
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, July 6, 2004.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, G.C.M., B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J. P. (Deputy Speaker)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.)
Hon. R. C. EASTMOND, B.A. (Hons.) Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., J.P. (Minister of Labour and Social Security)
Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P. (Minister of Public Works and Transport)
Mr. R. D. MARSHALL, (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. H. F. LASHLEY, (Minister of Social Transformation)
Mr. R. St. C. TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Miss H. E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs) (Leader of the House)
Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.
Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc., J.P. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Hon. N. A. LYNCH, B.Sc., M.B.A. (Minister of Tourism and International Transport)
Hon. A. P. WOOD, B.Sc., M. Sc., M.Phil. J.P., (Minister of Energy and Public Utilities)

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

Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, M.B., B.S., FRCS (Edin.), J.P. (Minister of Health)

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

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

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

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

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)

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

Prayers were taken by Pastor Dale Brathwaite.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, June 29, 2004.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, June 29, 2004, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

PAPERS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Value Added Tax (Refund) (Eckler Partners Limited) Order, 2004.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

CARICOM Single Market and Economy (Implementation) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2004.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, the following Bills were read a first time:

1. CARICOM Single Market and Economy (Implementation) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2004.
 2. Caribbean Community (Movement of Skilled Nationals) Bill, 2004.
- 10.20 a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, before we start, I would wish that we remove Order No. 1 and substitute it with Order No. 8.

ORDER NO. 8 – THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
(MOVEMENT OF SKILLED NATIONALS)
BILL, 2004

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY:

“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.

In Barbados, our families are no longer exclusively Barbadian by island origin. We have Barbadian children, of Jamaican mothers; Barbadian children, of Antiguan and St. Lucian fathers. And there is no need to mention Trinidad and Tobago, which has always been tied to us, not only by the inestimable bonds of consanguinity, but by the burgeoning cross-fertilisation of the cultural art forms.

We are a family of islands nestling closely under the shelter of the great Cooperative Republic of Guyana, and this fact of regional togetherness is lived everyday 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. The same with Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia and Dominica. What some people call the underground economy.

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

I should like to believe that we are all committed to the principle of mobility and people interaction, to the principle, I repeat. And, that we have an obligation to think and to go on thinking of ways of how such a principle might be applied, without imposing on any territory, a greater strain than its resources are able to support.

The point I want to emphasise is this: 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.”

Mr. Speaker, those words were delivered by our National Hero, the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, on July 1, 1986, indeed some 18 years and five days ago in Georgetown, Guyana, at the seat of the Caribbean Community Headquarters.

Sir, the fact that Honourable Members in this Honourable House nodded as I quoted those words, reflect the manner in which those words resonate still today, 18 years on from when they were delivered by the Right Excellent Errol Barrow on his return to office as Prime Minister of this country.

Mr. Speaker, it signals a commitment on the part of the Government of Barbados to work towards a cause that we believe to be an absolute necessity; one that was also

framed in the words of another Barbadian Prime Minister in July, 1994, to be a process that would not reflect any single basement coming but that it would be one that would be built block by block, and that would take time in so building. It would be one, nevertheless, that would be essential if we are to work to improve the quality of life of the people of this country and of this region.

Mr. Speaker, that other Prime Minister was, in fact, Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, as he addressed his last CARICOM Heads of Government Conference in July, 1994. Sir, perhaps the unanimity in perspective reflected by every Barbadian Prime Minister for the last two decades, has more to do than with the fact that Barbados has lead responsibility for the Single Market and Single Economy, as it was contemplated and reflected in the signature of the Grand Anse Declaration of 1989 in Grenada.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that it has to do with the fact that there is a recognition and a realisation that we in this region have common historical ties; we have a common set of values; we face challenges that are very much of the same nature; and that in a world where the stripping of sovereignty takes place in many forms, and where size is deemed very often to be a disadvantage, that we could gain the best for our people by working in a common cause that is united in principle and committed to social justice and equity as we attain growth.

Mr. Speaker, this is the context within which this debate will start today. Sir, in quoting those words at the beginning, the question must beg itself, has there been anything more than thought since July 1, 1986, to give effect to what Mr. Barrow referred to as the lived reality of Caribbean integration? Have we found mechanisms to ensure that we can institutionalise that lived reality?

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that those who move within the arena of the Caribbean Community, both at the regional and domestic levels, have found it possible to overcome the obstacles and to commit themselves to certain principles which have helped to give expression to those noble thoughts expressed by Mr. Barrow. Today we stand seeking to debate a Bill that will provide for the first time since colonial times, and that, in itself, makes its own judgment.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time since colonial times, this Bill will allow persons, limited though they may be at this stage, to be able to work without the requirement of work permits across the islands and countries of the Caribbean region that are signatory to the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Mr. Speaker, it is of signalled accomplishment, not for this Government but for the entire country, that we should

now be in a position to seek to further dismantle barriers that have prohibited that lived reality from being institutionalised.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that our own Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, has spoken on occasions as recently as his 30th Anniversary Lecture delivered at the Frank Collymore Hall, of the desire of this Government to move to a situation that what we bring to this Parliament that is in consonance with our agreements with the rest of the region, will not only reflect a freedom of movement of skilled persons, namely graduates and holders of diplomas and other certificates of education, sportsmen, media persons, cultural workers and broadcasters, but that we should, at some point in the near future, seek to reach an agreement at the regional level for the freedom of movement of all skilled or unskilled persons within the Caribbean region.
10.30 a.m.

It is of significance that in addition to those categories covered by this Bill that the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas in relation to the provisions of the rights of establishment will also allow for all non-wage earners who are self-employed persons, persons owning companies and by extension their senior managerial and technical personnel will have the right to be able to move and work across the region before the end of this year as Barbados commits to be compliant with its obligations along with Jamaica and Trinidad ahead of the December 2005 deadline.

Sir, it is our fervent belief that the process must be completed such that all persons, skilled or unskilled, wage earners and non-wage earners would have equal opportunity to benefit from the dismantling of barriers under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the benefits that would flow from the establishment of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is significant that in 1957 when the Treaty of Rome was signed that there was provision for the movement of unskilled labour within Europe. We believe that the message echoed by the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter is one worth pursuing.

Sir, we see this Bill before this House today as Phase I. At another stage, we will bring the one that speaks to the right of establishment and the rights contingent upon the rights of establishment, and the rights of non-wage earners to be able to move freely in established businesses. Sir, we will do so before the end of this year. We hope that this would be the second phase of a three-phased project.

Mr. Speaker, what is in this for us? This may be the question that many Barbadians ask legitimately. Honourable Members on Both Sides on this House today will seek to

articulate our concerns, express our views and reflect our philosophy as to where the development path for this country and region must take us. Mr. Speaker, the question which must be asked by Governments, corporations, civil society and ordinary individuals is what is in it for us?

It is clear that this move towards the maximisation of resources with the region predates the birth of many of us sitting in this Chamber today. Indeed, all would remember the example of the failed political West Indian Federation brought to its demise in 1962 by a commitment on the part of national leaders towards independence rather than pursuing the process of a federalist experience.

The reason for the failure may be many and we can argue how and what may have resulted therefrom, whether it was a process ahead of its time being imposed by external factors or whether it was simply the urgent desire to be able to control one's destiny first before moving to a state of interdependence, but that is not the purpose of this debate here today.

Sir, suffice it to say, the topic of the maximisation of the resources and the unification of the Caribbean people under a single project, be it the political project in the early years or the economic project as signalled by the establishment of CARIFTA in 1968 or its successor framework CARICOM on July 1, 1973, it is imperative there is an innate understanding.

Mr. Speaker, we recognise that the world in which we live has changed substantially, therefore it is absolutely paramount for us as a Government to ensure not just economic and social stability but improvement in the quality of life of ordinary citizens. The ability to do that in today's world becomes more and more difficult as sections of the international community seek to constrain our policy flexibility in relation to the pursuit of policies that may be appropriate for the development of our economies and societies.

Sir, in the Estimates this year, the Honourable Member for St. Peter spoke at length to the challenges that we face in relation to our policy flexibility and matters pertaining to our international trading arrangements, the structure of our domestic services sector, the structure of our domestic economy contingent upon those international trading arrangements, the policy flexibility that we will have in using fiscal measures as an agent of development to encourage certain sectors and entities to be able to pursue elements of development that we believe to be worthy for our growth with equity.

Sir, all of these are coming under challenge from an international community that has become increasingly concerned in respecting precepts that appear at first to be

honourable but when we reflect on the circumstances and disparity that exist in negotiations and relationships, they have deleterious consequences to developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is in that context that in 1989 it was recognised that simply having a regional economic arrangement that created a free trade area in goods and the Common External Tariff which would provide some level of protection to our domestic producers that this was insufficient if we were to survive in a world and economy that had changed substantially. We would have to be far more flexible and self-reliant as an economy than we had hitherto been in our historical development.

Mr. Speaker, any student of history would recognise that 400 years of economic development in the region has been focussed not on self-reliance in the region but completely on external factors in respect of investment, markets, technology infusion and entrepreneurship. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, when one looks at the structure of our economies, island by island, country by country, the reliance was not upon each other but with metropolitan countries who were responsible for the colonisation of this region.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that at the end of the first generation of independence and controlling our own destiny, the clear recognition on the parts of Governments is that we must seek to change forever our excessive reliance on the external world and ensure that there is a greater level of self-reliance on the capacity to generate wealth within this region of ours.

Sir, it stands to be noticed that our reliance on interregional trade in Barbados and the extent to which we rely on regional economic activity stands at 9.1 per cent of our production level. In Trinidad & Tobago the figure stands at 7.4 per cent and in Jamaica stands at approximately 1.8 per cent.
10.40 a.m.

Sir, it, therefore, means that there is far greater room for improvement in relation to the establishment of joint strategic partnerships in the pursuit of new opportunities for the sale of goods and services within the region, in relation to ensuring that we can supply each other with a higher level of goods and services rather than simply seeing all of our productive efforts move northward of the Caribbean sea.

Sir, one of the promises of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is to be able to provide those opportunities at the corporate level and, indeed, by extension at an individual level in relation to the opportunity for markets.

Mr. Speaker, this would not happen overnight because what we are trying to change is 400 years of acculturation, 400 years of looking northwards, 400 years in believing that anything that is made here in Barbados or the rest of the Caribbean is inferior to that which is produced outside of the region.

I would like to believe that if nothing else has happened within the first 40 years of the independence movement in this region, it has been reinforced in ourselves why it is we must not doubt our ability to produce at the highest level, whether intellectually in terms of goods, services or anything that we set our minds towards.

Indeed, the reality is that we have to build on that confidence which was garnered over the last 40 years to assist us in the process of adjustment that must now take place at the corporate level in relation to the exploitation and maximisation of opportunities that clearly stand to be derived from a region whose reliance on each other in terms of economic activity is as limited as it is.

Mr. Speaker, these are the imperatives of our gains. I would like to believe that as we get more into the debate that we would recognise that only a joint approach by Governments, private sector, labour and civil society coming together and identifying those key opportunities which can be derived in the early years, shepherding those opportunities such that people recognise that there is something to be gained from inward and cooperative approaches towards the economic building of this region.

Indeed, in the same 30th Anniversary lecture, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, the Prime Minister of Barbados, spoke of the necessity for the establishment of an economic commission at this juncture on the development of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. As we seek to complete the removal of barriers that are necessary for the establishment of the single market, and as I indicated Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica would by the end of this year have complied, and the rest of the region by the end of 2005, our eyes and planning must have moved to the Chapter 4 issues of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas in relation to sectorial development, which is prescribed, if we are to benefit from a single regional economy.

I cannot put it any better than the Prime Minister put it in that same lecture because he spoke at length and he captured it graphically. Instead of having 15 separate and disparate economies within the region, it is the intention to have one single economy and it is best represented, perhaps, in understanding that in Barbados we have one single national economy as opposed to an 11-parish economy, although they are others on the Other Side who believe that the north of Barbados may do better operating on its own.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, those are tensions that a family would engage on occasion.

Sir, others on the Other Side suggest that the pursuit of an airport may be an indication of a desire for Independence. We say that it is clearly a sense of one's own importance in the national scheme that will reflect that request on the part of Honourable Members.

Sir, contemplate that instead of the 15 separate economies that we have now, one single national economy with one set of rules treating to the issue to how best we will relate to all forms of economic activity and production. Indeed, reflecting harmonisation, coordination and convergence of macro-economic policies, the implementation of a common external trade policy, which has already begun to happen with the establishment institutionally of the regional negotiating machinery, the Caribbean is one of the few, if not the only region in the world, that seeks to coordinate its international trade negotiations in one institutional mechanism.

Sir, coordination and harmonisation of policies geared toward the productive economic sectors, small and micro enterprises, collaboration ultimately in relation to monetary and exchange rate affairs. Indeed, a view that will allow us to work towards a joint financial and capital markets and the enforcement of a community-wide competition policy.

Sir, last week the Prime Minister in his address to the Caribbean Development Bank in relation to this topic, reflected the urgency of the need to establish the Caribbean Competition Commission, such that the benefits that will accrue nationally, for example to us, in relation to the establishment of a Fair Trading Commission, would also be available at a regional level in relation to ensuring fair competition across the region once barriers are removed and markets are open.

Mr. Speaker, we see this as part of the evolutionary development of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Sir, Sir Lloyd Sandiford also echoed in 1994 that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy will never appear in any one place as a finished product to be viewed with admiration. It is an evolutionary process guided by certain precepts and comments and a framework of rules reflected in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. It is to that end that we continue to commit ourselves.

Sir, we feel that sustained economic growth is only possible with the commitment to working together within the framework of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and without that, we would continue to be fighting

to be there or about there, fighting to survive in this world economically and to guarantee a quality of life to our citizens which they have come to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, we also feel that when one looks at the policies of the international financial institutions and the policies of the other development agencies, it was clear from the mid 80s and the programmes of structural adjustment that there was a pursuit for the liberalisation of a number of factors, including the movement of capital and elements of the economic production of States, that required of us to be able to move to a stage where we can have this level of cooperation within the region that, indeed, was only spoken of up until that point in terms of desire but not reflected in reality.

Sir, prior to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the commitment to liberalise the trade and services, the trading goods were liberalised. Sir, while Barbados would have received some benefit, the structure of our economy is predominantly service oriented today. Therefore, unless you have a framework treating to the liberalisation of services, our economic development would not have benefitted much from the pre-Caribbean Single Market and Economy architecture which is reflected in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Sir, there is much to gain from a national level for the people of this country in relation to stronger economic performance, more balanced performance and economic growth with equity, since the persons who must try the services sector are found across areas and, indeed, I am not limited to those who are owners of capital. That is the important thing in the context of our economic development that is committed to growth with equity.
10.50 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, it is the natural consequence of a strong educational policy that emphasised that this country, in the absence of raw materials of a mineral nature that could underpin this economy in previous generations, had to rely on the education of its people and on the preparation of its people to be its primary economic asset.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to say here today that this framework of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy offers us the opportunity to reap the benefit of decades of concentration on the human resources, the people of this country, through their optimal education. Mr. Speaker, you, by your own efforts over your career have reflected that commitment. Therefore, it should be a source of joy to you that there should now be a confluence between that commitment and the economic benefits which stand to be gained, not just domestically, but regionally. from that type of investment.

Mr. Speaker, what are the other benefits? We recognise that as we seek to speak more and more and work toward an integrated hemispheric economy that the Caribbean must ready itself to ensure that it is not dwarfed or marginalised from participation in this hemispheric economy. Indeed, part of the effort toward the establishment of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy has also been to ready the Caribbean for a seamless integration into the hemispheric economy.

Mr. Speaker, we recognise that, yes, there will be consequences on existing production companies within our economy and that there will be an adjustment effect in relation to companies that they must confront. Over the course of the last decade the Government has been trying to sensitise the private sector on what kinds of adjustments will be necessary.

We feel strongly and have articulated that there must be the deliberate determination in the region to help create strong Pan Caribbean companies reflecting a broad cross-section of ownership through the appropriate investment vehicles for participation in the ownership of those Pan Caribbean companies that would allow those companies to reflect world-class standards but, at the same time, to be able to compete within the hemisphere with the best of those who may come.

Mr. Speaker, in our own Barbados the example of Sagikor in relation to its dominance regionally in the insurance and financial services industry and with its readiness to be able to take on markets wider afield than the region is an example of Pan Caribbean companies reflecting a large cross-section of ownership that must be emulated if we are to be able to ready the Caribbean for seamless integration into the hemispheric economy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have spoken enough in relation to the broader macro-economic issues in relation to why the participation in a Caribbean Single Market and Economy is an absolute imperative for Barbados to participate.

Mr. Speaker, when one looks at what is likely to happen at the corporate level, the reality is that we are in a world where the reliance on trade preference and on protectionism is becoming less and less an option for us. It therefore means that companies in the region that would have hitherto conducted their business, certain in the knowledge that this protection would allow them to move from day to day to make profits and to provide work for persons, can no longer plan their business with that comfort.

By the same token, these companies are no longer constrained by a country of 166 square miles and a population base of 250 000, and for the first time, size and

geography are no longer economic constraints as they have been for almost 400 years of our history, so there are benefits and there are challenges, and it is up to us to determine whether we would maximise the benefits because the one certain thing that we can guarantee is that there would always be change.

Mr. Speaker, the work which is taking place in the agricultural sector and the provisioning for the transition of the sugar industry from being a bulk commodity benefitting from assured prices from the European Community to perhaps an industry which would see a greater level of value-added and one that would be at a different scale, is one that stands to mind in relation to the kind of transition that would take place in our domestic productive sectors.

Mr. Speaker, there is a commitment on the part of this Government to not only sell West Indian Sea Island cotton as a primary commodity, but to move it from the stage of a primary commodity to finished products to benefit from the economic returns at every stage of its development while, at the same time, maximizing the economic benefits from the intellectual property protection that would be associated with the production of that commodity. These are the kinds of changes we would see in our domestic productive sectors and the kinds of changes the Government has been working assiduously toward in relation to preparing this country for full participation in a Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. Speaker, what of the individuals, because not everybody works for large companies. You have a range of persons from individual professionals right back down to artisan workers. Mr. Speaker, while as I said that this Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas does not provide for the freedom of movement of unskilled and artisanal labourer in the first instance, that is only if they chose to work as artisans working for somebody else, but they can choose to maximize the benefits of the Treaty and establish their own businesses.

Mr. Speaker, artisans in Barbados have a distinguished history of being self-employed and to that extent, whether a person is pursuing carpentry or cosmetology, whether it is a person pursuing the sale of specialized fruits and herbs – I do not mean the illegal variety at this time although it is arguable that they have a better distribution system – whether it is a person practicing law, whether it is a person practicing accountancy or whether it is a person practicing physiotherapy, all of these persons will have the opportunity within the next year to be able to move where they can get the best amount of business and to be able to earn the best living for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, many of us in here would have seen the television advertisement that runs with the young lady who does pool services who has been doing very well in the Eastern Caribbean. This is a non-traditional area of activity and one that does not reflect big business but simply reflect an understanding that there are opportunities out there in the region from Belize to Suriname, throughout the Eastern Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, so instead of now only looking at the opportunities that are available for you to make a living in Barbados, you have now the benefit of looking from Belize through to Suriname and, indeed, throughout the Eastern Caribbean and in the larger economies like Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Barbadian population has the collective intellect, discipline and ingenuity to be able to benefit in a major way from the removal of barriers reflected in the establishment of this Caribbean Single Market and Economy.
11.00 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I will concede that if the region has been deficient in any one thing as it has gone about its business over the last 15 years, it has been in its public relation strategy and public education strategy because we have a commitment... I accept responsibility on the part of the Government of Barbados for that too but I would like to think that it is changing and, indeed, the Government Information Service has established a hotline to be able to answer questions on the Single Market and Single Economy and an e-mail address so that persons can write.

Mr. Speaker, every day the Government Information Service gets e-mails from Barbadians and non-Barbadians living in this country who are asking questions such as, what are they allowed to do with the Single Market and Single Economy? What is the restriction in relation to the amount of time one could spend? Could one carry money in or not? Could one borrow money from these other countries to set up businesses, or does one have to borrow it from their own country to take to where they would be going?

Mr. Speaker, persons are asking ordinary, practical day-to-day questions that would help them in their move from idea to reality in respect to the business opportunities. Sir, this presents the best opportunities that this country has had in its modern development for us to assure the economic prosperity of all Barbadians across classes and ages.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all of the building blocs that have to be put in place would be done but what must be done at this stage is to inspire Barbadians to believe that they have it within them to take the risks that are necessary, to be able to make a better life for their families. Sir, we see them doing it day to day. Even when we had our economic

adversity in 1991 to 1994, we saw persons doing things and building businesses that they might not have otherwise built because of their previous comfort levels.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that we say to the people of this country that it is that kind of ingenuity, that kind of entrepreneurial approach, that kind of emphasis on self-reliance that would allow us to get the best out of opportunities that are being presented to us. It would not only be done at the level of the Barbados Shipping and Trading (BS&T) Groups of Companies, Almond Beach Hotels and the larger companies in our midst, but at the level of persons who would be selling in Swan Street; at the level of the girls across communities who are doing the "sister locks" and the other kinds of hair weaving; at the level of the bakers in the country; at the level of those who may have been exposed to more modern forms of training in autotronics, fixing these computerised cars that are coming into the island.

Mr. Speaker, five years ago Government would have made an investment at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic for that kind of training, replicated now at the St. Leonard's School and Princess Margaret School, so that there is now a cadre of Barbadians with those kinds of skills. Persons are also exposed to modern air-conditioning and to modern electrical circuitry.

These are persons who use a combination of their hands and intellect to provide services for other people, for them to be able to live comfortably. Sir, I believe that we have a competitive advantage in these areas and that the only thing that would stop us is the lack of the will to pursue it.

Mr. Speaker, in that context there are other policies that we must pursue domestically. The Honourable Member for St. James South and I have often reflected that one of the biggest problems facing many of our women in communities across Barbados is a crisis of confidence and a poverty of spirit. The lack of these things makes them believe that the things they can do are not capable of achievement or does not worth anything, so that when one examines what these women are doing, one would realise that these are special persons and who, with a belief in themselves and an opportunity, could achieve far more to be able to support themselves and their families.

Mr. Speaker, the work, therefore, being done by the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Welfare to Work Programme, the work being done by the range of funding agencies both at the level of the public sector... Sir, you know how I feel about many of the private sector commercial banks. I feel that they do not give people in this country a chance but all of that has to change if we are to

maximise the benefits to be afforded under the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, to be afforded under an increased and enlarged market and an enlarged economy.

Mr. Speaker, I appeal to Barbadians that if they have questions to ask that they must ask them because it is Government's responsibility to answer them. If someone wants to know how to go about something, the Government Information Service has the hotline. We will put persons in connection with the appropriate agency, whether it is the Immigration Department, the Small Business Association, funding agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, or the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. That is what we are here to do but what we want Barbadians to do is to see themselves as an agent for the export of Barbadian capital, Barbadian ingenuity and Barbadian wisdom. That is what would assure the prosperity of future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the Government takes a lot of lashes. In fact, all Governments do. I supposed it is because of the political climate. When the Right Honourable Errol Barrow had built the Hilton Hotel, he was the object of accusations and derision in relation to why a Government would be building a hotel.

Indeed, during the last five years, this Government was the object of the same accusation in relation to the GEMS of Barbados Hotels but if we are being honest, the reality is that small States such as ourselves, where the majority of the population do not have access to capital or where there is a small section of the community controlling that capital have a responsibility to play an entrepreneurial role, if they are to assure stability in macro-economic development, as well as to improve the quality of life, as well as to ensure growth with equity.

Sir, we are firm believers of that across political parties. Therefore, irrespective of how the domestic or political heat might rise, as has happened last week, the reality is that Barbados' economic and social development, Barbados' political stability has been borne by a consistency in philosophy between political parties as to the role of Government and the activities in which Government must legitimately pursue.

Mr. Speaker, with regards to issues such as social justice, equity or entrepreneurial role for the State, there is no political divide. What I say to you at this time is that what is required, separate from the question who is best to lead the country at this juncture, to which the people have spoken, is an overall national effort to give our people the confidence that whatever they can do in the communities when they come out on Friday or Saturday evenings and cook for their communities or having the women engaging in cotton industries, that they must see themselves not only

making these things for their homes or for their friends' homes but they must see it as being sold to small businesses or hotels.

Mr. Speaker, these are the kinds of opportunities that are needed. We spend more money sourcing goods for the tourism industry from outside of the region than from within, yet people must eat everyday. The commitment to greater self-reliance for the procurement of goods to support our tourism sector which is the major engine of the economy and the international financial services sector must be there and by selectively ensuring strategic partnership, it means that those sectors, for example, manufacture, agriculture, cottage industries or the cultural industries, that are on the front line of marginalisation, can have the opportunities for assured markets without offending any formal international or regional trading arrangements.
11.10 a.m.

Why cannot some of the menus in our hotels start to reflect more sweet potatoes, eddoes and cassava? The Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the Honourable Member for St. Philip West would tell you that it is better for your health than eating processed carbohydrates. Sir, it might be the only thing that the Honourable Members for St. Philip West and Christ Church South agree upon in recent times.

Sir, I believe there can be unanimity in this Parliament in the call that goes out that our people have to help our people. Sir, instead of importing menus we can have them designed by our artists, produced in Barbados and instead of buying sheets and towels, we can produce them in Barbados for our own tourism sector. Sir, I am not only talking about Barbados but we could look to the entire Eastern Caribbean, the markets in Belize and Suriname. This is what the Right Honourable Prime Minister referred to when he said that an Economic Commission, appropriately established reflecting a broad-based membership can be the catalyst for further economic development in relation to the Chapter IV issues for sectoral cooperation in the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, we must go urging and fighting because it is easy for Government to get bogged down with getting it right especially if there is an Opposition that holds it accountable for administrative errors.

Sir, we must never forget our responsibility to inspire our people to recognise that their future lies not in an insular approach but in our being committed to taking on the region and ultimately the world. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared for it because you can find Barbadians all over the world who are doing well because they have the preparation and capacity for resilience and survival which other countries wished their citizens had. Sir, it is the hallmark of the Barbadian character.

We have to ensure that where those characteristics are becoming tattered and where people feel that somebody else must provide for them all the time instead of helping to provide for themselves, we need to break and remind them that true growth and success come when they dig deep instead, but we must have the environment which would help facilitate that growth. Sir, this is where we come in at a governmental level to make sure there is equality of opportunity in relation to all our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, to move directly to the Bill before the House, it provides for the freedom of movement of skilled nationals in the Caribbean. It is not the sum total of our obligations under the current Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas in relation to the movement of people. As I said before, a Bill will come in relation to non-wage earners. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy came in late and, therefore, has missed all that I have said....

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I am aware that the Honourable Member spoke about an airport in the north and about St. Lucy going separate.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was so precipitous because I thought he would have spoken about what I believe to be his hobby in relation to the wider development of Barbados and not just St. Lucy. I refer, of course, to the unskilled labour and need for Barbados to be able to support...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House again by using me as a scapegoat to find something to say in her speech.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that even if I used the Honourable Member for St. Lucy for anything that it would still reflect to a sum total of nought.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please withdraw that remark.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the remark but this is friendly banter that exists this morning.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, this is the first phase and the second phase will come to providing the rights of establishment, the right for any person to go anywhere in the region to those countries that are signatory to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy to establish their own enterprise and in circumstances to have senior managers or technical people work with them.

Sir, the fact that it is stated in that way cannot preclude individual self-employed persons from going anywhere in the region because it is up to us to be ingenious in how we use the Treaty. The legislative framework will come now but for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Right Honourable Prime Minister has already said that CARICOM needs to move to the whole commitment and allow freedom of movement of people irrespective of whether they be skilled or unskilled, wage earners or non-wage earners. We feel that at the international level one of the deficiencies that has associated itself with international trade negotiations has been the reluctance on the part of the developed world to engage seriously on the Mode 4 Temporary Movement of Persons, movement of unskilled labour from developing countries to other countries in order to be able to maximise their engagement.

Mr. Speaker, last month the famous American economist Joseph Stiglitz prepared a report for the Commonwealth Secretariat as to what the next development agenda should look like at DOHA. Mr. Stiglitz indicated that the agenda should contain proposals to facilitate the movement of unskilled labour enabling workers in poor countries to provide services to markets in rich countries and should prioritise free trade in commodities and services that also require unskilled labour.

Mr. Speaker, this is because there are more than 700 million people across the globe who do not have jobs. While we may be lucky to have an unemployment rate on or about 10.1 per cent, the reality is that many developing and some middle income countries have on average unemployment rates in excess of 20 per cent. Mr. Speaker, those are the realities in the world we live. We hope and trust that this matter would come to the fore in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill refers to persons who are community nationals. Sir, community nationals are persons who have been the beneficiaries of a certificate, diploma or degree from an educational institution approved by the Ministry of Education including the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana but extending to other universities outside the region so long as they are certified to be appropriate universities by the Ministry of Education.

Also, persons who are cultural workers, media workers, or sportsmen with the appropriate certification from their country of origin, those persons have the right to come to Barbados to seek work. Sir, when they land at the airport or seaport, the immigration officer will give them six months to work or to get the appropriate certificate from the Barbados Accreditation Council according to the legislation which was passed in this House four to six weeks ago.
11.20 a.m.

Sir, however, if they have done their business before coming to this Honourable House and came with the appropriate qualifying certificate, the certificate of recognition showing that they have the appropriate skills, then that person is given the opportunity of being the beneficiary of an indefinite period of stay in this country. Mr. Speaker, the Immigration Officer will follow the dictates of Clause 4 of the Bill and give that person an indefinite period of entry.

Sir, to recap, if they do not yet have the appropriate certificate of recognition and they are coming to seek work, they have six months within which they must do their business and within which they can legally remain. However, if they have that beforehand, then they have the right to seek employment here and they have the right to stay indefinitely.

Sir, the Bill provides for a comprehensive framework for these categories. Everything I speak, it comes out of hate because I would have loved the opportunity to present the whole framework here today and not just the stay of nationals.

Mr. Speaker, the only restrictions on the ability of persons to come to Barbados and benefit from being a CARICOM skilled national are those restrictions found in the Fifth Schedule which are consistent with our normal Immigration policy, in other words, persons who effectively can be charged on the State, persons who are involved in terrorist activity and persons who have been indicted of indictable offences.

We have excluded persons who have been convicted only of possession of drugs because invariably those persons are guilty of an offence that more reflects an addiction. However, where they have been found guilty of trafficking any drugs, then they become a prohibited immigrant.

Sir, equally, any major indictable offence or suspected of any terrorist activity, persons against whom deportation orders would have been made, persons who are likely to become a charge on public funds – Mr. Speaker, you would see the deliberate efforts on this Government's part to move away from the Victorian language of vagrants and all kinds of unflattering language that would have sought to marginalise persons in the society and to create genuine barriers of social exclusion. That is not the intention of this Government.

Mr. Speaker, a new Immigration policy framework will be going to Cabinet shortly and when the new Immigration Bill comes, you will see the consistency of the approach in relation to the kinds of persons who should constitute prohibited immigrants.

Sir, these are unlike the amendments which were passed in 1996 Sections 17(a) to 17 (e), because the Laws of Barbados already reflect permission for skilled graduates. Unfortunately, on that occasion the Minister was not given the power of revocation. This is absolutely necessary for national security reasons.

Sir, only yesterday, persons charged with the review of the Regional Security System (RSS) placed the question of terrorist activity as one of the inherent vulnerabilities as we in this region will continue to face and the utilisation of Caribbean nationals by terrorist activities to pursue and to proclaim their aims and objectives. Sir, this power of the State to preserve national security and stability is an absolute standard that is necessary for the effective Governments of the region.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, while a person may be a prohibited immigrant for certain reasons, the Minister does have the power to exempt them. Sir, if a Caribbean national is convicted in Barbados of a summary offence, even a possession offence, basic stealing or shoplifting offence, he is deported. This Bill allows persons to come back to work in this country as long as they apply to have their conviction expunged, either under our legislation if the conviction was a Barbadian conviction or under similar legislation in another country.

Sir, this is because we are committed towards the recognition that there are certain types of offences. Once people pay their penalty, the offence should not continue to hang like an albatross around their neck such that they should never be able to participate or benefit from mainstream activity in the economy and society again.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes provision for a second chance for those persons so long as they have their convictions expunged. Once a person can show that they would not be a public charge, then the Minister can preclude them from being prohibited.

Sir, upon entering the country as a CARICOM skilled national, you are entitled to bring your immediate family, your wife and children under the age of 18. If there is a dependent, who because of incapacity, physically or mentally, is older than 18 years, that person is treated as a dependent legitimately brought into the country. However, the spouse would not be able to work automatically but can apply for a work permit and a fairly liberal approach would be taken to that without binding the Chief Immigration Officer on any and every case.

Sir, we have ensured that the definition of spouse accords with the definition of a spouse under the Succession Act and the Family Law Act so that it will include a single woman who has lived and cohabited with a single man as

she in law were his wife for a period of not less than five years. The same applies for a single man who has lived and cohabited with a single woman for five years.

Mr. Speaker, the reason for this is that Article 7 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas requires that there be no discrimination on the basis of nationality alone. Therefore, it means that those things to which one national is entitled to in a particular country, in this case Barbados, we would have to extend similarly to all other CARICOM nationals. Equally, it means that if in St. Lucia there are benefits afforded to St. Lucians, then they would have to extend those benefits to all other persons.

Sir, it is one of the reasons why the companion Bill, which is coming, and we are debating it today, but I referred to it as the Leader of the House, speaks to the amendments to the Small Business Development Act and a number of other pieces of legislation that would have hitherto required Barbadian ownership of companies in order to benefit from certain fiscal, and other incentives.

Indeed, this has now to reflect a Caribbean community national and not just simply Barbadians because of the principle of non-discrimination in Article 7 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Sir, equally, Honourable Members should remember that Article 8 provides that whatever treatment is afforded to a person outside of the region, the same type of treatment must be afforded to a community national. At no stage should a non-community national benefit from more advantageous treatment than a community national. Those are standard in relation to this type of Treaty and all that we do in governing from here on, we have to remember those principles of non-discrimination and equality of benefits for community nationals over those types of benefits that are afforded to non-community nationals.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill, unlike the amendments to the Immigration Act of 1996, provides for revocation in certain circumstances and this is provided at Section 10 of the Bill. 11.30 a.m.

Invariably, Mr. Speaker, the Bill provides that if a person defrauds in relation to presenting information to the Immigration Department or to the Certification Board why they should be eligible to a certificate of recognition, those types of things would lead to revocation if not there would be an abuse of the process and the system.

The Bill also provides for the repeal of Section 17 (a) to (e) of the current Immigration Act which was passed in 1996. It provides that we can pass regulations. It also

provides that we can amend the Schedules by Order. The reason for that is that if we move it to freedom of movement of all labour instead of having to bring a completely new bill, we can amend the first schedule to be able to say what other categories of persons should be entitled to be in Barbados full-time if we wanted to.

Equally, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the Bahamas chose not to sign the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to participate in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, but should the Bahamas change its mind, or any other country for that reason, to be admitted into the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, we would simply amend the Second Schedule by Order because we recognise that this is a fluid arrangement outside of the control of the Government of Barbados, and to that extent we have to make provision for those things.

Mr. Speaker, that in a sense reflect the Bill itself. May I say that it is critical that there be immediate benefits to individual citizens if the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is to mean something.

Mr. Speaker, when we introduced the legislation in 1996 to provide for the skilled nationals a number of persons in the society were a little wary about opening what they considered to be the floodgate. Mr. Speaker, the facts are these and simply these. Between March 1997 and April 2004 – and I am prepared to make this a document of the House – 816 persons from various Caribbean countries would have applied to be CARICOM skilled nationals in order to work here without a work permit. From Anguilla 1; Antigua and Barbuda 14; Belize 4; Dominica 22; Grenada 28; Guyana 218; Jamaica 160; Montserrat 1; St. Kitts and Nevis 10; Trinidad and Tobago 258, by large the largest amount; St. Lucia 40; St. Vincent and the Grenadines 48 and Suriname 1. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members need not rush to write, I would provide the statistics for them.

Mr. Speaker, the real political issue in all of this is not so much the skilled nationals as we all know, but the whole question of other migrant labour within Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few things on this topic before proceeding. What I quoted today from the Right Excellent Errol Barrow reflects the commitment to be able to institutionalise those kinds of regional movements in relation to Caribbean citizens in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to requote the sentence:

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

Mr. Speaker, that sentence appropriately captures the issue in relation to migrant labour in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I use the phrase “migrant labour” but the average person and the average discussion across the society is centred on Guyanese and Vincentians. Mr. Speaker, we need to remember a few things. I am not speaking in a preaching way, but in a way that would simply engage this House on a discussion of serious import to this country’s welfare.

Barbados has been the major net exporter of labour for the last 170 years in this region. The records of this House will show a debate in the 1850s where Honourable Members of this Assembly tried to stop Guyanese from advertising in Barbados in order to be able to attract Barbadian labour down to Guyana. I urge Honourable Members who have a keen sense in history to be able to research Hansard...

Indeed, some of the documents reflecting and writing on the Emancipation period in this country will also show that the planters of the day did not want the Guyanese advertising for the labour of former slaves because they wanted an assured supply of labour in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, from Guyana we already know the legendary stories of Barbadians going to Panama, Costa Rico and Nicaragua. Mr. Speaker, we know the stories of the money sent back, we call them remittances today, by the many Barbadian families who have remained in those countries to build those societies to allow for black ownership of plantations and large tracks of land in this country in the early 20th century, a feat that would not otherwise been possible without the opportunity for Barbadians to go further afield to be able to earn to improve the quality of life of their families.

Mr. Speaker, you must remember the domestic political context when the Master and Servants Act prohibited persons from exploiting the true value of their labour because it said that if you wanted to have the security of knowing that you had a house, you were under an obligation to provide your labour to the plantation that provided you with the ability to keep your house on that tenanted land, so a Barbadian in Barbados could never maximise the true benefit of his worth in relation to the sale of his labour in the post emancipation period.

Mr. Speaker, many people do not know that there is a strong and vibrant West Indian population in countries like Guyana, Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba, Costa Rico and North Eastern Brazil. This is so largely because of the movement between the Eastern Caribbean and those areas at the turn of the 20th century which was far greater because of the schooners than it is today where in order to fly to Brazil you have to go north to Miami and fly back down south to Brazil.

Mr. Speaker, the export of services and labour in this country reached its zenith in relation to that export with Panama. We may more appropriately remember the exportation of skills and labour to the rest of the region because of the famous folklorist belief that when you go to any country in the region from The Bahamas right through the English-speaking Caribbean to as far south as Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago and you look at the policemen, the nurses and the preachers, you would find that they all came from Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, that is so because Barbados' economic development was always premised on being a net exporter of labour. This was also supplemented by the opportunities provided in the United Kingdom and the United States of America in the 1940s, 1950s and the 1960s.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central is a former head of a labour movement in this country and he would know that one of the challenges he had to confront was the demand for teachers in developed countries, that still continues today.
11.40 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South will speak at length in this debate about the challenges that he faces in assuring stability within our medical sector by reason of having an adequate supply of nurses in this country because we simply cannot compete with the terms and conditions afforded by the developed countries to some of these skilled professionals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my view that we must change our perspective on development and that we must recognise that which has saved us historically, must be central to our economic policy today, and that Barbados must continue to be a net exporter of high skills.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that by exporting skills both within the region, the Single Market and Single Economy, and outside the region to the developed world, it means that Barbadians can get the highest returns for the investment they have made in their education. It also means, of necessity, that there has to be an immigration policy to allow migrant workers in to do some of the work that might fetch lower prices, which Barbadians might not be prepared to do.

Mr. Speaker, these are the realities of our transition from a developing to a developed country and it would be puerile for any Honourable Member to suggest that this is not a national legitimate discussion. It is so, but all that we ask is that from this legitimate discussion we do not step into a level of xenophobia that would be unhealthy for us a people, that we would be divisive to the precepts of Caribbean unity that we have been committed to, generation after generation, and that will be deleterious for our

economic performance and by extensions for providing for the improvement in our quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, these are the realities, and I urge this Honourable House to rise today to the discussion that would not see us exciting xenophobia or fear among our population but that we must recognise that any society that closes itself off to immigration does not do well.

Sir, let us look at the United States of America, the most opened country. If you ask me, they will now suffer as a result of the tightening and closing of their immigration policy, in a way that they would have benefitted from a more liberal immigration policy. It does not mean, and let me repeat for the record because people are quick to misquote, that Barbadians are being disadvantaged at the expense of foreigners. That is not what we believe in. That is not what this Government believes in. I only need to recall the position that I took in relation to Cable and Wireless and its leadership when they wanted to rid themselves of 40 years of Barbadian leadership, to bring in persons from outside to be able to lead efforts, when Barbadians had been proven to be capable of doing so.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, I recognise that the kind of investment that we put in our people educationally may mean that we have to make it possible for them to get the best returns or the highest price for their labour, and that one cannot artificially prohibit the movement of persons where they are capable or are entitled to receiving a higher salary for the services which they sell.

Mr. Speaker, our record in education, health care, cultural services and public administration, would mean that there is a veritable market in the developed world, and I daresay within the rest of the Commonwealth, including developing countries, for the skills of Barbadians. Sir, those persons who have retired at age 60, I believe in some instances, have another 10 or 15 years of productivity in them.

Therefore, what we need to do is to assist some of those persons in making the transition in entrepreneurship that would allow them to be able to utilise that experience and those skills outside and beyond the scope of these shores, but that they might need help in putting them together.

Sir, there is no reason why, as an educator, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central should not be able to sell his services on a consultancy basis to countries in Southern Africa. The Prime Minister has just returned from Botswana and Botswana is the success story in Africa. Barbadians have traditionally been teachers in Botswana.

Our national, Poet Kamau Brathwaite, has taught in Ghana during the 1950s. Sir, let us return to a process that allows us to maximise the returns on people's education and skills but in so doing, let us recognise that it might create a vacuum that would require migrant workers to come in.

Sir, I want to sound a word of caution because, as I said, migrant labour is necessary for any society that is growing and developing. As we have heard in the lecture of Mr. Stevan Mac-Andrew, Specialist, Movement of Skilled Labour, CARICOM Unit, sponsored by the National Insurance Scheme four weeks ago – and the Honourable Member for St. James North, I am sure when he speaks, can concentrate and reflect more on why migration is beneficial to social security systems within the region.

Mr. Speaker, the point is that, as we heard then, there are positive benefits because it expands the base of contributions for the Social Securities Schemes in a way that would not otherwise have been done. In other words, we require only two persons to be able to support the pension of one. In other countries the dependency ratios are different. One of our domestic responses has been to increase the retirement age from 65 to 67 and to increase the contribution rate from 14.5 per cent to 16.5 per cent because we do not want an implosion of our social security system.

We believe that there would be benefits towards the expansion of the contribution base and, indeed, Mr. Mac-Andrew went on to talk about the impact of HIV/AIDS on the productive sectors of our population, the 15 to 44 age group, and in particular that women face the incidents of HIV/AIDS, three to six times more likely in the 15 to 19 age groups, thereby also having deleterious consequences on the country's population reproduction.

Sir, these are all things that we have to be cognizant about as we start to discuss the issue of migrant labour. We note the comments of the Head of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB), Senator Sir Roy Trotman, in relation to the need for a register. Sir, whether it is going to be a register or some other kind of mechanism, this Government can give the assurance that we will not tolerate the abuse, the exploitation, or the infringement of the human rights of any person, be they Barbadian or non-Barbadian in this country, particularly in work environments.

Mr. Speaker, once again when Senator Trotman had difficulties with a certain establishment in relation to its treatment practices of non-Barbadians who were here on the basis of work permits, he spoke to me and we convened a meeting between my office, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Chief Labour Officer, the Chief Immigration Officer, and the particular private sector entity. Sir, the Government made it clear, as I am sure he will

confirm, that we would not be part of anything that treats to the exploitation of any human being.

Mr. Speaker, our history is too rich in fighting against those injustices and to the extent that persons in Barbados feel that it is their right to exploit other human beings, then I say they need to find somewhere else to live because that is not the kind of behaviour we would want to tolerate in this country.

It is not the kind of behaviour that this Government supports and to the extent that persons are being exploited, even if they are not legal, because the reality is that there are some people who are illegal in their relationships with the Immigration Department. If persons come forward, I can assure them that the Government of Barbados will stand by them and ensure that exploitation stops, once an investigation proves that there has been an abuse of rights of those persons.

Mr. Speaker, this is a Government that, for over 10 years, has had three amnesties for illegal persons who have no proper or legal status in this country.
11.50 a.m.

While the Law does not provide for complete movement of labour in the region, we believe that the common values, bonds and sense of kith and kin requires that we treat to Caribbean people in a way that is different and reflect greater humanity and more flexibility than we treat to others.

Mr. Speaker, that does not mean you would not have the occasional aberration. The Chief Immigration Officer would tell you that this Government has said that it would not support the perceived maltreatment of Guyanese because I believe in many instances that the stories are blown out of proportion. Sir, we cannot say that some Guyanese or Vincentians have not been unfortunately treated in this country by Immigration and people across the landscape but to the extent that it has happened, we are saying that it must stop.

Sir, the fact that the Honourable Prime Minister and President Jagdeo met and that the two Governments agreed to a framework for cooperation between the Guyanese Immigration Department and the Barbados Immigration Department is a reflection of our commitment that persons must not be treated in a way that undermines a sense of their own dignity and humanity. Mr. Speaker, I speak strongly on these issues because there are those in here who already know that I will defend anyone against discrimination of any type and I will not resile from that irrespective of the taunts that may come.

Sir, it cannot be right in a country that knows what it is to have the majority of its citizens suffer as a result of discrimination, torture and oppressive conditions that we should in any way cause any Caribbean citizen to feel uncomfortable simply because they come here in order to make a living.

By the same token, Mr. Speaker, we are not going to marginalise Barbadians but let us understand that there must be balance and an open approach because history has shown that every country that has pursued this approach has come out well in relation to improving the quality of life and ensuring a better standard of living for all of their citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this be approached with an open mind. Let us discuss the matter by all means but do not cause the debate to descend into the arena of xenophobia because in so doing we would have to pick up the pieces as a society and a nation when all is said and done.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons why we cannot move quicker in relation to freedom of movement is the security issue. I have indicated last week when I was chairing the Ministers of National Securities and Attorneys-General CARICOM meeting that there are a number of parallel mechanisms that have to be put in place. Sir, many people may ask why it is taking so long but, Mr. Speaker, it has not taken long. If you are going to assure that you do something properly, you need to be able to plan for all the consequences that may flow from the removal of barriers in relation to the movement of people.

Mr. Speaker, I have already said to this Chamber that the law enforcement and security agencies of the region have picked up a pattern of the utilisation of persons across borders to commit crime. I have spoken about people being recruited in Trinidad, St. Vincent and St. Lucia to come here to do robberies and *vice versa* and in that case, those are the countries which we have to watch carefully because of the level of movement of persons for illegal activities and Barbadians go into those countries and commit crime as well.

Mr. Speaker, we have to ensure that we have an appropriate mechanism for the regional sharing of information and intelligence and that there is an appropriate mechanism for co-operation at the investigative and post investigative stages, hence the need for a mutual legal assistance in criminal matters treaty.

Sir, we have one with the Commonwealth but it is our conviction within the region that there must be a mutual legal assistance in criminal matters treaty. We have signed off in principle on this in the meeting last week pending the

additional adjustments because we believe that which we commit to do, in helping other Commonwealth countries, we should be prepared to do more than that in fighting crime within the Caribbean region and that is what the Treaty will allow for when it is signed.

Sir, as I have said before, we are also trying to set up a regional information and intelligence sharing network to assure that there is the necessary mechanism to track the movement of people across borders. Mr. Speaker, you can be assured that while the majority of persons who will cross borders will do so for legitimate purposes, that there will be some who will find nefarious and criminal purposes to occupy their attention rather than the pursuit of industrious, hardworking, legal activity.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the reasons why care has to be taken and while we are moving closer towards the use of a CARICOM passport and expect some words to come out of the Heads of Government meeting tomorrow as to this, we cannot do so without appropriate security mechanisms in place. In Europe, Europeans have the opportunity to use European Community passports but it then has the name of the country written under European Community such that you distinguish between countries. Having said that, there are appropriate security mechanisms that have to be put in place.

Sir, in a post 9/11 environment, the developed world in many instances has already put countries on notice that by 2005 they will only be accepting machine readable passports. Therefore, the Immigration Department over the last year has prepared itself for the issuance of machine readable passports for all Barbadians as people going to the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom will need them.

I am happy to report to this Honourable Chamber that those first passports were issued in the month of April and the public will be hearing more about their ability to be able to get machine readable passports to facilitate their travel.

I should also say to the House at this stage that the standard for passports is changing back from five years to 10 years. You will get a 10-year passport as an adult and a five-year passport as a child and this will bring us back in line with international standards. We will be making those changes, but on an appropriate occasion, we would make those announcements to the Immigration Department and the public of Barbados as well as the new Immigration policy framework that will come.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members will note that this framework for the freedom of movement of skilled nationals is not based on reciprocity. A popular sentiment was expressed that we should only help those countries that

would allow our people in their country but, unfortunately, the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas does not provide for reciprocity. If you have commitments, you must implement them so it is not based on helping others because they helped you. However, if there are breaches, the Revised Treaty has a framework that allows you to pursue them. There are a number of dispute settlement mechanisms and the Caribbean Court of Justice is the final arbitrator, having exclusive and original jurisdiction in relation to the interpretation of the Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of a Caribbean Court, I find it necessary to clarify for the public's benefit that Member Countries who belong to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy will all have to pass legislation to establish the Caribbean Court of Justice in its original jurisdiction. In its jurisdiction to interpret the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas does it give this rights and obligations...

Sir, where Member States will have a choice, by the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister of Antigua will be in the appellate jurisdiction. No country can force the appellate jurisdiction on any Member State. As the Prime Minister of Antigua indicated that in his country this is a matter that must go to referenda, there are a few countries where that same thing must happen.

In Barbados' case, we would have passed the Bill since last year and have indicated that we would proclaim the Bill upon the inauguration of the Caribbean Court of Justice. We have made a determination nationally that we would wish the Caribbean Court of Justice to be a final court of appeal as opposed to the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council. That is a completely different matter from the Court acting in its original jurisdiction for which there is no discretion in relation to passing legislation on the part of Member States who are signatories to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I hope that clarifies that issue for Honourable Members.

Suffice to say, if a country is not letting in our people and the rights that the Treaty provides for, then there is a mechanism for us to go for redress. I can assure all persons what this Treaty must mean for everybody and that its proper defence and prosecution must be pursued vigorously if it is to be a guiding light and principle for Caribbean development and for the expansion of opportunities for our citizens.

Equally, let me say for the record that the Government of Barbados does not support economic citizenship. It has never done so and will never do so. To that extent, we believe that there are still a few issues in relation to the

Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which stand to be discussed and the question of rights flowing from economic citizenship is one of them.

I simply say to this Honourable House that this discussion has been completed but reflect only a philosophical position that stands contrary to the sale of citizenship for economic purposes, commonly known as economic citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken long and I believe that we have the opportunity today to discuss broader issues pertaining to the development of the Caribbean as a region, first of all, to recognise that the coordination of economic integration is the *sine qua non* for further development of this region, to recognise that economic development must never substitute for the total development of the region as a society, a whole cohesive society reflecting the history of civilisation and committed to an equally stronger one for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, we feel that to the extent that we have failed to capture the imagination of our citizens in respect of the opportunities they stand to benefit, that we must redouble our efforts in this regard. Sir, that is why I spent a long time today treating to the kinds of economic opportunities that our citizens can pursue as self-employment opportunities without having to wait for what we hope will be the natural and logical extension of this Treaty to commit to the freedom of movement and our labour and not just unskilled labour.

Sir, we also feel that there are wider issues that will affect the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy as we go forward and in particular that relates to the question of the Governments of the community and the ability for the community to be able to ensure that there is some kind of super national body, as with Europe, that allows for the passage for community law and the issuance of directives.

I do not think that there is any divide on this issue. It is simply that the governance subcommittee of the region has not been able to put the framework in place but it would need of necessity some modification of the powers of this Parliament. We feel that it can only be in the collective interest of this region to the extent that what it promises us in relation to expanded economic space, opportunities and possibilities for social cohesion that it is absolutely necessary.

Sir, we recognise that part and parcel of the difficulty with those who will continue to feel threatened by the freedom of movement of skilled labour, will reflect the fact that people feel that those countries that have a higher standard of development will act as an attraction and be able to bring people from those countries whose standard of development may not be as high.

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter has spoken about this at length, not only in his 30th Anniversary Memorial Lecture at Frank Collymore Hall that I referred to earlier but as recent as last Wednesday at the Caribbean Development Bank.

The Right Honourable Member repeated his call for the establishment of a regional development fund as a matter of urgency to act to lesser developed countries within the region in the same way that the social cohesive fund acted in respect of the integration of Europe where it was recognised that countries like Ireland, Spain and Portugal may not have had the same development opportunities and standard of living as the rest of Europe and to that extent, significant funds were pumped into those countries in order to be able to improve the quality of life and the range of benefits available to those persons.

Mr. Speaker, equally, the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas reflects the existence of disadvantaged regions, countries and sectors because he recognised, unlike elements of the international community, that you cannot just seek to create a balanced playing field where there is an asymmetry in power relations or where there is inequity in the distribution of resources and to that extent the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas looks at how it can protect and nurture those sectors or regions that may be disadvantaged to bring them up to an acceptable range, such that you do not have, as the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow pointed out in the quotation that I used at the beginning, a disproportionate strain on the resources of one country.

Sir, to speak in broad plain terms the belief that Barbados would suffer because it offers more free services is one that is not necessarily on all-fours for two reasons. One, there has been no final determination on contingent rights, whatever rights that one would benefit from being a Caribbean skilled national. Secondly, we feel that once we can put the regional development fund in place, those countries that may currently be disadvantaged in relation to their ability to provide wider social benefits to their citizens, will be able to correct and remedy their deficiencies.

Mr. Speaker, we genuinely do not feel that there would be a rush to countries with which people have no immediate relations and, in those circumstances, I can give the public the assurance that this Government will continue to monitor the circumstance and we will not put at risk the strong social welfare system that we have built over decades and generations for the benefit of Barbadians in this country.

We do feel that the collateral arrangements that are in place, for example, the Social Security Agreement which was signed in 1996 by CARICOM countries already paves

the way for appropriate distribution of responsibility in relation to social security benefits that members may access when they move from one country to another.

Indeed, if there is any regret on our part, it is simply that the Social Security Agreement, which is one of the best examples of regional cooperation, is limited to old age pensions, survivor benefits, death benefits in terms of widows' pension and disability benefits, does not extend to the wider range that Barbadians would benefit from in relation to unemployment, maternity and sickness benefits. 12.10 p.m.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I think I am correct in saying that Barbados is the only country in the region that provides an unemployment benefit insurance scheme, and to that extent we would be ahead. However, things like pensions, the form of income that everybody who retires relies on, is assured across borders because of that 1996 Social Security Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, when people complain about the length of time that we have taken to get here, they must remember that those social securities considerations... Indeed, I would have spoken earlier about the need for accreditation certificates. If you are going to allow people to move freely, then you must have a mechanism by which to assess what their skills or educational levels are.

That is why we brought the Barbados Accreditation Council Bill, now the Barbados Accreditation Council Act, which cross-references this Bill that is before this House and therefore shows the synergy between the two legislative instruments because you cannot constrain the movement of skilled labour without having the opportunity to be able to assess the skill or the educational qualification to determine eligibility in respect of persons moving. Mr. Speaker, these are the building blocks to which our leaders have spoken over the last 20 years or so that are necessary.

Sir, when we complain that we have taken too long to get here, we must remember that Europe believed, when they signed the Treaty of Rome in 1957 – Sir, 1989 was the Delors Report and 1991 was the Treaty of Maastricht – that by 1969 they would have had a single Europe in relation to a single market and single economy, but that single Europe Act only came in 1985 or 1986, some 30 years later in spite of the fact that they gave themselves 12 years to create a single market and single economy.

For us in this region with fewer endowments, Mr. Speaker, I think we have done well in the 15 years since 1989. When you consider the number of draughtsmen that are available to draft the complex legal documents that are necessary to be able to draft the harmonisation of laws that must take place, it is nothing short of a miracle that we have

achieved what we have achieved in the last 15 years. To the extent, as I said there are deficiencies, it is in our interest to broaden the dialogue not just to manage well, but to remember that we must continue to educate and inspire Caribbean citizens to understand that there is something in it for each and every one of us as individuals, as companies and as governments.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that with the appropriate commitments, the appropriate discipline and the appropriate public education that we can build something tangible and long-lasting in this region.

Mr. Speaker, there are two short issues I want to refer to. It is an amazing fact that we continue to have a region that does not respect the fact that the flow of information is cheaper than to move people. Mr. Speaker, at the same time that Americans learnt this morning that John Edwards was to be the vice presidential running mate of John Carrie, we learnt it here, but did we learn last night that a distinguished Caribbean Prime Minister and trade union leader Sir Hugh Shearer had died since yesterday morning?

Mr. Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to extend the sympathy and the condolences of the Government and people of Barbados to his family and the people of Jamaica for the life and times of one of the most distinguished Caribbean trade union leaders and statesman. Mr. Speaker, did we learn of that last night or at the time at which it happened? It took 24 hours later with the publication of a newspaper for us to learn about it. Mr. Speaker, I say to you that there has to be a deeper commitment to the movement and sharing of information in the region. My Ministry of Home Affairs has been working in pursuit of this.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, you would notice that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation still maintains an AM service, not because Barbadians use the AM service regularly but because you can pick up the AM service in St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Dominica, in fact, throughout the Eastern Caribbean and lest we forget, the OECS is the one region in the world in which Barbados has a trade surplus, so we have a vested interest in the sharing and dissemination of information in the Eastern Caribbean. If the Government or CBC was to abandon that AM service there would be even less information flowing, Mr. Speaker, to the Eastern Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, that AM station is now committed to a 100 per cent Caribbean format in terms of music and news. I believe the phrase that they use is "the Caribbean's Best Connection". I see the Honourable Member for St. Philip West nodding his head which means that he listens to it as well. I would not go so far as to presume concurrence and he will have that opportunity to support that.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that it is only a matter of time before it starts to stream news from each Caribbean territory from which it gets news such that those of us who want to know what is going on in other Caribbean countries, without having to go on the Internet, can have an hour or two of Caribbean news every day.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to commend the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for that move to mirror that 100 per cent commitment on 900 AM and on FM. I am told that will take place within another two to three months when the additional transmitter comes such that Barbadians who do not have the AM service on their car radios or in their house radios can still pick it up on FM and have a 100 per cent Caribbean station for which we can listen. Mr. Speaker, I want to listen to things that reflect who I am, and what I am about and to the extent that I listen to other things it is by choice and not by force.

Equally, Mr. Speaker, we commend the launching of radio CARICOM on Sunday at the opening of the Heads of Government Conference because we believe that this augurs well for the future. Once again CBC is a participant in Radio CARICOM with other regional stations which are committed to sharing programming and productions to be able...

You cannot build, Mr. Speaker, a sense of a Caribbean identity outside of the symbols that resonate with people's day to day life such as the radio, the television, the newspapers, West Indies cricket and the University of the West Indies.

Mr. Speaker, we have to have a stronger effort in terms of the movement of information between Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, Belize, Jamaica, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines including the French-speaking, the Dutch-speaking and the Spanish-speaking countries because we sit and watch television every night and see bilingual communications through the translation at the bottom of the television screen, so language cannot be a barrier to the movement of information of people between Cuba and the Dutch-speaking countries and Barbados or between Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and Barbados.
12.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I speak with a sense of passion because when I think of my own family, I have two aunts born in Guadeloupe, two aunts and a mother born in Aruba, an uncle born in Grenada, an uncle born in Barbados and another aunt born in St. Maarten. Sir, that reflected a grandfather, not the one that people commonly refer to but the one on my maternal side, the one who was the photographer, who sold his services as a photographer throughout the region. He lived in Grenada, Barbados, St. Maarten, Guadeloupe, Aruba and in Grenada.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I make the point that that level of movement in the early 20th Century exceeded the level of movement in the region today because we focus on air transportation which all tends to relate to northern movement, whereas there were inter-island schooners and a reliance of people having to rely on each other because to get the goods and services from the North Atlantic countries took too long and, therefore, there was a greater reliance domestically.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that now we have to use the television, radio, media and the Internet, to be able to bridge those gaps, to be a tangible expression of Caribbean unity and cooperation and that I look forward to us walking the walk, instead of only talking the talk.

Mr. Speaker, when we committed the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) to 80 per cent local and regional production, we are not going to get perfection overnight because there is a learning curve but we are committed to doing the right things for the right reasons. We ask Barbadians to bear with us as we start to ensure that young Barbadians and Caribbean people coming up could have that sense of confidence of understanding that they have as much a right to be on television, not only for Barbadian viewership but for global viewership, in the same way that Americans have a right to be on our television or *vice versa*. These are the things to which we are to commit. I say to you that pursuit of policy within the information and communication sectors is a *sine quo non* for further Caribbean unity.

Mr. Speaker, in all of this debate I have not addressed the issue of political union. I fervently believe that as long as persons who were associated with the failed Federation of 1962 remain at the centre of decision-making, that there is an innate fear to even refer to the desirability or to the pursuit of political union in the region again.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, as I speak here and as I look down the line of the Government Benches, I remember the words of the late Sir Harold St. John, who would have constantly repeated that he was an unrepentant Federalist. I could see him standing and shaking whenever he spoke in that way.

Mr. Speaker, this political party to which I belong, our roots are firmly and squarely within the political union of the Caribbean. We have the distinction of having our founding father, the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams being the only Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation. We feel that there is still a tentativeness in the region in relation to the discussion of the issue of political union.

We feel that when countries are serious again about engaging that topic, that it would reflect a different approach. Sir, in all of the initiatives or talk about political union thus far, is it not significant that it has never been at the level of political parties, which is the basic unit of organisation for any political undertaking?

Mr. Speaker, I feel strongly that within another decade or two, when the memory of the West Indies Federation would not be as painful and when the impact of fiscal crises, reduced flexibility and options, confront the people of the region, that the opportunity for genuine political union of some type or another would present itself.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for myself and not the Party but I hope that the day would come when I can reflect that the benefits of genuine political unions are now attaching itself to the development of the region, for I truly feel in my heart of hearts, that is the ultimate and most appropriate form of engagement for the people of the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this Government takes pride in being able to bring this Bill before this Honourable Chamber today. It is but one of the many steps that we must make in order to make the Single Market and Single Economy a lived reality, in order to reflect that lived reality can be institutionalised.

We believe that if the promise of Independence is not to become the myth of development for the next generation, then we have no option but to pursue a regional, economic union in the future, one that is committed to improving the quality of life for every Caribbean citizen, irrespective of where he or she is found. That is the least we can do, being the beneficiary of those who fought for Independence and the guardian of those who must preserve that for the generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Honourable House for a unanimous support of this Bill. I, therefore, take great pleasure in moving the second reading of the Caribbean Community (Movement of Skilled Nationals) Bill, 2004.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to second that, Sir.

SUSPENSION

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.30 p.m.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 1.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
12.28 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege to have the opportunity to speak on this particular Bill today largely because it is of major importance to the future development of Barbados and the Caribbean as a whole. As a result, it is necessary that we not only analyse the provisions with respect to the Bill, but analyse all the provisions in the various protocols under which the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is to be governed.

Mr. Speaker, at this stage I am not interested in whether Barbadians are xenophobic or not. In fact, I am not interested in any other phobia at all. I am interested in the rights of Barbadians in Barbados and as the responsibility of this Government, I am interested in the rights of the children of Barbadians, those born and unborn. It is from that perspective that an analysis of this Bill needs to be done.

Sir, one needs not to bring sentimentality or emotion but reason at this stage. This is not the time for platitudes because when the ink is dried on the paper, it is over and it cannot be pulled back. Therefore, I have a few questions to ask the Honourable Member for St. Peter and his Cabinet regarding this Bill and several provisions associated with it.

Mr. Speaker, the integration process was conditioned by the social, economic and political parameters of that time and the material condition dictated at that time was the catalyst behind the push for an integration movement. We cannot deny that Barbados has done well over the last few years as an independent nation. Neither can we deny that Trinidad, the Bahamas and several other States, irrespective of size, have done well as independent nations. Therefore, if an argument is to be put that we are supposed to do better within a context of an integration process, I would have to look closely at those arguments and the particular provisions.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time for prudence and caution. I have cautioned this Government because, if we accept that there are political, economic and social conditions that exist within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy Member States that allow for inequity to exist with respect to the administrative and legislative frameworks, then are we prepared, knowing that to be the case, to go ahead and put the necessary legislative and administrative parameters in

place to allow for the free movement of people whether in a phased or unphased manner to exist, if it is a prudent decision?

Sir, given that we would have accepted that inequity exists, we have not established how long it would take for those inequities and imbalances to be regularised. Sir, it is from that perspective that I have fundamental fears.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that it would be unethical for any set of Caribbean Single Market and Economy Protocols to establish a set of systems that would disadvantage any member within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. If we can accept that there are several States where there is reasonably good development in terms of their infrastructural and social services development, then we have to accept that these States would have the responsibility to move ahead and establish a phased mechanism to allow for the integration process to occur. Sir, does this not open up those particular territories to some form of disadvantage?

Sir, if there is a situation where, by investment and exploitation of the natural resources, a territory has been able to develop an advantage, is it reasonable for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy Protocols to establish a set of regulations under reciprocity that can allow for some of those disadvantages not to exist anymore?

Mr. Speaker, we are well aware of some of the social problems that exist that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy States which are better off would encounter in this new dispensation of equity, especially when there is free movement of labour and capital. This movement will not occur from a State of similar social and economic development but from States where there are underprivileged people, where the infrastructural and social development is questionable and where opportunities do not exist.

1.40 p.m.

If we accept that these inequitable positions exist where Member States with certain privileges have developed their social economic infrastructure in such a way that they have a higher standard of living and we move ahead without putting mechanisms in place to bring those other members along to build their administrative and legislative capacities, are we not putting ourselves at a disadvantage? Sir, that is why I said at the beginning that my interest is primarily that Barbadians are not to be disadvantaged in this process.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and his Cabinet a few questions. In order to answer the question, one must first know the question. Therefore, I want to know whether these questions have crossed the grey matter? I want to ask this Cabinet if they

had the opportunity to analyse the proposed legislative and administrative framework governing the eight Protocols thoroughly and critically to ensure that Barbados is not disadvantaged? I want to ask if these Protocols are considered practical and achievable.

I also want to know if this Administration is cognizant of the political, economic and social difficulties with Member States of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy that create inequities, as was indicated earlier, if that answer is yes, what strategies are placed to overcome these difficulties? If the answer is yes, how could the principle of reciprocity operate ethically in such a situation?

Mr. Speaker, we are aware that CARICOM ...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to take a note of the questions so that the Government can answer them but I am not sure what the Honourable Member is referring to when he refers to reciprocity, since that is not a feature of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Sir, for the sake of accuracy, I know that he is referring to Protocols but I appreciate that persons may not realise the Protocols are now all embodied in the Revised Treaty. Sir, if he can clarify for me what the last question is, I can find the answer.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, it might be wise to posit a scenario. Let us look at the possible first case that may be brought for adjudication by a so-called Caribbean Court of Justice.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: I will withdraw that.

Sir, by the proposed Caribbean Court of Justice. In Trinidad and Tobago, a large oil and gas producing country, we are being told that once all the Caribbean Single Market and Economy Protocols are put in place, the price for petroleum products that are sold to country X must be sold to country Y equitably. In other words, it would not be within the parameters of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy to accept that Trinidad would sell Barbados oil at one price and Jamaica and Guyana at another price.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: The point is, if there are differences in demand with respect to the market sizes of the territories involved, no one can question whether the demand

for natural gas or oil is greater in Jamaica or a larger territory than Barbados. The point is, that has implications of revenue and the fiscal policies of those territories. Yet, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy rule would not permit it. That is the point.

Sir, a single market for the region where administrative and legislative framework are established and harmonised by all Member States in such a way that it is supposed to allow for all Member States to be bound by standards of good services, where there are harmonisation of the Laws by the Caribbean Court of Justice, where dispute settlements are bound by the Caribbean Court of Justice, where we expect to have the harmonisation of immigration, policing, insurance, social, pension and labour policies and regional standards body, this might be achievable but when?

Sir, I am not a prophet or a prophet of doom but I will ask the question. It might be achievable but when? When this country ought to move rapidly ahead to put all the legislative and administrative frameworks in place where other territories have not done the same, are we not exposing this country unduly to unfair situations? I will develop that a little later, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, in Barbados our economic base does not allow at this stage for the absorption of the skilled or unskilled labour force. The unskilled labour force which I referred to, in respect of the definition of skilled, refers to carpenters, masons, domestics and welders. I will not be caught into any structure that will define these particular skilled or unskilled. I will determine my own.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: I will make the point again that our economic base is too small to absorb the skilled and unskilled workers in Barbados. As a result of that, even though this country cannot presently absorb the unskilled and skilled labour force in Barbados, we still know that in Barbados there are a large number of persons who are unskilled and skilled who are being employed selectively by members of the private sector.
1.50 p.m.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I try to restrain myself from interrupting the Honourable Member, but at the very First Schedule of the Bill, a prescribed criteria for skilled persons has been laid out, therefore, with the best wishes in the world, it would be impossible for us to conduct this debate if we go by an arbitrary definition put forward by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, or any other Honourable Member. The purpose of the Bill is to seek to make sense of that which is contained in its totality, including the Schedule.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, that description is an unintelligent one that does not indicate that I should respond to it.

Mr. Speaker, if I am to look at the Schedule which speaks to musicians, artists and professionals, the point I am making is that it does not speak to any person like a mason or a carpenter. Which definition is being used for skills? Who defined it so? Who ordained them that they have the only capacity to create a construct for a definition?

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. Speaker.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I am going to rise again on a point of order because I really wish to disabuse the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. If he looks at the First Schedule, he would see that numbers 4 and 5 speak to the question of certificates for any authority designated either by the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community or designated by the Minister as giving the necessary accreditation for the skill in question, so you can be a welder having received the necessary accreditation and you would be qualified.

Mr. Speaker, it is not for me to assist the Honourable Member to read, I just wish to help him to make sense. The process of understanding is where he has his difficulty.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I have no time to waste at this stage. I will continue to proceed in the interest of the people of this country, because I believe that we have a Prime Minister that is a frequent flyer and at this stage this country is about to enter one of the most profound and significant treaties that is supposed to determine the future of this country, and as a result I will take it seriously. I will not entertain innuendoes. I will not do it, Sir.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is seeking to impute improper motives to the Prime Minister of the country. In stating that the Prime Minister is a frequent flyer without reference to the fact that the Prime Minister, as we speak, is conducting the business of the Government and people of Barbados in pursuit of the very same objectives which we are debating today is to suggest that the Prime Minister flies without reference to the essential activities that must be conducted on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados.

The Honourable Member ought to know better and certainly since he is leading the debate for the Other Side today, one would expect that he would go a little higher in relation to those comments, so I am asking him to withdraw them and to stick to the substance of the debate.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I will revisit a most significant point. It cannot be refuted in Barbados by any individual who is honest that many non-nationals are being employed in Barbados in jobs that there may be Barbadians who are qualified to perform those jobs. That is the point. As a result of that, if I am to accept that we cannot at this time absorb the young men and women skilled and unskilled in a job programme, how can I accept that one would employ non-nationals first? That is the point, so I do not mind all the talk. This is very short-sighted.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading the House by seeking to suggest that both the policy and the programme of the Government endorse a framework where Barbadians are displaced to the benefit of non-nationals. I have spoken at length in the opening of this debate indicating that is neither the intention nor the action of this Government. To the extent that there is exploitation of non-nationals so that Barbadians are disadvantaged, we have sought to take action and the record is there.

I referred in relation to a matter pertaining to the head of the labour movement in relation to the exploitation of non-nationals. I refer also to a matter where the Government of Barbados insists that people must go through the appropriate processes of showing that there is no available Barbadian to do the job. To suggest otherwise is to accuse the Immigration Department and its Chief of breaching the Laws of this country. Therefore, I am asking the Honourable Member to withdraw the remarks which impute breaches of the Law on the part of the Immigration Department.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I will speak to my experience in my constituency office. I can speak to many constituents from Lead Vale in Christ Church who are masons and carpenters who have come to me and said that they have been to many construction sites in Barbados and everywhere they went the foreman was a non-Barbadian and he was selectively hiring non-Barbadians. I will speak to that because it is the truth and nothing but the truth. It relates to the same point.

Mr. Speaker, I have said in this Honourable House that the investment that Barbados has in its worker is not a shared investment. We sent that young man or woman to primary school, we gave them health care and we sent them through secondary school and tertiary school and until the investment becomes a Caribbean Single Market and Economy investment, a shared investment, I will die saying that Barbadians are not to be disadvantaged in Barbados. That is what my experience as a politician in Barbados is to me and I will not remove myself from that position. It will not happen.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to be very immoral to ask a Barbadian to leave Barbados, a country with a high standard of living, a country with a significant development of infrastructure, socially, politically and economically to go and find work in Dominica, St. Lucia or Guyana. If we are going to argue in this Honourable House that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy allows for the free movement of labour and capital, labour and capital does not move from privileged to underprivileged. It does not.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: I am using it as a singular collective noun, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, you do not get an individual moving from a country...

Asides.

2.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, once again the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. Sir, I rise on a point of order on the basis of the fact that at any stage, neither within the revised Treaty, nor in the presentation as outlined by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, has any suggestion been made that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is seeking to embrace the principle of free movement of labour. It has been made abundantly clear that it is a question of the movement of skilled nationals, and there is a world of difference.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I would have to take the argument down to its ethical principle. If, in order for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy's fundamental principles to be ethical, it then means that it must provide for the greatest majority of persons within its Member States. Not only that, it must give the greatest opportunity of success to the greatest numbers of individuals in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy Member States' total population. If that does not happen, then there are many ethical questions that would have to be considered.

When I look at what has happened with respect to decisions that were taken by the Heads of Governments to limit the category, and those categories are not the categories that the employment pattern in the region suggest represents the need. It is the unskilled labour that the employment factors suggest that we need.

Mr. Speaker, the point is that it is set up wrong. They should have learnt from the European Union's (EU)

experience, that is, to give the individual not a right to seek employment but the right to employment, and it should be applied across the Board to every individual. Groups cannot be arbitrarily chosen to determine that is the ethical position.

Mr. Speaker, I will revisit the position again. I know of many masons who are working in Barbados and who are non-nationals. I know that there are many Barbadians who cannot find work. I know of many Barbadian carpenters who would like to work but cannot find work, while there are many non-nationals working. Therefore, I will not accept anybody coming and telling me that the CARICOM Single Market and Economy does not create the conditionalities for the movement from the underprivileged to that of privileged. Why would an amnesty be given if those persons were not working illegally?

Mr. Speaker, if, in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, one of the fundamental principles is the distortion or the correction of labour in the marketplace... Sir, in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy Member States, there are high-paying destinations or countries that have a high standard of living and, therefore, pay high salaries. On the other hand, there are some territories where workers are being paid US\$100 per month, who may be qualified in terms of university education but simply because of the socio-political reality, those persons are being disadvantaged.

If the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, therefore, in its broad premise, would allow for labour to move and to settle, what would happen is that because of the cheapness of labour, private sector individuals who would move toward profits and not a social responsibility, would make that distortion become a reality because they would now hire the cheap labour. This would be done at the expense of whom? It would be done at the expense of the individuals who we would have sent to school for the last 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is already happening. Ask some of the Attorneys-at-Law in Barbados. I have spoken to many of them and they have told me about the preferential hiring of Attorneys by certain companies in Barbados. Let them refute it, I know it is true. I have seen it every day in the medical profession but yet I would hear a lot of nonsense.

There are a number of persons who would want Barbados to accept *carte blanc* that this Administration is carrying this country down the road of implementing all the parameters of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and that we are to say nothing about it. We must accept it because it is what Errol Barrow wanted before he died.

Mr. Speaker, I am an analyst. I will not accept that emotionalism. As I have said, what happened with the Federation in the 1950s was designed based on the social

and political parameters of the time and on the material conditions. We are in a different mode now and as a result, we must bring a completely different thought pattern to what is going on today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask another question. We have to be very careful that the elimination of the labour distortion in the markets would not decrease the standards of living of Barbadians at this stage. Why this is important? I will go slowly. Let us assume that there is a young man in Barbados who now earns \$500 per week. We know that it is difficult for that individual, given the high cost of living in Barbados, to survive on that and to make ends meet.

Sir, if I am to accept that there are supposed to be an elimination of labour market distortion, given the wages that are paid over the long-term, then I would have to assume that with respect to that high cost of living, those individuals who would come to Barbados, that unless they are paid the same or higher wages, which is not happening, they are being paid less, how in Heaven's name, if the Barbadian who is being paid more money and could not make ends meet, how would the new entrant be able to make ends meet, even with less pay?

Sir, that would lead to a social decline over time and many of the young men that this Administration would now want to ask to go to Guyana, St. Lucia or to Timbuktu to find work, would turn to crime because they would not be going anywhere. They are accustomed to a high standard of living and an infrastructural development that is pleasing and, therefore, they would not be leaving this country.

Mr. Speaker, this experiment needs to be reevaluated in the interest of the people of this country, and I will speak out against it.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I am very well aware of what I am saying. What is wrong is that there are some elements who would like to have Barbadians accept that there are no implications to a rapid population explosion in this country, and that there are no implications to a sudden ethnic shift in this country.

They would want Barbadians to accept that if at this stage, there are 30 000 non-nationals of a particular ethnic race, and if we allow via the accreditation mechanism and the right to establish businesses under the Protocols, they would want to tell me that because of our higher standard of living and the movement away from the underprivileged to that of privileged, that there is not going to be any significant increase, somewhat exponential in population growth in Barbados.

2.10 p.m.

It has a major impact socially and economically. Sir, any Member on the Other Side who was exposed to classical economics from the days of Malthos and others would understand the impact that I speak of. I want to ask Honourable Members on the Other Side if the non-nationals cannot get health care from the polyclinics because they are not Barbadians and if they cannot go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital unless they have to pay in a pay ward, are they going to be adequately paid in order to go to private doctors only?

Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I am hearing clearly the Honourable Member is speaking to the fact that non-nationals cannot access health care. It is not true and I will ask that he would withdraw it.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what kind of point of order that is but I will reiterate that the Laws in Barbados have not changed and that non-Barbadians can only access healthcare in Barbados if they pay for it. What nonsense I am hearing from the Honourable Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have to withdraw that remark.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, I withdraw the remark. The Honourable Member as Minister of Health should be shame for misleading Barbadians because he should know the rules and laws in this country.

Sir, if we rapidly increase the population when we are already having stress with respect to our solid waste management in Barbados, what about the impact when we sequentially open up our markets to other territories when the OECS and others have not put any of the administrative elements in place?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The only country other than Barbados to pass legislation to accommodate these persons for freedom of movement is Antigua and Montserrat whose relationship with the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is now the subject of discussion with the British Government and CARICOM. It is misleading to suggest that other countries whether in the OECS or elsewhere, have not put legislative or administrative arrangements in place to accommodate freedom of movement for persons under these categories.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East to tell people in this country how many of the 14 members of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy already have all of the administrative and legislative parameters in place for activity? How many of these territories have had or have contemplated carrying the Accreditation Bill to Parliament

and, Sir, how many of them have contemplated legislation to harmonise social security as was mentioned earlier?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member should read if he is going to lead on behalf of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, in 1996 all CARICOM countries which participated in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy signed social security agreements which are functioning and in place.

Sir, in relation to accreditation, we are now establishing the Regional Accreditation Council such that where countries do not have a national body, persons can still have their accreditation valued and certified. In the absence of a National Accreditation Council, the Ministries of Education is playing that role in certain countries.

Sir, the Honourable Member ought to prepare for debate before he comes to Parliament.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I ignore those comments because I know I am prepared before I come to Parliament but I do not say what they would like me to say. I reiterate my position because tomorrow if there was some divine intervention to say that the Caribbean Single Market and Economy was ready, several of the territories would not be ready at all. There are significant administrative and legislative infrastructural requirements that are very far behind.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. There is a rule on relevance and it is in breach. Sir, Barbados is well ahead of the pack in many ways and if one were to go by the Honourable Member's argument, then Barbados is not ready either. There is no relevance to what the Honourable Member is saying because this is a process which is being implemented across the region.

Sir, only last night the Prime Minister of Dominica said he is coming to this Parliament two months from now so what is the point that the Honourable Member is driving at or is it an exercise in consuming time?

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has not listened to his own comments. He said that Barbados is far ahead in many respects but how could Barbados be ahead in many respects? Would that not indicate that many territories are way behind in many respects? Sir, he does not understand the reasoning.

Mr. Speaker, I am going back to the social impact.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of elucidation. The date of compliance and being ready to implement the Caribbean Single Market and Economy has been set at December 2005, which is 17 months from now. The date that Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica have chosen is December 2004. Sir, to hypothesize about tomorrow is an exercise in futility when it has never been the date set either by the leaders or any member of CARICOM. The Honourable Member is treating to the issue in a way that is misleading the House and building a false argument that only he is capable of believing.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I do not engage in sophistry, deceptive argument.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not allow that. This Chair is not here to determine veracity. The Leader of the House has given dates which are established by CARICOM and I suggest that you take them into account as you speak. The dates have not come from any whim and fancy of the Honourable Leader of the House but have been given by CARICOM.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I accept your clarification but I want to intimate that there were many dates and deadlines given previously that were not met so I do not understand the point.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. December 2004 and December 2005 are the only fixed dates that have been set since the signing of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and this is a fact, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: I refer to the Grand Anse Declaration of 1989.
2.20 p.m.

Sir, I made the point that the dates were set on several occasions when you were supposed to have had...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member cannot be allowed to get away with this in this Honourable House. It is a fact that the only dates which have been set and are relevant here are the dates that relate to the obligations under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Mr. Speaker, that is the only legally binding document internationally. Since the signing of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, those are the only two dates set for compliance.

If the Honourable Member wants to speak about the Grand Anse Declaration, he should have the understanding that was not a legal document but simply a declaration of intention to put a Caribbean Single Market and Economy in

place. There is a difference between a declaration of intention and a legally binding treaty. Other Honourable Members on this Side can advise him on that.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I do not need any advice from any Member on That Side. I will get whatever advice I need from Honourable Members on This Side when I want it.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: I asked the question, are we comfortable that there is not going to be a major impact on our social services once we implement all of these administrative and legislative elements? We have an education system that is already overcrowded and ailing. If my memory is faulty, I still believe that public schools in Barbados are still schools...

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. There are more than enough places in the primary and secondary school system in Barbados to accommodate persons who apply.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I can say without fear that I have heard many school teachers in this country speak to the fact that class sizes are too large. I will still go on and say that public schools in Barbados, as far as I am aware, are still schools that Barbadians alone can attend unless there is a private school where you have to pay. I am saying that I will raise the concern of added stress on that already stressed social, transportation, health care, drug services and all of the social sectors in this country.

Furthermore, I am not going to be ostrich-like, by burying my head in the sand and say what people may want to hear. I am not going to do it. The reality is, if we accept that the population in Barbados is about 268,000, the World Health Organisation's last demographic statistics suggest that by 2025 we should have over 301,000 persons in Barbados with respect to natural population growth.

Sir, if we add 30,000 non-nationals to 268,000, we would have reached the stage of population growth now that we should be at 25 years from now. In addition, if we add the tourists that are in Barbados every day, you would understand what I am talking about. It is the stress on the social services that I am talking about and I will not be mum on this matter because the social services sectors are consuming sectors. They do not produce foreign exchange.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is grossly misleading the House. There is a very clear definition in our national census which clearly outlines what construction one can place on the numbers. The population of 268,000 given in the 2000 census is correct and that includes Barbadians and non-nationals, persons who are ordinarily residents in Barbados. Therefore, the Honourable Member cannot say to this Honourable House that you start with 268,000 and add whatever number you want as non-nationals because they are already in the figure of 268,000.

Sir, we can add the tourists because they are not counted in the number but persons, ordinary residents in the population are included in that figure. The Honourable Member can look at all the appendixes because the census further desegregates that figure. It will tell you how many people of non-national origin live in Barbados and the nationalities of those persons are at the date of the census.

The Honourable Member is misleading the Honourable House because he is misquoting an official publication of the Government, which is a document of this House.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I will reiterate my point and I would advise the Honourable Member to go and check the World Health Organisation statistics. I have nothing more to say to the Honourable Member on that matter.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: I said in this Honourable House that it is a danger for this Government to use immigration as a means to bolster the 15-59 age group in this country. I made that point before because old people do not come to Barbados. Young people are the ones that come here and work and when they come I want to find out two things.

Most of the labourers that come to Barbados do not earn enough money to reach the \$15,000 tax threshold. However, they pay National Insurance and unless they become residents or citizens and are in Barbados for 10 years and made 10 years of contributions, they contribute to the National Insurance Scheme but they do not get a benefit.

I will not allow such a strategy to be used at this time when it has dangerous implications with respect to ethnic variables and potential problems down the road.

Sir, we have to be very careful that we are not importing a race war in this country. I spent a lot of time overseas and I will not bury my head in the sand. I respect the right of every individual to attempt to advance themselves but it should be done the right way. I suspect

that the only reason we had to give an amnesty was because this Government knew that there were many people who were already in Barbados illegally and they condoned it.

Sir, I heard a Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Peter, condoned it. It is a strategy that is being used to support the National Insurance Scheme and the data is there to support what I am saying. I cautioned this Government on that and I will do it again because it is the wrong strategy to use.
2.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, to me, part of the importance of this particular Bill relates to the fact that this country will be facing a new set of economic challenges. Some of the Honourable Members on the Other Side would want me and other Honourable Members on This Side to simply say that this Bill is good, that everything about it is right, that we would have new opportunities, do not worry about the difficulties and do not worry about the displacements, that those things would be sorted out later on, but I am not going down that road. I have said earlier that the only way you can answer a question is if you know what the question was before.

I am therefore saying to this Administration that it needs to be aware, before they sign on to many of these parameters, what could be the devastating impact on this country socially and politically. Mr. Speaker, I am going to further subdivide the social implications into its various areas, health, education, sanitation and the likes. These questions were not answered by any of the Honourable Members on the Other Side and I do not know if they were entertained by the Cabinet or by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, this Caribbean Single Market and Economy gives Caribbean people an opportunity to remove the shackles of a colonial past in a real way. It gives us the opportunity to counter the impact that slavery had on our people where Caribbean people were detached from being major cultures where we had an admixture of Caribbean, African and European cultures to produce a Caribbean culture.

We now face a new set of cultural paradigms resulting from the admixture of American black and white culture. All of this must take place in a new economic set of paradigms at a time when there is obvious uncertainty, so those who do not want to be questioned on this matter, that is their business.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party has had to chart a path through uncertain waters before and we were successful. Independence was on charted waters. I believe

that Barbadians, even though they need to be concerned, should not be afraid. We have done it before. We have a lot to offer the region and outside.

Mr. Speaker, even though I accept those realities, am I to be told that I am not supposed to bring reason? I am supposed to bring platitudes and emotionalism to this fact? I have asked some pertinent questions today and I have raised some fundamental issues regarding the impact of this Caribbean Single Market and Economy on this country. This does not mean that I am against the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

I am simply asking the Cabinet of the Honourable Member for St. Peter whether they did their homework in the interest of the people of this country or whether they analysed and scrutinised with profundity the implications of the legislative frameworks that they are now putting in place, understanding that we are a country with a high standard of living and infrastructural development that is on par with many developed countries in the world and whether they have looked at what may be the Barbados that our children, those that are born now and those yet unborn, would find.

Those are the questions I want the Honourable Members on the Other Side to reflect on.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make one final point. In order for this exercise to make sense, we must necessarily move towards a CARICOM State with a political union, therefore I want to find out which one of the 13 Prime Ministers will resign or whether all of them will resign and vote one as the Prime Minister of CARICOM.

That is a fundamental question and it needs to be looked at because all of this could come to nought if we do not understand that labour and capital have fundamental impacts upon our fiscal policy and by extension would affect our macro-economic policy. Therefore, I want to know who is going to manage, who will be looking at these various impacts within a political economic sense and if each country is going to be determining their own set of macro-economic parameters? These are legitimate questions.

Mr. Speaker, if you are talking about a single market where there are no inequities and you are telling Member States that have used their investment parameters and their educational opportunities to develop an infrastructure and a capacity, whatever opportunity you give to one, you must give to all, no matter how developed they are and if there is no mechanism to manage it, you would have a problem, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Nigeria is bigger than the entire Caribbean with all the various small divisions in between and every day, every year there is some war or some rumour of war. Who are we to believe that if we do not have the

super political institution that will help to determine the politics and economics that we are not going to have significant problems later on? These are realities we have to face, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, those Honourable Members on the Other Side need to go and read Viner and Balassa of 1961 to understand the path toward a single political entity and why it is that I am questioning many of the positions today. Sir, if they had some knowledge of that, they would understand why many of these parameters will cause Barbados some problems.

Mr. Speaker, I am not against the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and I know that the Honourable Members of the Democratic Labour Party are not against it either, but it is our responsibility to make sure that we raise the relevant issues that need to be further evaluated and that are needed to be brought into the public domain to make sure that the public understands the implications of this exercise to themselves which has not been done.

We have a Cabinet that knows all. They know what is right for everybody. All the legislative framework must be right because they analyse them on a Thursday. I am not going down that road, not blindly, Sir.
2.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would hope that the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter and his Cabinet are not mortgaging the future of Barbadians for a day in the limelight. I hope that my daughter and her children would have a job in Barbados and that no one is going to tell her that she has to go to Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, to find a job, where possibly she could be kidnapped. Sir, I will not accept telling Barbadians that there is no work here for them when we have non-Barbadians employed, and that Barbadians could go to Dominica and other countries to find work. This cannot be acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I want this Administration to look very carefully at this and to protect the interest of Barbadians first, because our great grandmothers fed our children, sent them to school, made them men and women and, therefore, we have a moral responsibility, one that can only be just, if we protect their interest first. Therefore, I would not accept any regional position as establishing any other situation that could contravene that.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to give my fullest support to this Bill. I must say I am both saddened and perplexed by the presentation of the last Honourable Member.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I am not sure how his presentation would go down, either with the rest of Barbados or within his closer family circle because I thought the way he lives his everyday life was one deeply steeped in matters enriched by our CARICOM neighbours.

I thought that he, like I am, was a committed regionalist by way of the choices that he has made in other non-parliamentary aspects of his existence. I thought that like the Honourable Members for St. John, St. Philip South and other Honourable Members, that we are proud to be CARICOM citizens, and that we saw our brothers and sisters in CARICOM as being kith and kin.

Mr. Speaker, instead, we had a presentation today, in which, if it were my job to make a summary... Sir, in the world of librarians, they are asked to make abstracts. In so doing, they would give the author, the title, and they would have a limited space within which to identify what the work is about. If I were that person doing the abstract, I would have to indicate that the summary of his presentation would be to send them all home, that there is no room for them here in Barbados. Sir, the Honourable Member seems to make it clear that he does not want any CARICOM citizens in Barbados.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. In my summary I said quite clearly what my position and that of the Democratic Labour Party was with respect to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Therefore, to make such a statement is a blatant attempt to mislead this Honourable House.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the person making the abstract is not restricted to quotation. The abstractor is required to read the entire volume and to form his or her conclusion based on an analysis of all that was said. Therefore, based on everything that has been said, the concern about population size, about our ethnic composition – and he should be the last to speak because he has not made any contribution to preserve that – and the concerns about health care and education, that he was making a simple point that we in Barbados have no room for them and that they should stay where they are.

Sir, I do not share that perspective and I was concerned and perplexed by it, given the disconnection between the other aspects of his existence and his presentation today.

Mr. Speaker, today we are in this Chamber where the Other Side is being led by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, as Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the absence, probably for the purposes of recuperation, of the Leader of the Opposition. I believe it was a brutal experience

in here for him last week, and that he has gone to recuperate. Sir, on the behalf of this Side, I wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him here again.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West is leading the Opposition today and therefore, I would assume has been given the mandate to lay out their position. Sir, it would appear that the Democratic Labour Party of today has danced on the grave of its founder and distinguished leader, the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, who, most significantly in his last CARICOM presentation which I remember well...

Sir, as an abstractor, I call it the "white sand and grey sand" speech. I remember the Honourable Member saying that we in CARICOM must stop this nonsense about picking and fighting about who will buy my white sand and who will buy my grey sand, and that at the level of philosophical commitment, at the level of administrative and legal commitment, we need to accept that we are a Caribbean people with a common origin and a common destiny and that we must get rid of all of the nonsense, and that we must engineer our Caribbean society for the benefit of all of our people.

Sir, today that is not so with the Democratic Labour Party. What I am hearing coming through from the new leadership is that Barbados is for Bajans, and that we must have nothing to do with the rest of CARICOM. I hope that when the real Leader of the Opposition returns from his recuperative period, that he would set this errant Democratic Labour Party onto a new course.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, I am really disturbed. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has made a very inaccurate assertion. He claimed that many of the countries in the CARICOM are not CARICOM Single Market and Economy-ready. First of all, the deadline for its implementation is December 2005 but the Heads of Government have made a determination to fast-track this matter.

Sir, what is the status? I will let the Honourable Member know because he does not know what is going on. In terms of the signature of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, 11 Member States have signed, while 12 have applied. There is a protocol for the revision of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and 12 Member States have taken care of that, while 9 Member States have ratified the Treaty.

All of the established Member countries of CARICOM have established ministries responsible for CARICOM

affairs, to ensure that within the Government, that there is a designated point to coordinate the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy measures.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of another element, the Caribbean Court of Justice, though I am not here to discuss that today, where 12 Member States have signed the Agreement and 11 States have ratified that agreement. 2.50 p.m.

Sir, 12 Member States have signed and ratified the Agreement and all of these are aspects of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, the Honourable Member wants us to believe that Barbados has rushed off and gone ahead of everybody, that the Cabinet and Government of Barbados have been either cavalier or negligent in their duty and that we are putting Barbados at risk because we are far ahead of everybody else but, Sir, that is not so. We are together in this CARICOM ship, moving in the same direction at a similar pace.

Mr. Speaker, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is a well-planned, coherent strategy for the attainment of the goals that we have set ourselves.

Sir, in terms of the free movement of services and removal of restriction, since the year 2000 all Members of CARICOM have had to inform the Secretariat of restrictions which they had in place to the free movement of services and are prohibited from introducing new restrictions. Furthermore, the programme for the removal of restrictions is a constant item on the agenda of the CARICOM Heads of Government and at each meeting, those restrictions are rolled back. Sir, Trinidad and Tobago are ahead of the CARICOM as far as the removal of restrictions and Barbados is following next in line.

Sir, the implementation of the relevant legislation for the free movement of skills has been implemented by 10 Member States relating to sportsmen, musicians and artists. Also, the administrative framework for graduates, artists and musicians have been implemented by 11 Members to facilitate the free movement of people.

Indeed, in Barbados as with several other Member States, even before the legislation was put in place, we have by way of administrative arrangements given effect to these policies. In fact, since 1996, there was an amendment to the Immigration Act which made provision for the movement of university graduates and by way of the discretion and procedures which have been used in relation to the approval of work permits, we have already given administrative expression to our commitment to permit the movement of musicians, artists and other skilled nationals

within the meaning of the Act. I could give more details but I would not spend anymore time on that subject.

Sir, I also want to say in relation to public education that all the Member States have committed themselves to having vigorous public education to make sure that the ordinary man on the street understands what is happening and that he would not be influenced by the comments coming from the Honourable Member for St. Philip West in terms of what is happening with the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, I draw attention to two documents, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy – *Free Movement and Competitiveness* and the *Caribbean Court of Justice – Your Questions Answered* and make them documents of the House. This is only but a small slice of the publication put out on CARICOM in order to help the public understand how it would affect them.

Sir, in relation to the matter of the free movement of people, we have to understand that the Caribbean has always been a place where people have moved freely. It is only since the Federation that obstacles have been put in the way of people which restricted free movement but going back thousands of years, long before Columbus there was movement of the indigenous people of this area who moved from Venezuela up through the islands to Miami. Sir, all of this is documented and all over this island you can find places of Amerindian settlement. There is evidence that as long as 4 000 years ago indigenous people were in Barbados hunting, relaxing and enjoying themselves and the process was disrupted by the arrival of the Europeans who stumbled on these islands and declared they had discovered them.

Sir, it is a reality that this region has been built on movement. At the start of the last century, there was mass movement of 60 000 Barbadians to Panama which made a profound impact on Barbados. In many parts of Christ Church East people own acres of land which was handed down from their grandparents who purchased the land with money from Panama.

Sir, this is the practical reality of the positive impact of free movement of people. If the Honourable Member for St. Philip West were alive at that time, he would have stood guard at the port and prevented those people from leaving because he does not believe in free movement of people.

Today, I meet many people from Guyana, including a Farley, who is a jeweller who comes to Barbados when there are trade shows. Sir, he has been able to trace that we have a historic connection because several Farleys went off to Guyana many years ago. Sir, teachers, priests and several

other persons went off to Guyana. The Guyanese who come here now are perhaps our relatives who have come to pay a visit in another century.

Sir, I know the Standing Orders do not permit an acknowledgment of daily publications but today, as a centrefold, 12 executive positions are being sought in Port-of-Spain in Trinidad, a member of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, and Barbadians have the opportunity to apply for those executive positions, Deputy CEO, Human Resource Manager and Finance Director.
3.00 p.m.

Sir, the Honourable Member made a most ridiculous assertion which is not supported by the facts. He is of the view that movement within a single market will only occur from those countries which are less well off to those countries that are better off. What do the facts say so far? In terms of the persons who have been resident in Barbados as skilled nationals between 1997 and 2004, the largest single number of persons has come from the most competitive and economically secure country in CARICOM. Sir, 258 of our

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because, annually, if we were to add the migrant workers who have come to Barbados with respect to construction and other projects, it has to be significantly more than the number indicated by the Honourable Member. I would also use the same figures that the Honourable Member used, if he understands mathematics. The 886 members that would have come over a seven-year period represents 116 persons a year. If it is said that there are approximately 30,000 non-nationals in Barbados, that would mean that it would take 286 years at the rate of 116 persons a year to accomplish that, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, on any day of the week, whether it is in the light of day or the dead of night, I would rather trust the Immigration Department than that Honourable Member.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: It has nothing to do with not trusting him any further than I can throw him.

Sir, the Immigration Department, as far as I know, manages the air and sea ports. I do not know where the Honourable Member is and I do not want to know but I

know that he can never be able to convince me that I should believe his figures concerning the movement of people in and out of Barbados when I have figures from the Immigration Department.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: On a point of order. I utilised the figures that were presented in this Honourable House. I used those figures. Those are not my figures.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, rest assured, if they were his figures I would not have used them. I know that there are not his figures. There are the Immigration Department's figures.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact, that in spite of the interruptions, let us remember that Federation represented, in my estimation, the height of our achievement as a West Indian civilisation. I am a federalist. I believe that our fortunes would be greater had we proceeded as a single entity but that is the past. The reality is, political opportunism caused us to be out of that particular four-year situation.

Mr. Speaker, it also created many barriers to the movement but the flame of regional integration was kept alive by a number of non-governmental efforts, for example, West Indian cricket, our cultural workers, musicians, artistes and our workers in the informal sector. Our banana workers and traders in spices were the ones that kept this hope alive.

Sir, later on, with CARICOM and CARIFTA, Government got on board and we are pleased that there have been a number of successful governmental institutions, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), CXC and OECS and several others. The reality is, in relation to the matter of people they have to be both at the heart of the integration effort as well as the objects of it. In other words, they are both a force for development but we also have to make sure that they are beneficiaries of the economic development which would occur in the region.

Therefore, we need to make sure that in our generation that we do all that is necessary to ensure that our people could trade, have holidays in each other's countries, work, access health care where it is more advanced in some places than others and generally to enjoy all of the benefits that are being offered the region, that is my philosophical position.

I do not share the Honourable Member's views concerning the movement of people in the region.

Unfortunately, at this time, this is only restricted in the first phase to university graduates, media workers, sports persons, artistes and musicians. I look forward to the day when we would be able to expand the categories of persons to whom this will apply. In the meantime, I am satisfied that all necessary and prudent measures which are required to give swift meaningful effect to this desire have, in fact, been taken.

Sir, this matter of the movement of people takes us into the realm of the recognised need for a human resource development strategy across the region. Not only is there need for the coordination of our regional trade negotiation efforts, through the Regional Negotiation Machinery (RNM), not only is there a need for coordination of development efforts by way of the committee of governance of the Central Banks but in looking at the movement of people, we need to raise the bar with respect to the human resource development across this region.

Sir, a deliberate strategy has to be devised to ensure that in the same way that we are trying to spawn Pan-Caribbean commercial enterprises, which are of such size and sophistication to be able to compete in the global world, for example, Sagicor, Goddards Flight Kitchen, Grace Kennedy, Solar Dynamics, Trinidad Cement Limited, various financial institutions and companies that have been creative and aggressive and are positioning themselves to be Pan-Caribbean in scope. We need to have a common approach to our human resource development. Certainly, education plays a key role in that regard.

Sir, I want to let this Honourable House know that over the past several years, the Committee of Ministers of Education within CARICOM met and there has been coordination of the Education Reform Activities in CARICOM to make sure that we are able to provide enough skills across the board. In fact, the way that we see it here is that if there is a particular skill which is short in Barbados we should be able to access that skill elsewhere in CARICOM and *vice versa*, where there is a shortage of skills in another Caribbean country, we should be able to provide those skills in another country.

I made mention of an advertisement today and it is in the area of telecommunications. It is the Telecommunication Authority of Trinidad and Tobago that is seeking to access Barbadian talent to help to administer their telecommunications management infrastructure and the liberalisation of their telecommunications infrastructure because they are not as far advanced as we are in their telecommunications liberalisation. Those are the realities.

Sir, there is another aspect which is important.
3.10 p.m.

As we all know, we have undertaken education sector reform including curriculum reform, and we have done some changes to teachers' training and the way that our schools are managed, their conditions and the like.

Sir, just as it was important for us to use the tool of education to liberate the minds of our people from their colonial past, I believe we need to use it at this time to re-ignite that regional integrationist flame in our young people.

Sir, when I was a young teenager in the 1960s, up until the early 1970s, at Christmas time we used to put marl in our yard for a white Christmas. That was part and parcel of our education and socialisation which was demonstrated by that little example that we were still very much caught up in the values and the thinking that says that the work started in 1627 when the English settled us, nothing before that, and that the world revolved around Europe, particularly Britain, so we knew more about the Tudors and the Stewarts and the history of the British Crown than we knew about the great civilisations of Africa, Asia or South America with the Aztecs and the Mayas.

Sir, in the same way that conscious efforts had to be made to introduce black history to get us as a people to be confident about our origin to recognise that a sunshine Christmas was as good as a white Christmas and that we did not need marl in the yard in order to have a Christmas, we need to take that same approach in our education – and certainly under my watch it will be done – to make sure that our people see themselves not just as Barbadians on a rock adrift in a large ocean by themselves and living for themselves with no interest or consideration for anyone else in this region of the world, but that our people see themselves as part of the Barbadian constituency in the wider Caribbean nation to recognise that the future of this Barbadian constituency is inextricably linked to the future of the entire Caribbean nation.

Sir, that Caribbean nation is not limited by geography but by demographics, because part of what we must do to include and to get the full benefit of the free movement of people is to deal with Caribbean people throughout the Diaspora. We must not believe that Caribbean people are only represented by those who live on these islands.

We must evolve strategies using our Embassies overseas, using Barbadians, Jamaicans, Trinidadians and other Caribbean groups overseas and using the Internet and the ease of communication to be in contact with the Barbadian that we discovered among the Inuit up by the North Pole in Canada who is living up there very cool as if he is on Broad Street, to be in contact with the Barbadian who would work as a nurse in Saudi Arabia, with the

Barbadian who is teaching in Botswana that the Prime Minister would have met on the recent visit there and with Barbadians everywhere.

Sir, it should be part of our deliberate efforts of human resource development to specifically target our professionals, our Barbados scholars and others who are highly trained and well recognised in their field around the world to do consultancy work in Barbados and the Caribbean. Sir, I would trust a Barbadian hydrologist or a Barbadian, whatever profession it might be any day to come to do a consultancy on a matter fundamental to our development than someone from a different country with a different cultural perspective who may not have the special interest in what we have here as Barbadians.

Sir, we live in a world which is becoming increasingly globalised. Part of that strategy of fighting globalisation has to be that we do not attempt to go it alone as a small island in an ocean of hostility but that we go it as a Caribbean people in a Caribbean in its widest manifestation with 14 million people, including the people in Haiti which is part of our region, and the wider Diaspora where there is perhaps another 14 million around the world and that together holding on to all that is good and great about these islands, allowing the freedom of movement of our people to work, to play and to get to know one another, relying on better transportation.

Sir, I remember fondly, I heard about it I should say – the Federal Palm and the Federal Maple which allowed students who were studying at the University of the West Indies, Mona, before there was a University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, to be able to stop off at islands along the way to get to know one another and to get to know the family of their student colleagues. I look forward to the day when our regional airlines arrangements would be so sensible that we would not have to go to Miami to get to Belize...

Mr. SPEAKER: You like you are taking off again. Your time has expired.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having had free movement across these various islands, I strongly support this Bill, locating this matter of free movement within the wider context of the building of a Caribbean civilisation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, in my own mind, and I believe in the minds of many of us in this House, I believe that we would not have thought that we would have been debating these types of issues in the 21st Century relative to the total unification and integration of Caribbean people at this time.

We believe that the efforts of the 1950s were profound efforts and that if we had the political will and the sense of purpose and commitment to a process that had begun long before their time, we would have been further ahead. Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, my thanks extend to the good people of Christ Church East Central who have given me this opportunity to represent their interest in this debate.

Mr. Speaker, there are many doubters as to the efficacy of this process. Indeed, one of the former Prime Ministers of a large country to the north of us commented on the participation of his country in the further extension of CARICOM under the Caribbean Single Market and Economy by saying that it would expose the vulnerability of that particular economy to even greater importation and dislocation.

It took another Prime Minister to comment on that particular expression when he said that he found it profoundly wrong that a leader in a CARICOM country, an experienced man, would be making such a jaundice comment.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party does not have to retreat to some inglorious posture but to challenge the Government that as it pursues this path that this be done with the interest of Barbados and Barbadians clearly inserted in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy process. There is nothing wrong, Mr. Speaker, with the problems which can and might arise as we try to make meaning of this emerging reality.
3.20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West spoke to several of these issues, not as a means of deterring the movement forward, but to make Barbadians conscious of the challenges which this process will engage.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no turning back now, and I want to repeat that. The pathways have long been laid by regional statesmen in the genre of persons such as Robert Bradshaw, Sir Eric Williams, Mr. Forbes Burnham, and definitely the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, whose articulation of Caribbean oneness was second to none.

Indeed, it is instrumental that the children of his intellect and his words, could rise today in this August Chamber to continue to champion the cause of the people of the Caribbean nation, a nation which must be greater than the sum of its varying parts, even if those parts are scattered on the South American continent, or in the dotted islands falling along the expanse of the Greater and Lesser Antilles, tossed by the Atlantic waves, or washed by the waters of the Caribbean Sea.

Mr. Speaker, the destiny of Caribbean people must be the same, even though the genesis of such destiny were fermented in the bowels of slave ships; in the dispossession of the advantaged people from India and Europe; and in the turmoil and chaos of a plantation economy and society, with its own brand of depravity and brutality.

Sir, we as a Caribbean people with our varying shades of colours and tones, the products of mis-segregation, a process even then with its harsh contradictions, could not stop people from seeking to become familiar with each other and where, within that embrace, they have worked out a strategy for survival.

Mr. Speaker, the survival of the most harshly treated and disadvantaged speaks loudly to an inner fortitude, a spiritual connectivity and a survival system which sometimes we tend to forget, even here in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Caribbean projects such as CARICOM Single Market and Economy is multifaceted. It is but another major instalment in that project, a project which by my own understanding of the regional reality and the global, economic, financial, and political current, further compels me to strike a blow for Caribbean togetherness in all spheres of life.

I am not suggesting that several of the difficulties and challenges which beset our various states, both internal and external, would miraculously disappear. Indeed, that would be a leap of faith which as yet, I cannot undertake. There are prejudices long ingrained by perceptions of who is better than whom, whose economy today looks better than the one of yesterday, whose economy looks better than yours or mine. Sir, the dispelling of these notions will take some time but we must not falter as the project unfolds.

We must, by our very actions, persuade and convince the "Doubting Thomases" that we cannot survive and accelerate growth as micro-nations in the midst of a global thrust that recognises the mobility of skills and capital. We have to begin within our sphere of influence and gradually extend our arms to envelope our people in the metropolises, and then their friends and neighbours.

I, therefore, make a call for our businesses to traverse the Caribbean waters and to establish local brands within the wider space. It is a matter of some concern that we need ever-expanding fast-food restaurants on every street corner in Barbados. When the calming influence of such familiar figures will beckon Barbadians as they journey throughout the Caribbean, I would encourage that expansion as a means of resource building, corporate inventiveness, human capital accumulation, and many other productive exploits.

Mr. Speaker, how do we as Barbadians make ourselves more useful and needed in the wider space? As a matter of record, as a people we have been exporters of labour in skilled areas for more than a century. Our doctors, nurses, teachers, police, and others, have not only made a living within the Caribbean space, but have further afield and have impacted quite significantly on those economies and societies, and most deliberately on our own economy here in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the raising of many of our people from the clutches of poverty depended quite heavily on the remittances of those persons who have journeyed to those lands and in recognition of their rights of the families' clanships, have remitted monies back here to this country to help their families to pull themselves up from those positions of poverty. Sir, many shops have their origins in those remittances; many plots of land purchased have also their origins in those remittances; many acres of land purchased by persons of my complexion have their genesis in those remittances. Therefore, we know and understand how our people have moved and how our people have affected the land of their birth in these kinds of ways. Therefore, as an Opposition, we will not shirk from our responsibility in those matters.

Mr. Speaker, what has given us that edge in the wider field was a system of education and training, attitudes, behaviour and discipline, which have all made the Barbadian worker a sought-after worker. We have to maintain that excellent tradition because I detect that we might be encountering some slippage, not necessarily in our education and training but in our disciplines, in our attitudes and in our behaviors.

Mr. Speaker, it is all well and good to have the education and the training but if they are not buttressed by the attitudes, discipline and behaviour, we have all lost. Therefore, I want to emphasise those three attributes as being fundamental to whatever we do in Barbados if we are to continue to influence the wider Caribbean space, as we have done in the past, both as policymakers and as workers in that wider Caribbean space.

3.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we have those excellent traditions of education and training but we must not stop there. We have to ensure that those who do not realise the benefits of education and training would be propelled into meaningful action for their own survival and livelihood. This is why I decry the mistakes, errors and policy decisions of the mid-80s which affected the training of nurses and teachers in Barbados.

These skilled and knowledge-based workers are still much in demand in far-flung lands like North America, Canada, Britain and right here in the Caribbean the demand

for Barbadian teachers is high. Therefore, the initiative of the mid-80s affected the production of nurses and teachers who could have been flying our banner high and leaving a surplus for us to maintain our traditions of healthcare and education.

Mr. Speaker, experience has shown me that Barbados will not suffer with the release of some of our experienced workers. There are quality teachers whose average age is 24 who were the recipients of education from our schools and university, their desire for knowledge further illuminated my own understanding of the quality we possess among our people.

Mr. Speaker, I will clarify to show you that is happening among our young people. I was interviewing some young people whose qualifications were excellent and when I asked them about the methodology inherent within the teaching system, my heart was blessed. They were brilliant and at the average age of 24, they had already completed their First Degree and had gone on to do a Masters Degree.

Sir, this is the quality we are producing and I want to see more of this because as we spread our wings across the wider Caribbean space to places we have gone before, the proud tradition must continue. If the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth Affairs can attract the right people to our schools, both primary and secondary, and if our tertiary level institutions such as the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies can keep attracting quality educators, tutors, lecturers and teachers and students can benefit from this, then, Mr. Speaker, I have no fear whatsoever that Barbados will do well in the areas of exportation of knowledge-based thinking and processes to drive this country forward.

Mr. Speaker, we glory now in it but we owe it not to ourselves but to the foundations laid by all those who have passed before. It was like a vision because they had an understanding without knowing it. They did not realise it was a vision which propelled them to bring us to this stage that we too can embrace, refine and develop a new vision as we are doing with the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and the Caribbean-based institutions to lead our people forward.

Mr. Speaker, I want the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports and the Minister of Health to unburden themselves of the restrictions which now permeate these two Ministries relative to the movement of people, particularly the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports. I hope I could encourage the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, as Minister of Education, to understand what

is happening. When there is a call for teachers to go to the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Kentucky and New York in the United States of America or Botswana, wherever there is the call we must be ready to send them with our blessings.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, the only things that will keep them constant is the fact that they are Barbadians. This is the land of their birth and just like the thousands who went to develop the United States of America and Britain and are now returning to spend their days in the glory of their labour, they too will return to this country and glory in their labour.

Sir, I am not worried to any extreme degree. There have been concerns which have been carefully and clearly articulated by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West responding to our collective thoughts. Sir, we understand the dynamics as articulated by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, and we will work with those dynamics to effect a better process.

Mr. Speaker, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and other regional initiatives are not the panacea or the end-all and be-all of our existence because within many of the structures are opportunities for bias and exploitation, especially by the unscrupulous. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, there have been complaints and allegations of mistreatment of migrant workers and, further, the Barbadian workers feel themselves being discriminated against in their own country.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip West has spoken to this and we must not scoff at it because Barbadians live everyday with this reality and we must strike a mark for our kith and kin within this Caribbean region.
3.40 p.m.

Sir, if we understand the history of our movement and because they ended up in Guyana and the bulk of them ended up here, which is the first meeting point across the Atlantic, and were then dispersed, we would understand their kith and kin, and call them many names but, at the end of the day, we are one people of God, in the first instance, same ship, same trip and same destiny. Therefore, our empathy and understanding must be all-enveloping without being suicidal.

Sir, I want to make the point that we cannot turn back in one fell swoop the hands of time because there have been prejudices and do not let us in this August Chamber pretend that Barbadians are loved by everybody. Do not let us pretend that is the reality. We travel every day in one form or fashion and there are persons within our region who, for some reason, do not like or understand the character or personality called "the Barbadian".

Mr. Speaker, we might have encouraged it by a certain level of arrogance. It might have been a basis of jealousies developed about what we have done with limited resources of a material nature. We on this Side are willing to put that behind us as we move forward because the danger does not lie within the Caribbean space. It lies within the gluttony of the wider world who sees us as pawns in their major gains, who seek to divide us and pull us and tuck us to their sides and discard us whenever they feel like. Mr. Speaker, they pay no interest to the depth which forced us from meeting our legitimate needs from the resources which we have amassed.

Sir, the wall is not within the Caribbean. It is not Jamaica and Trinidad against Barbados and *vice versa*, or it is not Antigua against Guyana or Suriname. Unless we in the region understand that and buy into that kind of world view and thought process, then, in fact, we will be lost.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge those Barbadians who exploit persons who are part of the underground labour mechanisms in this country. There are persons who are paying rent and living in large numbers in small houses in this country and that is a fact. There are Barbadians who are willing to break the Law to satisfy their cause. Some of these workers, who because they are part of the underground work economy, find that from time to time they have to leave some of the money that they worked for legitimately in the hands of the unscrupulous. That is not the reason for establishing the Caribbean Single Market and Economy to be.

Mr. Speaker, I would not want Barbadians who travel to other countries to be treated inhumanely. Therefore, one of the liberated things that we as Barbadians have to do is to treat everyone who comes to our shores, because of some unforeseen disaster, mismanagement or some myopic of what they could or could not do, to be treated with a certain level of dignity and decency. It is important for their own spiritual evolution or elevation.

Therefore, we must deal harshly with such practices where they exist. We must set up policy frameworks to protect our people wherever they go. These are some of the challenges that we face. Sir, we on this Side support Caribbean Single Market and Economy and nobody has to tell the Democratic Labour Party about CARICOM oneness, CARIFTA or the Grand Anse Declaration or any of these matters. The Democratic Labour Party was at the foundation, the beginning. I can assure you that this Democratic Labour Party is going to be there to help carry the process forward.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, what must be our demarcation in what is happening here? How do our people make it work in the wider world without feeling shadowed in any way. It must be the quality of our work in whatever we do whether we are sawing a piece of wood manually, or

mechanically because, at the end of the day it must be in the quality of our work. There must be professional application in what we do whether we are going to teach, build a house or weed the side of the road.

Mr. Speaker, it must be the quality of our work, professional application, right attitude and behaviour of the worker. Anything else, particularly where Barbadians are going to be denied work, we are going to have anti-migrant feelings coming to the fore, hostility and ultimately, Lord forbid, violence.

Sir, I am no harbinger of such ideas. I detest violence in every form. I even detest love that appears to be violent. I leave it alone for those who are comfortable with such acts.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you are not identifying any Honourable Members in here?

Mr. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I do not know of the particular proclivities of Members of this Honourable House. I do not peep through key holes or such like but we know from reading that there are many persons who love paying for a habit by a name which I do not want to call.

Asides.

Mr. R. D. JONES: I want us in this Honourable House as we move forward and seek to make meaning that as Barbados remains the leader in the process, without giving up the rights of Barbadians, we continue to educate our people and before we even compel our people that sometimes all men might not be of the same vision but gradually as the process works, they too will buy into the vision.

Sir, we in the Democratic Labour Party stand ready and committed to be part of this process.

I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central certainly, in my opinion, gave the speech that should have been given in the initial reply to this Bill from the Other Side of the aisle.

Asides.

3.50 p.m.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, in my opinion it was a speech of compassion, a speech of wisdom, a speech from a clearly enlightened perspective, a speech of great responsibility and a speech that obviously was in solidarity with this Government and with this Government's perspective on the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. Speaker, I contrast it with the speech of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, which I have a lot of concern with, which certainly was not in the vein of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, today articulated a position on the behalf of this Government which I believe many aspects of it need repetition in this House.

Sir, I begin from the perspective; better the larger market and the widest set of options that come from being able to cooperate in the joint use of our collective resources with our neighbours. Mr. Speaker, that is the perspective that must be brought to bear on a debate which is important and critical to our development, as is this particular debate, on the Caribbean Single Market and Economy but particularly so the relevance of the issue of the free movement of skills within this region. Mr. Speaker, this is a critical and crucial debate and bears substantial relevance to our national development.

Sir, I believe that the timing of this debate in this House taking place at a time when the Heads are meeting in Grenada really brings to it a certain level of importance that we in Barbados at this time are seeking to put all of the legislative mechanisms in place to ensure that we are at the forefront of truly creating a true Caribbean nation. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there are very few issues we would debate in this Parliament in our time that are more critical and more crucial to our development than this particular debate.

Sir, the reason the whole concept of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy creates such widespread discussion politically and generally within the public is because we need as a people in the Caribbean to get this particular initiative right. Every Caribbean person should be seized of the issues that we need to succeed in this endeavour because I believe that our people will accept nothing less than our best endeavours in this particular enterprise.

Sir, I believe that this is the first realistic effort that allows Barbados the true prospect of escaping the small constraints of our land size, of our markets, of our population and our limited natural resources. I believe that this is the real true opportunity that Barbados has as a nation

to take its place within a developed world and really have a true and fighting chance of survival.

Sir, I believe that the need to succeed has created the type of fears, apprehension and uncertainty that I heard today coming from the Other Side of the aisle from the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. Sir, I do not, like some other Honourable Members, believe that the issue was an issue of non-enlightenment. I believe it came from fears, uncertainties and apprehension which is normal. However, I would have thought that anyone in a leadership position in this country, enlightened, well-read and well-educated, would have understood the perspective that would have been articulated by our leaders of the past.

Sir, even at a time before globalisation was the norm, we would have come to a place where we would have understood very clearly how much this particular perspective was needed and how we needed to discuss the issues of not what is against it but how we can work together to facilitate this movement that really is at the centre of creating this true Caribbean nation.

Sir, like all Honourable Members, I believe that the movement of skilled nationals across the Caribbean exposes many of our vulnerabilities as small developing countries. I believe that there is the probability for bias and for exploitation. We have already heard about the issues relating to migrant workers and the discrimination that supposedly happens to them in Barbados every day.

Sir, I believe that this particular debate is essential and crucial to our existence and to our future existence. Therefore, we must articulate positions that seek to manage better the process of being able to make this a reality. The skilled national movement fits into a larger frame that must be completed if we are to have a legitimate shot at a new prosperity which can only be achieved through the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Sir, to try to bring 13 separate and distinct markets together, each of which is governed by different rules to be organised and to operate more effectively is, in itself, a challenge. Everyone understands that. Sir, to be able to correct most of the deficiencies and the policies that we have had and to replace earlier and more modest forms of integration with a process that allows us to really have a shot is, in itself, challenging.

Sir, I believe that if we are to succeed there are certain measures that must be put in place. I believe that every Barbadian leader of the past – and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East quoted from two of our leaders today... Sir, in my opinion we need to manage the process

better than we have managed it thus far. Sir, if there is one failing I have identified in this entire process, it is the management of the process. Sir, our people are not just going to take it for granted that we as leaders have all the answers. Sir, if there is one failing, it has been the management of the process.

Sir, we need first and foremost to even go beyond the way in which we have educated our people relative to the concept that is the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, particularly in this endeavour of the free movement of people and the movement of skills across our region. I believe that the public relations on the issue of this particular initiative have not been as complete as they could have been under other circumstances. I believe that in itself is a concern.

Sir, I believe there are also specific transition initiatives that must be put in place to protect our own prosperity in Barbados without losing sight of being able to create the concept of true integration. I believe that this most ambitious endeavour is the most ambitious ever undertaken in this region. Sir, to put this in a perspective, the most developed and productive of societies on the globe and the most productive societies and the most prosperous developing societies in our region have built their economies and their prosperities on migrant labour.

Sir, I begin with the United States of America as an example. Everyone knows and talks about this issue of Ellis Island and Lady Liberty and the older European societies sending their people to the United States of America. Then there are areas in our own Caribbean like Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Tortola that boast about their own prosperity. Sir, a lot of their pillars of employment are built upon migrant labour.
4.00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, the Honourable the Attorney General has said that Barbados is the largest net exporter of labour to these particular territories.

Sir, I have recently had an experience where I was at the Caribbean Hotel Industry Conference, where the Caribbean Hotel Employee of the Year was from the Cayman Islands. When his name came up on the screen, it was Leroy Jordan. Sir, anybody hearing the name Leroy Jordan would have, from the beginning, understood that he had to be a Bajan. When I saw it, I told the people at my table that he had to be a Bajan. When we did approach him, he was, in fact, a Barbadian, working in the Cayman Islands, copping the Caribbean Hotel Employee of the Year award.

Mr. Speaker, I made that point to state how Barbados has benefitted from our ability to export labour to other parts of the region and to the developed world. There are a number of us here who have mentioned the issue of

remittances, what has come to Barbados, how the time has come where we need to export labour to the rest of the region and to the rest of the world, how efficient it is for Barbados at the time; and how it has spurred Barbados' development.

Sir, it is not in itself an easy task to be able to create a Single Caribbean Economy and a Single Caribbean Market space. There are a number of initiatives that we have tried or have amended since the initial effort at CARIFTA in 1969 and 1973, to be able to create that common Caribbean economy and common Caribbean market space which gives issues of the rights of establishment of enterprises anywhere in the region, to be able to ensure economies and monetary policies and the like.

Mr. Speaker, the movement of people and skills is maybe one of the more critical areas of this process to which we must pay more careful attention. I believe that it was ambitious, in the first place, to believe that we could have created a Single Market and Single Economy by 1993, particularly when looking at the experiences of other countries, particularly Europe and what Europe has been able to do.

Sir, there has been a work programme that has been implemented for the provision of the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, which has clearly identified the priorities, the chief one being the removal of the restrictions on the movement of people, capital, and on the provision of services, including the rights to the establishment of enterprises.

Sir, one critical issue that must come to the fore and must be recognised in this initiative for the free movement of people, must be that whenever integration takes place between countries of unequal strength and at substantially different levels of development, a conscious effort must be made to lift up that lesser developed country.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am heartened by the approach by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central when he spoke to the issues of how all of us are essentially in the same boat. There must be a certain level of social cohesion that must exist if we are to allow our brothers and sisters to be lifted up in the region. I believe that this talk that we are hearing everyday on the call-in programmes ...I am not saying that there is no need for us to protect our own rights, the rights of our people, or the rights of employment but the issue of being able to create a basis where all of the people of the Caribbean can be uplifted, it must be at the centre of this debate.

Sir, a number of efforts that have been talked about, for instance, the establishment of the a regional development fund, which is essentially an initiative of creating one nation for the Caribbean in the future. Sir, the countries and their

politicians must also respect the spirit and the letter of Articles 7 and 8, which concerns treatment to nationals and the most favoured provision.

Mr. Speaker, we are all in this equally and if we are able to get that message across to our people in a more substantial and serious way than we have in the past, I believe that we would be on the road to doing the right thing for all of our people.

Mr. Speaker, some persons have already articulated the point that there needs to be more consensus-building on the issues of the free movement of persons, particularly the free movement of skills in the Caribbean. There are some who have proffered the view that Barbados needs a much larger population than we already have, to take advantage of all of the available opportunities for development and for future prosperity.

Sir, I believe that in a narrow way to look at this issue of non-nationals taking the place of Barbadians, is not to understand that the skills that would be brought to Barbados that, in my opinion, would improve our efficiencies in certain levels of labour in Barbados. Sir, the net benefit would be to the future prosperity and profitability to Barbados.

I believe to narrow our horizon only to think that people in Barbados have the level of developed skills that are necessary to take us to the next level of employment, is, in itself, a narrow perspective on the issue of a national and regional development.

Sir, I believe that the cross-cultivation of skills, as has been proven in other jurisdictions, is necessary if Barbados is to truly take its place among the community of nations that gives us a chance at a new and greater prosperity for our country.

Mr. Speaker, out of all the other Caribbean nations, we in Barbados might be becoming the most cushy and the most comfortable of all the other Caribbean people around us. Sir, in Barbados people talk about absenteeism and the like but what is coming through quite clearly to me and to many others, is that a new work ethic must emerge in Barbados if we are to have a fighting chance.

Sir, from what I have experienced, I believe this cross-cultivation and new injection of skills, and being able to see other people at work, people who might be hungrier at this time than we are, will also engender a new level of work ethic among our people.

Sir, I draw this to your attention. There are a number of projects under the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport that are ongoing and because of the various levels

of skills that are available to us across Barbados now, it is said that when we contrast our levels of skills, our work ethic and our ability to work, it seems that there are a number of persons from across the region who bring a better level of work ethic from that of Barbadians. I believe that a lot of it has come from our own ability to be comfortable about our own prosperity and our level of development. Therefore, I believe it is important that these new skills should come into Barbados as well.

Mr. Speaker, interestingly, I do not know why people cannot see the effort as being one that would create new efficiencies, allow different levels of profitability, and would allow new enterprises to emerge. If we are more efficient and profitable at what we do, it also encourages the building of new enterprises and new opportunities that would emerge for all Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that by narrowing one's horizon to think that somebody else is taking one's place, is a narrow way of looking at it. We must protect the nationals of our country and must give them the best opportunities but, at the same time, it is necessary to understand that we need to embrace our fellow neighbours in the region who are as important in this process as we are at this time.

4.10 p.m.

Sir, not only are we seeking to create a movement for people at the tertiary level but I am pleased to see that sportsmen, musicians, artisans and the like are being encouraged in terms of the movement of skilled nationals across the region.

Sir, this weekend, a person born in Trinidad & Tobago who is also a Canadian national won a golf tournament by beating Tiger Woods. This sportsman has been able to ply his trade in a developed country, under the name of Trinidad & Tobago. No one can copy or duplicate him and this strengthens our skills base for future global export.

Mr. Speaker, we must focus on being able to marry the skills of those around the region who are more proficient in some areas than we are to strengthen our skills base so that our people have a chance to export their skills globally in the future. If tourism continues to be our number one industry, our hospitality workers should be able to move on to some other part of the globe.

Sir, Honourable Members spoke about teachers, lawyers and such like and the closure of the Hilton Hotel has created a basis for some of our hospitality workers to move outside of Barbados. In Canada, for example, Barbadian expertise and labour in the hospitality industry is being asked for. We have to reach the stage where Barbadians move out of traditional industries to the new service industries that are

being exported outside of Barbados that allows us to continue to build prosperity.

Sir, Barbadians go abroad and work harder than they work at home because there is a deep psychological construct in why people go abroad, in conditions different to those at home, and work harder. I contrast that with why people come into our country and seem to have better work ethics than we have.

Sir, some people in the United States of America were not prepared to work in certain areas of endeavour at the time when West Indians went into the United States of America to work. Sir, Americans collected welfare and West Indian went to work as domestics, baby sitters and the like. Barbadians went to these countries to work because there was a demand for our level of work ethics and skills at the time.

Sir, I do not believe there is a right to prosperity and I want Barbadians to understand this. It only takes two bad policy decisions and one negative external circumstance for us to find ourselves in the same boat as our neighbours. We know already about the bad policy decisions of the Democratic Labour Party and what it would have done to Barbados. There is no right to prosperity and we should not look down on Guyanese coming to Barbados because of their circumstances.

I want to warn that 30 years ago Guyana was considered to be a more developed country than Singapore was at that time. If you understand what happened to Guyana, it tells you how much we need to embrace people at this time. We need to manage the process better, protect our workers and skills base and also to create a basis for helping our neighbours because that is the only way we can build a true Caribbean nation where everyone has a fighting chance.

Sir, I do not look at the Caribbean Single Market and Economy as a historical relic as some people do but see it as an opportunity for creating a better future for all our people. I believe this is how all Caribbean people should embrace this initiative.

Sir, I am more sanguine on the issue of integration. I believe we should be cautious and that people should be protective of their rights to employment and exist in a country where their forefathers have built a level of prosperity which they should continue to enjoy. At the same time, I want to appeal to all Barbadians to understand that the right to prosperity does not exist because, as I have said, we only need to make two bad policy decisions and we could be in the same boat as some in the Caribbean.

Sir, I believe this is an opportunity for all in the region to embrace a new level of our development. We on this

Side will continue to forge the issue of better education, enlightenment for our people on the issues, better public relations and marketing of the concepts. I also believe that this is an issue which all Caribbean people must embrace if we are to have a legitimate shot at being a prosperous Caribbean nation in the future.

Sir, I am obliged to you.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I too rise to speak on this Bill and to say from the outset that I believe in localisation which I do not confuse with globalisation. Sir, I see the whole Caribbean as part of one localised concept where we join together to fight against globalisation but instead of fighting against globalisation, it seems that we are fighting among ourselves.

We have to understand that we have a common history and that our fore-parents were brought from the shores of Africa to the Caribbean to provide labour. Sir, it appears to me that since we are no longer labourers and believe ourselves to be at the capital stage of our development that we are setting about to divide and rule. We were united from the beginning and should continue to be united to the end.

Sir, our fore-parents worked hard to build the Caribbean. We came here along with those who had the capital. That is why I am going to say from the outset that labour plus capital provided the development for the Caribbean.
4.20 p.m.

Sir, it appears to me that most of the people who provide the labour to the Caribbean are now being placed to the side and a new independent group of persons who provided neither the capital nor the labour is being accepted as the number one citizens in the Caribbean but we want to look down our noses on those true Caribbean people who have built the Caribbean. I am saying that is wrong and we have to understand who was in the fight with us.

Mr. Speaker, it is rather amazing that the Barbados Labour Party has been able to make a sudden twist and turn because a few years ago we spoke of the Guyanese bench. It was the Democratic Labour Party that reminded them that Guyanese were people too and we seem to have forgotten that.

Sir, all of a sudden, a year ago, we have observed a change on the Government's side and they are behaving as though they never treated the Guyanese in an improper way. I am glad that they are now in cohesion with the Democratic Labour Party and respecting the Guyanese as our brothers and sisters within the Caribbean region.

Sir, I was very happy to hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East speak this morning and her first two quotations to substantiate what she had to say were from the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow and Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford. The Honourable Member then spoke about the Grand Anse Declaration, *et cetera*. This tells me that it is known history within the Caribbean that the Democratic Labour Party has a strong base when it comes to regional integration and no one can doubt that.

Sir, we have to recognise that the foundation of the Democratic Labour Party was built, not only on developing Barbados but developing the Caribbean as a whole. Once we understand that, we have to ask why we are still fighting within the Caribbean to be united.

Mr. Speaker, I have always argued that for over 10 years we have been behind developing the concept of localisation. In this day and age we should not be fighting over localisation but should be fighting globalisation. Instead of fighting globalisation, we are trying to get localisation to work.

Mr. Speaker, I also have a fundamental problem with this Bill as it stands. If you are saying that a skilled person has the rights of a citizen, then why is it that a spouse of a skilled person cannot have the same rights? Also, why the children cannot have the same rights as a citizen?

Sir, if you are saying that a skilled person can come to Barbados and is not entitled to have a wife who can work in Barbados and have the same privileges, I am saying that this Bill is starting with a fundamental problem. Does a disabled child of a skilled person, who is over the age of 18, require a work permit in order to work? If this is so, then something is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on the drafters to recognise that we have a problem with this Bill from the outset. Sir, you cannot say that as a skilled person who is married and moves to another country to work that my wife would have to get a work permit to work in that country. I am saying that we should correct the flaws in this Bill up-front and I will outline them later in my speech.

Sir, when you study this Bill it does not make any sense. If I am married to a person who is not a Barbadian and bring her to Barbados, she is entitled to work without acquiring a work permit. Do you agree with me, Sir?

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, you cannot tell me that this Bill is supposed to correct all the wrongs and harmonise the Caribbean but if I am a skilled married person and I go to work in another country, my wife is not entitled to the

same rights that I am entitled to. We in the Democratic Labour Party would like to see these changes being done.

Sir, Barbados should be the last country in the world to complain about the movement of people. The reason why we are complaining about the movement of people is that up to this day we have not appreciated the returning nationals or their contribution to this country. If we had appreciated the contribution of the returning nationals to this country, we would not have all the red tape in place for these persons.

Mr. Speaker, you would not believe that for a returning national to bring a simple car to Barbados, that returning national has to look for over \$40,000 to bring it to Barbados. If we are saying that rights should be given to people under this Bill, we have to understand that we first have to learn to appreciate our own people. If we cannot appreciate our own people, then we cannot appreciate others.

Sir, I am saying to the drafters of this Bill that before we can correct the problems within the Caribbean, we have to correct the problems of our own people. Returning nationals are those persons that bring new capital to the country...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, I said openly that if I had the decision to make, returning nationals would be able to bring two cars to Barbados and they would be able to do whatever they want to do with those cars. However, I would say to them that after they dispose of these cars and they want other cars, they would have to pay the full cost of the cars.

Sir, we have to understand that when returning nationals bring vehicles to Barbados, they are bringing capital to Barbados and it means that we do not have to use our foreign exchange to buy those vehicles. If they sell those two cars to Barbadians, that is two sets of foreign exchange that we do not have to look for. However, if they sold the two cars they would have sold their rights to duty-free concession and would not be entitled to that benefit again.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, the problem is, we do not understand the difference between maximising foreign exchange and revenue. We want to maximise foreign exchange and revenue at the same time. The most important thing to a country like Barbados is the foreign exchange, and not the revenue. We have to understand that it is the foreign exchange that is used to develop the country and once we have foreign exchange we can create revenue but it does not

necessarily mean that if we have revenue we can create foreign exchange.

Sir, if we are to seriously move this Bill within the Caribbean region, we have to look at the development of capital markets within the region. I deplore the ignorance that all Caribbean Governments accept that we borrow loans to develop their countries. There are stipulations to be followed but yet you are told who should do the work.
4.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that if we bring a Bill like this we also have to bring a Bill about capital formation so that we in the Caribbean can borrow money from within a pool so that we can help one another. All we are doing in the Caribbean is borrowing from outside and making substantial payments outside of the country when we have resources in the country. On top of that, we are not helping our own within the region, but are allowing globalisation to take over from localisation. We have to stop that, Sir.

Sir, we have to understand that we have the capacity to generate the capital markets within the Caribbean region. If we are going to be serious about a single market and economy, the market cannot just be about goods and services, it has to be about capital and everything that is marketable.

Mr. Speaker, if the leaders do not understand that, then we could tear up this Bill because once we get involved in this, we are getting involved in serious stuff and we have to have an understanding of what we want from it.

Sir, it is clear to me that Caribbean leaders have not maximised on this particular Bill. There is a lot to be had from this Bill and no piecemeal approach is going to solve this particular problem. If we are going to free movement, we have to decide that is what we want.

Sir, when we were speaking about LIAT and BWIA, I think you would remember this, Sir, I said that in order for those airlines to work right that the first thing we have to do is to accommodate the free movement of people. Mr. Speaker, many people believe that because of the free movement of people that people would just run from one country and come to another country. That is foolishness. There is a limitation. We have to understand that before politicians were moving freely within the Caribbean and the Caribbean was working better, but since we came along, we have put stumbling blocks in the way of our Caribbean people and instead of allowing them to move freely, we allowed globalisation to take over and allowed the people who are globalised to move freely. That has to stop. We have to have an understanding of who we are and where we are going.

Sir, the problem within the Caribbean right now is that we do not have an understanding of who we are and where we are going. For example, we feel that we could climb like crabs on one another's backs. When a country has resources, we run to that country and we feel good, but when that country gets into trouble we want to dump it by the roadside and hook on to somebody else.

I am saying that is wrong. I have said repeatedly in this House that Guyana did well for the Caribbean, and if we have to turn around now and do well for Guyana, well then we should do it for the simple reason that if there is one country in the Caribbean that has a lot of resources that can be tapped into, it is Guyana.

Sir, I think that we as Caribbean leaders and Caribbean politicians are failing our people because we should be building a relationship with Guyana and its people so that we can tap into their resources, accommodate them and help them to build capital to help build their country so that the whole Caribbean can take over. Instead of doing that, we are giving up what we have and we are like the dog and the bone where instead of holding on to the bone, we drop the bone to go for the shadow.

Sir, I am saying that Guyana has served Barbados and the Caribbean well. However, one thing we should not do is to use the Caribbean people for votes. Everybody sees everybody in the Caribbean as a vote. That is the wrong approach. We should accommodate those people who want to come to Barbados to do a job that will not be done by Barbadians, but we must accommodate them as temporary workers not running and giving them identification cards hoping that five years down the line that it will be a future vote. This is not about votes. This is about the development of the Caribbean.

Sir, just because we want to get votes, we are forgetting the principal stance that the Caribbean is the place for development and only sees it as a place where you can get votes. Sir, everything is seen through the eyes of a vote, but we are fundamentally wrong in that approach. We have to understand that we have to enrich the Caribbean and not enrich our voters' list. That is wrong. We should not be using our own. The problem is that we have used our own and because we have used our own, we have allowed other people to use them also.

Sir, I am saying that this is heavy stuff and we have to understand it. We have to understand that we have resources in the Caribbean and we have to know how to pool them and how to exploit them. We cannot continue to treat everything as a flying fish. We have to look at the bigger fish and understand that even the flying fish got tricks now because

when they get frustrated with you they move away and go elsewhere. We must understand that we have to care everything that we have. We have to know how to go after them.

The fishermen will tell you that there was a time when a harpoon of rotten fish was the best thing to catch the flying fish with. Flying fish do not want rotten fish anymore, they want sardines, mackerel and things like that. What the fishermen are eating for lunch on the sea, the flying fish want that too. Sir, we have to understand that we have to raise our politics to that level too and stop seeing people as vote catchers.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Everybody knows that the capital of St. Lucy is the place where you would find a lot of them.

I am saying, Sir, that we also have to understand that we are fortunate. We have exploited our people. We have sent them all over the world. We have asked them to go out and send back the returns and they have done that. Now, we have to be compensatory in our ways, but that is what is lacking. The people have done everything we have asked of them, but we have not been treating them right.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that returning nationals should be seen and treated like new capital. They should not be seen as cast-outs or as people who are coming back to Barbados to beg anybody for anything. Any returning national who feels that they are coming back to Barbados to beg anybody for anything, is wrong. They should demand of the Governments of Barbados their rightful return.

They have gone out, they have worked, they have done their investment and they are entitled to a proper return on their capital. When you get capital from them, you do not have to pay foreign exchange in return. When they bring their bank accounts from overseas and place it into our banks, you do not have to use foreign exchange to pay interest payments on that. That is a new form of capital from outside sources which does not need foreign exchange to service it. When you borrow a loan that is what is required.

Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that those returning nationals are providing and playing a vital role within this economy and we must be appreciative of it. I know you are, Sir. I do not have to convince you, but we have to convince the politicians and other Barbadians that those persons are playing a significant role within our economy, so we must do everything within our power to make sure that returning nationals do not only return in body but that they return with the capital they have accumulated.
4.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we have nationals returning to Barbados but their bank accounts are elsewhere. Sir, we do not need that. We need to treat them in a proper way and to make them feel wanted. We need to make them feel that they are part of the society again, so that they could bring those large bank accounts back and put them into our banking system.

Sir, I have already suggested that whatever they are getting overseas, that the Government of Barbados should be prepared to pay 2 per cent higher than that because it is foreign exchange that we need, and that the people of Barbados would have no problem in carrying that cost. What it would mean is that what we lose in revenue in local interest, we would gain in foreign exchange, which would be greater.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at our capital payments and the amount of money that we have to repay on the loans we have borrowed, you would understand how the returning national could save us that problem. Sir, this is something we have to study. We have to understand that as long as we start treating the returning nationals right, then we can appreciate our Caribbean people. If we do not treat the returning nationals right, how can we appreciate the Caribbean people? There is a culture being practised in our heads that we need to get a sea bath and wash out because we have to learn to appreciate our own. In another place, I would have spoken about a bush bath.

Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that the Caribbean belongs to us and that whenever there is a problem in the Caribbean, there are some persons who could run and go elsewhere but we do not have anywhere to run. Sir, I have no interest in leaving this rock. I am happy and want to build a foundation for everybody, but we must understand that to build a foundation, it must be built right.

We must understand that we cannot have one language for one person and another language for others. We have to understand that globalisation cannot have priority over localisation in the Caribbean. Localisation must have priority over globalisation in the Caribbean for all its people.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, there is much national discussion about this issue and I believe that we have an opportunity and a duty as a Parliament and as politicians, to either pander to the popular sentiment that this is not the way to go, or seek to explain why it is that our future lies in the path onward to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Mr. Speaker, in this regard, I believe that the Government has not been as proactive as it could have been, in explaining to the public the importance of this juncture,

and why it is that it is so important to us as a people. Government also needs to explain why it is that even against some public sentiment, they seem to be going forward with it.

Mr. Speaker, let us understand that both Administrations and both political parties have done much to advance this issue of integration in the Caribbean and the realisation of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy. When one listens to public discussion, the very first concern which should strike one is the fact that even at this stage people are still getting the abbreviation wrong, using the letters interchangeably. That should signal to us that people are using the acronym without understanding what it really stands for. Therefore, I start by making the point that our public education effort in this matter needs to be heightened.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that in Barbados and perhaps in the rest of the Caribbean, there is agitation against it because we are, in fact, an imported population. We in the Caribbean who are not the indigenous Caribbean people are saying that we do not want other people who look like us to come to Barbados anymore; that we do not want to add to our numbers; that we do not want people taking away jobs, opportunities, our homes, alienating us or making us second-class in our own societies.

Mr. Speaker, that says to me that the Government has not explained to the people what measures are being put in place to ensure that our indigenous populations are protected. Sir, but the issue is, protected from what? The level of discussion on the call-in programme if that is, in fact, a true gauge of public sentiment, would tend to suggest that the public is averse to this integration process because they fear the outcome and the impact on their individual lives and on the implications for the wider society.

Mr. Speaker, what is it that we fear? In looking at the matter, I am fascinated by the level of public discussions because I am asking what was it that has broken up the Federation because this is not the first attempt at Caribbean integration. It has been much talked about, it has been tried, and we have not succeeded in the past. Therefore, if we keep on the path on which we are currently going, we will not succeed on this occasion either.

Mr. Speaker, we would not succeed because leaders cannot be talking about integration without bringing their respective societies into consensus with the view of the leadership of the political parties, Governments and Oppositions.

Mr. Speaker, we have to first accept that we are our Caribbean brothers and that we have a common destiny. Sir, reggae singers and calypsonians have been singing it for a

long time, politicians at various levels have given lip service to it, but when it comes to the crunch and we have to take the forward step, people are pulling back and, for example, saying that they would have nothing to do with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ); that they have difficulties with certain things; that they do not want to be a part of something; that we in the Caribbean refuse to pay for common institutions; we are in deep debt as Caribbean people to the various institutions of governance; whether the institution is British West Indian Airways, LIAT (Leeward Island Air Transport) that move us and facilitate trades and interregional travel; whether it is the institution that trains us and equips us for living in the Caribbean and beyond, we are in debt.

Mr. Speaker, if we are talking about a CARICOM Single Market and Economy, we cannot be talking about the structure and framework of the future but we have to think in terms of how we give support to what we have already existing and how, in fact, one adds to these institutions if we are not supporting those which presently exist.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, even in this integration movement, we are going through a deep and fundamental fight with ourselves and our natural inclination to live separatist, insular existences. In my view, as a Government, we have not confronted the fear that our population has, which can be characterised, specified and categorised. It is a fear that is born out of distrust.

As a black people, we have not yet learnt to trust ourselves. We do not trust ourselves at the local level when we should be integrating for business opportunities. We do not trust ourselves within our own neighbourhoods. Therefore, when we cannot trust ourselves within our own Barbados, how is it expected that we should trust the St. Lucians or Dominicans who are speaking with a different patois to that with which we are familiar.
4.50 p.m.

The first issue we have to overcome is one of trust. Can you come into my waters and fish for the fish you want and in which I have no interest? It is an issue of trust and has to do with the level of cooperation that we want to or do not want to give to brothers.

Sir, when you block the economic viability of another simply for blocking sake, you cannot be talking about going forward as a single regional entity, so there is an issue of trust that we have to overcome.

Sir, there is also an issue of discrimination. Not so long ago there was a situation, even though we are talking about the movement of skilled professionals like journalists, where Barbadian journalists legitimately plying their trade in

other Caribbean Islands were pushed out. Hence Barbadians are likely to ask why we are moving quickly and opening up our doors to everybody but Barbadians are still being discriminated against in the rest of the Caribbean. Sir, this is a legitimate fear we have to address if we want people to buy into the integration process we are promoting.

The issue of a common currency is another fear because Caribbean currencies do not all have the same value. If there is going to be economic integration the issue of economic and financial parity has to be confronted. How are you going to equate these dollars that have such diverse values from the south in Guyana where you can become a millionaire overnight with a few hundred US dollars to Barbados?

Sir, there has not been enough education on these fundamental issues for people to overcome their fear. This is not only true in Barbados but in the rest of the Caribbean and people are going to be reluctant to embrace integration enthusiastically until these fears are addressed.

The fundamental issue of how to get bread on the table and pay bills is the argument most Barbadians are using for resisting opening our doors to Caribbean brothers and sisters. They fear a loss of jobs within Barbados to other Caribbean nationals. I have heard others in the Chamber say today, and I am inclined to the view that an opening of our doors will not necessarily mean that there will be an immediate flood of thousands of people into Barbados but there will be people coming here because Barbados is a desirable place to live. The compendium of social services and infrastructural development that we enjoy will make Barbados appealing to several people whose countries are not equally developed.

There is also a reversed opportunity here. The people who are my contemporaries at law school who chose to work in the Eastern Caribbean as opposed to remaining in Barbados, or some of the more developed Caribbean countries, had ended up at the level of judges but in Barbados nobody of my age is yet on the Bench.

I am making the point that there is a need for trained and skilled persons in other Caribbean Islands that we must not only look at the fact that other people will come to Barbados to improve their circumstances but we must see ourselves as having skills and services that we can sell in the rest of the Caribbean and advance ourselves in other Caribbean societies.

Sir, it is wrong to think that when we have trained all of these graduates at the University of the West Indies that they will all get a job in Barbados because the economy cannot support every single university graduate coming out this July from the university so they must look to job opportunities outside of Barbados.

We have to encourage our young people to go to places like Australia and New Zealand where there is a dearth of trained professionals and a lack of skills at the highest level and tremendous opportunity for rapid upward social mobility, large salaries and comfortable standards of living.

We must train our young people to go to places like India, Japan and Latin America where we have skills that we can sell to these people and use our training and educational standards to propel us to executive positions at very young ages. Sir, in overcoming the fear, we need to start explaining to Barbadians what are the opportunities for them. Instead, we tell them that it is wrong to be afraid, that they are mistaken to have the view that they are going to be under threat, or that their way of life will be threatened in some way. We need to tell them of the opportunities of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. There are many social and economic opportunities that will be presented to the people of Barbados to move freely, sell skills and services and do well in the rest of the Caribbean.

Sir, we talk about Barbados being too small to carry all these people, but with an influx of skills will also come new economic activity. I believe that the demographers need to tell us what sort of skills we need in Barbados, how to look at the way the economy is growing and make a determination about what we need to input in the economy at the level of services and skills to make it grow even more rapidly.

If we look at Singapore, it is a small country with a population that runs into millions yet we say that we are overpopulated here in Barbados even though an analysis has not been done to determine what is the optimum population base for Barbados and what sort of economic growth we can generate based on a particular population size with a certain type of skill set.

Sir, it is a fact that migrant labour is being exploited and there is no use in denying it. We do not want to confront the fact that in a lot of instances people are coming to Barbados to do jobs which Barbadians no longer want to do. This is true of the agricultural industry and it is easier to get non-nationals to work in agriculture than to find Barbadians. However, I do not support a situation where we have skilled artisans who are being excluded from construction sites in favour of non-nationals because the rates charged by non-nationals are lower.

Sir, this is where the union needs to step in, go to these sites, ensure that non-nationals have skills and that they are being paid sums on par with what the market skills demand. 5.00 p.m.

Sir, in that way the prospective employer will have little choice between employing the Guyanese, Vincentians,

St. Lucians or the Barbadians because they will all be asking for the same rate.

Sir, as people, we must not quarrel at opportunities being made available in Barbados. I am a descendant of two parents who went to England in the 1950s and both of them worked two jobs, developed a dream of opening a laundry in Barbados and they saved their money to set up a business here in Barbados. Ultimately, Barbados benefitted from my parents going to England as unskilled labourers. They acquired skills while they were there and came back to Barbados and are now the owners of the second oldest laundry business in this country.

Sir, while we talk about sending Barbadians abroad and remittances, at some point Barbadians return home and also bring their skills. There is a certain richness in cultural diversity when these migrants come to Barbados. We would not know what roti is in Barbados unless we went to Trinidad or India if we did not have Indians. We would not experience jerk pork unless Jamaicans came here and prepared it. These people will bring skills from which we can benefit.

Sir, we must be careful of the number of people that come to Barbados, what they are doing and to the extent to which some of them are going to be a charge on those Barbadians who are working. However, I think that there are wider benefits, not only in terms of the economy growing and the introduction of new skills. The reality is, we must do our utmost to bring these people into the income tax net to ensure that they are paying their way in the society the same way that we as Barbadians have to pay our way. That is what causes the resentment.

Mr. Speaker, Barbadians feel that these people come to our country, in some cases the Guyanese and other non-nationals are asking to be paid in United States dollars, they are making no contribution to the tax pool and they are not paying National Insurance. Therefore, Barbadians are at a disadvantage relative to these persons.

However, if the Government goes about bringing them into the tax net, ensuring that they pay their National Insurance, the problem that we are experiencing now in Barbados, with a shrinking labour pool and National Insurance benefits burgeoning all the time, that problem could be alleviated by an influx of labour.

Sir, the reality is, Barbados has had, except for Immigration, virtually negative population growth since the successful introduction of family planning. Indians in Barbados are having children but black people are not. That is a reality. Therefore, we have to look at what sort of population we need to keep our basic social functions going.

Sir, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital operates at 60 per cent of capacity except in areas that deal with the chronic diseases. There are excess capacities in many areas of the school, so we can afford an influx of people who are being tapped to add to the pool to help pay for the services that we are benefitting from. Barbadians do not think about that perspective of the argument.

We also have to ask ourselves if population planning has not been too successful among black people in Barbados and whether we should not be promoting, particularly among middle-class and professional women who have opted not to have children. I would have to be guilty but that does not mean that I intend to change my personal decision. It simply means that I will encourage other women to have children.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: It brings us to the question of, what are the skill sets to which Barbadians and the country are being exposed?

Mr. Speaker, I have made the point in speeches outside of the Chamber and I would wish to make it here, that there is provision in the legislation for CARICOM accreditation Committees. As it stands, without accreditation a person who is a gardener in St. Vincent can opt tomorrow to come to Barbados and describe himself as an A-class mason. There is no certification required or no test that we can put him through to ensure that he brings the skills that he said that he has.

A company in Barbados who is looking for skilled artisans, advertises outside of Barbados for such persons and a person who is not doing well as a gardener decides that he can earn more money in Barbados as a mason and decides to come. That is what we have to guard against because he may then, in fact, be taking the job of a Barbadian A-class mason.

Sir, I will make the point that we have people in Barbados who are also describing themselves as A-class masons who are not and who are charging mason rates and doing Z-class mason work and the householder is at a disadvantage.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: As I came into Parliament today, a gentleman sought to quarrel with me about this issue because of a speech that I apparently made some time ago on this issue of accreditation which was reported in today's paper. Accreditation is a protection mechanism for the consumer and artisan so that he can show

that he has the skill level which he purports to have.

Equally, our skilled artisans have opportunities in the rest of the Caribbean because of the level of the construction boom which has taken place here, the types of buildings being constructed in Barbados and where other Caribbean countries do not have an equal level of development are now seeking to construct.

Sir, do we want to build a multicultural society? That is one of the issues we have to confront. All the people from Guyana do not look like us. We also have people from China in Barbados and this has implications for what our population is going to look like in the next 15 years, especially if the indigenous black population has made a decision that they are not having children. These are the issues we have to confront.

Mr. Speaker has signalled to me that I have a minute left. There are a few points I would like to make, some of which I will have to omit.

Sir, it is critical that the Government ask itself whether it is moving too quickly on this issue. How do we overcome the fears of the Barbadian population? Some are legitimate but Barbadians cannot boast that anywhere in the world that you go you could find a Bajan and then be angry if people want to come here. Sir, there is a certain unfairness intrinsic in that. It benefits us to have someone like Sir George Alleyne at that level at PAHO and it benefits us to have Barbadians overseas. Then, let us not say that we do not want our brothers and sisters to come to Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to move through the region, there are facilitation documents like passports that we have to address. With the World Cup Cricket 2007, I am going to hear that it is critical for all non-Caribbean people to be able to move through the country quickly with minimum immigration delays and minimum check-ins at air and sea ports. Therefore, it is critical that our people are treated with the same kinds of courtesies.

I remember two weeks ago, travelling on a diplomatic passport. I went to take my mother for medical care to another Caribbean Island. The Immigration Officer asked where we were staying and I said at a monastery. He asked what was the address and I said that I could not remember. The Immigration officer got upset and started asking me a lot of questions.
5.10 p.m.

I was travelling on a diplomatic passport. I could not remember the detailed address but I had the telephone number of the location and I knew that I was staying at a

monastery. We cannot be hassling our Caribbean brothers and sisters in that way. In simple circumstances we can make each other feel tremendously unwanted by the attitudes we exhibit right there at the point of entry.

Sir, while it is not directly related, when we come here and we want to work, one of the difficulties that we face relates to drivers' licences. People get charged in Barbados for driving without a driver's licence because in the rest of the Caribbean you can take your Barbados passport and your Barbados driver's licence and be issued a driving document immediately and you can drive all over the Caribbean. To do so in Barbados you have to go to a police station and be issued with a Barbados driver's licence, so there is discrimination in that.

We cannot be talking about opening up our boundaries if we are leaving discriminatory practices in place. The reality is that many people do not know that is the requirement, so they come with their licence not intending to do anything illegal, drive and then get caught by the police and then be charged for driving without a driver's licence.

Sir, simple things like that could make a difference to whether you are identified as a criminal in the country in which you are seeking to go to work or whether you are accepted as a law-abiding citizen.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could you conclude now, please.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Yes, Sir. I thank you for allowing me the time to make this contribution.

Sir, this is an important debate. It is an important juncture. We cannot continue to fight ourselves and resist integration. If we want to compete with the rest of the world, we now have to compete as a single Caribbean entity. Therefore, I give this Bill my full support.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this Bill be postponed at this stage.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION THAT THIS HOUSE RESOLVES
ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO
CONSIDER THE GRANT OF SUMS OF
MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF
THIS ISLAND

On the motion of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. R. D. MARSHALL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE
SUM OF \$2 800 000 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED
FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL
OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE
ESTIMATES 2004-2005 AS SHOWN IN THE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
NO. 1, 2004-2005 WHICH FORM
THE SCHEDULE TO THE
RESOLUTION

HEAD 45 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
– \$2 800 000

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, this supplementary of \$2.8 million is required to supplement the Estimates of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. We intend to rehabilitate Martindales Road which has commenced and we have already had funds for part of the road. We are also looking at Green Hill, St. Michael and the Hindsbury Road junction. We have to plane and resurface the junction of Hindsbury Road and Bank Hall. There are also works to be done at the Norman Niles Roundabout and the Everton Weekes Roundabout in St. Michael.

In the parish of Christ Church a small amount of work has to be done from Gibbons to Thornbury Hill. We also have to resurface the road on the ABC Highway from the Edwy Talma Roundabout to the Henry Forde Roundabout. Work is also to be done from the Garrison to Hastings and the Rendezvous junction, this is Highway 7. Work was done before in the Bay Street area, but it is deemed necessary at this time to rehabilitate this junction.

We are also undertaking work in the St. Peter area from Rose Hill to the Charles Duncan O'Neal Roundabout which is Phase 1 and we have to do a Phase 2 at the Rose Hill area. We will take the opportunity as well to lay two

water mains in that area. Work will also be done from the Six Men's junction to the Colleton junction. We started some time ago to do the Speightstown bypass which starts from the lights at Speightstown to Six Men's and we will continue from Six Men's up through the cut rock to Colleton. We recognise that other work is to be done in the Colleton area which would be done at a later stage, so Phase 1 would be from the Speightstown to Six Men's and from Six Men's to Colleton.

In St. John we have to also do Phase 2 which is from Massiah Street to the St. John's Parish Church. Phase 1 started at the District "C" Police Station and went to Massiah Street.

Over in St. Philip, Mr. Chairman, we have started work at Union which is progressing quite satisfactorily. I understand that there may be some minor adjustments that would be needed and we will have to meet with the Minister of Energy at a later date. Still in St. Philip, we have to undertake massive work between the Six Roads junction and the St. Philip's Parish Church. It is called Sunbury Road. That road is in a terrible state and it will be milled and resurfaced.

Mr. Chairman, money has been already approved for these roads in this year's Estimates. This money we are seeking today is mainly to supplement the expenditure at this time.

Mr. Chairman, I want to let the House know that we have completed to a large extent the Bridgetown road which when it is completed on the 17th of this month will cost approximately \$59 million.
5.20 p.m.

The lights at Roebuck Street and White Park Roads are now functioning. I understand from the Electrical Engineering Department yesterday that the only lights that are presenting some problems are those at President Kennedy Drive, which in another week or two, should be corrected and functioning properly.

Mr. Chairman, by and large, these funds should be used to rehabilitate these 16 roads that I have outlined. Of course, you would know that this is part of the Road Rehabilitation Special Project which Government has begun in 2001.

With those remarks, I beg that this Head stand part.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to second that.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is quite clear to me that this new Minister does not understand his Ministry, neither does he understand the reason why the road

was changed from Judge's Gap to Kellman's Road. He has now put the Government back into that complaint that they have been hearing since 1994, which is, that everything leads to previously Judge's Gap, now renamed Kellman's Road.

Mr. Chairman, everything the Honourable Member has spoken about is in St. Peter and it is quite clear that fairness is not being practised here. There was a saying by the constituents of St. Lucy that one could tell whenever...

Hon. A. P. WOOD: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is deliberately doing it but it is incorrect to say that everything the Honourable Member for St. George said is for St. Peter.

The Honourable Member was very clear in pointing out the parishes in which these works would be undertaken. He mentioned St. John, Christ Church, St. Michael, and he certainly mentioned some projects in St. Philip that are badly needed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am so glad for that clarification because one would believe that after a Minister could receive a report from his Ministry and one from the Rural Development Commission, which shows that there are 110 roads in St. Lucy to be constructed at a cost of \$26 million, when a Minister could receive a report stating that all the roads leading from St. Peter into St. Lucy are in a bad state of repairs and need urgent work done, that a Minister could come to this Parliament and ask for another \$2.8 million and in no way has mentioned anything pertaining to St. Lucy.

Mr. Chairman, for the last 10 years we have been persistently complaining about the state of the roads, especially the highways leading from Kellman's Road. Sir, I wonder if the problem has to do with the naming of the road because there is a situation where from Kellman's Road to Checker Hall, every time one drives on that road leading from St. Peter, automatically one can tell that he is on that stretch of road because all one could feel would be "bruggadung, bruggadung, bruggadung".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the Honourable Member for St. Lucy please speak English?

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Well, I could only express to you what was expressed to me by my constituents. I can only come to this Parliament and report on their behalf. In other words, as soon as one leaves Six Men's and going to St. Lucy, all that one would get are a number of potholes leading into Crab Hill.

Sir, being a Christian person, I thought that when the Honourable Minister said that he was leaving Six Men's to go to Colleton, that at least he would have included the Anglican Church and would have taken the roads straight to St. Lucy's Parish Church to accommodate the Christians, but I could not believe my ears when he said that he was going to stop at Colleton because he knows that is the area that ends the political boundary into St. Peter.

Mr. Chairman, this Parliament is not about partisan decision and I think it is only fair for the Leader of this Honourable House to inform the Minister of Public Works that Government has to do with all parishes, not part thereof and excluding others. I think that at least the Honourable Member could have said to this Honourable House that he would have done a part of Colleton, also in St. Lucy, and that would have at least pleased my heart but when he said that he was doing Colleton, St. Peter, clearly I knew that it had to be a political statement, and that the interest of St. Lucy could not have been served.

Mr. Speaker, I have hopes in this Minister and I can only believe that on the next occasion that this Minister comes to Parliament for a Supplementary...

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: ...that he would inform his technocrats. I will now have to believe that this cannot be the fault of the Minister and that the Minister is only reporting on behalf of his Ministry. I would have to believe that he will go to his Ministry tomorrow and remind them that St. Lucy and St. Andrew are still parts of Barbados, and that all those other parishes that were forgotten, are still all parts of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, with St. Lucy being the only parish in Barbados where one could find 110 roads that need repairs, the only parish where one could find potholes from start to finish on major roads leading into the constituency, we can now see a Minister coming to this Honourable House and praising the money that is being spent in Bridgetown and cannot understand the feelings of the people in rural Barbados. Sir, this is a Minister who was born in rural Barbados, one who grew up in rural Barbados, one who should understand the feelings of rural Barbados, yet cannot appreciate the plight of the people in rural Barbados.

Sir, I know that this Minister cannot be accused as being one of those Ministers who has now arrived and who has used the ladder not to climb back down. I know that charge cannot be made of this Minister. Sir, I am hoping that on the next occasion this Minister comes to Parliament that he would appreciate that the people of St. Lucy are people too and that Judge's Gap was renamed Kellman's Road because of the problems created by the number of potholes,

and that some Minister understood the importance of changing the style of the debate.

Mr. Chairman, that Minister has rekindled the style today and I remind him that from herein in any debate, he would hear that same speech being repeated until he has corrected the problem. Sir, I believe that Minister has a good heart. I believe he knows River Bay and would not want to make sure that the roads leading to River Bay, the Cement Plant, Cove's Bay, and those nice areas, do not have a good road to get to them. I know he has a generous heart and that is why I would appeal to him.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That aspect of it is in St. Peter. My boundary ends in Alleyndale and that is to the south of my boundary, so what you think you might be fixing for me, you are actually fixing for the Prime Minister and for the good people of St. Peter. They are my neighbours and they love me just as much as who you think they love.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am calling on this Honourable House to show some sign of fairness. That is why it is important, and as long as I am in this Parliament, I will go to my grave calling on this Honourable House to allocate the Estimates in the correct way.

Mr. Chairman, the Estimates in this House have to be prorated. Until we prorate the Estimates, we are not going to get fairness. I cannot understand how the Honourable Member for St. George North could sit next to the Honourable Member for St. George South and does not understand the importance of prorating and equality for all constituencies.
5.30 p.m.

Sir, the Honourable Member heard me say that and tried it. I am only asking the Honourable Member for St. George North to take the vote on a yearly basis, divide it among the 30 constituencies and nobody will complain with him because everybody would get a piece of the cake.

Sir, I am not saying that it has to be divided equally but that once the Heads are prorated, the Minister will get much praise. I am asking the Minister to heed this advice and there will be no conflict between him and me.

Sir, I will not vote in this House every year to a Head that means nothing to me. A match should be put under the Estimates as they stand because when I vote, they are no help to me. Every year we vote for money but I cannot tell my

constituents that any will be spent in the constituency of St. Lucy. I am calling on the Democratic Labour Party to do their job so that we can change the way these Estimates are done and create fairness in this country.

Sir, this system must be changed. We must advocate and get it changed. I am not blaming the Barbados Labour Party because this is their style and if they do not understand the meaning of fairness, that is up to them. Sir, it must be the Democratic Labour Party that creates the fairness.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, the Democratic Labour Party is well known in this island as the Party of fairness and we must be given the opportunity to take these Estimates, starting from St. Lucy down, and tell each constituent on a yearly basis how much money will be spent on their constituency.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, the argument as put forward by the representation for St. Lucy is an admirable one. If there was proration in the Estimates in specific areas such as road development, road rehabilitation and housing, I would not have to speak to the issues which affect me as a young parliamentarian relative to the people of Christ Church East Central.

More than nine months ago, I submitted to the Honourable Member for St. George North areas of concerns within the constituency. These are not large roads and maybe it is the quality of the materials used because the roads are not standing up to the pressure of the traffic and we may have to look beyond our shores to source materials to assist us in maintaining the quality of our roads.

Mr. Chairman, I want to repeat and if I can, demand on behalf of the people of Christ Church East Central that these roads be given priority because they are in a sad stage of disrepair. There is the need for major rehabilitation of the roads in places such as Durant's Development, Windy Ridge, Church Hill Road, Lodge Road, Stanford Road, Rockville Road in Kingsland Crest and 4th and 5th Avenue Kingsland.

We tend to do some strange things in Barbados. Sir, workers came five or six weeks ago, removed part of the surface of the road, cleared the bush and nothing has been done after that. I am wondering if it was to terrorise the people of that area. Sir, I do not know their political persuasion one way or another but as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy said, we must be fair and equitable and I am imploring the Minister to have the work on that road continued out of this vote of \$2.8 million. Sir, I have no

problem in supporting this money to be spent on the people of Barbados.

Sir, at Bannatyne Gardens, persons come out blind on to the St. David's/Newton Road and something has to be done there because it is a terrible catastrophe and disaster. Mr. Chairman, the technical people from the Ministry need to look at this situation because we tend only to act after a disaster and I am only asking for a small piece of the pie.

Sir, on behalf of my constituents, I hope the Honourable Member for St. George North would hear my requests. I will follow through tomorrow with a letter repeating these requests as some of these can be done by the depot but we need to galvanise persons to get these things done. Sir, we are taxpayers and deserve the best from our country.

I thank you, Sir.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak briefly in this debate and thank the Honourable Member for St. George North for ensuring that within these funds is provision for the improvement of Green Hill. Green Hill is a major artery into Bridgetown. In fact, it is the major link between Warrens and Bridgetown and for too long the road remains seriously lacking both in terms of quality as well as drainage.

I want to commend the Honourable Member for St. George North for finally responding to have this work done. Mr. Chairman, you would remember because you were the one who went on the original site visit with me to have the work done.

In addition, the Drainage Unit is now putting in huge black plastic pipes to assist with the drainage. The truth is that Rayside Quarry is also used as an area to break some of the flow of water coming from St. Thomas and the northern parishes but it is still insufficient to deal with the water which comes on to the road. Therefore, these pipes will ensure that a lot of the water which is now digging up the road would be taken underground and channelled away.
5.40 p.m.

Sir, the Honourable Minister already knows my feelings because I went on a site visit with the Honourable Member and his technical officials. Sir, they should pay some attention in speaking to the residents of the area in a timely manner before they start work.

Also, they should pay some attention to ensure, especially in that area where they try to wash down the dust on evenings. On Green Hill a lot of cut rock had to be cut away and, therefore, the exposed rock would generate further dust and it acts as a nuisance to persons.

Sir, while all of us accept that there is a price for the pursuit of progress, the reality is, it would still be nice if the technical persons working there can (1), give adequate and appropriate notice to the residents before they commence work and (2), when they start a job complete it because we know that for a number of reasons they have to stop work at Green Hill for a few months and (3), that they use all measures to mitigate the level of the nuisance, by that I mean wetting down the road on evenings to make sure that the dust stays down rather than rising into people's houses.

Sir, to the extent that they have inconvenienced persons by causing them to lose power, equipment or damage their houses, that careful note be made and that reparation be made to persons in those circumstances, not six months or 12 months later but as a matter of process, because it is affiliated with the job which is being done that the damage may have flowed. Therefore, I want to urge the Minister to make his mark by ensuring that there is a more people friendly approach on the part of the Ministry of Public Works when it comes to some of these issues, particularly where persons are living.

Finally, I believe that this Minister is reflecting the level of equity that this Honourable House must appreciate. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke but this Government has done what the Democratic Labour Party would never do when they were in Government. Sir, between 1986 and 1994 the members of the Opposition received virtually little or nothing in terms of road projects.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The records of *Hansard* are replete with the then Leader of the Opposition, the former Honourable Member for Christ Church West, Sir Henry Forde, who referred to this fact over and over. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy has a short memory but he must remember that St. Lucy was where the concrete road project started.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: It was St. Lucy, not St. Peter, was where the concrete road project started and this Government chose to start a \$64 million concrete road project in the constituency of St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is aware why St. Lucy got the first and shortest concrete road out of the project. The cement was coming from the Arawak Cement Plant which is located in St. Lucy and it would have been bad public relations of the Barbados Labour Party if it did not appear that they were doing something for St. Lucy when concrete was being made there.

In addition to that, I made a threat in this Honourable House that if St. Lucy did not benefit from the concrete project, that the people of St. Lucy would have to do something on the highway to ensure that the concrete did not leave the factory.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation as to elucidate what one said, not what I said. Nevertheless, if I follow the logic of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, since both asphalt plants are in St. Michael North East, then all of the roads in St. Michael North East, in my constituency, should be done first before any other road in the country. It is nonsense to suggest that this Government would start a concrete road project in St. Lucy simply because of the geographical coincidence of the cement plant being located there.

The reality is, this Government has been committed to the equitable deployment of resources across Barbados and the fact that part of this Supplementary treats to the constituency of St. John and the parish of St. Philip, specifically the constituency of St. Philip North, reflects that there is no intention to disadvantage anybody because of geographical or constituency location.

I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy knows that but has chosen otherwise to represent today a speech that did not reflect his constituency benefitting but benefitted from the flagship programme of the concrete roads, starting in his constituency.

Sir, I cannot tell you whether the road was a short or long one but shortness may be a relative thing for persons to perceive and I am not going to get into whether it was short or long. The reality is, he had a legitimate need and it was met.

Mr. Chairman, I can tell him that each of us in this Chamber, on Both Sides, can produce a long list of roads to be done. Sir, what is important, between the Ministry of Public Works, Urban Development Commission and the Rural Development Commission, this Government has determined that it is intent that by the end of the first decade of this 21st Century, all major roads and tenantry roads in this country should be done.

Sir, our record is proud because all of the tenantry roads were ignored and we found a situation where we had to put a mechanism in place to treat to tenantry roads such that when people come out of their houses they were not confronted with unpaved roads or rocks or they did not stump their toes or damaged their car shocks.

Mr. Chairman, we do believe that through the assiduous completion of all of the roads, highways and tenantry roads, if we work little by little we can complete the task such that as by the end of the first decade of this century, we will no longer be speaking about the need to construct new roads or the repair of major arteries.

Sir, we know, for example, that Highway 1 and Highway 7 need to be done but those have been constrained by reason of the Sewerage Project in both cases. These are the things that would sometimes circumscribe a government's ability to treat to some of these matters in a way that we would want to expeditiously. I hope that now that the South Coast Sewerage Project is finished that Highway 7, which is urgently in need of repairs, will be one of the major arteries that will be done because it reflects negatively on all of us in Barbados.

Sir, I would like to know if the Honourable Member could say whether part of this money will treat to Highway 7 or not.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The special projects articulated are invariably special highways. This is not a tenantry road programme. This is a programme that affects all Barbadians that coincidentally falls within some of our constituencies but these are some of the major arteries of Barbados. This Government is saying that they need to be corrected because a lot of them are falling into disrepair. It does not reflect well on the country and we must get the job done.

Sir, initially estimates were provided to ensure that there is no need to stop the work on any of these projects because we believe that they must be corrected and that persons across the island must have the opportunity to travel on proper roads and reflecting proper drainage.

I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. George North and to say that we look forward to the complete process in Green Hill being done, not just the drainage or sidewalks but in effect the repaving of Green Hill. Sir, because of the high level of commercial and heavy-duty traffic, the Honourable Member knows that it is my view that they may have to look at stronger material in the construction of the road at Green Hill to ensure that Government does not have to spend money within the next decade again fixing Green Hill road.

5.50 p.m.

He knows it is my view that they may need to look at stronger material in the construction of Green Hill to ensure that Government does not have to spend money within the

next decade fixing Green Hill again because of the high level of commercial and heavy duty traffic on that road.

I look forward to the expeditious completion of this project, but I pray that in so doing we have a friendly approach to the persons whose lives and activities we are affecting as we seek to bring about progress in their communities.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I shall be very brief on this occasion. In fact, it would be remiss of me if I did not rise to speak on behalf of those persons who traverse Union Road regularly to get to and from their homes and to and from legitimate places of business. The Honourable Member for St. George North is coming here to seek the approval of this Honourable Chamber so as to avail the Ministry of Public Works and Transport with enough financial resources to see this project through.

Mr. Chairman, quite recently I was furnished with a report from a comprehensive survey that was done on the roads in this country which indicated that there are no fewer than 66 roads in my constituency that are either to be rehabilitated or constructed from scratch. That list includes the tenantry roads, the main roads that fell into a state of disrepair and the subsidiary roads. It also indicated that they would require approximately \$20 million to do justice to that road programme, so I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. George North for not only starting the Union Road Project at the beginning of this year but for ensuring, by coming to this Honourable Chamber seeking its approval for the \$2.8 million, that Union Road will be completed.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is pretty anxious because he has not heard anything in this programme that is specific to St. Lucy and naturally he would make inquiries as to the exclusion of projects from St. Lucy and for that matter when projects from St. Lucy would be included in future programmes. However, he was not altogether correct when he said that this programme does not take into consideration the concerns and the requests of Members of the Opposition who are representing the various constituencies.

Mr. Chairman, you would have read in the newspaper today about work that got started in Martindales Road. The last time I checked, Martindales Road lies squarely in the constituency of St. Michael South Central. He also said that we are doing the work in St. John and no one would argue that the road from District "C" Police Station leading right through to St. John's Parish Church is badly in need of rehabilitation. The first part of the road was done and we went up to Massiah Street. The Government is saying that any project that it started, should be completed, so we are

coming here to ask for funds to bring that project over by the St. John's Parish Church to its logical conclusion.

Mr. Chairman, coming closer to home now is the Sunbury Road. No one would argue either that the road leading from Six Roads in St. Philip to the St. Philip's Parish Church is perhaps one of the worst roads in Barbados. Union Road, up to the point when they started, would have fitted in nicely in the category of worst roads in Barbados. That is now being looked after. Most of us would pass the road from Six Roads to the St. Philip's Parish Church at some stage either if we are going to Sunbury Great House or to the St. Philip's Parish Church.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip West, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and myself would have many reasons to go into Church Village whether we are going to the Church, to the recreational areas or to businesses in the area, or if we are just crossing over from St. Philip to St. John *en route* to the East Coast or other places.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy that this project will begin this year. I am informed that the amount of money we are asking for will not allow us to complete the project but would allow us to start the project some time during the financial year. All of that stretch of road lies in the constituency of St. Philip West but we recognise the importance of having all arteries leading into and from Six Roads properly rehabilitated.

Most of them have been looked after already but this one stands out because it is in such a terrible state of disrepair. We said that we are going to do it but we will do it in phases. It is going to be a mighty expensive project but we are committed to doing it because of its importance.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East spoke to the performance of the Government as it relates to road repairs, road rehabilitation and road construction. Certainly between the period 1999 and 2003 this Government would have launched a serious assault on the roads in Barbados.

No Government prior to 1999 would have expended such considerable amounts of resources on road repairs over such a short period. Yes, we have done that but we cannot rest on our laurels because the Honourable Member for St. Lucy made mention of the number of roads in his constituency which he was told are in need of either construction or rehabilitation.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member said that I was told about roads in my constituency. That is not correct. I wrote the Rural Development Commission and the Ministry of Public Works

and Transport and they have confirmed the number of roads in my constituency that are in need of repairs.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Since they have confirmed it, they would have told him, so this is confirmation of it.

Sir, we recognise that there is still a lot of work to be done. This Government has taken a policy stance that we want to rid all of the communities in Barbados of unpaved roads, and we will pursue that line. Yes, it will require access to considerable amounts of resources but once we get started and we remain steadfast, we will hold to that track and ensure that the roads are rehabilitated and constructed in accordance with what it is we set out to do as priorities for ourselves.

Mr. Chairman, I want to use this opportunity to issue a word of caution or a word of advice to the Honourable Member for St. George North and indeed to his officials at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. I am asking them to be a little assiduous in ensuring that all signs, especially the major stop signs and the caution signs, are easily visible, that they are very conspicuous and that they are free of all bush, trees, grass, *et cetera*.
6.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, if that is not done, there is always the risk occasioned by persons picking up these signs a little too late, and when that individual realises that he or she is at the point where they should stop, unfortunately they would have picked up the sign a little too late.

Mr. Chairman, I want to encourage the Minister and his officials that when they go into constituencies, they must make notes of the block signs, major stops and bus stop signs, so that risks would become a thing of the past. As some of us Members of Parliament move around our constituencies, we make notes of these things and inform the respective depots as being important tasks for them to undertake, but I think that as a matter of routine, this is the type of thing which they should be encouraged to do.

Mr. Chairman, once again I want to laud the Honourable Member for St. George North for coming to the assistance of the many constituents who have to use Union Road. I want to laud the Honourable Minister of Public Works for coming to the assistance of those persons in St. Philip West and elsewhere, who have to use the stretch from Six Roads to the St. Philip's Parish Church. It is badly in need of repair and, therefore, I look forward to the start of the project but more importantly, I look forward for a consistent treatment of those works, so that we could bring them to a conclusion as well.

Mr. Chairman, with those few words, I thank you.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Chairman, we heard from the last speaker about the work that has commenced on Martindales Road, which is actually taking place under this Special Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member said that the road is squarely in the constituency of St. Michael South Central. It is not. Actually it is on the border. Sir, beyond that, the residents are not necessarily fooled, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has said. These are major roadways that have been identified for rehabilitation because of their national importance. For example, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the St. Michael School are on Martindales Road and it is clear to the residents that perhaps those two places would have been the more important factors in deciding to resurface Martindales Road, and there is nothing wrong with that. I believe that is what Government should decide to do but when one considers the late notice that residents were given about those works that are to take place, that only serves to reinforce that view.

I would only join with the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East and urge the Ministry to consider the residents and their plight when executing these works. I imagine that he could perhaps take a leaf out of his predecessor's book, his predecessor, who would have personally gone to the work sites in his suit and tie and would have supervised the works where necessary, to ensure that residents could have access to and from their homes.

There are a number of areas that are only easily accessible from Martindales Road, for example, Enmore or Jubilee Gap but Bannister Land, Delamere Land, Stevenson Road, *et cetera*, could be accessed from the back. I would, therefore, like some consideration to be given to the residents and their plight.

Mr. Chairman, since the Honourable Member for St. Philip South has sought to suggest that this is a project to enhance the value of life of the constituents of St. Michael South Central and in particular the Martindales Road community, Government could feel free not only to enhance Martindales Road but the surrounding areas. It is a flood-prone area and consideration would have to be given to the area of drainage.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip South has some say in the coordination of the utility services to ensure that they are all installed. Government could also feel free to do something about the Hospital pasture as well. That pasture is contiguous to the road and surely that large stretch of land from the John Beckles Drive through to the Hospital could do with something being done to it. I know the Queen

Elizabeth Hospital Sports Club is there but it could be landscaped and perhaps made into an area where one could relax and reflect.

Mr. Chairman, Government is very strong on greening Bridgetown and if Government is going to green the little slippers of land in central Bridgetown between the business districts, why not green some of the areas of land in the inner City where people actually live?

Mr. Chairman, I am suggesting that something constructive could be done with the Hospital pasture. It could be made into an opportunity to provide the much-needed recreational facilities. If the rehabilitation of the road is to enhance the life in the Martindales Road community, that is something that can also go along with it.

Mr. Chairman, I would also say that since the Ministry of Public Works has responded so quickly in addressing the Martindales Road situation relatively early in the financial year, there is a road in Britton's Hill that has been identified by the Urban Development Commission, McClean's Gap, for at least three to four years now. If Government cares to take that over from the Urban Development Commission and do something about it, I certainly do not have a problem with that but the road is in a terrible condition and it, therefore, needs to be repaired.

Mr. Chairman, I must also mention a matter that I have actually written to the Ministry about, that is Gas Products Road, Flagstaff. Work was started on that road and it has not been completed. Again it was stopped somewhere around May last year and has not restarted. I am sure the Minister of Public Works who has shown that he is ready to work on some of these uncompleted projects, and since his colleague from St. Philip South has indicated that they are so happy to do things in the constituency of St. Michael South Central, that we would see something starting back on Gas Products Road.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks, I would like to say that I am glad to see that the work is being done in Martindales Road. I sincerely hope that all of those factors which I have mentioned would be taken into consideration and that we could see more work done, not only in St. Michael South Central, but that we can rehabilitate much of the various roads in Barbados that are in a terrible state of disrepair.

I am grateful to you.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to join with Honourable Members in speaking to some parochial concerns but the issues I am going to raise, I think, do have some kind of national implication because they are not peculiar to the constituency of St. James South, except in one instance.

Mr. Chairman, the first appeal which I would wish to make is that it does not appear to be a policy of the Ministry of Public Works to put sleeping policemen in residential districts, but this is greatly needed. Sir, in areas such as West Terrace, Husbands Gardens, Husbands Heights, the new Husbands Development, particularly adjoining Queen's College, a habit has developed. Sir, because the roads are well paved and relatively new, people drive at tremendous speeds along these roads. In some instances, there are not properly developed facilities for children and frequently there would be pedestrians in the roads.

Mr. Chairman, at West Terrace Gardens, for instance, there are perhaps 530 to 540 houses.
6.10 p.m.

We are talking about a lot of people, people walking to the bus stop and shops in the area, people walking the streets for recreation, children playing and young people playing road tennis. Sir, all over residential districts you can find this type of activity.

Sir, young people in particular, beginning to feel the power of driving cars that have wonderful acceleration which are given to them by their parents, are driving recklessly at speeds which should not be allowed in residential areas. It is becoming a major challenge in my constituency, particularly in the areas I mentioned, and I know it is a problem in other areas.

I want to appeal to the Minister of Public Works to systematically go through residential areas in Barbados and put sleeping policemen in as a matter of policy before someone in a residential district gets killed as a result of this reckless driving. It also happens not only by persons who live in those districts but if you consider the geography of the constituency of St. James South, there are thick residential districts comprising the block that includes Paradise Heights, Wanstead, Husbands, Oxnards, West Terrace and all those related developments.

Also, you have a school like Queen's College with people coming from all over Barbados to take their children to school. Sir, it is convenient particularly in peak traffic hours for people to cut through Wanstead Gardens, Husbands Heights, West Terrace, Husbands/Oxnards/Wanstead main roads and related areas in order to get back to the University Hill, or to get from the University Hill to Queen's College or to go to Highway 2A. The consequence of that is the avoidance of the main road where there is high traffic volumes and this causes them to come through the residential districts driving quickly and recklessly.

I have indicated that the problem exists in other areas but I want to appeal about St. James South which is my particular responsibility. I have written to the Minister of Public Works about this problem and have not seen a single sleeping policeman put down since my letter, but it must be done otherwise somebody is going to be gravely injured and, having been given notice of the risk, Government cannot escape some liability.

On a purely parochial issue, I would wish to urge that greater signage be placed in these residential districts. The Honourable Member for St. Philip South raised the problems that the Warrens Heights Development opens on to Highway 2A and there is no sign or light to allow you off the Highway to pick up the entry.

Sir, in this area, there are a lot of developments with similar names and people can easily be confused if they do not know where they are going and hence the need for proper signage and for lighting at the end of the road because sometimes you cannot tell when you are approaching the major stop. Therefore, it is critical that major stop signs be placed, that proper lighting and signage be placed at these developments. Sir, Warrens Heights is not the only one but is perhaps the most dangerous because of the connection with a road as busy as Highway 2A/ABC Highway.

Equally, that would apply to Warrens Crescent which adjoins Highway 2A and which also needs to have lighting.

Sir, I want to raise a matter for which I have been writing the Minister of Public Works for at least eight years. I have written to every single Minister of Public Works on this matter and this is why I am now raising it in this House because, having written to every single member of Public Works, it is time for something to be done. To his credit, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew started the work when he was the Minister but when he left the Cabinet, the work was stopped and has never been resumed.

Sir, the junction of Prior Park Corner with Thorpes opposite the Meteorological Office is an extremely dangerous corner and there is no light at that junction. The major stop is frequently overgrown with bush and you cannot see it until you are on it and the angle at which the road turns, brings you right into the Thorpes Road in the path of oncoming traffic before you realise that you are at that point.

Sir, it gets worse. The road at Prior Park is located in a terrible bend it is not possible to see around. It is not without signs, light, at an odd angle, in a terrible bend and in a "humped-back" hill as we say in Bajan parlance. If you are coming from the northern side of Thorpes, you cannot see that there is traffic in the Prior Park junction and because of the angle of the road, at nights, when you are in the Prior

Park junction, you cannot pick up car lights. If you are on the Thorpes main road, you can see the light but if you are in the Prior Park junction you cannot see the lights and, day and night, it is an extremely dangerous exit to make.

There are frequently accidents at that junction, sometimes involving three or four vehicles because as motorists try to turn off Thorpes Road, whether north or south to get into Prior Park, they are going with the grace of God because they cannot tell if there is traffic coming from the direction of Thorpes and at what speed.

Equally, Sir, as you try to come out of the junction, frequently there are narrow escapes.

This morning I shouted “sorry” to an oncoming car because, as I came out of the junction, he came over the hill, he could not see me, I could not see if there were oncoming traffic, I pulled to the right, he pulled to the left, the Lord blessed us and we got to where we were going safely. Sir, no one should have to endure that on a daily basis.

Sir, the location of this road is particularly critical because it is an important link road for Highway 2A and people coming from the north and east to link them with the West Coast. Also, when the West Coast Sewerage Project starts the incidences of traffic in that area are going to increase considerably so the time to address it is now before it reaches the absolutely critical stage.

Sir, the truth is that given the incidences of accidents on that junction, the high degree of risk to which all road users and pedestrians are exposed when they use the junction, we have already reached the critical stage.
6.20 p.m.

Sir, the truth is, we have already reached the critical stage and constituents raise this issue with me all the time.

I must say that I cannot be pleased as a Member of the Government, that over an eight-year period to be consistently writing every Minister of Public Works asking them to have this particular risk corrected and it is not done. I am not pleased about it.

Sir, I think that some residents may feel that I am insensitive to their cries after eight years and they cannot see anything being done but I am very sensitive to their cries. Mr. Speaker, since I live in the Prior Park area, I live in my own constituency and I am acutely aware of how high-risk that particular junction is. The junction needs proper straightening to allow for greater visibility which will mean some acquisition of some of the properties on the corner.

This is a constituency that is growing all the time and new residential districts are opening up in and around that proximity.

Sir, the Husbands Gardens is about to grow as a result of the Barbados Mortgage Finance/National Housing Corporation Development, one of the areas under the joint venture programme and more people will be using that main road. We have to straighten the junction. I am not an engineer and I am not going to speak to the engineering solutions but greater visibility is needed and that corner has to be rendered safe. Too many vehicles have been damaged, too many people have turned that corner with their hearts in their hands, too much manoeuvring has to be done to save the lives of other people.

Sir, I am appealing to this Minister of Public Transport. I know that you have been in that office for a short time but you have also received one of my letters in relation to this junction and I am appealing to you before somebody loses their life at that junction. Sir, I could lose my life at this junction because I live in the area and I use that junction every day.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: I am not calling death on myself because I think that I still have a lot to live for and I can be around here persecuting the Honourable Members on the Other Side for a long time and that is my intention.

Asides.

Hon. Miss H. E. THOMPSON: Something should be done to address that road. It is too dangerous and too important a link road that after eight years I should still be making the same appeal. Equally, this matter of looking at placing “sleeping policemen” as a matter of policy in residential districts have to be confronted.

I am much obliged, Sir.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my voice to this debate because I have a vested interest in the roads in the constituency of St. Philip North.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: I heard the Minister mention the special programmes to repair roads since 2001. I must say that, to use the words of the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, “I want the very Minister to launch a serious assault on the roads in St. Philip North.” The roads that lead to the Bushy Park Cricket Club and Windward Cricket Club are in very dire need of repair.

The Minister was sent a petition by a resident in Padmore Road regarding the state of that road. In fact, I visited Padmore Road with a team from the "*Nation*" newspaper and I think that the Minister can confirm that a letter was sent to him from the residents of Padmore Road.

I am also happy to hear that the road in the area of the St. Philip's Parish Church will also be repaired. Sir, the road that leads from Well Gap to Eastbourne is also in need of repair and the Honourable Members for St. Philip West and South can also confirm that is the case.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: I am asking the Minister to launch a serious assault in relation to road repairs in St. Philip North. The Vineyard and Blades Hill roads also need some repairs. I must say that when you travel from Wiltshire to go to an area we call "Mock City" and towards Marley Vale, that road is extremely bad.

Asides

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: There is also a drainage problem, particularly on that road.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. LASHLEY: I would like the Minister to visit the area and we can arrange a tour of the area. Certainly, if we speak about equity and allocating resources, then I believe that the people in St. Philip should benefit from these resources.

Sir, I hope that very soon the Minister and I can meet and set a time and date to traverse the St. Philip North constituency so that we can have a first hand view of the roads in that constituency.

I thank you, Sir.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to lend my voice to this Supplementary. I want to say at the outset that I am, indeed, pleased that the present Minister is looking favourably at the rehabilitation of the road from Six Roads to Church Village.

However, I think that there are two problems with respect to that particular rehabilitation that needs to be addressed. Sir, it is the continuing flooding that occurs around the Six Roads Roundabout. The residents have complained about the situation and it has been indicated that there is a problem with drainage. This problem is a severe

one and it leads to extensive flooding in that area. Sir, I would like the Minister to look at this problem seriously.

I think that there is also a problem with the type of equipment that is needed at many of these depots. I looked at the problem, at Six Roads in particular, and part of the problem with rehabilitating roads in St. Philip in general has been the fact that there is not enough equipment to carry out the extensive types of work that is required in various districts. It cannot be adequate that you will be operating with one or two bobcats and a back-hoe. The workload is too extensive and that needs to be corrected and the appropriate personnel, if required, needs to be put in place.

Sir, my list of roads would be too extensive to go into at this stage. However, I believe that I have always implied a strategy that is, there is not a road that I have applied to have rehabilitated in St. Philip West that a petition has not been sent either to the Rural Development Commission or to the Minister of Transport and Works. Therefore, I think that the people would understand because their signatures are on that document that would have been sent to the various departments. As a result of that, I think the residents know the particular roads.

I am very concerned about the state of affairs with respect to the road in Rock Hall. I am concerned because there was an attempt to repair this road prior to the General Elections just past. This road was rolled and marled and that was the extent of it and this road is now in absolute potholes. I do not believe that citizens of this country who pay their taxes should be treated like that. I support the claim or the call by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that there needs to be somewhat more equity being applied in how we look at the distribution of our resources.
6.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. George North for the plan to rehabilitate the road from Six Roads to Sunbury and to Church Village because it is indeed in need of much rehabilitation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I just rise to lend my support to this Resolution. First of all I want to commend the Honourable Member for St. George North for continuing the very important and very good work which was started under your leadership, Sir, and which was handled very efficiently by you during that period. I want to commend him particularly for the work which is being addressed in Bridgetown.

Mr. Chairman, I want in the few minutes in which I plan to speak, to speak about Martindales Road, because

I have no intention of dwelling into parochial issues and the needs of Christ Church South this evening as it would take us long past the three hours which are necessary. Mr. Chairman, I believe, like Honourable Members on Both Sides of this Honourable Chamber, that this work is long overdue, but I have some serious concerns. I have spoken to the Minister about them and I would like him to take note of my concerns as I think they are quite serious.

Like the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, I believe that the period of notice given both to the residents and the Hospital Administration was much too short. I think a much more caring attitude was necessary on an issue as important as this which has a bearing on the people of Barbados who utilise the Hospital.

Mr. Chairman, I am still not convinced that it is absolutely necessary to close the entire Martindales Road for four months. Indeed, knowing how the Ministry of Public Works and Transport performs its duty, I am wondering if this work would be completed in four months, so I am going to implore the Minister to ensure that this is done.

Certainly, I am wondering if there could not have been some partial closure with Stephenson Road where Bannister Land could have been used especially for the ambulances to get to and from the Hospital. This is very important. The ambulances now have to be diverted. There is massive congestion as we saw yesterday and today when they started and I am just concerned about the delays in getting ambulances to and from the ambulance station. This is a concern which I have and I am asking that this be looked at again. I do not believe it is too late to change this plan.

Mr. Chairman, I am also concerned about the safety of nurses and other members of staff of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, especially those who come off work at 9.30 p.m., who now have to walk to the River Road car park at the back of the Hospital where their vehicles are parked or to await transportation, so I would like him to address that.

I am also concerned about the patients and the noise. We know that there is a lot of noise already, but further noise and dust is going to ensue from this process. I do not believe that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport sat down and did enough planning before they entered into this venture.

Again, I am going to implore the Minister to ensure that the technocrats under his responsibility relook this venture to ensure that it is completed within the four months and to see if they can, as far as possible, reduce the inconvenience to the persons who utilise the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, especially those poor patients who have

to go there and, to bear in mind, what I have said about access to ambulances to and from the Hospital. I think is very important.

With those few words, I will take my seat. Thank you.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Mr. Chairman, I want to say something on the performance of the Honourable Member for St. George North in the present circumstances. I want to compliment him for his work. I do believe that if he was fully aware of all the concerns in the constituency of St. Michael East I would not have to make mention of these matters on the Floor of the House. I have already forwarded the necessary written correspondence to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, but I am quite confident that the Minister is unaware of the correspondence that is before his Ministry at present.

Sir, I do not rise to speak on this matter in the interest of any corporate sector providing a network of roads for them, neither am I concerned about the aesthetics on the highways for the purpose of influencing tourism. I am concerned about providing a smooth network in the heart of my constituency, St. Michael East, mainly the Ivy Main Road. That is the road which I "slam tar on" on my way to the St. Giles Primary School, an area which has been able to enjoy elements of modernisation through having the privilege of being barbergreen over the last few years.

Sir, I want to maintain and improve the standards in that area during my time as representative of the area. I am not satisfied with the present deterioration of the road there, so I am calling on the Ministry to take immediate action to resurface the Ivy Main Road. That is the network that allows students to travel not only to the St. Giles Primary School but also to the Barbados Community College. There is also that bad drainage system right in the centre of the Ivy.

Mr. Chairman, for a considerable time now, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has been working on the Roberts Road area in Haggatt Hall, yet it still remains incomplete. I do not want that stamp to be put on the period when the Minister presides over the responsibilities of public works. I would hope that as soon as possible he would move swiftly and assiduously to achieve the completion of Roberts Road.

Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister spoke about spending some of the money in this Supplementary on the Bussa Roundabout or the Norman Niles Roundabout. I therefore want to focus attention on the Bussa Roundabout, that road moving toward the east to Mapp Hill which is the borderline between the constituencies of St. Michael East and St. Michael South East, so I speak for both constituencies.

The Minister of Social Transformation, the representative for St. Michael South East, has asked me also to speak on this matter on his behalf. This is the road that leads to the Mapp Hill area. Long before my time as a representative, and during the period of the representative of St. Michael South East, the residents in that area have been asking the Government, and all the Ministers who represented the Government during that period of time, to widen the road from the Bussa Roundabout up to Mapp Hill. It is too close. They are asking that we put in sidewalks to accommodate the pedestrians who have to go down to TriMart and the students going up to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic from in that area.

Mr. Chairman, there is also the road from the south to the north moving from Government Hill over to Welches where there is an excessive amount of traffic coming through that area on mornings and the residents are asking, and I speak on their behalf, that we put humps, sleeping policemen, in the road to slow the traffic down so that the manner in which some drivers come across would not endanger the lives of the children in that area.

Basically, those four areas to which I mention are my major concerns, so I am asking the Minister of Public Works and Transport to do all he can to make sure that some time in the near future the concerns of the residents in the four areas would be addressed.

Thank you very much.

6.40 p.m.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have noticed that there is a small amount being allocated for works at Hindsbury Road in comparative terms to address some minor but important works at the two junctions at Bridge Road, Lower Haynes Hill and Upper White Park. These are two very rough areas that vehicles in multiple numbers traverse every day.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to invite the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that following his recent Press briefing, reports have been carried in the Press which suggest very tellingly to people in the Hindsbury Road area that they are about to be relocated in a very short time. As far as I am aware, this is not the case. I do not know of any Government's plans to immediately relocate people in Hindsbury Road but that message has gone abroad and I have had several calls.

As a matter of fact, just a few moments ago, someone asked me about it. Therefore, I would want to invite the Ministry to revisit that matter to clear the air and to settle the minds of those persons living in Hindsbury Road, to let them know that they are not facing any immediate relocation. You,

Mr. Chairman, would have some specific and personal interest in that area, as far as I am aware so I believe that you would be very familiar with the situation.

Mr. Chairman, while the Hindsbury Road Works are to be addressed at a later stage and in a substantial fashion, while the minor but important works are being anticipated now, I would want to invite the Ministry's attention to the matter of drainage in the School Gap area, including the wider community where there is a problem of drainage in several areas.

We applaud the tremendous work that was done at Headley's Land in redressing the problem of flooding. We know it no longer occurs there, but throughout the entire Bank Hall area, there are substantial drainage problems. If one travels from Progressive Road through to Holligan Road, Downey's Gap, Skeete's Road, Advent Avenue, Taylor's Avenue, Mayers Gap, Brathwaite's Gap, these are all areas with tremendous drainage problems and I want to invite the Honourable Member's attention in terms of personal visit, to look at this situation. Sir, one could only grasp the immensity of the situation if one becomes face to face with it. Beyond that, of course, there is the issue of drainage at Goodland, Brewster's Gap, President Kennedy Drive, off Barbarees Hill. Therefore, there are several areas with problems with regard to drainage that we need to see addressed.

Mr. Chairman, with the road works along the White Park Road/Country Road/Passage Road area and in general there is a problem with the location of bus stops, and I have had several people expressing their concerns. Sir, because of road works, bus stops are removed and not replaced. In addition to that, there is a problem with the placing of bus stops. We must bear in mind that sometimes we are transporting elderly people who still carry loads and that the distances they are called upon to walk, to me, are unreasonable.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the work done by the Ministry of Public Works and you, Mr. Chairman, would be very familiar with what has taken place across St. Michael West in terms of road rebuilding and refurbishing. We are very appreciative of the Ministry of Public Works in that regard and I am sure that the current Minister is also touched with a sense of importance to that type of work in that urban constituency, which is evidently traversed by high volumes of traffic.

Mr. Chairman, while I am expressing an appreciation for the new look that we see along Westbury Road, Upper Westbury Road, Passage Road, the brand new roads, the traffic lights, *et cetera*, I am sincerely suggesting to the Ministry that serious consideration should be given to

renaming either the entire stretch between Westbury Road to its junction to Roebuck Street, right through Passage Road/Country Road or some section of it. It should be suitably renamed in the honour of someone in the community or someone who has contributed significantly in terms of public service to the community. I hope that advice would be taken seriously.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a brief intervention, first of all, in support of this expanded programme of the Honourable Member for St. George North. The Supplementary Estimates, as you know, contains within its Explanatory Notes, full details of the work to be undertaken by the Ministry. In fact, if the Honourable Member for St. Lucy – I am sorry he is no longer in his place – had read his Estimates rather than threatening to use it as a bonfire, he would have discovered that all of the information that he wants about what work is being done on a constituency basis, can be found in the Explanatory Notes.

For example, under Head 45, Programme 510, Road Network Services, Subprogramme 495, Tenantry Roads. Roads are to be done at Clifton Hill, Allen View, Vauxhall, Ellerton, River Land Phase 2, road opposite Wendy's Bar, and the road off Olson Road, *et cetera*.

If it is under Subprogramme 511 – Highway Construction and Maintenance Services, the highway work to be done is described, such as upgrading and improving existing roads, the continuation of the Overlay Programme, routine maintenance and other prescribed works. Therefore, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy needs to read his Estimates.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the people of Christ Church East, I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. George North for the excellent work which has been done. In fact, since the Ministry of Public Works has its own paving equipment, there has been a substantial improvement in the response time and the need for simply applying some barbergreen to make rough roads become smoother within communities.

In fact, Sir, those areas in which people are very thankful include the work done in Breedy's Land; Round Rock, through by Silver Rock Hotel; Ealing Park South, one of the older developments which had only a badly pitted tar road, an area known very well to the present Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Ms. Nurse, Ms. Walcott, Mr. Bynoe, and others, are very happy to be able to drive smoothly through their communities with pride and in comfort.

Indeed, Sir, that road in Gibbons Terrace, which stretches from by Sawh's Sea Shop, past Ken's shop, going towards Mr. Stafford, have all been paved by the Ministry and also going into Pegwell Boggs, past the Pegwell Community Church. There is still some outstanding work to be done and on behalf of my constituents, I want to use this opportunity to urge the Minister that as soon as he is able, to attend to these matters.

The Gibbons Terrace, Phase 2 road, which is the section in the area of Mr. Stafford, going towards Wilcox's Hill, needs to be done. Sir, there is a dangerous junction which, for many years, has been there and has never been addressed, which is the junction of Thornbury Hill and Gibbons Road, in the corner where the former Commissioner of Police, the late Aviston Prescod resided. It is a totally blind corner as one leaves Oistins, going up Thornbury Hill, making the right turn going into Gibbons Terrace. It is a very dangerous corner and needs to be addressed.

Mr. Chairman, in terms of paving of the roads, the residents of Parish Land have understandably been complaining. There is a road opposite the Providence Church, stretching across the entire length of Parish Land, where popular persons in the district such as "Pirate" lives, since that road was paved in the 1970s, it has never been again paved, and is now a very rough and uneven surface, which is difficult to negotiate even with motor vehicles, which causes great discomfort to motorists. That road needs to be paved.
6.50 p.m.

I certainly want to use this opportunity to make this plea on behalf of the persons of Christ Church East. Additionally, there are drainage concerns in some areas, certainly, in the area of Sayes Court opposite Denny's Shop and when it rains heavily persons are not able to walk into the gap because there is a recess at the end of the gap which becomes flooded. In addition, paving needs to be done.

Sir, I want to speak about road safety issues. Before I do that, I want to make a plea on behalf of the people who live in northern Christ Church and who have to go pass Lower Greys. The road from Brighton and Boarded Hall over to the Ridge is a major road used by persons in Yorkshire, Fairview, St. Patrick and Charnocks. It is extremely uneven but it is a major artery to and from the airport and is not in proper condition at all. Sir, I want to urge the Minister of Public Works to address that matter urgently.

Mr. Chairman, I am concerned about the lack of markings and stop signs at a number of our roads and I believe that the safety of a number of our road users is compromised by the lack of this detail. There is a four cross junction at the Ridge cemetery where St. David Road and the

Ridge Road meet at this point, and there are no markings to indicate where the centre of the road is or the major stop and every weekend there are at least two accidents at that point. I believe that careful attention to road marking and proper signage by the officials at the Ministry of Public Works would reduce the level of accidents which we have.

Sir, similarly at the junction of Providence Road and Parish land which is also in the constituency of Christ Church East, we have had some accidents there because the markings are fading and a stranger to the area would not know who is required to stop and would therefore, drive directly across Highway 7. I once again appeal to greater attention to road signage and replacement of stop signs. These days after a few accidents and the stop signs are knocked over, no one seems to replace them.

Finally, a number of my constituents use the ABC Highway and I am concerned about the number of lights out of service obviously knocked over by careless drivers but we need to identify those drivers and charge them or their insurance to promptly replace the poles and lights because it becomes a question of road safety when people are not able to clearly see the end of the edges of the road particularly in the absence of road markings at the centre or edge of the road. Sir, this has become a challenge for the constituents of Christ Church East.

Those are the messages which the constituents of Christ Church East have asked me to direct to the Honourable Member for St. George North in the hope that at a soon date these matters would be addressed.

Sir, I close by congratulating the Minister for bringing this Supplementary so that the work of the Ministry can be conducted at the pace it deserves and look forward to being able to support another Supplementary in order that some of these matters which I have drawn to the attention of the Chamber today can be addressed during this financial year on behalf of the good people of Christ Church East.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak in congratulatory tones until the relevant Minister has once again taken his seat so that he would be able to take pen and paper and take careful notes. The question of supporting the expanded work programme goes without saying.

I would like to begin by congratulating the Honourable Member for the work his Ministry has begun in the area of Fitts Village. Sir, about four separate roads have benefitted

from repairs and rehabilitation as well as the area of Chapel Gap which was completed a few days ago.

Mr. Chairman, now that the Minister has been congratulated for the work done in St. James Central and has now taken his seat and picked up his pen and paper, I would like to speak to him in serious tones. The Minister would be aware that early in January this year in the area of Seaview in St. James a truck ran off the road in a dangerous and long corner and destroyed the residence of an elderly lady.

Sir, back in the days when the Honourable Member for St. James North was representing that district, the people of the area have been lamenting and urging the Minister of Public Works to visit the area, widen the road and rectify the blind corner.

Sir, a number of site visits took place. I was privileged to be accompanied by the Minister and lo and behold shortly after, this terrible accident took place which almost cost the elderly lady to lose her life as she laid in her bed on that particular day. Mr. Chairman, enough is enough and this bad situation almost became fatal.

Sir, one is constrained by the understanding of the rigours which the Ministry labours under but the reality is that this situation cries out for urgent and immediate attention because this has been recognised to be a problem for the last 15 years posing an increasing level of danger to residents using the area and the time has come for rectification.

Sir, I thank the Minister for the work done in Fitts Village, Chapel and other areas but I wish to make this plea and for the records of the House to reflect that the time has come for urgent attention to be paid to the situation at Seaview. I do not wish to be the person who brings a petition of all the names of the residents to the Ministry one morning along with the necessary media support to emphasise my point.

Equally, I want to make another quick plea for rectification in the same area of Seaview. Mr. Chairman, there are at least 150 persons living in the area of Seaview but there is absolutely no road access. We hear about persons in Barbados having to wear two pairs of shoes when it rains but this is a worse situation because residents have to pick their way through the grass and mud track for the better part of a mile and a half.

Mr. Chairman, I have made the necessary representation to the Ministry and I know that the Minister is cognisant of these issues. I am speaking to the Minister today as he writes his notes, as he is about to spend money which I agree to vote on this evening and I am saying to the Minister that this has to be treated as a matter of priority. I

hope the Minister will heed and recognise the urgency of this situation. I do not think I need to say more about the situation at this stage.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.
7.00 p.m.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: Sir, having been of a country upbringing I am always reminded of a very popular saying by my mother, "a little with content is great gain".

Asides.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: It is something that I have always held true to.

Asides.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: In the constituency of St. Joseph, the people of St. Joseph have been long-suffering but the fact of the matter is, I have much delight in thanking the Honourable Member for finally putting things in such a way that we could actually get some roadworks done in St. Joseph.

Sir, I have to say that the first year of my term as the representative for St. Joseph has been a 12-month period filled with some frustration, because with a new candidate, especially, people look with anticipation to achieving the ends and so on and they look forward to having the various promises that were made during the elections fulfilled.

Certainly, I would like to admit that things were going a little slowly. However, in the context of the many demands that are made across the length and breadth of Barbados for attention by the Ministry of Public Works, I want to thank the Minister for allowing us to get significant roadworks done at Cambridge. Cambridge road is a road that only many Barbadians consider at the time of the Semifinals on the East Coast Road because it is one of the alternative ways for those people who drive SUVs to get down to the East Coast Road. For many years the people of Cambridge have been crying out to have this road repaired.

Sir, the land at Cambridge is prone to slippage of a clay subsoil and in the case of rain it presents problems. I know that there has been significant Press coverage in the last year highlighting the plight of the residents at Cambridge. In the last two months the road at Cambridge has been completely resurfaced, much to the satisfaction of the residents of that area and we are looking forward to having the final surfacing done by way of barbergreen.

Sir, I have the pleasure of representing districts in this country that some people of this country have never heard of. There is a wonderful little village called "Horton". I do not

think that anybody in this Honourable House would have heard of Horton or would know where it is but, perhaps, one or two might know.

The district of Horton is an area where, some years ago the entire road was paved and there were some challenges and about half of the road leading off the main road deteriorated completely to the point where over the last few months where we have had a substantial amount of rain, the residents of Horton had to actually walk across the cane ground. If you can imagine people walking across a ground simply because the road is in worse condition than the ground, that must be one of the greatest ironies. Sir, these people have been walking across the cane ground when it rains.

Sir, I am delighted that the roadworks have finally started. It started on Wednesday and when I visited with the residents of Horton on Saturday in the afternoon they were delighted at the fact, not only had the road started but over the three working days, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the condition was such that the rain was no longer proving to be an impediment of them getting in and out of their homes, so I say that little with content is great gain.

There have been other areas in the constituency where the depot has been performing quite creditably. With all respects to the people who were at the depot before, I honestly think that more has been achieved in the last two months than we had actually realised over many months prior.

There is still much work to be done and I want to draw to the attention of the Honourable Minister and I want on this occasion to remind residents of Barbados as a whole that there are districts in St. Joseph at this point in time, not only poorly served by roads but should we have major damage to part of that road network, entire areas would be in peril and I speak specifically, of course, trying to ignore the howlings on the Other Side, of an area called Fruitful Hill, Mellows and Spa Hill. These are areas in my constituency that have in previous years...

Asides.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL:... in previous years were well served by roads but, perhaps, residents moved out and so on, the roads deteriorated.

Sir, I would want to end by making a plea to the Honourable Minister to let us have some serious attention being paid to the reopening of Mellows to really doing a new road at Spa Hill and Fruitful Hill. For those of you who have the opportunity to come to my constituency, if the bridge at Parks suffers severe damage and is impassable, people who

would normally use that road to get into St. Andrew would have to take a major detour, perhaps, even going around the East Coast to come back before they can get to their destination.

I believe we need to assure the country, as a Government, that there are alternative access routes. I am not one who subscribes to the view that because there may only be a dozen people living in an area that our solution should be that we should move them out of that area. Communities need to be kept alive. Communities are living, breathing organisms and the mere fact it may be a costly exercise.

Asides.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: The fact that a district may have a deteriorating road but may cost a significant amount of money to bring it back into use, I do not think that is any excuse as a Government for us not to remediate the road. We have an obligation to ensure that our communities remain vital and that people keep that connection.

Sir, with those few remarks I would like to again express my tremendous gratitude and the gratitude of the people of St. Joseph for the works done to date but there is a significant amount that we look forward to receiving from the Ministry of Public Works.

I thank you.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I am indeed grateful for the contributions that were made today by all Honourable Members. As they say, all politics are local and I am very happy that all representatives here have earned their pay for the first year. They have worked extremely hard and I am very glad for that. I think that Barbadians must be satisfied that we have an excellent Parliament and very good representatives who have been keeping me on my toes. I want to say to all Honourable Members that I have recorded all the responses so far but there are a few things I would like to single out that we have been looking at.

Sir, I understand that over the last few years a lot of work has been done in cutting the outcrop rock from dangerous areas. The Honourable Member for St. James South wrote me in connection with Prior Park and Thorpes. I want to inform her that we will be touring that area next week to look at the area of concern. It is a dangerous corner and we intend to do something about it.

There are also areas in St. James that are in need of cut rock including the Sea View area.
7.10 p.m.

The other area we have been looking at over the last couple of months is Dayrells Corner. Mr. Chairman, we would have to take a paper to Cabinet to seek funds to rehabilitate some of these dangerous roads.

Mr. Chairman, I want to let Honourable Members know that they must be analytical of what we are doing and that it is very important for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to get the various letters and responses from them in order to help us to understand the local areas that are in need of rehabilitation because we do not know everything and their letters and responses will certainly help us in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, we have just reorganised all of the 13 depots within the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in such a way where we have put a Technical Officer II in charge of each constituency. All the Members of Parliament will get a letter from us informing him or her of the officer who is in charge of his or her constituency. This officer is supposed to ensure that signage is in place, that debushing is done and that the drains are cleaned.

Mr. Chairman, I want to give the Honourable Member for St. Lucy the assurance that a lot of work is being done in St. Lucy. We are doing work at Crab Hill, Fryers Well and at Colleton from Six Men's to Half Moon Fort. Mr. Chairman, a Committee has also been set up to review and install signs throughout the island. That committee has been in place for a long time. You, Mr. Chairman, would be aware of that Committee. We are hoping that over the next couple of months we could improve signage and lighting in the island because that is a problem on the highways, as the Honourable Member for St. James South has pointed out that there is a need for lighting in the Prior Park, Thorpes and Husbands area. There is ongoing pothole patching in that area.

Only this morning someone reported to me that some potholes were in the area of West Terrace and we would be going there tomorrow morning to see how we could get these problems fixed.

Mr. Chairman, in the St. Michael area there are some concerns. In the Seclusion/Black Rock area which is in your constituency, the people there have been asking about the repairs to their road. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport has plans to rehabilitate this road as soon as the Natural Gas service is installed. We are working with the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities in that regard so this road will be fixed in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, there is a lot of drainage problems continuing at Hindsbury Road, but I want to give the Honourable Member for St. Michael West the assurance that

we will be planing that corner right at Hindsbury Road. I also want to give the members of that community the assurance as well that even though the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment has carried out a social survey of the area and has recognised that there are a number of houses to be relocated, the Government will not be relocating those houses without first having a town Hall meeting with them.

In any event, we will not be relocating a single house at this time as we have to look at the cost of doing so. Of course we would try as far as possible to reduce the numbers that are to be relocated. We have been very concerned especially with the business houses in that area.

Mr. Chairman, we not only have to await the final social survey, but we have to go back to the Planning and Priorities Committee for the final cost of rehabilitating Hindsbury Road which runs from the junction of Eastmond Corner down to the Globe Cinema.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East is very concerned about the widening of the road at Mapp Hill. The Mapp Hill Road, which is a dangerous stretch of road stretching from the Dash Valley corner right down to the Bussa Roundabout, has to be done.

Mr. Chairman, to rehabilitate all of these roads will take some money over the next five or so years. This Supplementary here is mainly to look at the special projects that have been started over time. Of course, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy complains that he does not see any special work being done in St. Lucy, but if he looks at this work here, he would not see any special work being done in St. George, St. Andrew, St. James or St. Thomas either. However, I want to give Honourable Members the assurance that we recognise there are special programmes in all constituencies.

Mr. Chairman, I can speak of St. Thomas. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas is not here, but she has reported to us a number of areas in her constituency that are in need of repairs. The Honourable Member for St. James South has also made representation for some areas in St. Thomas like Butts and Clifton Hill.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport is cognisant of these things and I am urging all Members of Parliament to get to know their depot and the person who is in charge of their constituency.

The Honourable Members for St. Philip West and St. Philip South have made reference to equipment. We have

been having some problems with our equipment which we have been confronting for a long time. Although the Government has spent \$10 million in equipment over the last three to four years, I am not totally satisfied with the level of equipment that we get. I do not know if it is the operators of these equipment at the present time but we are not totally satisfied with the level of equipment that we have from day to day. To me the life of these equipment seems to be very short-lived and we have to look at that very carefully.

Mr. Chairman, each Member of Parliament needs to be aware of what is happening in their constituency. Each constituency has material and they have labourers who are supposed to do the work. It has nothing to do with which constituency you belong to. The depots are supposed to bureau all the constituencies across Barbados and are supposed to do the things the Member of Parliament wants them to do whether they be a "B" or "D". We have a programme which is based in large measure on the Members of Parliament, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the local communities working hand in hand.

Mr. Chairman, in terms of Martindales Road, I want to say to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South that it is my understanding that the Ministry had several meetings with the Administration of the Hospital. We have started the rehabilitation work at Martindales Road, but I believe that we can have further consultation with the Minister and the Ministry of Health very shortly because the Minister has made representation for those nurses who have to come out at night to wait for transportation on the John Beckles Road.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport has given me the assurance that special lighting would be installed and a temporary bus shelter will be put up. Mr. Chairman, I think we may have to revisit the Martindales Road area because it can be done in phases and we would try to accommodate the requirement, but I want to give the assurance that we would try to meet with him very shortly.

Mr. Chairman, with those remarks I beg that Head 45 stand part.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 45 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
7.20 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His HONOUR the SPEAKER, the passing of one money Resolution in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. G. A. CLARKE, seconded by Hon. R. R. FARLEY, the Resolution was read a first and second time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government's Business for today's Sitting.

I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, July 13, 2004, at 10.00 a.m

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

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

7.23 p.m.

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