animals, and we still have that basic instinct to do that and that is quite natural.

I will not tell you that I have never been concerned about the fact that the number of Barbadians eligible to access the law faculty is limited to ten or twelve people. Jamaica has a larger quota but yet we are talking about a single market and you will find that we are limited to ten but then you will find that Jamaicans and Trinidadians will have access to our Barbadian market. Sir, if the Barbadian market is big enough to accommodate them, it would seem to suggest to me logically that our quota should be expanded from ten.

Therefore, I, as an attorney-at-law, have considered that and it may be a legitimate issue that individuals can raise. Sir, because I raise that issue, it does not mean that I would

ever for one moment suggest that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is not something that we should pursue because, I really honestly within my heart believe that we have absolutely no choice in the matter, not when you see what is facing us, not when you sit across a negotiating table with people from North America and Europe, and when you are little Barbados with 265 000 people behind you trying to make a point. About what? They do not listen to you.

I can tell you that in dealing with the OECD matter they listened because we had 14 other countries with us. Whether they put in any money, they told us that we could use their name. This is what we went forward with and I do not think that individuals quite understand what we were facing when we were dealing with the OECD issue. Many people talk about sovereignty telling us what we must do but cold hard facts, it meant that 40 per cent of the Corporation Tax which we raise in Barbados comes from the offshore sector and that is what the OECD was attacking, the 40 per cent of our corporate revenues.

Sir, you were able to weather that battle because you can say that you are speaking for 15 countries. I think, we would understand clearly what the CSME means. That is what it means in political international economic terms. Within the context of the international economy it is all about politics at the end of the day because the rules are very few and far between. So it comes down to politics and how much weight and influence you think you can carry.
4.40 p.m.

Mr. President, we then come here and try to scare Barbadians into believing that the worst thing in the world is going to happen to them if we go into a CARICOM Single Market and Economy. When I used to listen to Bob Marley I did not know that I would be in here but it is amazing how what he said comes back to me whenever I am in here because one of the things that he said is that you must never forget who you are and where you stand in the struggle. I think that sometimes Barbadians forget that we have only 265 000 people and that Barbados is only 432 square kilometres.

Mr. President, I will tell you what some people feel about Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean. Bermuda had to debate in its Parliament whether it would go on and move from observer status in CARICOM to becoming an associate member of CARICOM and the Opposition said that Bermuda's reputation would be tarnished if it associated itself with the Caribbean, including Barbados. The Opposition also said that the Caribbean countries, including Barbados, were looking at Bermuda as a cash cow and that all of us in Barbados, I would stop what I am doing here and stop being a Senator, would pack up and leave our houses and go to Bermuda because Bermuda is supposed to be richer than Barbados. That is what the Bermudians were

saying about us. The Opposition was also saying that they had no problem in principle with closer integration with the Caribbean countries.

Sir, I believe that there must be a Caribbean school for the Opposition somewhere because the arguments are very similar. They make the people frightened. They were saying that everybody in Barbados would pack up and go to Bermuda, but who in Barbados pays any attention to what is happening in Bermuda? What is Bermuda? What is it that we are so mindful of Bermuda that we would want to go there? Mr. President, there are people in St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Jamaica that do not want and would never want to come to Barbados. We sit here not understanding who we are and somehow believing that people will just sell their car and their house and leave their grandmother, their children and everybody and come to Barbados. Human beings do not function in that fashion.

Mr. President, you can do as many surveys as you like but nobody will know for sure how many people will come here. What I would tell you is that whenever people come under stringent, economic circumstances in their own country they would seek to go elsewhere, just as Barbadians left here some years ago and just as the Guyanese would try to come here.

Sir, the Bahamas has opted out of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. They are not in favour of the free movement of people, but the Bahamas has the most Haitians living in it, and it is not a part of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Sir, people who are desperate will move and you cannot stop them. They will go wherever they have to. People would get on a little rinky-dinky boat and try to leave where they are and go elsewhere because they are desperate, and people would continue to do it and risk their lives doing it. So I find it quite remarkable that the Bahamas which is not a part of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy have more Haitians living there than any other Caribbean island. Sir, if you did a survey, logically you would calculate that since the Bahamas is not part of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, no Haitians will go to the Bahamas. That would have to be the conclusion that you would have to come to.

Sir, one of the things I find quite remarkable is that Barbadians always seem to have less confidence in themselves than other people do. A Free Trade Area of the Americas readiness survey was done and the country that came out on top was Barbados. It is not because they like us because when you first look at the survey you would think that it was Chile because they are more interested in suggesting that it was a Latin American country but then

they said that if you include the English-speaking Caribbean, Barbados would be at the top of the table. The things they were looking at were price stability, budget discipline – and we have to thank our Minister of Finance for that – national savings, external debt and exchange rates stability. Micro factors included Government reliance on trade taxes.

Sir, we have to thank the Democratic Labour Party for assisting with the Value Added Tax system even though when you hear them talk about it you would think that it was dreamt up by the Barbados Labour Party. When the Barbados Labour Party came into office, we implemented it because we thought it was a good thing. Having removed all of those taxes at the Port it means now that we have to adjust to the removal of tariffs. It does not impact on us to the degree that it would have, had we not removed them. So we removed them in good time, we implemented the VAT and we have a VAT system that is functioning smoothly.

Mr. President, we do not throw out ideas simply to score partisan points. The idea of VAT was good and we implemented it. That was one of the reasons we are Free Trade Area of the Americas, World Trade Organisation and CARICOM Single Market and Economy ready. The other factors include market-oriented policy for its current tax revenue and the ability of the domestic political process to allocate gains from trade.

Sir, all of that speaks to good governance. Obviously, the survey would have been done within the last ten years. All along we have been talking about good governance and prudent management of the economy.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have one minute, Senator.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: Unfortunately, only one minute.

Mr. President, there are many opportunities that would come out of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and I cannot speak about them in one minute but I will give one example. I live in the country in the constituency of St. Philip West and I hear many elderly folks talk about the days when land was selling out. They say something like: “Man, land was selling out all 'bout here, I could have buy a spot over there, the one next to the house and the one behind, but I only buy this one spot.” Of course, the children are asking why because the children are now “scrunting” to find a piece of land and they are saying: “But dad why you didn’t buy the one in front and the one at the side and the one behind?” The dad is saying that the money was not a problem and the plantation owner was asking him to buy it because he did like him, but he did not buy it.

Sir, I hope that with the CARICOM Single Market and Economy our grandchildren do not have to ask us the same very thing; “Why you didn’t go and check out the land in Guyana?” Guyana is 214 000 square kilometres with a population of 772 000 people. Belize is 22 966 square kilometres with a population of approximately 233 000 people. Fewer people live in Belize than in Barbados and Barbados is only 432 square kilometres.

4.50 p.m.

Mr. President, I want to make my final point with reference to the Democratic Labour Party’s position, which is that in principle they support the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Sir, this suggests to me that when they look at the facts and at the elements that they bring out, it suggests that they do not at all, support it. Sir, what am I to say?

Mr. PRESIDENT: That your time has expired.

SENATOR THE HON. Miss L. V. EASTMOND: I am just finishing on this point because I think it will bring it home very clearly. What am I to think if a man comes to me and said that he is prepared to marry me in principle. What does that mean? It is like the Democratic Labour Party supporting the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in principle. It means nothing.

Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the measure before this Honourable Chamber but at the same time, I would like to say that there have been some very interesting contributions today, some to which I would wish to respond.

Mr. President, the first one I would touch on is that made by Senator Eastmond, in which she made reference to the position of the Bahamians, where the Government decided to opt out of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, primarily because of their fear of being over-run by other citizens.

Mr. President, I wish to indicate that we had a most interesting experience in Suriname in October, where the Barbados Prime Minister spoke to the Caribbean Congress of Labour and to the people of Suriname on the question of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Sir, thereafter, the Caribbean Congress of Labour made some presentations and I made some observations and recommendations with regard to Labour’s position.

I am pleased to be able to tell this Honourable Senate that the labour movement of the Bahamas undertook to go back to the Bahamians and to ask their Government to review their position in light of the Barbados stance and in light of our explanations regarding the overall benefits.

Mr. President, Senator Eastmond has also made reference to what we were able to do when we were talking about the harmful taxation measures which were being attempted against us. Sir, I thought it would be useful to use this occasion to make the Honourable Senate aware that when we are in discussions in the international fora, you would hear, for example, a spokesman for the European Union being very careful to spell out all of the countries on whose behalf he or she is speaking, so much so as to completely overawed the rest of the gathering, regarding the strength or the position that is being put forward by that single spokesperson.

Mr. President, when those people speak, and I say they speak for Canada, the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, France, Spain, Holland, *et cetera*, then you have to be wondering if we can get support for our position. Sir, these persons will get up and say that they speak for the European Union and then include the 10 countries that have just joined. Therefore, when they call the names of the 25 countries, you begin to wonder where you stand because of the impact they would have had.

Mr. President, similarly, when you say, as I do from time to time, that I speak not only for the continent of Barbados – that's how I tell them – but for and on the behalf of, and I name the countries of the Caribbean, they recognise that it is one man and one vote in these fora. Therefore, the single need speaking for 250,000 persons is no longer a single, simple fellow, black to boot, speaking for 250,000 people but one of 15 votes, speaking to an issue that concerns the entire world. Therefore, you are able to do very much more because you have the united position.

Mr. President, from 1941 we have taken the position that the peoples of the Caribbean have one single destiny and a single purpose and that, therefore, we should come under a single umbrella. If one is to look at the history of the labour movement, one would be very careful to note that as early as the 1940s, it was the labour movement driving the political directorate towards a unity within the region. Today we are still in the same position and no one should believe that in doing so, we are saying what we say blindly or that we are unmindful of the difficulties, some of which we have spoken to, from time to time.

Mr. President, I could not help but to make the comment that I was very impressed by the suggestion of Senator Eastmond but I regret that she did not complete that suggestion. The Honourable Senator said that when our forebears looked at the matter of freedom from slavery, there were people who said that we must not do that because we would be punished for it, and that there were no benefits to be gained. The Honourable Senator then said that when there was the riot, there were people who said that we should not riot. She said that when we had Independence, there were

persons who said that we should not have Independence. Sir, I thought that the Honourable Senator would have capped it off very beautifully if she had said then when workers decided they want to have a strike, that there are still people today who would say that they should not have the strike because the employer would dismiss those workers. Therefore, one should accept what anybody throws in one's face because one should not stand for one's manhood or one's womanhood, for principle or for what is right but because there is opposition or fear, that one should not go that extra mile.

Mr. President, I like very much what the Honourable Senator has said and I hope one day that she would complete the scenario, which would bring us all into a beautiful position of oneness.

Mr. President, I wish to go beyond that. I thought that I could not have let the moment pass to say that since May, 2004, we have been making some serious submissions regarding matters that relate to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Sir, you may remember that we have had the Barbados May Day Declaration, in which having committed ourselves to high matters of principles, we also said that those things which we would wish for Barbadians, we equally wanted to have those things for our people within the Caribbean because we were looking forward to the moment of having the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. President, following that, the Senate debated the question of citizenship when we were looking at the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas as it applied to people and to migration. More recently we have had the National Initiative on Service Excellence and in parenthesis I would wish to say that has not been imposed on anyone and that we should not give the impression that this is something which any Government, employer, or body of employers, or union, has imposed on anybody. It is a call to all people to make an effort, to make this country a better country at the level of Government, at the level of the employer's contribution and at the level of people's contribution. It is not to make the Democratic Labour Party better, not to make the Barbados Labour Party better, not to make the Barbados Shipping and Trading (BS&T) or any employers' group better but to make Barbados better for all persons.

Mr. President, I think it is important that be said. I do not think we expect that by tomorrow everybody would buy into it but we hope that if employers play their role, if Government plays its role, if the union leaders play their role, if workers, non-workers, boys, girls and everybody else would play their individual and collective roles, that we might be able to make Barbados a more attractive destination for people on business, in leisure and for us all at the very end of the exercise.

5.00 p.m.

I have spoken on each of these occasions and I do not think that I wish to go back to the positions that I have taken previously regarding how we feel about labour within the exercise, not to go back to every case, but I do think that it is necessary for some comments to be made lest our position be misunderstood.

Sir, I do not think there is anybody who thinks that the problems of labour within the Caribbean spring from the establishment of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy. That is not so and it should not be so. The problems of labour are, perhaps, not tangential but may be a very real concern. Coming out of the single market and economy is, as Senator Fields puts it, the problem of labour which does not have the possibility for a very careful understanding, appreciation and harnessing by those of us who are in a position to harness that labour. If it goes unchecked or in a direction where there are no possibilities for us to exercise managerial controls, then we run the risk of having a very severe problem.

Sir, I said before, and at the risk of repeating myself, I would wish to make the point that the labour in itself has nothing that is wrong about it at the level of general labour but there are two problems which we have.

We have at the upper level the problems where we are persuading our young people to go and get a good education, be well trained and when we get them well trained they find non-regional expatriates at the upper level are taking those jobs when there is no need to bring them from Canada or the United Kingdom, sometimes straight out of school, and are given partnerships and very senior positions. Sir, our people who have gone to the University of the West Indies and who have borrowed money to go overseas to do their Masters and doctoral programmes return to Barbados and have to "scrunt". That is a very real problem that we have to deal with.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I said somewhere else before that the Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs must be in a position to be able to look into that kind of problem because it has nothing to do with the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. It has to do with the reduction and sometimes complete removal of opportunities for local people to buy into the Barbados knowledge industry and be able to carry forward this country in a way that is very important and necessary if we are going to build Barbados the way we want to build Barbados. Sir, we have to tell some of those auditing firms, insurance companies and companies like Cable and Wireless and the rest of them that this must not take place here. Sir, that is at one level of the spectrum.

Mr. President, at the other level of the spectrum we have, and I have said this before, very terrible cases, not of workers wanting to leave their country and come here but there is everything wrong with having those people exploited and treated as human chattel and being exploited in the worst way possible.

Sir, I do not believe that I need to tell this Honourable Chamber that it is not always working in the agricultural field that they are being exploited. They come to Barbados and their passports are being withheld from them and they are made to work in some areas which are demeaning to them and which pull down this beautiful country of ours.

Mr. President, in the building industry we have a particular difficulty and I am, therefore, of the view that we need now more than ever to call for legislation for a Building Practitioners Act and a Building Practitioners Code of Practice. Those Acts should determine the standards that builders are using, and I do not only mean the standards in terms of the engineering or the strength of steel or the mixture of sand and cement when they are building. I am talking about the standards that relate to the environment, health and safety practices, the conditions under which people will work so that when they work they will see what they are being paid and where their money is being put, conditions under which they do not get fired because they disagree with how they are being treated by the management and standards relating to the wages that have to be paid. I am not suggesting a minimum wage as a single national minimum wage but there will obviously need to be a sectorial minimum wage because there are several people in this country who, if there was one single minimum wage would then want to make that the maximum wage. We have to realise that we have several areas in Barbados where wages apply that are substandard and then we will have a problem. Sir, part of the difficulty has to be how we arrive at those minimum wages.

Mr. President, I agree with Senator Lowe that we have to move more rapidly than we are currently moving in an effort to save the standards which we have in our country from the exploitation which those who would otherwise exploit people are currently doing. Sir, believe me, this matter is one in need of very urgent attention.

Sir, people are being made to live in conditions that are sub human. Some people are living in containers without windows. They are being made to accept all kinds of subhuman standards and some of them are being treated, outside of the treatment by the employer, by people who are taking advantage of their presence in Barbados and I am not referring to Bajans.

Sir, I am referring to other people like landlords who allow 20 or 25 people to live in a little house sharing the

same refrigerator and toilet facility and if you can find somewhere to lie down, you can count every star in the sky. These living conditions are bringing Barbados into disrepute and something has to be done by some appropriate housing inspectorate that is able to check and examine that kind of treatment of people living in Barbados to be outlawed.

Mr. President, about four months ago inspectors visited some houses and they condemned them because they were totally unacceptable for people to be living under those conditions. Since that very well publicised event in a newspaper I have not seen or heard of any similar situations although I am aware that they still exist even today.

Sir, therefore, we have to be very vigilant and careful to make sure that we do not create these positions of May Day Declarations. Sir, as Senator Lowe said, we have to create a spirit and attitude when we talk about the National Initiative for Service Excellence, but at the same time we are eroding the very human spirit of the workers in the country by allowing them to be exploited by bad employers and very bad landlords and landladies.

Mr. President, something must be done and if that inspectorate is not yet properly functioning, then every effort should be made to give it office and space and, indeed, give it teeth. If we do not do that we are going to have a very inhumane problem.

Sir, I wish to say in passing that in that regard people have spoken on the subject of a developing state. Perhaps, Senator Fields was not aware that from time to time we have spoken to the difficulties that could arise if we have not taken care to monitor the social and welfare conditions which are attached to unregulated labour.
5.10 p.m.

When I spoke to the matter initially and some of the kind people of Barbados misunderstood me, they did not realise that we are not denying people an opportunity. We are saying that when they have arrived, every attempt should be made to make sure that they are taken care of but that the citizens of Barbados must, equally, not find themselves being disadvantaged by any of their conditions or privileges which currently they might enjoy.

Mr. President, the matter of migrant labour is not a Barbadian phenomenon but a global phenomenon. The International Labour Organisation has been looking at this for as many as 40 years. Again, this year 2004, we have been examining the matter of migrant labour, with a view to having countries the world over understand the difficulties for the migrant, as well as the host country. It is not an easy matter by any stretch of the imagination. In fact, it is so major a problem that the industrialised world has become

even more critical today than before in the way that they treat some measures of the migrant labour today. It has to be that we are properly in a position to recognise that people have certain interests which they have to serve.

We have moved into an endeavour where we are talking about the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. This is as it should be and there must be interests to be served by our doing that, but I think that we would be less than honest, if we did not say that part of our interest has to be the welfare of the people of Barbados and not merely the welfare of the whole world. Sir, if we are looking at the interest of Barbados, then we have to concern ourselves with the well-being of those people at all levels.

I would like to believe that at the same time we welcome the single market and economy, and are putting forward a position which says that it is a good thing, we have to realise that even in good things, there are areas where caution has to be recognised and pockets of disaffection have to be sewn up or completely removed.

There are one or two other matters which I would like to speak to fairly quickly. Senator Griffith spoke to the matter of seeing the need to have our institutions properly prepared for the work of building the region. In that regard, he spoke particularly of the experimental work which needs to be done by CARDI and the University of the West Indies, working singly but also working together.

I would wish to make the observation that whereas the University of the West Indies has been able to get support over the years, and in the agricultural arm, the Regional Agricultural Experimental Station has been able to get support, CARDI has found itself in a rather difficult position – in an invidious position, if you would allow me to say so – where the CARDI has not always been able to have enough funds to pay wages and salaries. This is not because of anything that the Barbados Government is doing wrong, as far as I am aware, but because the other contributors to CARDI are, as in so many other instances, not pulling their weight. At the same time, we now have a situation where the directorate of CARDI wants to take away the benefits under which the Barbadian workers in CARDI are currently being employed, on the grounds that the Barbadian worker should have only the same conditions that others have when, in fact, all CARDI stations have had to negotiate for themselves individually for the last 25 years.

Some new “gorillafant general” believes that he has complete control and he can do as he likes because he is the Director of CARDI, so he wants to have a new dispensation. I am of the view, Mr. President, that the Minister has to take note of this very difficult situation.

The University of the West Indies is one university but each campus stands on its own feet regarding the negotiated conditions that apply to the workers. We could not go to the Barbados Principal at Cave Hill and say that we want condition X or Y because Trinidad, Jamaica or Guyana has it. We have to make out a case on merit and when we have gone to all that trouble, even when CARDI was part of the University and now that it stands on its own, we have gone to great trouble to put a CARDI position and have CARDI conditions. We could not afford to allow that kind of position where some infallible papal decree is handed down by a director, operating in another territory. Therefore, I would wish that this is dealt with as a matter of urgency by the Minister who is responsible.

I think that at the same time, we have to take note of the matter of the single currency, purely in passing. Senator Barker spoke very well to that matter and, therefore, I do not need to spend a lot of time on it but, just to say that I support the gradualist approach to the matter of the single currency. There is no urgency for us in this region about that. In fact, it is quite possible, as Senator Barker alluded, that the whole of this hemisphere could find itself so completely overwhelmed by the influence of the American dollar that the question of a single currency would lose its impact or significance in the short term. I do say that we necessarily want it to be so in the long term, but it is a factual situation as it stands right now.

There is nowhere you go within this hemisphere that you do not find your hotel bill, your food bill or your exchanges in the street equated to the US dollar. And so, there is no strange thing that we come to, in the same way that if we go to Europe today, everything that you buy, including your hotel is measured in the euro.

I think there are two major currencies that are relating right now which we have to deal with and we need to understand. Even when you go to Japan, as I had the honour to do, they are measuring what you get paid, or what they pay you in US dollars. Therefore, the issue of currency is not urgent.

I believe the movement of capital and people, the trade, agricultural and industrial policies are much more important for us to recognise. Sir, on the question of the movement of people, I have already made reference to the relevance and the importance of making sure that when we build education policies, we do not build them in such a way as to prevent our people from being able to have a future that is properly secured and well documented, and through which they are able to proceed to something that is much more substantial than what currently obtains.

I would hope that what we might be able to do is to get our Ministers of Education to complete the exercises which

they are doing with the Ministries of Labour to establish the kinds of skills and knowledge bases that will give us the harmony for those skills. I know that the CDQs, a measurement by which we are going to have a single standard, is being talked about but it seems to me that we have to move quickly in that area.

Mr. President, we had the unfortunate situation in the past, where people came and said they were A-grade carpenters and when you left them on their own and asked them to build, even a little shed, when the rains came, they did not stand up to the rain. I think we have to check those people on the basis of what we say are qualifications.

There is no point saying we have a university and we need to know that a person who has a Bachelor Degree, really has a Bachelor Degree. I think we are going to have to check sometimes to make sure that those people who come back to this country claiming they have doctorates are really doctors. We have to be able to have more than what they say. That is very important. In a similar manner we must be able to take the skills and be satisfied that there is some means of treating to this issue.

5.20 p.m.

Mr. President, the labour movement believes very strongly that the effort towards the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is one that labour has to support. However, we say this with a very strong bit of warning to our colleagues. That warning has to do with the fact that labour must not become foot soldiers who are sent out into the battlefield to take the pressure of the arrows of outrageous fortune, if I can have a mixed metaphor there.

What we are saying is that we hope that Government and the employers would not together only look for those areas where they get their comfort zone and then leave the working man, the working woman and the potential working child in positions where they have not been as well-planned for as the planning that has gone into trade or into any other structures which there might be. There has to be a very clear picture that gives the hope that Senator Lowe is looking for.

We have the view in the labour movement that without the single market and economy there is no hope. At the same time the contradiction is there because where there is uncertainty, then there must be fear and where there is fear, hope is lost or at least surrendered for the time being. We therefore believe that though we may have very much that we would criticise in what Senator Lowe has said, taking out those areas which we may disagree with, we must try to discover what are the concerns, which as an honest person he has presented honestly on behalf of his constituents, and see the extent to which those matters are matters in which we need to make a greater effort in terms of the process of bringing along the public.

We in the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados and, in the wider Caribbean context, we in the Caribbean Congress of Labour have committed ourselves to the task of helping in the orientation, the education, the un-education, if I should say un-education, and the re-education. We are going to have to “dis-educate”, if there is such a word, and re-educate. I have to look to my right to Dame Symmonds to find out if I could use that word. However, we have to re-educate, re-orientate and guide the people regarding what is required by all of the players in the new CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

We have given that assurance to the governments of the Caribbean at the level of the Caribbean Heads of Governments. We have given that assurance to the Prime Minister of Barbados when he was the feature speaker at the forum for the Caribbean Congress of Labour in Suriname back in October. We feel very strongly that is our task which we must perform because we do not think that anybody else has the capacity to do it as efficiently as we must be able to do.

In the same way that we have given a commitment to make NISE as nice as it can be as long as the Government and the employers assist in the exercise, we give an equal comment that if Government nicely gives us the wherewithal then we would be in a position to help in the task of building this one nation, the Caribbean, to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy through the training and education programmes that are required.

I am grateful to you, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 5.45 p.m. today.

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 5.45 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.
5.25 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Senator the Very Reverend Crichlow.

SENATOR THE VERY REVEREND H. E. CRICHLOW: Mr. President, I rise to support the Bill. I am sure that no one in this Honourable Chamber would want not to support it.

Mr. President, this is an historical moment for us in the Caribbean and I certainly would like to know that we leave for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren a legacy that they would inherit, one that leads to unity. Anything that is being done in the Caribbean to unite us should be supported.
5.50 p.m.

Mr. President, normally our West Indies cricket team and the University of the West Indies show evidence of unity. In the colonial past, with the impoverishment of the colonies in order to build up the economic development of the European Governments, that past is still with us and will be with us for a number of years to come and all the Caribbean territories are made up of former colonial peoples.

Sir, when we think of the inhumane treatment that was meted out to the people of African and East Indian descent, I am sure that you will agree with me that there is nothing as tragic as what happened in the Caribbean, the passage from Africa to the Caribbean. We need to see this whole business of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy from that broader background, the damage that was being done to the majority of people in the Caribbean.

Mr. President, chattel slavery was different from any other kind of slavery because chattel slaves were non-persons. I think that we in the British colonies got the worst of it because the Spanish, Portuguese and French slaves were treated as persons and they could be taught the Christian faith and baptised and so on, but in the British territories the slaves were not taught the Christian faith because they were not being treated as persons. So, we have a history of being non-persons and that is something that distinguishes the Caribbean from other parts of the world and many people still see us through those eyes. Mr. President, even the Africans that we meet in metropolitan countries do not want to be identified with us because they believe that we are the descendants of slaves.

Sir, slavery was a government-sponsored matter and governments made a lot of money out of the slave trade in the Caribbean. I think that with this new conscience level that we raise, that reparations are in order for those countries that were so inhumanly treated.

The consequences of slavery lie wherever black people are found. Recently, we saw in the news some Tanzanian women were bleaching their skin to become fair because they found that to be black did not bring them any recognition. This is one of the terrible things about our history that people were made to hate the fact that they were black.

Sir, not long ago I remember being in a workplace and somebody outside angered one of the workers and she questioned the race of the person. She was very angry and she stammered. A conversation ensued and she enquired whether the person was white. This happened just a few years ago. She felt that only orders should be taken from white persons and not from black persons. Sir, we sometimes hear this kind of thing even when it is not open and we can assume that is part of the reason why many of our leaders behave the way they do because they are aware that they are not respected by people of their own colour.

I think that black leaders, especially in this country, are respected more by the white people than by black people. As a people we have not reached the level of mental independence. It would take more than 38 years of Independence for people to be conscious of the fact that they have self-worth and that people of their own colour should be respected.

Sir, the poverty trap that we have been left with is a direct result of the exploitation of the European governments. I think that much of the infrastructure that is lacking in the developing countries should be done by Europe and a lot of the debts of the developing countries are burdened with should be erased by them also.

The abolition of slavery came as a result of economic reasons because the slaves were proving to be an economic burden to slave masters. Just as slavery was an economic thing, so was the abolition of slavery. Poverty eradication is also an economic thing, although some people have been able to rise above poverty and use it as a stepping stone, rather than an obstacle to progress.
6.00 p.m.

I noted that there is a similarity between Barbados and the other Caribbean countries, Britain and the continental European countries. Sir, because of Barbados' history and its isolation from the rest of the Caribbean, we only had the British with us, and the British think that they are the best people in the world, we have Barbadians who feel that Barbados is the world.

Certainly, it is on top of the world because you go down from Barbados to everywhere else. You go down to England, America, Canada, and Jamaica, so Barbados is on top of the world. I think that sometimes, we as leaders are responsible for giving people that false impression of Barbados which makes Barbadians feel that they are the best people in the world. Barbados is so small, as was pointed out several times that, really, I think those of us who know better, should stop talking of Barbados like that, and let people know that Barbados is not very well known in the world.

If you travel in Europe, most of the time you would find that you are taken out of the line into a small room, and you have to wait 20 minutes or even more until the immigration people find out whether there is a place called Barbados. I certainly had that experience on, at least, two occasions.

Sir, I tend to travel with my old British passport, along with a Barbados passport. I remember just before Independence I was travelling on a British passport. An immigration officer in an American airport, looked at the passport and said, "British subject, you mean British object." I was glad when we became independent and I was not thought of as an object.

Asides.

SENATOR THE VERY REVEREND H. E. CRICHLAW: I think our own people should be told that Barbados is not the biggest and best place in the world, and Barbadians are not the best people in the world.

Sir, we are so accustomed to being best in the world that now, we are an amputation capital of the world, because we have the highest rate. We tend to want to be unique and to be the first in almost everything and I think that is a great tragedy. People must be told that they are not that great or that special in the world. Therefore, I think a lot of our problems lie in the fact that we have an inflated feeling about ourselves and we have copied this very bad habit from the British, especially, the English.

I want to say something on the work ethic, because when I hear some Senators speak of work here, I wonder if I am living in the same Barbados as they, because I find that the work ethic needs a lot to be desired. People would not mind having two and three bank holidays in every week. Work is not seen as something that is necessary. Some people are more interested in the money they work for than the amount of work that they should put in, and they just want to be on a payroll.

Work is a necessary and healthy activity. If you are to think of the island without work, it would be a jungle and people must have a different attitude to work. I am aware that our work ethic is so bad because of our historical past, and this is seen especially in agriculture.

Years ago when I was growing up, no parent wanted a child to work in agriculture. The whole point of educating a child was to ensure that it did not go to work in the field, and to a large extent we have succeeded. Fortunately, this was at

a time when the machines came in and so, we were able to get our machines to do what people did in the past. We did not displace a lot of workers because they were moving out of agriculture in any case. I think that all of us have to help people to understand that they have a duty to work to help build Barbados and not to see work as anything slavish. Much of the drudgery has been taken out of work today because of machinery.

The problem we are having now is that many of our youngsters who have gone through the secondary schools, and some through the university, find that they cannot now put the knowledge that they have gained to any use. They cannot find work. This is something that we have to be concerned about, because it is quite all right to educate our youth and we should continue. I wonder how long we are going to be able to do so, in the way that we do now, because the richest countries in the world tend to have a means test when it comes to university education. We are educating our youngsters at the university, free of cost. They have to pay a few dollars in costings but, I mean for Barbadians, university education is free.

I guess this was thought of in terms of the amount of work that the young people would be able to put in, after they have been educated, because this kind of almost socialist system cannot work, if those who benefit from it are not putting back anything into the island. We do not have any mineral resources. We cannot rely on agriculture because it is gone for the most part. I am aware of the efforts being made to diversify what is done in agriculture. I am glad to see the enthusiasm but there is not much money in agriculture, if there were, then those who have the money in Barbados would still be in agriculture. It is very glaring that we do not see the people who have the money in Barbados in any of the service areas like teaching, nursing and policing, although recently I saw a white policeman and I thought it was a good thing.

6.10 p.m.

I feel that in our mix of unity where we have only blacks and whites, it is unfortunate that the whites virtually withdraw from the society and do not take an active part in its varied developments. I would like to see more white people offering themselves for teaching positions in our schools. I would also like to see them as postmen, policemen and nurses. Wherever you go in the service industry you should be able to see some, even if it is a few, of the whites in our society.

Mr. President, when one speaks like this some people mistake it for racist talk but it is not racist talk, it is encouraging people to own their society. The whites have as much interest in Barbados as the blacks and everybody is being asked to help to develop this country. It certainly would do something to our work ethics if people were to see

those who are usually associated with money in the service jobs.

Mr. President, in conclusion I would like to point out that the Anglican Church in the Province of the West Indies started in 1883. We were working as a West Indian group from 1883 and the first two Bishops of the West Indies to be consecrated were the Bishop of Barbados and the Bishop of Jamaica. The Diocese of Barbados included Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Antigua and the Windward Islands. Over time, parts of the church in these countries became independent dioceses. However, Barbados has mothered all of those in the eastern and southern Caribbean whereas the Diocese of Jamaica included the Bahamas and Belize. So the idea of the West Indies as a group is not strange to the Church. Therefore, I have great pleasure in supporting the Bill which marks one of the great steps in Caribbean unity. Anything that would help to unite us as a people of a common history and common aspirations deserves the support of us all.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. President, I rise like all the other Honourable Senators before me, on this Side and on the other as well, to lend my support to this Bill.

It is interesting to note that we are speaking about an issue in terms of moving forward the integration process within the Caribbean some 42 years after we saw the demise of the Federation. It is for that reason that I feel a little sad this evening having heard the contribution of Senator Lowe, a person who I would sit time and again and listen to and I would say to him quietly that I thought a particular contribution was cogent and was well thought out and would personally commend him for it.

Sir, I can probably give him nine out of ten today for the gusto in which he spoke but I would really have to give him a failing grade for his contribution before this Honourable Senate. Why do I say that? I said that we are 42 years after the demise of the Federation and people like myself, Senator Lowe and others, have all been the beneficiary of education and we have all sat and observed over the last 42 years what has been the result of that Federation not moving on and becoming the strength and the institutions that it should have been. Equally, we have all said to ourselves that the region could have been a lot further and we could have achieved a lot more. It is interesting that we are at this juncture now where we once again have an opportunity to do the right thing and to get it right.

Mr. President, a number of persons have gone to the Great Beyond who have fought assiduously to see the

Caribbean become one market space where people can move freely and operate as only Caribbean people can. I speak of persons like the late Sir Harold St. John. This may surprise Senator Lowe, but I also speak of the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow who had the distinct opportunity in 1973 to be part of the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas. As you know, Mr. President, he passed on in 1987 but he also shared with us in that same 1987 his thoughts about how he sees people moving within the Caribbean and the importance of the movement of people within the region and he left some very profound words with us. He said in 1987, and I quote:

“If we have sometimes failed to comprehend the essence of the regional integration movement, the truth is that thousands of ordinary Caribbean people do in fact live that reality every day.

This fact of regional togetherness is lived every day by ordinary West Indian men and women in their comings and goings – the small traders, and some not so small who move from Jamaica to Haiti, on what I believe is their legitimate business.

It is true that the laws of each country may sometimes get in their way, but for the majority of these decent and industrious sons and daughters of the Caribbean, I believe that their business is spontaneous though unassisted, and legitimate, though unregulated.

The regional integration movement is a fact of daily experience. It is a reality which is lived, but which we have not yet been able to institutionalise.”

6.20 p.m.

Mr. President, I would urge someone like Senator Doctor Lowe to go back and to understand what people like the Right Excellent Errol Barrow stood for.

Sir, had he been alive in 1989, his pen would have gone down on the signing of the Grand Anse Declaration because I believe that he might have done some of the work prior to 1989, to have made Grand Anse a reality. Therefore, for us 42 years later to be in a position as leaders, to my mind sending the wrong message and putting societies in the region in a scared position, I think is unfortunate.

Mr. President, Senator Lowe did not stop there. He started out, quite interestingly, by saying that there is no uncertainty on the side of the Democratic Labour Party. I thought it was a good opening statement but then, of course, he went on to speak about the fact that it has taken Europe 30 years to reach a certain point at which they were hoping to achieve. Sir, in truth and in fact, after 30 years everything that they wanted to achieve since 1957 has not been achieved.

Mr. President, an interesting thing which has escaped Senator Lowe and has escaped the Members of the Democratic Labour Party and all the naysayers in respect of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, is that in 1989 when the Heads agreed that there would have been a CARICOM Single Market and Economy, they had put a time frame within which it was supposed to have come into operation. Sir, it was supposed to have come into full operation by 1993, which would have been in four years' time. Sir, nothing happened between 1989 and 1993. Barbados had the lead role as it was then.

Sir, we on this side are being asked today to explain about impact studies. Was there an impact study? I have to ask that question and to reflect upon it. When the pen of the Barbados Government went on that Declaration in 1989, did they do all of the background work? Were they satisfied that it was in the direction in which Barbados should have gone? Did they understand the impact that it would have had on Barbados? Were we the beneficiaries of persons going to Grand Anse and coming back and talking through the issues? Sir, we heard absolutely nothing and all those persons who were part and parcel to Grand Anse, we now see them being part of the naysayers.

Mr. President, recently we are told by the distinguished gentleman who had signed on the behalf of Barbados in 1989 that it is something that should have been implemented on a phased basis. Sir, I do not understand what is that because they went in 1989 and signed something which said that it must come into being in 1993, they did absolutely nothing, but suddenly it must now be introduced on a phased basis. Therefore, what they had stood for in 1989, they now take a different position in 2004.

Mr. President, we are also hearing that when the Prime Minister goes and speaks about Caribbean unity, that a number of persons do not want their names being associated with it, and that everybody would be taking a different position.

Mr. President, there is no doubt that what we are attempting to do is a challenging exercise. We are talking about bringing 15 countries together, creating a Single Market and a Single Economy. Sir, we are taking a route which is more difficult than that which Europe had taken because Europe had looked at and had recognised that there is a political aspect of it that is required if they were to get the economical side of it correct.

Mr. President, they have asked us to explain what is going to happen to our sovereignty. I say to Senator Lowe that there is no supranational body that is going to assist in the implementation of these things at the level of the respective territory. Each country has a duty to implement

these things as it sees fit, hence it becomes part of the complexity to us in terms of what it is that we are seeking to achieve.

Mr. President, in a sense it is more difficult than going the route of political integration. Sir, the one point that Senator Lowe made that I would agree with is that it has a lot to do with a change of attitude of people. I am fortunate to be here this afternoon to have heard the brilliant contribution of Senator Eastmond. It was an outstanding contribution.

Sir, part of what she was saying was that there is a responsibility for all of us not to use scare tactics but to do the right thing. We have the benefit in 2004 that people in 1958 and in 1962 did not have. Therefore, I do not believe that we should ascribe the worst things to people from the region.

Mr. President, people move and trade, as the Right Excellent Errol Barrow said, doing their legitimate business but people have a love for their country. Some will come temporarily, will work, and will return to their respective countries. I do not believe that Barbados is going to be over-run by a whole number of persons from across the region. We must recognise that even during the colonial days, people were travelling freely throughout the region. As a matter of fact, there was greater freedom of movement during the pre-colonial era than in the post-colonial era because after we all became independent, we began putting restrictions on each other and basically stopped Caribbean people from doing what they knew best, that is moving and trading within the region. Sir, that will now continue.

Mr. President, I must admit I feel very sad about it because I think if it is to happen, persons such as Senator Lowe and us, must try to educate the public because as we who find ourselves in a position of leadership, there is a greater responsibility on us to do it.

Sir, persons must not seek to use the opportunity in a partisan political way because for everybody to get up and to say, when it is expedient to do so, that they support the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and regional integration and when the crunch comes, then to ask questions about increase in crime and how such things are going to impact upon people's social lives. I am now hearing that the standard of living of Barbadians will go down. These are the kinds of seeds that we sow and therefore we now take ourselves back to 1962. Sir, therefore, I could only conclude with the hope that the same result that happened in 1962 will not happen in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I hope that I am wrong. I hope that this is an issue where there will not be a divide. If there is a genuineness on the part of the Opposition to support the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, then let us move forward together and not send signals to the society because all we are basically doing is

sowing the seeds of discord and making sure that we do everything possible that it will not succeed.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. President, the Opposition is asking what Government is doing with respect to educating the people of Barbados. Government Information Service has done a tremendous job thus far and people in the region are using people from across the region to help educate and inform the Caribbean. I would like to use technology more to assist with educating our people.

Mr. President, for example, we sit in front of our televisions every morning and watch things that are happening around the globe. I think that there should be a link-up with the rest of the region and have a discussion on the Caribbean Single Market and Economy on the programme *Morning Barbados*, on the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Sir, to my mind, that is the only way we can get people onboard with us. We have to carry people along with us and that is what Senator Lowe wanted to say, I can agree with that.

Mr. President, there is much that can be said but I would simply like to speak to the question of the movement of people and say that we have no difficulty in saying that there must be a movement of capital, goods and technology. All of these things are important, as Senator Fields will tell you, to make business happen; but we also need the free movement of skills of the people as well but therein lies the challenge. Sir, we do not have a problem with the other things but we always seem to have difficulty in getting people to accept that people would need to move across the region to be able to make business happen. I trust that within the coming months that there can be a greater effort on the part of everybody and I am pleased that the non-governmental organisations are coming onboard and are holding seminars, sessions and workshops to educate the average Barbadian about the impact of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Recently, I was asked to give a feature address to the Alliance of The Caribbean Informer, a group in Barbados who I must congratulate for doing excellent work. They brought together a number of people from Barbados and within the region to talk through issues at the level of the non-governmental organisations.

Mr. President, this evening Senator Sir Roy mentioned that the unions are also onboard and they are prepared to educate their membership of the impact that it is going to have on them. He also said that they recognise that we cannot survive without moving towards the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. If we can accept that it is a reality and

it is something that we cannot do without, then I think that we should be positive to ask, how can we move forward? It is not like saying you have a job to do and you ask everybody around you for ideas and they say why the job cannot be done. Maybe, you might get a small group of people telling you that if you do X, Y and Z that it is possible to move forward.

Sir, if we believe that after 42 years we ought to move forward in terms of integration of the Caribbean, then let us understand that we have to be part of that group that says, these are the things that we must do to make it a reality, not scaring people. We have to remember that we may have one chance to get it right after 1962. This may be the chance. There may not be another chance.

Mr. President, I heard the Right Honourable Prime Minister say that it is better for us as fifteen countries to begin to understand what we need to do to work among ourselves so that when we go to work among ourselves, when we go into the global market, we would know that we would have already made the adjustment. It is like saying that you cannot move from playing cricket at the club level and walk straight into the West Indies team and believe that you know everything. You have to go through a process first.

Sir, we are sitting back and saying to ourselves that we do not have to make any adjustments or do anything and that the world owes us a living. Mr. President, technology, everything is happening around us and every time that we move forward we are hearing what impact it is going to have on us. Sir, nobody is saying that we must move forward blindly but if we take a decision and say that this is in the best interest of the region, then we have an obligation as a people not to fail our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. President, there is a responsibility that rests upon our shoulders that did not rest on the shoulders of those who would have gone on and may not rest on some who will come after us. We have to take this task seriously. I fear that some are trivialising it, some are using it as a political football and others, to my mind, are intended to be mischievous.

Sir, I can only urge that from henceforth we all move forward together. There are times when both Government and Opposition must, for the good of a society, simply say this is something of which there will be no divide because the interest of a country is at stake.

Mr. President, I give this Bill my fullest support. I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Chandler.

SENATOR Dr. F. L. CHANDLER: Mr. President, I think that it is generally agreed that some degree of regional integration has been in place for many years and we know that integration is more important now than it has every been. In my opinion, for the formal and more far-reaching Caribbean Single Market and Economy to succeed it has to have the buy-in of all parties involved in the everyday activities of all the countries of the Caribbean.

Sir, although it may be relatively easy for people to see that trading and negotiating as a bloc is advantageous and possibly essential in these days, it is the benefits to everyday life that may not be clear to everyone, including Senator Lowe's average man.

Mr. President, we as human beings tend to fear the unknown. I agree with Senator Lowe that the buy-in to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy will be achieved with the jingles and other promotional material that I have seen on television. These only sensitise people that there is such a thing as Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

In fact, on a recent call-in programme, I do not know if it was intentional or if the gentleman's tongue just became twisted, but he referred to it as "CS Enemy". I am not sure if it was intentional or he just got confused with the Ms and the Ns.

6.40 p.m.

In my opinion what is necessary is an in-depth educational programme, dealing with the actual mechanics of the plan and specifying actual tangible benefits that will be available for Caribbean companies, investors and consumers versus their non-Caribbean equivalents. Someone recently suggested a number of question and answer programmes on the subject, since at the moment there are many questions and probably not enough answers.

I was pleased to hear the Prime Minister touch on this subject recently in a television release. He mentioned the Social Security System and said that the mechanics of this would have to be worked out. Before we venture into CSME, I think we need to know that the mechanics of this and other systems, such as the duty-free sector, personal tax when wage earners are allowed to travel freely, travel taxes and levies, common ED forms, *et cetera*, have been worked out, rather than will be worked out.

CSME in my opinion is vision. We now have to concentrate on the action, which is what all citizens and business people in particular, will be interested in. While the necessary legislative changes and policies will be made at Governmental level, the everyday actions on the ground will make or break CSME, in my opinion.

CSME involves considerable change and it will not just come about on its own because the legislation says so. There are the Regional Transformation Task Force and the CSME Task Force with a number of working groups but it is essential that at all times, the private sector which is responsible for doing business in the region, as well as the other social partners are constantly consulted and intimately involved in the planning procedures for the actual implementation or operation of CSME.

The private sector organisations have put forward a number of recommendations, including the need for a clearing facility for regional projects, and the setting up of a Caribbean business council and I trust that these will be taken seriously.

The implementation of CSME is a mammoth task. I do not think anybody can dispute that, and there is the concern that there are many projects listed but there does not appear to be a detailed plan of action which sets out the priorities and time lines to ensure the delivery of the initiatives of the greatest impact, especially for the period 2004 to 2005.

This is absolutely necessary so that the private sector can organise itself and schedule its own work plan to suit these priorities. The private sector stressed that the part of the legislation governing the free movement of capital, should be a key objective by December 2005, since this should result in regional, economic development through access to investment opportunities.

Mr. President, the Heads of Government have been quoted as saying that the ultimate aim of CSME is a marked improvement in the quality of life of the people of the community. However, I trust that this means people of all the countries. We heard that a regional development fund would be put in place to assist disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors. What we have to guard against, is destroying the rich and strong to help the poor and weak. The European Union (EU) is often used as a benchmark for such integration policies, but I have been speaking to some British people who claim that British citizens in general are not at all pleased with what they see as a disparity in the use of developmental funds within the European Union.

Another problem which I think we must guard against is what could be termed "milking the system" by some countries which are in it, only when it is convenient and do not adhere to the rules when it is not convenient. Here again, I have been told that this occurs in the European Union, where some countries are disadvantaged because they attempt to adhere to the rules while others do not. An example is in the aviation industry, where I am told that Britain has opened its doors to pilots but it is almost

impossible for a British pilot to work in France because of the strength of the French Pilots Union.

It would seem as if all CARICOM countries are not equally committed to CSME, and are not coming onboard at the same time. Therefore, it is imperative that there are reciprocity agreements between individual states, so that there is no unfair advantage taken of those countries which are willing to come on board immediately.

Of course, one of the most important matters is ensuring that human, financial, infrastructural and administrative resources are in place to guarantee implementation of CSME. It has been suggested that a CARICOM tax needs to be implemented to finance the programme on a sustained basis.

Mr. President, I watched an archival television programme recently on Barbados Independence, and one of the arguments used in support of Independence was that Barbadians were independent-minded. Therefore, the mind-set will now have to be drastically changed to regional-mindedness, if CSME is to succeed.

Mr. President, I support the Bill but recognise that there are many challenges ahead which must be dealt with in a systematic manner. I reiterate that all parties involved in the actual operation of CSME need to be constantly consulted and involved.

I thank you.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Mr. President, I rise in support of the Bill that is before this Chamber this evening. When I prepared myself to come to this debate, particularly on this Bill, I had decided to look at the positives and what can be in relation to the single market and single economy.

Sir, as a Caribbean person and one who supported and voted in favour of the Federation, I was really hurt by Senator Lowe's presentation, for the reason that you could have spoken to law and order without reflecting negatively on my Caribbean brothers and sisters. Certainly, if you open up your country for the reason of CSME, you would have to beef up your law and order department, not necessarily for criminal activity but as a matter of course. This could have been said and, I believe, that is what the Commissioner of Police meant.

Sir, a person with the training that the goodly Senator Lowe has as a counsellor, could have come here and asked questions that can be answered. Do not come to this Honourable Chamber and ask questions which you know cannot be answered. In the process of time, many answers would come one way or the other, but they cannot be answered now. Sir, he came to this Chamber to literally set

up a political platform where I know persons are going to come to me and say that we cannot answer the questions that Senator Lowe asked.

In another way, Sir, it is ironic, and Senator Williams made a point on it, that in 1989 the visionaries of that Side signed on the CSME at Grand Anse.
6.50 p.m.

Mr. President, they did not even put a lead pencil mark across a white sheet of paper to carry the lead responsibility in the five years to 1994. Senator Williams said that they did nothing, but they did something. What they did was to sign on to global trade in March of 1994 but no Barbadian except them knew, which compounded the matter and now the forces of the world trade situation are coming at us, and we cannot stop them.

The Barbados Labour Party came into office in 1994 with a Prime Minister who was reasonably young in political terms, but he manfully took up the lead responsibility that was offered to Barbados in 1989 and is still leading the way. Caribbean people are looking at the Prime Minister of Barbados to continue to lead them on to the future, but the visionaries cannot see that.

Mr. President, it is ironic that after 42 years the same political hand that put the hatchet to the young Federal tree in Caribbean unity is at work cutting down the tree as it springs back. Could you imagine, Mr. President, and Honourable Senators, that a Caribbean political party could be in Britain today using the British judicial system to affect the progress as globalisation attacks us? Could you imagine that a political party will go to Britain to detain the jurisprudence of our Caribbean people as it relates to the Caribbean Court of Justice? When we ask these kinds of questions without being challengers against such things, we literally join them by driving fear into our people in relation to the future development of the Caribbean.

Mr. President, it is also ironic that Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana and their governments are onboard in relation to this development and the future of our Caribbean. We must remember that Jamaica opted out on a referendum, that Trinidad and Tobago said that the mathematics was wrong that one from ten is zero and that Guyana said they have a South American destiny. It is only the resources of Trinidad and Tobago in relation to oil and gas that saved them from going the way that Jamaica and Guyana went.

Are the visionaries saying that this is the way that we should go too and that we should make no provision for the avalanche of world trade coming at us because we cannot stop it? How can someone say that they support the

CARICOM Single Market and Economy and attack it in the manner that it was attacked in this Chamber today?

Mr. President, Opposition parties are behind the problems and difficulties in moving forward in the Caribbean. Opposition parties whose only goal is to become a government at all cost will knock down every single project and every single idea for political purposes. Mr. President, when it came to the Federation and Independence, the Barbados Labour Party was more favourable to Independence as a Federation, it was not against Independence. In the following years, we all supported the steps that were taken under the circumstances.

In the free trade arrangement between Antigua, Guyana, Barbados and CARICOM and the Grand Anse Declaration, this Barbados Labour Party supported it because this Barbados Labour Party, of which I have the opportunity to speak in this Chamber, always wanted to see a Caribbean people, a Caribbean nation, and it will continue to do whatever it can, not only through its leaders but its supporters. I am a federalist. I am a Caribbean man. I was born in Barbados but the Caribbean is more important to me than Barbados because there can be no stand-alone in the world today.

Mr. President, we must come to a realisation today that it is not so much what is coming at us, but who we are, who we want to be and who we must be. Let me draw an imaginary boundary of a Caribbean nation called the West Indies. If I draw that imaginary boundary from Guyana and Suriname in the south right across the Archipelago coming east to Barbados right up to Jamaica and if I lock in the resources on land and sea, the human capacity in the Caribbean and the status of our education professionally and artistically, artisans and business persons into the whole system, and if we look at the divergence of the culture of the Caribbean, its music, its sports and its business, I am simply saying to us in this Senate today that in order for us to develop what we have, we do not have the human capacity to develop it, we may have to ask our people to have more children or we will have to open up our doors for migration in order to move forward to develop what we have and make us what we are.
7.00 p.m.

Mr. President, we have not come to realise who are we, or what we have. Therefore, to develop this part of the world with its varying cultures, its talents, skills and abilities and its people, would challenge any part of the world. The simple reason is that they can never process the varied cultures that are across this region.

Sir, we have to come to grips with the fact that we, in the Caribbean, as a people, are somebody. We are a people

regardless of the colour of our hair or the colour of our skin. This does not matter. What matters is that if we were to take what we have or what we are and move in consort in every sphere of life, there would be no area in the world that would be able to challenge us. That is what we have to understand. We have to stop this pettiness and this selfishness about ourselves. We have to think not only of ourselves but of our offspring. We must have a legacy as a people in the Caribbean to pass on to our children and to their children.

Mr. President, whenever we have to develop an area in our country and we have to seek finance to do it, you can always hear persons talking about how we are burdening our offspring. Sir, my offspring are enjoying more than I am. I had the ability but I have never had the opportunity to have gone to secondary school. The only opportunity I had, somebody else was favoured instead of me but this did not stop me because education is not always in school rooms or in universities. Education is how one takes life and how one takes one's experiences, how one makes others one's teachers.

Sir, as individuals we must understand that we can achieve as a people in the Caribbean like anybody else. Britain was not always what it is now. America came out of the sands of a New World, through the Pilgrim fathers and through immigration because the United States of America is a state of immigrants. There are very few original Americans but they have taken the sand banks of the New World and have developed a tremendous country. The United States of America did not have the resources but they had the lands and they developed themselves.

Mr. President, we have tremendous opportunities to make this Caribbean what it ought to be and those of us who occupy this Parliament in the Other Place and here, must set a standard in which those who are outside will catch the flame and will burn their way into a better country.

Mr. President, I certainly want at least to be alive for a few more years, to see those who have gotten the opportunity of education and the development of their abilities in every field of professionalism or operation in life, to see this Caribbean on its way to becoming not only a West Indies in cricket but a West Indies as a nation. Sir, my life would be satisfied as this West Indian nation grows.

Mr. President, I wish to say to the business people of Barbados that it is time for those in business in Barbados, those who control the heights of the economy, to do more than they are doing in order to develop this country and the Caribbean. Sir, it is never alright to hoard and to keep everything for oneself. It is always a wonderful thing to share something, to help someone to become somebody. Sir,

while Governments in the Caribbean struggle to find ways, opportunities and finances for the development of its human capacity, businesses and conglomerates are making billions of dollars. Sir, the question must be asked: How many businesses in the Caribbean offer scholarship for the development of human capacity? If we want to develop the Caribbean as a country, everybody must be onboard. The opportunities must be opened to everybody.

Sir, at this time I want to plead to the business people of this country to look at persons with disabilities who have abilities and to open opportunities for them. Sir, recently a young lady who has some very good qualifications called me. She said that she had written a number of applications to many business places. Sir, do you know the kind of jobs that those places offer that young lady? They offered her a job that would not even give her the rewards as that of a labourer.

Mr. President, it is time that Government and the private sector take onboard persons with disabilities who have abilities, who can do great work, who have been trained in our institutions. If we want to move Barbados and the Caribbean along, we have to bring along everybody. I am making the call for political parties to put this matter of persons with disabilities on the front burner so that businesses, learning institutions can open up the opportunity for such persons. Government is trying but Government cannot do it alone and it is time for those who are making money to assist Government.
7.10 p.m.

Mr. President, if you visit the supermarkets and stores you will see ordinary Barbadians shopping. Who are they buying from? It is time that businesses that make great profits, rather than show how much money they make, they should earmark a portion of that profit to assist persons with disabilities so that they could be educated, receive medical treatment and be enabled to find jobs according to their abilities.

Sir, everybody should come onboard and those who cannot get onboard, give them a lift and take them onboard. If we do these things as a people, not just as a Government, in the church, union and every area of activity to take people with disabilities onboard, we will find that there are persons who have ability and who would perform as best as they can. However, it comes back to the point that I am making where we must believe in ourselves. We must know ourselves and challenge our capacities as organisations, individuals, Government, political parties and education institutions in Barbados and across the Caribbean. People with disabilities are also people and we must work together and lend a helping hand to each other.

Sir, you may have a person who may be wealthy and has everything but if someone would say a kind word to him, do you know how much that would mean to him? All of us have a need and we must throw loving arms around each other. Mr. President, there is the cut and thrust of politics and business but, in Christian parlance about people who may fall into sin, "there goes I but for the grace of God".

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Linton, you have one more minute.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Sir, I want to encourage Honourable Senators in this Chamber to put our hands together and bring everyone along with us. I give this Bill all my support.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I think that we have had a very good debate on this matter. It is quite late now and I am of the view that it would be better for us to bring this discussion to a close and suspend the Sitting until 10 o'clock on Friday, December 17, 2004. I wish to remind Senators that in order for us to do that, it would be necessary for us to be here on time and we will start immediately and there will be no prayers. Sir, Senators would need to be very prompt in their attendance.

Mr. President, also permit me to draw to the Senator's attention that dinner is provided downstairs after the Sitting and persons are requested to take advantage of it.

Sir, I, therefore, beg to move that this Senate be now suspended until Friday, December 17, 2004 at 10 o'clock.

The question that the Senate be suspended until Friday, December 17, 2004 was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Senate accordingly.
6.16 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Senate is resumed.

HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Mr. President, I rise totally in support of this Bill. Undoubtedly, CSME is an enormous undertaking and I think that our situation is complicated, because of our land masses. Even in countries where there is a contiguous landmass, there are problems but where there have been separate colonial administrations, such as French, Dutch, English, and physical separation, there are even greater problems. Moreover, one must recognise that sovereign States do not cede their sovereign rights, unless they ensure that there are substantial benefits.

Mr. President, many generations before recognised the value of coming together but the impetus led, not necessarily to closer economic union, but the political objectives of the removal of colonial powers. The CSME, however, as has been eloquently and in some cases elegantly stated before, aims at the removal of economic barriers initially and that presently is our primary objective, to improve economies, to raise the standards of living and to enable us to use our conjoined resources to face competition, in a wider global setting.

There are other important considerations and I wish to quote the compelling words of Prime Minister Arthur in relation to social and controlled levels. He stated and I quote:

"It rests on the notion of becoming a community of nations with a lot of shares and colour values, a sense of kith and kin and the anticipation of a common destiny."

Sir, those words are significant.

Some of the barriers which we face are still legislative and, in addition, the wages in some territories are fewer and manufacturing costs are less. Take for instance in Trinidad, the cost of electricity is much lower and they are able to produce at greater rates. Sir, to counterbalance this, there has to be concessions. Movement of internal. There is educational, medical and even sports. There must come a time when we can support sport.

Mr. President, one of the things which the CSME would give us will be in the area of trademarks. If a trade mark is registered in one territory, it will receive automatic protection in all. We have to move towards harmonisation of our regional standards. Each country has its own regulation of standards but we must harmonise those.

We are at different stages of development, hence the setting up of a Development Fund. This has been compared with the Social Development Fund in the European Union. This is very important because it should stop the possibility of mass movement.

Mr. President, at the time of the Federation, freedom of movement was severely feared but although there is an understandable concern, if the economic problems are properly handled together with development, then these fears should be resolved. In the words, again, of Prime Minister Arthur, and I quote:

"The CSME, offers wider opportunities than available by any individual economy for growth and expansion of business of all descriptions.

Mr. President, Barbados has been unique and the Barbados Labour Party is consistent in looking at integration. In fact, it has gone further than any other Party in looking at it, as we never lost our vision or objectives. It is appropriate that the CSME should be led by the visionary and dynamic leader of the Party who believes in integration and has never wavered.

Asides.

HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS: Right away, I can think of people like Sir Harold St. John, Sir Henry Forde and members of the Movement of the Under Forties which believe very strongly in the economic and, eventually, the political union of the Caribbean.

Sir, along with cricket, the University of the West Indies has perhaps done more than any other institution to point the way towards regional development, regional integration, and to break down barriers.

Mr. President, communication where it is underdeveloped will be very important. Education is already being done through PACE, and I will be speaking more about that later. Sir, we can learn much from the European Union. There will be fears and set backs but, ultimately, the benefits far outweigh the disadvantages.

I think Senator Lowe expressed some concern about the teaching of CSME in the schools, and suggested that nothing or very little had been done. I wish to assure him that all matters relating to the CSME will be incorporated into the Social Studies Programme for primary and secondary schools. It is already included in Caribbean Studies at Cave Hill and some teachers, on their own initiative have been requesting officers from the CSME office to give talks and this will continue. Talks from the Office of the Prime Minister and from CARICOM are also envisaged. Mr. President, people are aware of the CSME. I think however that there needs to be more discussion to obtain clarification on matters which some people fear and on which they need greater enlightenment.

I notice with interest that very recently, the Caribbean Conference of Teachers held a conference here and the CSME was given some attention. Since this is a matter that affects us all, there must be continuous information and dissemination, and I am confident that this will be done.
10.20 a.m.

Mr. President, it is important that we cast aside fears, xenophobia, suspicion and bias and work towards unity and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. To me, the alternative is too dire to contemplate. Xenophobia, insularity

and cynicism must be cast aside. We must grasp the nettle if we wish our future to be a bright and prosperous one.

With those few words, Mr. President, I give this Bill my fullest support.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, if I should be labelled as an unrepentant regionalist based on my contribution to the last CARICOM Single Market and Economy Bill before the Senate in relation to the movement of skilled nationals, it is a label of which I cannot complain.

Sir, you would forgive me if I begin my intervention in this debate on a much sober note and not as enthusiastic as I have addressed the Honourable the Senate on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy on the last occasion.

Sir, my entire educational training has been brought to the point to which I continually ask myself the old question. It is a question that has perplexed many social scientists, many political leaders and the people of the Caribbean since we moved to Independence in the 1960s. That question was posed by Herb Ado when he asked why has the post-colonial States in the Caribbean not been used as an agent to negate the exploitation that existed prior to Independence. I believe that this is the point of departure upon which we should approach the discussion on the creation of a Caribbean Single Market and Single Economy, two distinct concepts, but two concepts that are intertwined.

Sir, we are being treated to a spectacle in which there is a great understanding on the ground as to the imperatives of regional integration not only in the Caribbean, but as we watch countries in the world manoeuvre in this most uncertain and unpredictable international economic environment, we have seen a move towards the deepening and widening of the integration movement as a means of clothing new strategic mechanisms to defend the sovereignty of nation states. That spectacle is being created by persons who ought to know better. I am not necessarily blaming politicians and political oppositions but the truth must be told.

Mr. President, in the Caribbean we are being treated to a spectacle in which political oppositions have either said that they are not supporting the CARICOM Single Market and Economy for their own insular and national reasons or that they support it in principle but they cannot support the way in which it is being implemented. That, Sir, presents to me a situation where we have a dialogue of the deaf because if we do not support the way in which it is being implemented, which is a methodology which has been widely agreed especially when some of the same oppositions were in Government when the modalities to amend the Treaty of Chaguaramas were put in place – but now in Opposition some

are saying that they cannot support how it is being implemented because there are too many questions that remain unanswered when the basis upon which we are amending the Treaty of Chaguaramas had been put forward by the same oppositions when they were in Government.

The truth must be told, Mr. President, that what we are doing in Barbados is no different from the commitments that the Government of Barbados gave to the region in 1989 at Grand Anse when we agreed that we would amend the Treaty of Chaguaramas by way of implementing certain protocols to amend the Treaty. As a result the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas provides for the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, but a lot of questions are being asked.

Sir, the Caribbean Single Market as distinct from the Caribbean Single Economy is basically an arrangement which would allow for goods, people, capital, skilled labour and services provided by our people to move freely throughout the Caribbean without barriers. This piece of legislation that is being considered seeks to remove the barriers to trade by which we can discriminate on the basis of nationality only. The Caribbean Single Economy is another arrangement in which we would seek to harmonise policies in relation to foreign exchange, interest rates policy, tax regimes, common currency and other associated issues. Sir, there is never going to be a situation where we can point to a CARICOM Single Economy as being a finite reality at the specific point in time. It is a process which has to evolve continually. Others have questioned the means to meet the objective as we always do in the Caribbean because we have this great habit of finding problems for the solution.

We agree that in this world in which we function Barbados' national development cannot proceed on thinking that we can have a market 21 x 14 and that we can isolate ourselves from the rest of the world in the way in which we relate to a world which we have historically been incorporated into.

Mr. President, it is disappointing to say the least, that some of the greatest commentators about what is going on in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy have the ability and the capacity to read the Treaty and understand the Treaty in a way in which they could explain to those persons who have uncertainties about what is intended for them. Having listened to Senator Lowe on Wednesday during his presentation, I borrowed a copy of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas from one of my colleagues and I turned to Chapter 7 which provides for the establishment of a regime for disadvantaged countries, disadvantaged regions or disadvantaged sectors and for the less developed societies in the Caribbean. The objective in Chapter 7 of the Revised

Treaty of Chaguaramas is to redress any negative impact as a result of the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Therefore, a country can derogate from its obligations to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy in a situation where the country as a whole or a particular sector or industry in that country is being harmfully treated by reason of our commitments to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

10.30 a.m.

Mr. President, what the Opposition and persons who have doubts but who have the means to understand what is going on should do, would be to help this country by way of constructive dialogue. If Barbados' manufacturing or agriculture sector or the labour force at a particular level would be affected by countries' commitments to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, what they should be doing is helping the Government and the people in the country to flesh out the modalities by which we would be able to protect certain sectors which we would have envisioned at the first start of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy would find themselves in such problems.

Mr. President, the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas itself has the built-in mechanisms to make sure that a country does not enter into the Caribbean Single Market and Economy to its own disadvantage. But we do not hear one single word about these critical aspects of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy under Chapter 7. I suspect that a lot of those who have spoken about the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in a negative way, have neither read the Protocols to amend the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas or the revised Treaty. If they had read them, they would have been able to see that they can get some financial assistance to help economic dislocation or some form of technical assistance to support sensitive industries and programmes to attract investment through a Regional Stabilisation Fund.

Mr. President, Chapter 7 also provides transitional arrangements to adjust to the requirements of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Therefore, within the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas itself, Barbadians can rest assured that there are mechanisms that can flesh out the modalities that can be created and the precedencies that can evolve. But to frighten people by pandering to the basic fear in individuals, is not going to help this region to advance.

Mr. President, we are all recipients and holders of constitutional office in this country, in a period that boast about constitutional de-colonisation. The question posed by Kirk Kanau and social scientists in the Caribbean as far back as the 1930s, still remains to be answered and that is why the State today is not being used as an instrument to negate the effects of exploitation, not only at the level of individuals and companies, and individuals and the State,

but at the level of our international relationship with other countries, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and transnational companies, institutions such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the like.

Mr. President, the State that promises a lot, predicated on the evolution of the trade union movement and the political parties in the 1940s, has to answer the question as to why economies in the Caribbean society remain in the same position at the beginning of the 21st Century as it had at the beginning of the 20th Century, and we have had the continuum.

Mr. President, in his contribution, Sir Roy has said that the labour movement, in the very early period in Caribbean history and in that institution's development, promulgated as one of its principal tenets, development through a Federal Caribbean. In fact, the British Guiana West Indian Labour Congress that addressed the labour commission and which the political parties and the trade unions evolved had, as one of its principal tenets, the Federation of the Caribbean as a way in which these societies should evolve.

Mr. President, I believe that the concerns raised by Senator Doctor Lowe, are, indeed, the concerns of many citizens in this country but we have a fundamental responsibility when we occupy these offices, we must tell the people the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I agree that we have to lead because all of us have access to the Bills that come before Parliament and if we say that we commit Barbados to these things in principle, we also have a responsibility to give support to them. Therefore, it should be incumbent upon every Honourable Senator and every Honourable Member in the Other Place, to lead the discussion as to how Barbados would proceed in the context of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in the next ten or fifteen years.

Mr. President, the litmus test of one policy for a Government's survival has to be in the context of the Caribbean how are we going to be increasing the economic and educational opportunities in the Caribbean as part of a national development paradigm; and how do we ensure the hard-working families of our country that they can enjoy a comfortable standard of living and how they are protected in a world of rapid and uncertain change.

Mr. President, I have found everything I wanted to say being summed up in V.S. Naipaul's *Bend in the River*. It is a quotation I had mentioned in which he traces the journey of Salim into the heart of the African Continent, who went across many miles to establish a variety shop at that place which is called a Bend in the River. V. S. Naipaul said:

"The world is what it is; men who are nothing, men who allow themselves to be nothing, have no place in it."

Sir, I cannot think of a better way of expressing the urgency of our creating the Caribbean Single Market and Economy as a new benchmark upon which we are going to create that beach helm of opportunity for all of our people to deal in a world of uncertain changes.

Mr. President, there are discussions about trade liberalisation and globalization all over, and those discussions are fuelled by a rapid onset of this ideological thing called economic globalization, liberalised by having to trade with other people and liberalised by financial institutions and sector operating.

Mr. President, these are not issues that are debated in this country but are issues that are debated by others in other countries and, therefore, we have to participate in such discussions. Sir, the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs will tell us that she has participated in the defence of Barbados' sovereign right to have an offshore industry, when other people in other countries had thought that our ability to tax their nationals at a lower rate was a dangerous precedence. Sir, such was their great effort to dismantle Barbados' offshore regime through blacklisting us as being a harmful tax domicile.

Mr. President, as we speak, the economic systems of the world are being reconfigured to accommodate the world in the free movement of capital, labour and services and it is going to allow a more robust gap to flow throughout the world.

Sir, I am not saying that because of this we should all approach globalization with a sense of unbridled optimism but we must make sure that we create a secure environment for our hard-working families, one in which we can continue to increase the educational and economic opportunities for everyone.

Sir, we have seen the rise of massive trading blocs all over the world and it is a crushing conformity of the globalization of every single facet of economic activity. We are hearing about the cultural industry as being a new economic engine for our people. That, Sir, if you can look at it in a dialectical way, is a way in which globalization treats things that we, in the past, have called recreational. But that is one of the aspects of globalization with which we have to deal.

Sir, there is also the increasing reliance on the market mechanisms to determine social and economic issues that confront us and also private sector solutions to deal with issues that the State, under what Professor Beckles calls the post-independent social contract, had dealt with in determining how those issues should be resolved.
10.40 a.m.

Mr. President, I want to suggest that Caribbean societies are now faced with a gap between what was required for us to achieve some form of sustainable development at the end of the century. Sir, the signposts are now behind us and the long run is here and all the indicators are there but there is a sense of doubt and gloom when it relates to the creation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, I cannot be as excited as I was on the last occasion. I was reading the *Europa Year Book 2002* and discovered that in every region of the world, nations across the globe form different types of economic associations in response to globalization.

There is the Central American Integration System (CAIS) comprising the six Central American Republics including Belize with a population of 36 million people. There is also the Economic Community of Western African States (ECWAS) consisting of 15 States of 223 million people. The new European Free Trade Area evolving with the context of the EU with 12 million people... There is Mercosur comprising the four States of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay with 218 million people.

This is how countries in the world have resolved to deal with the issues of globalization. We can stand in this Chamber, proud of our nationality and sovereignty and not seek restriction on the movement of capital, services, technology and people into this country to help us advance and, therefore, prohibit the movement of our capital, our people and our services outside of Barbados. Sir, this is the option that we have.

I cannot understand why this debate takes place in the context of political acrimony. I hear Senator Lowe speaking about the need to educate people. In my preparation for the debate, I borrowed from my 16-year-old brother, four pamphlets prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Trade which have been distributed in his school. I had to answer questions from him on the basis of information provided in these pamphlets which were not provided to the Honourable Senate.

Sir, the Ministry of Foreign Trade produced these pamphlets in July 2004 called "Barbados and WTO – What we Need to Know", "Barbados and the European Union", "Barbados and The Free Trade Area of the Americas – Challenges and Opportunities" and "Barbados and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy – Deepening Caribbean Integration". Sir, I commend these to the Honourable Senate.

Mr. President, I remember Dr. Hollis Liverpool's two contributions to a calypso competition in Trinidad in the early 1990s and calypsonian, Chalk Dust, sang one of his contributions called "Misconception". I can take every single lyric from the calypso "Misconception" and adopt it as my contribution to this debate.

Sir, there are a lot of misconceptions about Caribbean Single Market and Economy, and I see that we are in the position to help people to understand that we are not trying to create a monster which will start running around in Barbados in 2005. It is a phased process of removing the barriers to trade amongst Caribbean countries as a way to bulwark ourselves from the potential difficulties which portend.

Sir, by 2008, the Caribbean has to enter into a new relationship with Europe not based on preferential treatment and preferential market and quotas. We have to relate to them on the basis of reciprocity which means that what they give to us, we must give to them.

Sir, when the Honourable Leader of the Senate speaks about the rationalisation of the sugar industry and the reformation of that industry, it is a forward-thinking policy that suggests that we cannot continue as is. We cannot continue special and preferential treatment or have more time to deal with transitional modalities. We have to help the Caribbean prepare to participate in the new, competitive, global environment and we have to begin by exposing our own Caribbean enterprises to a more competitive environment within the region.

Mr. President, I cannot conclude my presentation without observing the fact that the contemporary initiative that we are endeavouring to bring on board is one that is far more modest than has been consistently promulgated by the regional labour movement, that is, the whole concept of deeper economic integration.

Sir, I believe we need to pursue both political interest and economic integration as a mutually reinforcing process. We have taken a strategic direction to take the political integration concept overseas and I suspect that we have set ourselves up for a difficult task of creating a single market and single economy.
10.50 a.m.

Sir, I ask you to permit me to close by reminding all Honourable Senators that we need to treat to the words of the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow, in his last address on July 3, 1986, to the Caribbean

community. He said that it is an absolute necessity to promote and defend the sovereignty and solidarity of the regional Caribbean family.

Sir, there is also an absolute obligation to discover those strategic mechanisms which would ultimately lead to major action involving economic, social and politic issues. We sometimes fail to comprehend the essence of the regional integration movement. The proof is, thousands of ordinary Caribbean people live that every day. In Barbados, our families are no longer exclusively Barbadian by island. We have Barbadian children of Jamaican parents and we have Barbadian children with St. Lucian or Antiguan fathers. Sir, there is no need to mention Trinidad and Tobago because they have always tied to Barbados by virtually cross-fertilisation of culture.

Mr. President, this part of regional togetherness for the ordinary West Indian man or woman is evident in the arrival and departure of persons at the airport. I want to make the point that regional integration is a daily experience. It is a reality which is lived but which we have to get institutionalised.

I am obliged.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Deputy President will take the Chair at this time

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Stuart.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Madam Deputy President, I rise to make a very brief intervention in this debate. It is very refreshing to hear so many Honourable Senators on the Other Side quote the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. It is a far cry from what used to be said about him when he was alive. It is a far cry from the debacle of the 1976 Duffus Commission. It is good to hear these quotations nowadays.

Madam, it is interesting that Honourable Senators on the Other Side have to quote the late Errol Barrow and that has to do with the fact they can find nobody in the Barbados Labour Party to quote. It was that same Errol Barrow who in, 1982 or thereabouts, had to beg the then Government of Barbados not to let the regional integration movement die because between 1976 and 1982 not one CARICOM summit was held in this region.

Madam Deputy President, the late Errol Barrow went public in a famous Press release and called on the then Government of Barbados to accept the responsibility of not allowing the regional integration movement to die but to try and get CARICOM Heads to sit tight. He had to say that, because the period between 1976 and 1982, instead of trying to promote regional integration the Governments of Jamaica and Guyana were in the meanwhile experimenting with democratic socialism.

I am pleased that the late Prime Minister Errol Barrow is now the inspirational source of many of the speeches here in this debate. In spite of that fact, not a few political slanders have been hurdled at the Democratic Labour Party over the issue of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Madam Deputy President, there is no political party in the English-speaking Caribbean that has done more to promote the regional integration movement than the Democratic Labour Party. Therefore, to try to suggest in any debate on regional integration that the Democratic Labour Party is not in support of regional integration is really to publish a political slander.

Madam Deputy President, the idea of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy was first mooted in the Heads of Government conference in Grenada in 1989 when the Grand Anse Declaration was signed in the commitment of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Barbados was given lead responsibility for bringing that Caribbean Single Market and Economy into existence. That is not all that the regional Heads did on that occasion. They also established a Caribbean West Indian Commission under the distinguished leadership of Sir Shridath Ramphal, bringing together the best brains in this region, to give Heads some sense of how the achievement of this single market and economy would be put into operation.

Madam Deputy President, that Commission met, interacted with the people of the region and did not present this Report to the Heads of Government until 1992. The last Report, which was very brilliantly done, I am sure will serve this region for a long time to come. We are here today trying to flesh out, as it were, the suggestion made in that report in terms of trying to bring a Caribbean Single Market and Economy into existence.

Madam Deputy President, 1989 was no accident. I have already said in this Chamber that in a sense at Grand Anse in 1989, Heads of Government had to confront the issue of regional integration because Europe was going to create a single market by the year 1992. In fact, the then Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. A.N.R Robinson, actually carried a paper to the Heads of Government conference at Grand Anse, Grenada in 1989 entitled, *The West Indies After 1992*.

Madam Deputy President, once it was made clear that Europe was going to undergo changes, there had to be adjustments to the way business is done in the Caribbean. Therefore, we have to see all that we are doing today in that context.

11.00 a.m.

There is really no divide between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party on the issue of the creation of a single market and economy since at the birth of that recommendation, the Democratic Labour Party was ready and had lead responsibility for it in Government.

Sir, because we are committed to regional integration and the integration of a single market and economy, are we to ignore the cry coming from below, the legitimate questions which people are asking about the operations of the introduction of this CARICOM Single Market and Economy?

Many explanations have been given for the failure of the West Indies Federation. In fact, what has never been fully recognised is that this region has always been composed, up to 500 years, of transplanted people, people transplanted from Europe, Asia, and Africa into this region and forced to live together in what we hope we could call peaceful coexistence.

The Federation discussion which started in earnest at the Montego Bay Conference in 1947, collapsed 15 years later. One of the most searching and probing explanations given for its failure that I have come across, is that a region, the gaze of which was directed out to capitals of Europe for about 300 years, was asked to come together in a short 15 years.

The islands of this region have been pawns in the power gains of Europe, so that people in this region have looked either to London, Paris, Amsterdam or Madrid, rather than looking across the region at the people of the region. There are Barbadians, Grenadians and Guyanese who will tell you that the most they got to know about their brothers and sisters in the Caribbean, is when they all coincided in England in the 1950s or 1960s.

Sir, before then, they did not know anything about the Guyanese, Jamaicans, or St. Lucians. Even at that level, the people in this region have not really got to know each other as well as they might, but that has to do with the colonial experience, out of which in the case of Barbados, we have only come 38 years ago. In this regard, I am indebted to Senator Crichtlow to the speech he made in this debate because those things have to be said, in terms of the history of this region.

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy is designed to promote the free movement of goods and services and of labour and capital, across this region. As Senator Nicholls indicated earlier, the market of Barbados is much too small to absorb the capacity of Barbadian businesses to produce. It is a fact of a capitalist life that capitalism has an inherent tendency to over produce. Therefore, the issue of markets is always a serious agenda and to create a larger market for producers in Barbados and in other parts of the Caribbean has always been a

laudable objective. This was the aim of CARIFTA. It was also the aim of CARICOM, and the aim of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The ability to sell to a larger market, if we are lucky, of 40 million people is obviously better than having to sell to only a smaller market such as the population of Barbados.

Sir, under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, there is the right of businesses to establish freely in other parts of the region. It is conceivable that businesses in Barbados could take full advantage of those opportunities, especially in the context of the fact that businesses here consistently and persistently complain about the cost of production in the region. One of the principal areas of complaint is the cost of labour in Barbados.

Therefore, the freedom of movement of businesses makes a case for itself and there is every incentive if the complaints of the local businessmen are anything to go by, for them to establish in other parts of the Caribbean. What the consequences would be for local labour and local job creation, time will tell, but we have to accept that there are benefits in that department.

The free movement of labour is where the problem has gone. Let me say this quite frankly and clearly that I, and the Democratic Labour Party are philosophically committed to the freedom of movement of labour in this region but that does not in any way prevent the ordinary people in this country from asking certain questions about the consequence likely to flow from that freedom of movement.

The Trade Union Movement has asked questions, as it is entitled to do, since labour is its direct constituency and ordinary people in this region are asking questions as well. We accept that there is an incentive for businesses to move, having regard to the existence, perhaps, of lower production costs in other parts of the region. So, the incentive is there. The question is, is there a similar incentive for ordinary Barbadian workers to move from Barbados to go and work in any other part of the Caribbean?

Senator Barker in his contribution made the point, attractive to what it reveals but misleading to what it conceives that people migrate in search of work but that is only partly true. People migrate in search of a better life. If a man working in Barbados is not going to be any better off if he leaves and goes and works in Guyana, he is not going to leave Barbados. He goes in search of better options.

11.10 a.m.

When people left Barbados and went to England it was not just to work, it was on the understanding that

worked for the British Crown and they remitted it here, it would improve their and their families situation. Similarly, if they go to the United States of America and work for the United States of America dollar and they remit it here, it improves their and their families' positions. It is not simply a question of going to work. It is a question of going to improve your economic situation. Therefore, the question is: Is there a strong incentive for Barbadian workers to want to leave Barbados to go to work in other parts of the Caribbean having regard to the economic realities that are described and defined in the Caribbean today?

Madam Deputy President, the Government has been claiming that these questions are really unnecessary because the process of the education of ordinary people in Barbados has been taking place. Of course, Senator Nicholls in his speech held up three or four books that school children are supposed to be using.

Madam Deputy President, on my way here on Wednesday and on my way to work yesterday I heard a jingle concert which I am told is put out by the Government Information Service. Of course I have been hearing it long before this, but I did not hear it this morning because of Mark Williams' programme "Looking Back". Senator Lowe in his speech said that a jingle by itself cannot do the trick. It cannot do the trick because when you listen to this jingle it promises Barbadians a single currency as one of the benefits coming out of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Now Barbadians know that they already have a currency. They know that their currency is regarded as the strongest currency in the Caribbean. Therefore, when they hear this jingle promoting Barbados' involvement in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and holding up a single currency before them as one of the benefits of Barbados' involvement, it gives them pause and they stop to ask what is going to become of the currency that they know. The Government has not answered that question. The jingle was not put out by the Democratic Labour Party or by non-governmental organisations, it is a Government-sponsored jingle coming out of the Government Information Service.

Sir, unless that issue is confronted and the masses of the people of this country, those who are not going to set up businesses but those who are going to sell their labour power, can be assured that when they move from Barbados to go to other parts of the Caribbean to work, if the incentive is strong enough, that that is not going to result in a reduction of their standards of living. In my view, unless they can be assured of that, our involvement in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy will continue to be fraught with difficulties. Therefore, the anxiety and the uncertainties of which the Government complains – of course, the impression is given that these are somehow fomented and promoted by the Opposition – will continue

because if a man is to have the incentive to leave where he lives to go and work anywhere else, it is my view that he has to be satisfied first that working elsewhere will make him better off than staying to work where he lives.

If I were living in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana I would have the strongest incentive to leave Guyana and come to Barbados to work because I would see how I would be better off when I earn a Barbados dollar and I remit it back to Guyana. If I were to live in Jamaica or St. Kitts it would be the same thing.

The question is: Does the average Barbadian worker feel a similarly strong incentive to make freedom of movement a reality for him or her by moving from Barbados to go to work anywhere else in the Caribbean? We cannot wish away these issues. The Government must not get the impression that because people are asking questions and because they want their doubts and their uncertainties removed and resolved that they are unpatriotic or that they are anti-regionalist or anything of the kind. Senator Nicholls said in his speech that there are doubts and uncertainties out there. Therefore, the very fact that they exist means that the job of public education remains incomplete and continues to be challenged for the Government.

Madam Deputy President, the Democratic Labour Party is committed in principle to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy but we share some of the concerns of the ordinary men and women out there on the streets who are asking questions about how they will be affected by this move. So Senator Eastmond does not have to label us or liken us onto persons committed to marriage in principle but not willing to put into operation the commitment.

Asides.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: It is one of those exquisite coincidences. The allegation was made by a most eligible spinster in the earshot of two eligible and available nationalists. Perhaps this is a basis for treating a causative if I may say so.

Madam Deputy President, we are committed to regionalism. I think of the words which I heard as a schoolboy of late Linden Forbes Burnham here in Barbados in 1967 when all of the other islands in the Caribbean were being brought on board by CARIFTA. He remarked that if this conference fails, we perish, and if this conference succeeds, we survive. Similarly, I believe that if the CARICOM Single Market and Economy fails, we perish and if it succeeds, we survive. However, that does not mean that we can ignore our national constituencies, sweep their doubts and fears under the carpet and walk

behind the Government on this issue. There are issues to be resolved with the public and the Democratic Labour Party want them resolved.

Madam Deputy President, in conclusion let me say something very briefly about the Caribbean Court of Justice which is a necessary part of this CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

11.20 a.m.

Madam Deputy President, we, on this Side, are committed in principle and in fact to the Caribbean Court of Justice. Long ago since 1973, the late William Gilbert Demas, in a farewell speech at the CARICOM Secretariat at Georgetown, had warned this region that the time had come when it should have its own Court of Appeal and that if we delayed indefinitely, we could find ourselves scrambling at the last minute to put something in place. He had foreseen that the British, through the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, were not going to stay with us indefinitely.

Madam Deputy President, that was in 1973 and his call was ignored from then until very recently when this issue was put on the table. It is most unfortunate that the issue of the Caribbean Court of Justice was put on the table at the same time in 1993/1994, when the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and the Government on its now famous decision of Pratt and Morgan on the death penalty.

Madam Deputy President, because of the sense of rage of those persons in the Caribbean who supported the death penalty and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council's decision, immediately we began to hear about our needing our own Court of Appeal as a final appellate jurisdiction in this region.

Madam Deputy President, I do not believe, quite frankly, that the Caribbean Court of Justice is to be any hanging court but I am saying that the coincidence between Pratt and Morgan decision in 1993 and the acceleration of the debate with the establishment of the court, has, in fact, put the court on the defensive at its birth but I feel confident that the court will justify the faith of the people of this region. I know that there are people in this region and that there are some in Barbados who are deeply suspicious of the capacity of our Regional Court's last resort as the final appellate court, to do justice to the people of this region.

Madam Deputy President, we are hearing arguments on the ground again that the people in England at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council do not know us but that surnames come quite a long way in the Caribbean. I sincerely would only hope that those who are going to personnel and to man this court will take cognizance of the concerns which the people of this region have on that score. I do not believe that the process of constitutional decolonisation will ever be complete until we, in this region,

determine what is just or what is unjust and have our own body of jurisprudence developed. I think that we have very competent lawyers and other persons, some of whom have actually sat at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council itself and who have performed with reason. I think the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice was appointed as a Judge at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Mr. Michael delaBastide of Trinidad and Tobago and I believe one other Caribbean judge has been appointed. Our own Sir William Douglas was a Judge at the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Madam Deputy President, we support the court but again we would like cognizance to be taken of the concerns which people are expressing. I know that there are very deep suspicions in this region of those at the political and other levels and, therefore, those of us in positions of authority have to do all that we can to minimise the fears and concerns of those whose labour will be famous and of those whose sacrifices have made our opportunities possible.

Madam Deputy President, it is not the role of the Democratic Labour Party as an Opposition Party to do for the Government what the Government should be doing for itself. I want to make this clear. We have already been characterised as a "poor-raky" Opposition. I do not know how much help a "poor-raky" Opposition can do to assist. We are here to ensure that the interests of the masses of this region are being protected. We are, therefore, committed to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and to the Caribbean Court of Justice in that context.

Madam Deputy President, let there be no doubt that my colleague, Senator Doctor Lowe, has made a speech in this debate, to which the party in whose name he speaks is very much in agreement.

Asides.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Yes, I know.

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please, Senator, you do not have much time. Please do not waste it in replying to asides. Please address any remarks to the Chair.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Madam Deputy President, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is an imperative for the people of this region. The time has come when people in the Caribbean have to begin dealing with each other and taking their gaze off the capitals of Europe. This is a unique region of transplanting people whose creativity and whose capacity have been tested and proven.

This region has, like any other parts of the world, produced Nobel laureates, judges for the international

Caribbean Court of Justice, writers, artistes, sports persons, *et cetera*. Madam, the resources we have in this region are as good as that which can be found in any other region. What we have wanted in this region for a long time is a final de-colonisation of the mind. We can have all these forms of independence, with flags and Anthems, *et cetera*, and we are not mentally de-colonised, we are, in fact, still alone. Therefore, the Party's hope, my colleague's hope and my hope, is that this final thrust towards a Caribbean Single Market and Economy, will effect that de-colonisation that will free up and unleash the true energies of the people of this region.

Madam Deputy President, I thank you.

SENATOR Miss S. C. V. HUSBANDS: Madam Deputy President, I rise to join the discussion on the Caribbean Single Market and Economy because I believe that it is very important that we, in this Honourable Chamber, seek to understand exactly what it is that we are up against and what it is that we need to do, so that we can act in a responsible manner as legislators, as professionals and as individuals, the way in which we interact with the population, to ensure that there is an understanding of the issues that are before us, and of the path which we need to walk.

Madam Deputy President, when the issue of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy came around, I saw it as my duty as an individual to make the necessary preparation, to get the necessary information to understand how it would impact on me as an individual and as a professional and what kinds of changes I need to make in order to transition to the new era that will usher in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Like other Senators, I hear the concerns of Barbadians pertaining to issues such as job security and what would happen to our social services.

11.30 a.m.

I put myself in the position where I sought to acquire the information so that when I am confronted with those questions, I would be able to share with Barbadians my understanding of those issues, what we need to do in relation to them, why we need to embrace the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and the individual preparation we need to make.

This is what I have learnt as a result of taking the time to understand the era in which we operate. Earlier, our honourable colleague shared with us the concept of globalization and liberalisation. Madam Deputy President, people are now more familiar with the words "globalization" and "liberalisation" and so they need to know why the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is necessary.

Madam Deputy President, the world is operating on a different basis where Barbados can no longer depend on special treatment, preferential treatment or protection for our businesses. The world has now to grapple with the fact that it is now engaging in trade on a basis that does not produce the benefits which it enjoyed before.

This means that when we seek to export our products, we are going to meet stumbling blocks unless we are able to meet certain requirements, negotiate treaties and access that would allow us to get our products to market thus earning foreign exchange and preserving jobs within Barbados and the region.

Another example is the textile market which the Americans have protected from outside competition. This has led to great hardship throughout various developing countries because a lot of them depend on the textile countries to provide jobs for their people. Here in the Caribbean, Jamaica has also been negatively affected by the protection of the textile market because it has produced a situation where Jamaica has set up textile manufacturing plants but the return in terms of the wages for their labour is so low that they cannot make a decent living from what they earn in these textile industries. Sir, protectionism keeps reinforcing this problem within the textile market.

In Barbados as we seek to grapple with globalization, we are going to find that we will encounter those levels of difficulties that can alter the quality of life of Barbadians unless we take action.

It was mentioned earlier that by 2008, we have to complete an agreement within CARICOM. The European Union needs to come up with a regional economic partnership agreement where we have to give access to European goods into CARICOM and the European will give access to our goods and we have to decide on what basis this would take place.

A study was done to forecast some of the likely effects of the zero-rating of goods from the EU into CARICOM and what impact it would have on our region and it was disheartening to hear some of the likely impacts. There would be the diversion of trade where, for example, when we buy goods from other countries, because of the zero-rating the EU goods would be cheaper and people in CARICOM would begin to buy the goods from the EU which would create a shift in more than US\$500 million in trading but the greatest impact will come on inter-regional trade, this means that goods and products being made in Trinidad, Guyana, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia and Jamaica could lose their market within CARICOM unless we put a mechanism or develop some kind of response that would safeguard inter-regional trade in the region.

Madam Deputy President, if inter-regional trade in the region is impacted, it means that the average man on the street would find that he cannot retain his job, people who work in the manufacturing sector and agro processing would find it difficult to sustain their jobs and other types of jobs would come under threat.

When I am confronted by Barbadian citizens who raise the issue of job security within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, I know that the greatest challenge to their job security is not a Guyanese or Antiguan person coming to Barbados but that the greatest threat is the capacity of our private enterprises to change, and grow rapidly and become effective so that we can retain jobs in the region.

Therefore, instead of asking how Barbadian jobs are going to be protected from CARICOM nationals coming here, the question which needs to be asked is what is the person doing to take his company forward that it can be developed to be spread throughout the CARICOM so that it can be competitive against European goods coming to the region.

One of the things which was extremely disturbing to me as I was doing research was to understand that globalization is our greatest challenge and that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is the response that would help us to deal with the challenge. I read a research paper coming out of the World Bank in April where a study was commissioned to look at what happened to the microeconomies of the world which make up no more than 20 million from the Caribbean, the Pacific and other parts of the world. We make up no more than 0.45% of trade in the world which does not make any significant impact on the world's trading process.

11.40 a.m.

On examination using some of the models looking at what would happen to these small islands within a globalized environment if they were asked to trade on the same basis as bigger countries, and he concluded that in truth and in fact these economies could not survive, given the cost of production, transportation, harvest and doing business within these small territories because of their small markets and lack of access to other markets, they could not produce in any meaningful way to overcome these difficulties. We suggested that we might become welfare recipients from the bigger countries. I feel that with respect to CARICOM personnel, there is something we could do in shaping our destiny within our environment.

Madam Deputy President, it brought me to the point where I concluded that during the 1950s CARICOM crafted a beautiful independence for itself but here in the 21st century in the year 2004, we now have to craft an economic independence and that is going to

entail more than just the passing of legislation, raising a flag and the playing of an anthem. This is going to require that every citizen is prepared to operate differently and understand what they need to do to help our economies to become more efficient, effective and productive in this new era so that we can compete within the larger market. Therefore, as I looked at those facts, I came to the conclusion that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is not only necessary but is something that we have to hasten to make happen. In fact, we do not have the luxury of time.

Madam Deputy President, as a professional, if I am worth my salt, I would understand the issues and recognise that the questions that I would need to propose are: What is the schedule? What is the agenda? How are we going to get the legislation that will allow us to trade across the region? How soon will other territories get onboard with their legislation so that we can begin to maximise the space? How quick are you going to put things in place so that we can make better use of the opportunities before we find ourselves having to sign onto that agreement in 2008?

Madam Deputy President, the year 2008 suggests that if we are going to position Barbados and safeguard the jobs and the quality of life of Barbadians, we have to use this intervening time very quickly to take the Caribbean Single Market space and make it work now. Hence, there is a need for speed, controlled and disciplined speed but speed nevertheless. If I were purporting to be a leader who wants to be a leader of this country, I would find it very difficult to take a position and behave as though Caribbean Single Market and Economy was being rushed. I would find it irresponsible of me as a Member of this Chamber to take a position that the need is so dire and we need to be able to move forward quickly and effectively to take up the Caribbean Single Market status.

Madam Deputy President, as I prepare myself and understand the background against which we are operating, I am able to appreciate what we are seeking to do. For example, in agriculture if we are to get a reduction of our sugar prices by at least 40 per cent within the next two years, then we need to have a way of replacing that income and convert our sugar industry into a higher value product. As we develop the reciprocal trade with Europe, we would be able to take a higher value product into their market and, therefore, increase our market.

What would this mean to the average man on the street? It means that those who are engaged in agriculture and those who would be able to obtain jobs in the manufacturing sector that helps to produce new products, they would be able to retain their employment, look after their families and safeguard the quality of life which they now enjoy. Madam Deputy President, if we fail to make

transition as a private sector, in agriculture and manufacturing, what we are doing is creating a doom-like situation for Barbados in terms of their quality of life.

Therefore, the question is not how much are we going to lose after the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is implemented but if not implemented. Having been able to put that into context, our hopes should be how are we going to maximise the space.

The Honourable Senator Stuart asked why would Barbadians want to leave here to go somewhere else when they would not be able to get a better quality of life and what is there to attract Barbadians under the Caribbean Single Market and Economy?

Madam Deputy President, a Barbadian who is earning a good living in Barbados is not likely to go anywhere else but they will relocate as long as the opportunities are going to be greater. Very often the choice for some people to relocate is the difference between earning a dollar versus earning no dollar.

Madam Deputy President, It means that in Barbados if you find that people are unable to utilise their skill and gain employment in Barbados, their option is not whether things are better here in Barbados, if they do not have an opportunity and their only option is to go somewhere where they can earn a dollar rather than engage in a low quality of life because they are currently unemployed.

Madam Deputy President, often in the Caribbean there is the shortage of skills in certain critical areas of the economy and this could create tremendous opportunities for Barbadians to be able to travel within the region and take up positions there. Sometimes in the Caribbean I am offered jobs abroad but I earn a living here in Barbados and I do not have to relocate. The point is, the shortage of skills in other territories would create opportunities for Barbadians to be able to earn a living.

As I studied our situation and the necessity of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy for everyone to engage in the process to move forward, I came across a quotation which seems to speak to a situation which we find ourselves. Unless we can make the Caribbean Single Market and Economy work, we are always going to find ourselves "sucking some salt".

Madam Deputy President, Carl Lewis puts it this way in his famous book, "Now here it takes all the running you can do to keep at the same pace. If you want to go somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that." When I look at what is happening in CARICOM and other small developing nations, we have to run fast to maintain

where we are and we need to run twice as fast if we are going to be able to advance in this new global environment.

If we are seeking to protect the interest of Barbadians, this is what I would want them to understand. If we have to run twice as fast to advance in this new environment, it means that we have to rethink how we operate in terms of how we perform on the job, our punctuality and attendance at work. We need to look at our effectiveness and efficiency with which we work. It means understanding that in order for our company to become competitive and to use the Caribbean Single Market and Economy space, they must grow their production capacity and this may require them to install new equipment which may involve retraining of workers and in some instances displace workers.

However, if you have an enterprise and you have to lose ten workers to new equipment, it is better for that company to do that so that it can build its economy of scale to use up the CARICOM space so that they do not lose the entire enterprise because of the failure to transform. Therefore, if you are going to protect job security, Barbadians have to begin to understand that these are some of the issues that we have to grapple with. We also have to understand the importance of helping to make the business with which we work to turn this corner and take advantage of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

I listened carefully to some of the responses of the Democratic Labour Party. I am not quite sure what is fuelling and how they do what they do. We talk about there is no need to rush, yet in my heart I feel that they must know and understand the sense of urgency that is upon CARICOM at this point in time in order to get things in place before the full onslaught of globalization.
11.50 a.m.

I sit and wonder why would they take the position of seeing the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), in a rush, seeming to suggest that we are running headlong without power into a pond that is only going to create disaster for Barbados, unless we slow down and take it one step at a time and take it very slowly going in.

It tells me and I felt that others who listen wonder what kind of philosophy they are listening to and, I suspect that Honourable Senators on our Side sensing that, are unable to comprehend these matters. In the sense of urgency of the hour, we use the name of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow to see if that will act as a catalyst and be more influential in their ears, than perhaps our own words. Sir, also by the use of the position that the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow used, if this would persuade them to understand the importance of why we are approaching the CSME quickly and that without it, our CARICOM area cannot survive.

I want to urge each and every person that if we are going to make the grade, in terms of being competitive in the new environment, all of us would have to look at retraining ourselves. This retraining must start from every CEO, public servant, Minister, and parliamentarian in this country, and flow down to the average man in the street, regardless to where they are working, including those who are sitting on the block.

Economic independence cannot be crafted without the active engagement of all citizens and I would want to encourage our parliamentarians to take their responsibility seriously in sharing with the population, the various things that they need to understand, in terms of more effectiveness in their lives and work and to do this with a sense of commitment to the needs of Barbados at this time to get every single Barbadian behind us.

I see globalization coming as a major and massive hurricane and I see the CSME as the shelter that we are constructing in which we can provide for and look after ourselves. While that shelter may not have everything in it as it should, while it may not have been completed as it should, we need to hasten to put structures in place so that we can find a safe harbour in a time of storm.

The question as to whether my bedroom is as big as it was before, whether I have a washing machine and a dryer, like before, whether or not we will have furniture and a television and so on, these are issues that we can take care of later, once we focus on getting the structure up and getting inside as quickly as possible.

Sir, 2008 is just around the corner. It is as close even as the World Cup and, the same way that we are making preparations for World Cup, in terms of the new stadiums and putting things in place to get ready, recognising that the readiness has to start from now, so too we need that same level of readiness in our population to take advantage of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

I would want to urge Barbadians to understand that our future, safety and capacity to survive lies in joining hands with our brothers and sisters across the CARICOM region. Desist to see them as foreigners and people who are going to come in here and simply to take from us, but rather we should see them as partners where we can begin to work together, draw up alliances, mergers, and build stronger businesses, as well as where we can move across the region and use up all the available opportunity that is there for the people of the region.

Therefore, when we are confronted with competition from the EU, USA and Asia that we are in a stronger position to meet those winds and hold hands together, so that we can win our way in this new environment. I want to urge

every parliamentarian to take this seriously and to do their part in sharing, explaining, comforting, directing and challenging what we are doing and how we are doing it, so that we can make this a better place for all Barbadians and the CARICOM.

I am obliged to you.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, in the closing remarks of Senator Stuart, he said that if CSME succeeds, we survive. When Senator Stuart made that statement, I wondered how serious he and the Democratic Labour Party are about ensuring that CSME becomes a reality and we in Barbados and, indeed, CARICOM do in fact survive.

Madam Deputy President, debates such as this one require a certain level of political maturity, particularly when there is the recognition that the success of CSME will be to the benefit of CARICOM people but that the inability to make CSME a success, will be to the detriment of the Caribbean people. I do not believe that the approach of seeking to instill fear in Barbadians of simply saying in principle you support the CSME but then when you speak, those words leave doubt in the minds of Barbadians as to whether or not the CSME as presently proposed will be to the benefit of CARICOM people and people of Barbados.

It is therefore necessary for the Democratic Labour Party to say very clearly what is their position on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. If they in fact have concerns, it is their responsibility not only to identify them but to communicate how they propose to make the introduction of the CSME better so that it will be to the benefit of Barbadians and CARICOM people.

On August 1, 1973, the Caribbean Community and Common Market came into existence with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas. The overall objectives were the economic integration, foreign policy, foreign relation and function of the Corporation.

12.00 noon

Indeed, Madam Deputy President, the creation of CARICOM can well be described, I suppose the economist would refer to it, as a type two integration following on from CARIFTA. In 1989 at Grand Anse in Grenada, the CARICOM Heads agreed to the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. One of the reasons for agreeing to the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy was to ensure that there was a deepening of the integration movement.

It was also recognised that it was essential and necessary for the creation of a CARICOM Single Market

and Economy in order to ensure that CARICOM countries could better function in a changing, global, economic environment and that CARICOM countries would better respond to the challenges and the opportunities which the new global, economic environment presented.

Madam Deputy President, we all know that in 1989 at Grand Anse, a Democratic Labour Party Prime Minister was given lead responsibility for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. We also know that between 1989 and 1994 absolutely nothing was done by the Democratic Labour Party Government to ensure that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy becomes a reality.

Madam Deputy President, I would ask Senator Stuart if at that time the Democratic Labour Party did not recognise that if the CARICOM Single Market and Economy failed, the people of CARICOM would perish, and if it succeeded, that the people of CARICOM would survive. Madam Deputy President, it was very clear in 1989 to the Heads of Government that the establishment of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy was necessary and critical to deepening the integration process because of the global economic environment which came into being. In July of 1944 at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire at the UN Monetary and Financial Conference there were two global institutions which came into existence which have a significant influence on global economics. Those two institutions are the International Monetary Fund commonly referred to as the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development commonly referred to as the World Bank. At that time, Madam Deputy President, there was also an agreement to the establishment of a World Trade Organisation to manage international trade.

I reflect on the Conference at Bretton Woods because it is important that we recognise that throughout time there has been the dominance of global economics by the developed industrialised expansionist countries of the world. In 1944 at Bretton Woods when these institutions came into existence, what is referred to as the G7 countries were there influencing the future of those institutions which at that time had a concept that the market would not properly facilitate economic stability and growth and development of these countries.

In fact, Madam Deputy President, I would argue that the greatest challenge to the capitalist system which is focussed on the free market and economy would have existed prior to that conference in the 1930s during the Great Depression. Part of the reason for the formulation of those institutions was to ensure that financial assistance was provided for the rebuilding of Europe to ensure that the conditions of the 1930s during the Great Depression would never impact on the world in that way again. It is interesting to note, Madam Deputy President, that it was felt that

expansionary economic policies such as the lowering of interest rates and the increasing of Government expenditure were the policies necessary to ensure economic stability.

Madam Deputy President, in the 1980s significant shift in the thinking of those global institutions took place. That shift took place because the industrialised countries which were at the forefront had a change in their economic thinking. At that time it was being suggested that the market could now provide the economic stability that was necessary and that by removing barriers to trade, by facilitating the free market and limiting the intervention of Government, economic stability would be ensured.

Madam Deputy President, I think that we must recognise today that we exist in a global capitalist system which is dominated by the concept of the free movement of goods and services. There is no longer a Berlin Wall or the Cold War. Even in those countries which utilise the communist approach there are within their system aspects of movement to the free market.

12.10 p.m.

Madam Deputy President, I reflect on those things because the reality is that within the global economic environment the belief now exists that because of the capitalist effect of trade liberalisation and the removal of trade barriers, the market would present the best opportunity for economic growth and development. This is fundamentally different from 1944 and 1973 and I think that has to be recognised.

Madam Deputy President, it has been stated, and all of us know, that Barbados on the world map is very small. It is literally a dot. On some maps, it does not even exist. But Madam Deputy President, Barbados is not only small in terms of its physical size, Barbados is also small in terms of its economic size. Therefore, in this existing environment, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for a country like Barbados to influence world affairs.

All of us know that the developed countries, to a large extent, dictate or take the lead role on issues that are brought to international attention. There was a situation where the developed countries of the world had utilised protective measures and subsidies under the World Trade Organisation to build up their domestic industries and when those industries had come to the point at which they were strong enough to compete globally, they then argued that barriers to trade should be removed.

Madam Deputy President, we have heard the comment that when the United States of America sneezes, we, in the Caribbean, catch cold. I only made reference to those things because it is important that we recognise the urgency of

moving ahead with the creation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I agree with Senator Stuart when he said that if it fails, we perish; if it succeeds, we survive. But Madam Deputy President, leaders have to communicate with those whom they lead. They have to communicate the cognizance and the vision that they have for taking their country forward and in assisting the region to go forward.

Madam Deputy President, we all know the saying: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Therefore, it comes as no surprise that between 1989 and 1994, under a Democratic Labour Party Government, absolutely nothing happened in relation to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. It comes as no surprise that the Democratic Labour Party's Senators can communicate in this Honourable Chamber that even though they support the Caribbean Single Market and Economy in principle, they have significant concerns with respect to the implications that the free movement of people will have on crime.

Madam Deputy President, I am attempting to speak on that particular statement because I think that it is most unfortunate that by inference, the people of Barbados are left to conclude that our CARICOM brothers and sisters coming to Barbados will result in an increase of criminal activity. We, on this Side, dissociate ourselves with any such statement. We, in the Barbados Labour Party, believe that many of our CARICOM brothers and sisters are honest, hardworking and decent people and, therefore, we have to be honest. Madam, both the construction and agricultural sectors in this country rely significantly on labour that is provided by our CARICOM brothers and sisters.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, two to three weeks ago...

SENATOR F. J. STUART: On a point of elucidation. Senator Lowe spoke in this debate and indicated that the Commissioner of Police of Barbados has raised the issue of complications leading to a rise from the coming into being of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Senator Lowe did not say what Senator Grant is alleging to have been said about our regional brothers and sisters coming here and engaging in illegal activities. It was the Commissioner of Police who went public on this. I heard him myself. It is a legitimate concern and I take the most serious exception to Senator Grant trying to distort what Senator Lowe has said.

Asides.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, sometime in the future I shall journey to the East and shall speak in greater detail on this issue, and the people there will determine the issue.

Madam Deputy President, some weeks ago, a businessman in this country, who is involved in construction, approached me and told me that he was looking for workers and I agreed that I would try to find some workers for him. I travelled throughout the many areas in Barbados and I was amazed that many persons with whom I came into contact said that they were not interested, that they were not going to work in the hot sun.

Madam Deputy President, I had another situation where someone came to me and I was able to get a job for that person as a labourer. That person called me weeks later and said that they were no longer interested in doing labour work.

12.20 p.m.

Madam Deputy President, I am making the point...

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Madam Deputy President, on a point of order. I think the Honourable Senator is misleading the Senate and is trying to induce from his very limited experience that there are people in Barbados who do not want to work. It is not correct for us to take one or two examples and in a public forum, through that to make the induction that all Barbadians are in a position where they do not want to work because the work is hard.

Let us have our political difference but let us not fool people into believing that Barbadians do not want to work. Madam, I think the Honourable Senator should withdraw the remark as a responsible leader of this country.

MADAM DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Grant, could you either withdraw or rephrase?

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, I withdraw but I would say that I am speaking with specific reference to the construction sector and of experiences which I have had. I have said before in this Honourable Chamber that when we speak we must speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Madam Deputy President, I hold myself as well to that same principle. I know many Barbadians in various sections who work hard every single day to the benefit of this country but I also know that the construction and the agricultural sectors benefit significantly from labour within CARICOM. I have no problem with withdrawing the remark so that my Colleague who is the principal spokesperson on labour should have no concern or difficulty with respect to where I stand.

Madam, the point still has to be made that responsible leadership requires that we realistically and honestly look at situations that exist. It also requires us as leaders, that you lead with ideas. As leaders you do not follow or seek

simply to inject fear for political gains particularly when it relates to an issue as vital as this is to the survival of Caribbean people.

Madam Deputy President, I speak today with emotion and passion but the future of this country and this Caribbean region depends on all of us, the politicians, non-governmental organisations, trade unions and the private sector coming to the table and looking in a mature and responsible manner at issues that prevail.

The Democratic Labour Party's remarks during this debate suggest that they are prepared to support a measure so vital in principle. They have philosophical difference in terms of this issue but in terms of their actions and responsibility to people of this country, they are not coming up to the bar.

Madam, the Opposition political Party has many responsibilities. The point must also be made that many of the countries within CARICOM, their Gross Domestic Product is smaller than some multinational companies so for us to survive in this region, it would be in our benefit to come together and function with regard to a relationship such as the Caribbean Single Market and Economy than to individually proceed.

Madam Deputy President, trade liberalisation and the expansion of regional economic trading blocs require that we ensure in the shortest possible time that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy becomes a reality because our future depends on it.

Madam, I need to make some reference to what the Senator spoke about...

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Grant, if you need to do so, you must do it in the shortest possible time because you have only two minutes left.

SENATOR R. W. GRANT: Madam Deputy President, I will simply make reference to Protocol VIII. The general objective of that Protocol is to assist disadvantaged regions, countries and sectors and there is provision for support measures which includes financial assistance, transitional arrangements, the establishment of a development fund and programmes to attract investment and encourage product diversification.

I want to make the point for the benefit of Senator Lowe that any member which is deemed as a disadvantaged country, has a disadvantaged sector or any member state which is part of a region which is disadvantaged is entitled to benefit under this Protocol by having access to special financial resources that are provided under this Protocol. 12.30 p.m.

In closing, let us all, as mature Barbadians recognise that we need to work together to make Caribbean Single Market and Economy – it is unlikely that we will get it perfect but it is essential that we proceed in the swiftest and shortest possible time because the success of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is necessary for the survival, not only of Barbadians but the people of the region.

I am obliged to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT took the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I wish to thank all Senators for their contributions which, in my view, were of the highest calibre. It is good to see that even though there are some lingering questions, in principle, we all have the same objective, that is, to see the region reach the stage where it can fully realise its potential, which we acknowledge is not going to be possible as long as we continue to go our separate ways.

All of us will agree that the deepening of the integration movement will not only create opportunities for more trade within the domestic market but through the pooling of our resources, the region will find itself in a stronger position to take on the external atmosphere.

Sir, it is amazing that in spite of the fact that we all acknowledge the potential benefits from the deepening of the integration movement, it has taken too long to make it a reality. I will refer to the 1920s and take note of the ambitions which were evident there among the leaders of the labour movement and subsequent discussions.

It has puzzled me why making the deepening of the integration movement a reality has escaped us. I trust that we have all come to the point where we resolve to get it right this time and to make it a reality. All of us have said that there will be lingering questions in people's minds, even after we undertake extensive educational programmes.

Senator Stuart raised an issue about which currency is likely to be the currency when we have reached the state where the single economy is brought into being. This is why we cannot decide at this point in time. While it is easy now for someone outside of Barbados to take a decision to come to Barbados on the strength of the Barbados dollar that is a different situation from determining what will happen in 20 years and which currency will be the strongest then.

Sir, the evidence is before you now so that you can choose. We are not talking about what is going to happen in the future. Therefore, we are obliged to make sure that we pursue the types of policies, especially making full use of the Regional Development Fund to bring all of the countries to

a certain level of development because then the issue of the choice of currency can be dealt with in a different way from now where it is unequally developed. This is one of the objectives of the establishment of the Regional Development Fund. Mr. President, these are issues that people will naturally ask to be dealt with.

Sir, we have to put the Caribbean Single Market and Economy into practice and people will start to see the benefits and some of those questions will no longer be as troubling as they are now. Sir, this happens when we are moving from something which we have been accustomed to all our lives into new areas.

Mr. President, the point is, all of us acknowledge that united we stand divided we will fall. If we are to take on the uncertainties that will result from the global trends and development, we have to stay together.

Sir, on that note I wish to move that this Bill be read a second time.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, Madam CHAIRMAN reported to HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (Implementation) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Senate be suspended until 1.45 p.m.

The question was put and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the Senate accordingly.
12.40 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 3 – PENSIONS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2004 is seeking to amend the Pensions Act Chapter 25 to make a new provision, in relation to the compulsory age of retirement for public officers joining the public service after January 1, 2005.

In October 2002, the Government established a Barbados Committee to undertake to review comprehensively the Public Service pensions arrangement. The mandate of that Committee is to review the existing pensions arrangements in place for public servants, that is, in the funding of those pension arrangements and entitlements, to review the various pieces of legislation governing pensions which are paid from the Consolidated Fund with a view to bringing them together and rationalising any provisions where necessary; to examine the work which is being done by a firm of actuaries and the cost of funding of the officers' pensions and to advise of the way to fund those pensions in the future. The work of that Committee is still in progress.
1.50 p.m.

One recommendation which has been made so far which this piece of legislation before us is seeking to address is that of the retirement age of public officers. Prior to the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1985 public officers or employees were required to retire at the age of 60 with an option to go at age 55. Following the 1985 piece of legislation, the retirement age was changed from 60 years and 55 years to 65 years and 60 years, with 60 years being the retirement age for permanent secretaries and heads of departments.

What is now being proposed, Mr. President, is that there will be a national retirement age. Under the pension arrangements to the National Insurance Scheme the retirement age is 65 and then we are going to make provision for it to go up in stages, eventually reaching 67 years by 2018. What is now being proposed here is that the retirement age for those persons in the Public Service who were expected to go at age 60 would now go at 65 and over time there will be a change to the arrangement under the National Insurance Scheme.

Therefore, if you look at the schedule of the legislation before us you would notice that from January 1, 2005 the

retirement age will be 65; from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2009 inclusive the retirement age will be 65 and a half years; from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013 inclusive, 66 years; from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017 inclusive, 66 and a half years and from January 1, 2018 and thereafter 67 years. Those are the retirement ages for employees whether they are in the public service or the private sector.

Mr. President, the issue of pensions and the reform of pensions is being looked at against the background where for a number of reasons including health standards, Barbados has now what we would describe as an ageing population and persons are living longer while at the other end of the spectrum because of the low birthrate fewer persons are coming into the workforce. That development led to a situation where fewer people were being asked to pay higher contributions to the National Insurance Scheme to facilitate and accommodate the pensions to those who were living longer.

Mr. President, the present legislation also has provisions for two persons. Those two persons identified are the Auditor-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions. Their retirement age is currently at 62 and they are not being dealt with here, because all of us know of the proposals to amend the Constitution eventually and it was felt that those two cases should remain unchanged.

The Schedule to the Bill also makes it clear that those persons who prior to January 1, 2005 were entitled to retire at an earlier age may still do so leading up to January 1, 2005. In fact, it says at Section 3(a) that a public officer referred to under subsection 1(a) or (2) is entitled to retire and have his pension paid at any age which he could have before 1st January 2005. So if they were entitled to retire before, they still have that option even after January 1, 2005. Ultimately though, all those persons retiring after January 1st 2005 will go at the suggested change here.

Undoubtedly, the pensions taken at the individual level appear small to many but the total bill to the Government is a very significant one. In fact, pensions now account for about \$120 million per annum of Government's expenditure and it is expected that it will continue to rise over the future years. This arrangement of our pensions also takes into account the changes which were made not so long ago to bring the casual employees who prior to that adjustment to the legislation were not entitled to any pension but received a gratuity award. This Administration brought a change to that and those workers were determined to be public employees and they can now benefit from pensions and gratuities.
2.00 p.m.

Mr. President, the provision for pensions started around 1896. At that time persons who earned £50.00 or more would have benefited. There was also a situation where policemen, teachers and such persons in those categories were not entitled to pension. That has changed over the years where all employees, through to the last category, including those from statutory bodies and those who were previously referred to as casual employees, have all benefited. Therefore, there has been a substantial amount of development.

Mr. President, this change here, in my view, is a very straightforward one and I do not think I should belabour the point. I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I will not delay the Honourable Senate on this Bill. There are some issues which constitute matters in the Bill relating to Barbados which have been raised in the recent past. Therefore, there is no need to rehearse them again.

Mr. President, fair and full discussions have already taken place in this matter in the way of actuarial discussions on our National Insurance Fund. The trouble is that something needs to be done about our National Insurance Scheme and in the context what has arisen again, is the fact that Barbados now has what is called an ageing population and the fact that people are living longer. This Bill before us relates to the retiring age of public officers and, in my view, coats the public servants of Barbados as well.

Barbados has, over the years, benefited from having a very efficient public service and the quality of educational opportunities in Barbados has ensured that the country has produced and are producing a pool of talent and resources to manage the public service. In fact, there are some social analysts who argue that is one of the strengths of Barbados, if not the strength, that has saved Barbados so often from social upheaval. Sir, Haiti, for example, has a middle-income group of public servants that are not as competent and as skilled as Barbados. Of course, that goes for other territories in this region as well.

Mr. President, the reality has to be faced, I think, that, in many respects, the public servants of Barbados are skilled in their attitudes and some would be known as colonial public servants. Of course, Barbados has only been independent 38 years now and there are many public servants in Barbados who would have been working in the public service during the pre-independence years. The focus of colonial administration, of course, in these territories was to guarantee stability and, therefore, there was a slavish attachment to following rules and procedures.

I heard Government say that there is promised a new Civil Service Act and perhaps when that Bill comes, we will

have more comprehensive discussion on this issue. The focus of post-independent Barbados has been necessarily developmental. Therefore, the question is whether our rule-following, procedure-following, stability-oriented Public Service can meet the legitimate demands imposed or called for by a developmental outlook. I think that countries have passed this stage where it has to confront issues at this time such as the time that it takes to get things done; the number of desks which a particular file has to pass before a decision is taken; and the sometimes unnecessarily preoccupation in ensuring that the correct procedures are followed, which are still enslaved, I think, by the thinking of the German sociologist, Max Weber, who, I believe, argued about the removal of this bureaucracy.

It is not without significance, certainly it is not by accident, that when we speak about public servants, we speak about bureaucracy because of the obsession in making sure that a file does not end up on the wrong desk before it passes through the correct number of persons, by others initialling it, *et cetera*.

Mr. President, this must have implications for persons in the private sector who have to deal with the public service and it must, unnecessarily, I think, slow down the business which they will conduct, which is so intricately linked to the achievement of developmental goals.

Sir, therefore, moving the pension age to 67 by 2018 is just one component of what needs to be done in the Public Service of Barbados, if it is to be what I would call "development-compliant". There are a number of other issues that must be confronted and I think that we have been talking about this for a long time but we have to move from a law-and-order and a stability-oriented administration to a development administration, if we are to be successful. I, therefore, hope to hear soon from the Government on these issues, where we can have a full debate and where these issues can be more fully ventilated.

With those few words, Mr. President, I would like to indicate to the Honourable Senate that this Bill meets no objection from the Opposition. I am obliged to you.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Mr. President, I want to make a short intervention in this Honourable Chamber, in the Bill that is before us. I wish to begin by saying that because of circumstance by way in which the issue of Government's vision of pensioners, both at the level of service pensions and national insurance contributory pensions, it is important to the State to make sure and to bring in provisions that guarantee that the State is able to meet the needs of pensioners like myself and others.
2.10 p.m.

I want to bring to the table a matter which the late Senator Collymore spoke about on a number of occasions in

relation to pensioners who are only receiving a service pension because they stopped working in the public service before National Insurance came on board. Sir, research should be done to find out how many of those service pensioners are still alive and not receiving, like myself, both service pensions and contributory pensions from National Insurance Office.

I am requesting that the Leader of Government Business gets the Government to look at the particular matter because those persons worked hard in those days and they need to have a further enhancement of their pensions. Mr. President, there are persons in Barbados who have suffered from disabilities to the extent that they could not be part of the working class. They receive money from the Welfare Department but research should also be done because the grant from the Welfare Department is not enough to sustain them and they become dependant on the extended family. When such cases are discovered, I know there is a provision to allow them to receive a non-contributory pension. I am asking that this research be undertaken and that they be brought under the non-contributory pension rights to enhance the subsistence from the welfare grant.

Mr. President, I thought that I should do this because I know from working in the public service how hard persons worked and I know of persons who have disabilities and are unable to work who need to be enhanced in relation to transportation or some other area of their lives.

Sir, I support the Resolution before this Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Sir Roy Trotman.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I wish to say from the outset that I support the Bill before the Honourable Senate but I regret that Government has not sought to deal as fully as it might with the question of pensions especially as they relate to the public service.

I thought that this occasion should have presented the opportunity for the Government to involve itself in a comprehensive overhaul of the pension system in this country and for Government to seek for a means of meeting urgently the expressed needs of the third party.

I am starting from the position of there being a partnership of workers with the Government and I start from that position to say that there have been discussions with agencies of the Government and with the workers through their representatives, that there are demands which have been made by that group of workers that have been agreed

to by the agents of the Government quite some time ago and yet these agreed items have not found themselves into this attempted review of the legislation.

I think this is unfortunate and that it speaks to tinkering rather than to a fundamental and substantial review of the legislation. Mr. President, it is necessary for this Government to use occasions like this to demonstrate true social partnership. There is absolutely no point in having the labour movement committing itself to working with the Government as it commits itself to working with employers to effect fundamental change on the development of country if in those areas where there is an agreement, the Government in setting an example, falls short of its responsibility in much the same way that employers fall short of their responsibility to deal honestly, fairly and squarely with the question of upliftment of the worker/partner in this tripartite social partnership.

It is necessary as well for the Government to use the occasion to demonstrate that social dialogue does not find it posturing but that there is a fundamental underlying commitment by the Government, as it should be for employers, as it should be for labour to be committed truly, earnestly and honestly to working in the overall welfare of the nation of Barbados and for every single citizen of our country. Mr. President, it is necessary for the Government to lead by example thereby showing how we can embrace our national initiatives for service excellence by public servants.
2.20 p.m.

It will not finally require them to give of their energy and time but in return to receive from their employer and country for which they are giving through their excellence and by which they might have been able to speak to excellence.

Sir, I draw your attention to Section 13.15(1) of the Resolution. At the same time I wish to take note of Section 8.1(a) of Chapter 384, which speaks to the Statutory Boards Pensions Act. In order for us to understand the point that I am making, I need to refer to the definitions where both of them deal with a person who holds an office. The Statutory Board Pensions Act says that an officer means a person who has been employed in the service of a Board and who has been the substantive holder on a full-time basis of any office specified under the First Schedule.

Sir, Chapter 25 speaks to pensionable office. It states that in respect of service of the Crown in a civil capacity, an office which by virtue of any provision for the time being in the post, an order made by the Governor-General and approved by both Houses is declared to be pensionable office and shall be deemed to preclude any office not so declared

pensionable office in respect to service in which an officer would have been eligible for a pension or gratuity under the Pensions Act 1925.

By itself, it may not hold a lot of special meaning for persons who are not dealing with the public service and may not understand the intricacies of the national issue, so I wish to draw your attention to two phrases. One is for "a person who" and a phrase or clause "who holds an office" and the other one is to the clause "who are on an appointment". In short, the two sets of amendments, since we are lending two distinct pieces of legislation in this one Bill, two areas of change speak specifically to persons who have appointments or who hold office.

Mr. President, as the Leader of the Senate correctly said, the Government has done significant work on its initiative but also in responding to the urging of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados, and to date a large body of people who previously did not receive pensions under the current provision have been brought to the position of persons who are appointed.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados for that action, although when I spoke to a certain body of people who were appointed at a certain time they are having difficulty, and it does not now speak to people who have been engaged after that time of December 1994. Sir, that has the effect for people who have joined the service in the era 2000/2001 there is no written or clear indication of what those individuals' status is. This legislation ought to have addressed that issue but I do not stop there.

I am saying that in addition to its failure to address people other than that particular category of persons who were casuals in 1994 and whose casual statuses changed by administrative dictum, there are persons who are serving in offices in the public service who are not appointed to those positions and must therefore be considered to be temporary workers. Sir, because they have not been appointed in the Service, they have no guarantee of being able to benefit from a pension and sometimes they have to hope that they do not meet somebody in the area of the presentation of their case who may not be fully able to interpret the legislation.

Mr. President, I would like to suggest that the complete handling of this section requires the legislation to say that all persons who are employed and who serve the qualifying term shall join whatever ranks may exist and that those ranks should not be limited to persons holding an office. This is one way by which we might be able to demonstrate to the public and to a partnership worker in the public that we are in a situation where we want excellence of service because there is every intention to have excellence of benefits.

Sir, I wish to turn your attention to Section 13.2 (b). You will notice that it speaks to the First Schedule in the original Act, which Schedule relates to Section 13 (c). After Section 13 (c) we are now adding some changes. The completeness of the revised legislation should, in my view, require the replacing in the Schedule of the Principals of secondary schools as part of that body of persons who should benefit and should be included in that list who may presumably have been dropped in error.

Sir, there are two examples of areas to address specifics but I do not stop there. I wish now to go on to show where there may very well have been inclusion which would have completed the exercise. I also wish to say that some of these areas to which I refer show the inclusion of matters on which there is agreement at the administrative level.

Mr. President, intentions should have been taken for harmonising pensions legislation. The Leader of Government Business correctly said that a committee has been set up and is working at the reform of various pieces of pension legislation to bring harmony into their operation. It seems to me from this position that merely to deal with the question of age when, in fact, we have gone through the checks and have addressed some of the issues, is to have left out some very important matters which, if not important to the law makers, are very important to the worker/constituents and they ought therefore to have an organisation from that point.
2.30 p.m.

For example, there could have been an organisation under Chapter 384 which speaks to age 60 for General Managers of statutory boards, as their last day at work. The new legislation amended at Section 8(a) subsection 2, indicated age 65 and that is as it should be. I have no quarrel with that being changed but I think that if we are harmonising, we would be in a better position to recognise the need which exists for us to give better direction and guidance to some of the people who manage statutory boards. I said before that in other places, you sometimes inadvisably from a different point of view without understanding good sense, when it is presented to them...

I had the misfortune, Mr. President, of speaking to a statutory board which I will not name because I did not advise you before. I said to them that less than one year ago, we had a position in this country where we had all agreed to the extension of the retirement age, Sir, if we were going to secure the integrity of our National Insurance Scheme and our Social Security safety net.

Sir, that Board looked me straight in the face and said that although you are talking sense, we have been instructed not to listen to you and, therefore, all people who have reached the age of 60 must go home. One of these statutory boards sent home a man and in two months, they had to call

him back to say that they did not know anything that is happening at this workplace, could you please tell us where things are. This was at 1.00 p.m. and because a man was committed to partnership, he left his house at 11.00 p.m. having been tipped off by the locals, as Sir Frank used to say.

This is why we have dispute with that particular Board now, because they are unable to understand that you cannot have a situation where the whole country is going in the direction of working longer, but you take a position to send home people earlier because you do not listen to the voice of reason, and because there is a pension scheme called the Statutory Board Pension Scheme, which says that retirement for pension purposes for them is age 60. Then, you have the position where that Board violates the law at 384 and the law at 25 by saying that you must go, even though the terms in the legislation do not say so.

I am saying therefore that if we were dealing totally with this legislation, we would not have that kind of problem which could repeat itself tomorrow because it is not yet law. I am saying, what is required is for there to be the reduction of some form of guidance to Statutory Boards to prevent them from violating the terms of Chapter 25 and Chapter 384 by their forcing workers below the rank of General Manager into retirement, before the dates when they are contracted to do so by that same legislation.

What is also required, Sir, is a means by which Government and the agencies of Government will revise the Government legislation and/or the administration, of the terms of that legislation to allow a service to be offered and to be accepted, even where pension schemes are not in sync with the legislation.

I know that this is perhaps not the season of the year to be critical but I understand that one is supposed to preach the word in season and not out of season and so, you must forgive me, Mr. President, if I have to tell it as I see it.

Mr. President, in our commitment to social dialogue, we have been meeting in tripartite fora, that is to say, employers, Government and the trade unions. Within that context, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) has advocated that the revised legislation should protect the cost of living allowances which are added to pensions, and that they should, in perpetuity, be treated as part of a full pension of persons who are receiving pensions.

In the neighbouring State of Trinidad this was not done. The result was that when the Government had a slight

difficulty with its financial strength and the balancing of its budget, the Government removed the cost of living allowance from pensioners.

Those pensioners who were aggrieved went before the law courts and they lost the case. Therefore, for those of you who may think that this is not necessary for us to say, I want to draw your attention to the fact that in the Trinidad precedent, the workers lost the case because the legislation did not specifically protect the allowance to which workers were entitled under the pension arrangements.

It is therefore necessary that we take examples wherever that example is and that we want to draw from the Trinidad experience and bring into the Barbados legislation protection for those workers so that their allowances are protected and they are able to be assured of cost of living adjustments from time to time and that we do not find that a person who had a good pension today, ten years later, finds himself bankrupt and unable to meet living conditions.

This has no place in the kindness and benevolence of any Minister of Finance. It has a place within the protection of the legislation for pensioners, not only in the public service but we have to negotiate for the private sector.

Mr. President, next I would wish to speak to the matter of pensions as a right. You can work in the public service for 45 years, and you could be an excellent public servant for 44 years, eleven months and 29 days and on the 30th day, you can fall short of the grace of Government and lose your pension.

Therefore, the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Association of Barbados spoke to the Government about this matter and I wish to say that we are pleased that Government saw the wisdom of our argument and agreed that in situations like that, you could not just dismiss the 35 or whatever years the person has, and they agreed with us that there should be pensions as a right in law. Yet, we are coming to deal with a revision of the legislation but this is not anywhere to be seen.

2.40 p.m.

Are we supposed to be saying to the public servants that we are only concerned with the conditions under which this pension is being revised where it suits the Government's interest and that we should not be concerned about it where it suits the interest of the workers themselves? We would have thought that the whole point in revising the pension was to address the felt needs and the expressed needs of the workers themselves or of the workers through their representatives but this, alas, is not to be. So we are forced to say that that is something which should be in the here and now and not for the future.

In passing, I wish to touch on the denial of pension. Pay and no-pay leave as you know, Mr. President, do not count for pensions. We are of the view that if persons have no-pay leave for a good reason that need should count, particularly maternity leave which technically is no-pay leave. I do not believe that anybody in this room takes the view that some of our neighbours take maternity leave for parents of children as something for which a person should be punished. The Government surely does not think so because it has moved administratively to ensure that maternity leave is now considered at the level of the administration to be certified and approved leave. We are not satisfied with the talk about approval of Government because far too often as we may know the Lord giveth and then the Lord taketh away and though in that case I should not say blessed be the name of the Lord, I would still wish to have you understand that we need to go beyond the beneficence of persons through the protection of the law.

What we want therefore to see is that the occasion would be used to bring under the legislative protection of Chapter 25, protection for public servants who proceed on maternity leave that would then make sure that there is no possibility for a removal from one to the other.

I know, Sir, that I have just about ten minutes left.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let me make it two, Senator.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Let me then say in closing that I know that there is going to be occasion made which would go on for a long time coming out of a comment made by a senior public person, a senior political individual, who said that in fact we should begin at age 70.

Mr. President, there is good reason for us to start recognising that in many countries around the world you can no longer ask a person what his or her age is on applications for a job nor can you terminate that person on the basis of the person reaching the age of 65 or 66 or any other age. The United States of America and Japan are the leaders in that area.

Mr. President, I am not suggesting for a minute that we could get there and I am not even suggesting that we go to 70, I am saying that the debate would be there, but that we ourselves have to realise that we are going to have to be very careful about how we balance the equation between the older worker that we need to keep for his or her expertise, guidance and support in an establishment and the young

are increasingly coming onto the job market, very well-qualified, anxious to move on and who want to have a help up.

I think that it is very important for us to be careful not to alienate our young people and we should endeavour however and wherever to give as much support to the young people as possible, including providing arrangements in the pensions, that they do not find themselves being so frustrated that the public service no longer looks to them as an area where they are going to build careers and can be so distinguished as the late Senator Collymore whom we eulogised on Wednesday.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, before I move that this legislation be read a second time I just wish to acknowledge the issues raised by Senator Linton and Senator Sir Roy Trotman. I listened carefully as he made the point that the issues which he raised were issues that have been agreed on. I am pretty sure that the appropriate amendments would come. It may be a little unfortunate to say that they are not here but I humbly believe that they will come in relation to the completion of the work of the Committee which is looking at the wider issue of pensions and that is just a very small aspect of that whole reform. So I do not think that we need to worry about the fact that they would come although I understand that we would have been required to have them before Christmas.

The issue raised by Senator Linton is one that requires a little more research. I am sure that Senator Linton knows well that subsequent to 1975 persons coming into the Public Service now qualify for one pension. So the amount of pension they get from the Government will be reduced by the amount they get from the National Insurance Scheme. Those who contribute to the National Insurance Scheme will benefit from it. The ones who now come after 1975 did not make the contribution to the Scheme the way we made it. So it is not that those of us who benefit from that get anything which they do not get. We benefited because we made a contribution to the Scheme, so we get a pension from it. They are not called upon to do that in the same way that we did and to the same extent. So in future they would get one pension. So if we are going back we need to take all of that into account, but it is a matter I will have researched and, of course, make the appropriate recommendation to the appropriate Ministry so that it can be dealt with.

Mr. President, in closing let me say that the issue of the retirement age is one that has been with us for a long time and as Senator Trotman said it will continue. The question is whether it will be at 65, 67, 68 or whatever years. Not so long ago we brought before this Chamber a Green Paper on ageing. The Government has committed itself to an environment in which the elderly in the society will still be able to make a meaningful contribution. In my view, in the

earlier days when you had some issues relating to the reduction of the retirement age, the proponents of that exercise were persons who thought that they were doing the younger folks, as they say, a favour.

Mr. President, sometimes we in Barbados could be a little unkind to our old. So they said get those old people out of the way and make room for the young. What they did not realise was that it was not the solution to the problem. The solution to the problem was to create opportunities for all ages to make full use of their skills. I am not saying this because I have reached that age. I now fall into the category where people on the call-in programmes and elsewhere have described me as a double retiree even though I only get one pension.

Asides.

2.50 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the point is that in a small society like ours with regard to the example that Senator Trotman has made, it is amazing that we can, as soon as people reach a certain age, push them aside. We must give persons choices that if they want to go and do other things, that is fine but if they still have skills to share, they should not be cast aside. Those of us who have relatives very often on one corner of our mouths, speak about not putting them in a home or in a hospital but keeping them in civil society, while, at the other corner of our mouths, not referring to our own relatives, refer to others and push them aside without recognising that we have to be clear about what we are saying. We should try to create an environment in which all our people can use their skills.

Mr. President, in the United States of America, if you ask somebody about their age, they will carry you to court because they would say that you are discriminating against them. I trust that one of these days, not long after my time, that this society would return to the point where they can take that kind of approach.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 2 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, Madam DEPUTY PRESIDENT reported to HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004.

ORDER NO. 4 – SECOND READING OF ICC
CRICKET
WORLD CUP WEST INDIES 2007 (GUARANTEE)
BILL, 2004

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, this matter before us has two aspects to it. We have a Bill which sets out the responsibilities of the company that is responsible for the implementation of the host venue agreement in relation to the Cricket World Cup, 2007 agreement and the Resolution which deals with the responsibilities of the Government as part of that agreement.

Mr. President, as we all know, Barbados has been chosen as the host venue for the Finals and to host six Super Eight matches in the 2007 World Cup Cricket. That meant that the local company has had to take on certain responsibilities. The company which is responsible for the implementation of the host venue agreement is a company which is jointly owned by the Government and the local organising committee, World Cup (Barbados) Incorporation. That company owns 90 per cent while 10 per cent is owned between Government and the Barbados Cricket Association. There are 11 Directors in total, with two coming from the Government's side; four from the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation and three from the Barbados Cricket Association.

Mr. President, the Government has agreed to undertake a number of responsibilities in respect to this agreement and the obligations are set out within the Bill that is before us in the Schedule at Part B. There is then the Resolution which says that Government is expected to guarantee US\$500 million in the event that there is a failure to follow through with the arrangements.

Mr. President, there is also a requirement that the company deals with the upgrading of the facilities at Kensington. That means that a number of the property owners in that area would, unfortunately, have to be disturbed and/or resited. Sir, there are some commercial properties that are involved and following various

discussions, there has been some understanding between those property owners and the Government that they would be compensated, while there is the understanding that the residents would be resited or compensated.

Mr. President, the time table for the development is that work is going to be done in phases, with the first phase of construction starting June 2005 to March 2006 because between April and May 2006, there will be international test cricket. Therefore, the first phase of construction will take place after that period. There is then international test cricket, April 2006 to June 1, 2006. The second phase of construction will be between May 2006 and December 2006, and the World Cup, 2007 takes place between February and May, 2007. The plan is to have all the work necessary for the World Cup, 2007, to be completed by December, 2006.
3.00 p.m.

Phase 3 will come after this. In relation to the resiting of the residents, a number of them agreed to be resited to Barbarees Hill because Government has already started the process of acquiring land from a number of land owners to provide the appropriate facilities to accommodate those residents from the Kensington Area.

The question is going to be the extent of which Barbados would benefit from hosting the World Cup 2007. Certainly, from the area which I have responsibility, the Ministry of Agriculture, the BAS and the Farmers' Association have put together a theme to help the farming community prepare themselves to take full advantage of any opportunity that would come from the additional persons in Barbados at the time of World Cup 2007.

We have projected the number of persons that would be here in Barbados as a result of changes in population, also the changes in the normal tourist arrivals and the additional persons coming to the World Cup and from that information, we have come up with a forecast as to how much of each commodity would be required to feed all these people. We are working closely with the farming community to help them expand their production to meet this demand.

Sir, World Cup 2007 is one of the landmarks on our horizon. We plan to go beyond the World Cup because it happens to be a mark along the highway we are travelling so we do not plan to let our production drop back after the World Cup. This is one of the reasons why recently we have been speaking a lot about technology in the area of hydroponics. This is part of the efforts to expand the sector so that the farming community would benefit from World Cup 2007.

I have been listening to a number of presentations on the preparation that is being done in the respective sectors for the event, to make sure that all Barbadians are able to

full advantage of any opportunity that arises. Sir, in addition to any benefit by the staging of the cricket by way of sale of tickets, our service providers, vendors and manufacturers should be able to benefit as well.

Mr. President, if we do it well, I am sure we would be able to get the maximum benefit from the event. There will be challenges from several other areas but, from all reports which I have received recently, the Planning and Priority Committee will deal with these challenges. I have no doubt that we would be able to stage the event and to do so to our credit in order to benefit not only from the event itself but from the reputation we would be able to send forward to all those persons who will come here at that time.

Mr. President, therefore, I wish to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Dr. Lowe.

SENATOR Dr. D. S. LOWE: Mr. President, I rise to indicate the Opposition's support of this particular effort. We do understand and accept that this offers Barbados a magnificent opportunity to place itself on the world stage of cricket and quite rightly so since Barbados is the home of the greatest son of the cricketing world, a National Hero, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers.

We on this Side acknowledge the contributions made by those Barbadians who put forth the case for this country to be one of the main players in this great world spectacle. Certainly, we want to congratulate those individuals who master-minded our case to be able to secure such a crowning role in World Cup 2007.

Therefore, we do not find any reason to distract from the efforts of the State to put in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure that this particular event goes off with the maximum social and economic benefit to the country and by extension to the people of the country.

Therefore, speaking about maximum social and economic benefit, we would want to ensure that due care and diligence is given to the decision-making process to ensure that those who manage the economic side of this event do so with the highest level of transparency and diligence to ensure that across the social spectrum all Barbadians involved in this event, would be able to secure the kinds of returns that are commensurate with their efforts.

Sir, I believe that cricket in Barbados whether internationally or locally has always given the opportunity for individuals to ply their trade and the environment of Kensington Oval has always been a kind of metropolis for individuals to make sure that cricket is not only played on

the field but that the nuances and ambience of cricket occur outside the walls of Kensington Oval.

Therefore, I want to voice the advice that in all that is going on to facilitate development around the Kensington area, vendors, taxi drivers, small homeowners who make their homes available for accommodation and such like, be taken into the fullest consideration.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. President, at the end of the day, whether the West Indies wins, we will want to make sure that all persons involved win as well. We would also want to ensure that with all the great hope that is attached to this particular event, that people would realise their economic and social ambitions that would be attached to the hosting of this great event.

Sir, we have to understand that with the mobilisation of the number of persons who would be coming to our country, that it would also be necessary to ensure that the kind of security arrangements, which are crucial to the protection of the infrastructure of our country and the protection of our people, would be put in place. We would want the Honourable Minister to ensure that is being reinforced because we believe that in this day with terrorism and the like, it is important that whatever international undertaking in which we engage ourselves, that we do it mindful of the fact that there are those out there in the world whose interests would not be our interests and whose activities may not be in concert with our ambitions. Therefore, we would want to ensure that part of the success measures of this arrangement would include careful and devoted protection to matters relating to security, health and safety.

Mr. President, I again, voice very strongly our support. We wish players, committees and all of the organisers well in terms of assisting in the effort to put on what will be a most memorable sporting event in the history of this country.

Sir, with those words, I support this Bill.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: Mr. President, I want to make a very short intervention. With the planning of World Cup Cricket, I want to know from the Leader of the Senate what plans are in place for the restoration of the former home of the late Sir Frank Worrell. There was talk about the restoration of this property and I believe that this should take place and be in place before World Cup, 2007.

Mr. President, I played the game of cricket as a youngster. I believe that Sir Roy also played that game of

cricket. I do not know how many of us in here would have played “kneeling down” cricket or marble cricket.

Asides.

SENATOR I. St. C. LINTON: I believe that some attention should be paid to restoring this unique game, particularly in relation to community tourism. It is a lovely game. It helps to build character, skills and a liaison to help youngsters to have an appreciation of the game and taking it to a higher level.

Sir, I remember playing a game of “kneel down” cricket many years ago. Our opponents were given 11 runs to win but a guy who lives in Canada and I, bowled them out for seven runs. We played “kneel down” cricket many years ago at Combermere and in the Park on Sundays. There was tremendous competition among us at that time.

Since we have road tennis and so on, I would certainly appreciate seeing, before I pass from this world, some effort being made to restore the former residence of Sir Frank Worrell.

Mr. President, I support this Resolution.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: Mr. President, I am pleased to support this Resolution. I support the World Cup, particularly so because I, unlike most Honourable Senators, am the only active cricketer in this Chamber.

Asides.

SENATOR G. P. B. NICHOLLS: I want to say that as one of the persons who assisted in the preparation of the Barbados bid to host the Cricket World Cup which was very successful. There are a number of things that struck me when we were trying to indicate Barbados’ readiness to host an international event. I believe that we need to have an immediate and ongoing dialogue because from the concerns raised by Senator Lowe, it seems that there are lingering questions and that the answers might be a little disappointing to those persons who have traditionally followed cricket at Kensington Oval, our regional game, and would expect to see certain things they consider to be institutional in the game in Barbados.

For example, the sale of the new sponsorship rights to the Global Cricket Corporation is not something that Barbadians or the Barbados Government can have any interference to the contract in relation to World Cup Cricket. It means that we would have as a Government, and like all other Caribbean Governments, put such legislation in place and which would come shortly before the World Cup and which would expire after the World Cup, to deal with issues of security, to give control to our security team which would

be working at the World Cup to stop and to search persons, to eject persons from the grounds, and things of that nature. Sir, specific legislation would have to be put in place, along with measures to deal with ambush marketing.

Sir, for example, in Barbados, businesses normally utilise the test matches here at Kensington Oval as an opportunity for them to market their own products or to give promotional giveaways, that is, buying tickets and giving them away. Mr. President, because of this ambush marketing, which would now be outlawed by way of legislation, these are some of the things that would not be possible. Indeed, the very products that one would be able to take into Kensington Oval, for example, alcoholic beverages or soft drinks, would not now be possible because sponsors like Pepsi and others, would have bought the rights to the game.

Mr. President, I am saying that cricket means a lot to Barbadians, not only the actual physical play, but it is a significant institution. Therefore, historically and culturally, Barbados has come to know certain things about cricket. I believe that we should have ongoing dialogue as to the changes because in the last Rugby World Cup, New Zealand/Australia were granted the rights to host that supporting event and the demands of hosting that event placed too high a burden on them to the extent that the persons there said that they would do without it because they cannot do so much to accommodate hosting an international event. Australia, did, in fact, say yes to all the regulations.

Mr. President, this is what we all have been waiting for, the hosting of the finals of World Cup, 2007. Senator Lowe spoke about having the West Indies victory but there are some that are hoping for an England/Australia finals. The prospect of having those persons here is more beneficial to the economy in the long run, but it is hoped though that with the new coach the West Indies Team, will be well underway in his own ways.

3.20 p.m.

Mr. President, my only concern was that having to render some critical advice to World Cup Barbados, I know that people who buy the corporate boxes will now have to stand at the back of the queue because the Global Cricket Corporation will have the right to select the best seats. Barbados will now have to compete for the purchase of tickets, not only with other regional persons but they have the same rights as people all over the globe.

I think that we must have more concerns coming from awareness programmes and ongoing dialogue about the change of the World Cup. There are many benefits of hosting the World Cup and we as a society stand to gain not only

from money coming into the Barbadian economy but by the testing of our ability to respond to servicing an international event.

The standard of our customer service relationships that will be required in terms of restaurants, and passenger response. The entire society is responsible for hosting the event. The beautiful thing about the preparation of the day is that it was not done by a cricket committee, but a wider cross-section of people from all over Barbados, serve on these committees. There is the development of cricket in many of these industries.

I sincerely hope that when we successfully host the World Cup, there are other international sporting events that we can work, and other regional territories will not object to bringing them here. I speak specifically, Sir, of hosting the Commonwealth Games and other small international events. I would not say our regional people would not respond to national events, but there are possibilities of developing certain synergies, because we did that in terms of the joint deal with St. Lucia.

Mr. President, there is a possibility in the future that Barbados, St. Lucia, Trinidad and others could come together and decide to host a Commonwealth Game or Pan American game and things of that nature. The industry, in terms of the preparation for the event that will be created by reason of the World Cup coming to Barbados, now stands to grow. I could only sincerely hope that we would not disappoint ourselves and the great legacy that Barbados had in the cricketing world.

Mr. President, with these few words I am much obliged to you.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, all of us are happy that Barbados has been chosen as the venue for the final Cricket World Cup 2007. We all look forward to the successful staging of the event. I listened carefully to Senator Nicholls as one of the persons on the side where the cricket is played...

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: The fact is that when I heard him with all these quarrels of those persons who would normally be taking things to sell and catering and so on, I thought that they would have upgraded opportunities because I did not hear about anybody having any exclusive right to provide food. I do not mean food that is cooked but the raw materials.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: I think that those people would have some good opportunities to make some good money at the World Cup.

I hope that all persons in Barbados would have a chance, especially those persons who are vending in some form or the other, to benefit in a tangible way. I accept that there are many intangibles that will result, but I really think that all of us will be happier if there are some tangible benefits as well. Therefore, we must seek to maximise those tangible benefits.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, HER HONOUR SENATOR Dame PATRICIA SYMMONDS in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Madam CHAIRMAN: The Senate is now in Committee.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, Madam CHAIRMAN reported to HIS HONOUR, THE PRESIDENT, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007 (Guarantee) Act, 2004.

ORDER NO. 5 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAY- MENT OF THE SUM OF \$12 MILLION IN EXECUTION OF THE HOST VENUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP WEST INDIES 2007

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I think it is unlikely that we will meet again

before the Christmas Holidays, therefore, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, for the manner in which you conducted the Senate so far, to wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a very Prosperous New Year.

3.30 p.m.

I express similar sentiments to all Honourable Senators and their families, the staff of Parliament, the broadcasters, the technicians and the persons responsible for security. I look forward to all good things happening to you all in the New Year and hope that you would be able to realise your dreams. Certainly, being the administration, we would make sure that we bring the type of environment that would give you the opportunity to realise your dreams. All the best for the holiday and the new year.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. E. R. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I therefore beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: Mr. President, I should like on behalf of the Opposition to fully associate myself with the comments made by the Honourable Leader of Government Business and take this opportunity to wish all Honourable Senators the compliments of the season.

To you, Sir, I want to say thanks for the way in which you have steered the proceedings in this Chamber. A dignified, calm, sense of fairness and impartiality have always characterised your Honour's presiding over the affairs of this Senate. That is not to say that your Honour was not disposed to many serious tests. Senator Barker is not in his seat, and I am sure that your Honour qualifies for a Nobel Prize in being able to tame the restlessness of my good friend, Senator Barker. Regrettably, I am not in either a position or circumstance to make the recommendation to your Honour's elevation.

In your Honour's absence, Madam Deputy President also discharged her responsibilities in a very dignified way. The Clerks of the Chamber, Messrs. Eastmond, Jones and Roberts have been there with their very accommodating, cooperative and helpful selves and quite naturally we want to thank them for the assistance so ably given to us over the last months. Of course, I would like to thank the other members of staff of Parliament, particularly the ladies whose voices and whose smiles have been a kind of function for us when we have been in need of "de-stressants" resulting from the stresses of the debates and of course the security personnel and members of the media and so on. So I should like to extend the compliments of the season to all fellow Senators and I look forward to being together again.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: Mr. President, I am sure it would be quite possible for us, the Leader of the House and Senator Stuart to lead the constituency role for the Democratic Labour Party.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: I am not now trying to knock that institution. I think that I would like to use the occasion to speak for those other persons here who are not members either of the governing Party or of the Democratic Labour Party.

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN: We would wish to thank you very much, Sir, and your associate, the Deputy President, for the manner in which you conducted yet another year's work in the Senate. We are of the view that we have before us some very challenging times and that the Parliament Houses of this country have to be part of those challenges which are before us and that we will be required in the coming year to have even more testing times than we have had in the interest of our people and the region.

We wish that you and the Deputy President will be given, by the great giver of all gifts, the courage, the strength and the fortitude to help you to manage the ongoing affairs of the Honourable Senate in the new year. As for the current year, we wish you a very sober Christmas. I hope that the Deputy President would continue not to imbibe anything other than sorrel but if she does in fact desire to have some wine, let it be red wine because that is good for the heart.

We would also wish to extend best wishes to the Opposition Party, the Democratic Labour Party. We hope that the Christ of Christmas who is also the giver of peace will comfort, strengthen and solidify the Party as it prepares for the challenges in the new year and in the years that are ahead.

For the other Members of the Senate we would wish and hope that they, as you would, will have a sober Christmas and that they would enjoy good health. I do not wish them wealth because those who will have wealth already have it. Those who have been aspiring to become married, or that will accept the offer of marriage...

Asides.

SENATOR Sir ROY TROTMAN:...and that together we would all be able to face the new year with the kind of strength and renewed energy that is required for a country which has the kinds of challenges which Barbados has.

As the Leader has done and the Leader of the Opposition has, I wish on behalf of my other colleagues to extend these Christmas and New Year wishes as well to the technicians and the support personnel who have helped us. To the members of the media I wish to take this occasion to wish the entire country God's blessings, good strength and all the best in the new year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Deputy President and myself, I wish to express our thanks to the Honourable gentlemen who spoke in respect to their best wishes and very nice sentiments. Senator Stuart spoke of tests and Senator Sir Roy spoke of challenges and we hope that from the position of presiding officers you would remain good leaders.

The Senate does not normally meet on a Friday and for that reason one or two Senators could not be here today. Senator Sir John Goddard has missed a few Sittings due to illness. The news today is that he is making a good recovery

and I am sure he has the good wishes of us all at this time and we expect to see him in the beginning of the new year.

I should like to join with the Senators who have spoken in expressing our appreciation to the Clerks at the Table, the reporters, the editors, the Marshals, the Press, I believe that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has been covering our reports over the last year, and all those who contributed in big ways and small ways to the work which we do in this Chamber.

To all of you I extend best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas season and a healthy and productive 2005.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly.
3.40 p.m.

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