
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2003 – 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday June 14, 2005.

PRESENT

His Honour I. A. ROETT, G.C.M., B.A., Dip. Ed. (Speaker)
His Honour J. M. EDGHILL, J.P. (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.) (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and the Civil Service)
Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.)
Mr. L. R. TULL, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.)
Hon. Dame Billie MILLER, D.A. (Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)
Mr. G. W. PAYNE, LL.B.
Mr. R. D. MARSHALL (Chairman of Committees)
Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN
Hon. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., LL.B. (Minister of Public Works)
Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD, LL.B. (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment)
Hon. Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P. (Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports)
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)

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL, B.Sc. (Econ.) (Hons.), M.A. (Public Finance) (Leader of the Opposition)
Dr. W. F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S., FDRCS, J.P.
Hon. J. X. WALCOTT, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.) J.P. (Minister of Health)
Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B. (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)
Hon. D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Industry and International Business)
Mr. R. D. JONES, B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Ed.), J.P.
Dr. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.
Mr. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

Prayers were taken by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, June 7, 2005.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, June 7, 2005 which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: I beg to give notice of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. J. X. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Amendment) Bill, 2005, be read a first time.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) ACT, CAP. 225 THE VESTING IN COAST GUARD RELOCATION INC. OF THE PARCEL OF LAND THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN SITUATE AT THE FLOUR MILL SITE, BRIDGETOWN HARBOUR IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND TO FACILITATE THE FINANCING OF THE COAST GUARD RELOCATION PROJECT

Mr. SPEAKER: The Right Honourable Prime Minister. 10.20. a.m.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the Cabinet meeting of the 3rd June, 2004 agreed that a parcel of land situated at the Flour Mill site at the Bridgetown Harbour, measuring some 16 321 square metres should be vested in a company entitled, the Coast Guard Relocating, Inc., which is a company incorporated and registered under the Companies Act of Barbados to facilitate the financing of the Coast Guard Relocation Project. This parcel of land was conveyed to the Crown by the Barbados Port Authority at no cost and the site will provide a new base for the Coast Guard Station, which is currently accommodated at Fort Willoughby at the Careenage.

The construction, Mr. Speaker, will be carried out under a Build, Operate, Lease and Transfer Arrangement with the National Insurance Board, and the successor to the Caribbean Commercial Bank. As a requirement for the financing of the project – and I will come to this – the Coast Guard Relocation Inc. was established as a special purpose vehicle to own and develop the property, which will then be leased to the Government for 25 years, after which the said property will be transferred to the Government. The approval of Parliament, Sir, is now being sought for the vesting of the said property in Coast Guard Relocation Inc., to facilitate the financing of the Coast Guard Relocation Project.

Mr. Speaker, in this presentation, I propose to speak specifically to all matters concerning the Coast Guard Relocation Project, giving Parliament full information regarding the reasons why this project is being undertaken, and giving full details pertaining to the planning and financing of the project. I think it would be useful also for me to use the occasion to speak to a few issues, obviously subject to secrecy and confidentiality considerations, regarding the security and the defence of the security of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I really regret that the facilities of Parliament have not yet reached a stage where a presentation on a matter such as this, can be supported by visual representations of what is proposed. I would like to urge upon the Management Commission of Parliament that the work of Parliament will be greatly facilitated if the information technology that is now routinely used in all institutions could be used in Parliament so that a matter like this could be presented to Parliament, not just in an oral way but in a visual way. I feel that all Members of Parliament would like to see...

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, like cricket, if technology is available, use it but I regret and apologise to the House that there is no means by which I can show a visual representation of what is proposed. I would say to the House, I feel very strongly that my presentation will be greatly enhanced, if I could draw these references to some of the physical features and to have these matters delineated on maps and shown in Parliament in a way that there can be no misrepresentation of what is intended.

I rather suspect that had this facility been available, all of the issues relative to the No Confidence motion about what happened in St. Peter, Sir, could have been pre-empted. I know that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West who was the victim of that indiscretion would agree with me readily to let us move forward in making sure that the House itself would have been enhanced, if all of us had the benefit of physical representation. I urge that on the

House, as a person who has been here for 20 years and is keen only to help you in making sure that the work of Parliament can be improved.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the background to the project, I do not believe that anybody in Barbados would doubt that the Barbados Coast Guard has made a significant contribution in ensuring the security and safety of Barbados' waters since its inception in 1979.

The Barbados Coast Guard is required to do a lot with very little. Many people seem not to be aware of the scope of its functions but the fact is that the Barbados Coast Guard has to work and continues to work closely with the Marine Unit of the Royal Barbados Police Force, the Customs and other national and international law enforcement agencies, in pursuit of national security objectives but carrying out operations which include the following, Mr. Speaker:

Maritime surveillance operations. It is involved in Port security operations. It is involved in counter-narcotics operations. It is involved in operational commitments to the regional security system. It is involved, Sir, in fishery protection and patrols of our economic exclusive zone. It is involved in maritime work to ensure enforcement of our maritime agreements. It is involved in search and rescue, and safety at sea activities. It is involved in maritime, environmental protection activities. It is involved, as all of us know, in disaster response and mitigation. It is involved as well in Port state control inspections and maritime investigations.

Sir, that is an overwhelming list of very imposing obligations in which the Port has to be involved. The current requirements for counter-drug interdiction, port security and maritime enforcement are likely to be expanded, as we deal with the challenges involved in future exploration and exploitation of our hydrocarbon resources in our exclusive economic zones.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about an institution that performs a fundamental role in the operation of our society. May I also make the point that the fundamental threats to Barbados' national security increasingly take the form of narco-terrorism, narco-kidnapping, narco-extortion and narco-governance. All of these are imposing threats affecting the security of Barbados like no other and has nothing to do whatsoever, Sir, with 'soca-holics'. All of these are fundamental threats which in a way go beyond anything that has ever been contemplated in the past with which the Coast Guard has to be equipped to deal with, Sir, and as I said, the Coast Guard has to do a lot with very little.

Mr. Speaker, in many respects, this has also been the fate of the Barbados Defence Force, in whose name I will

plead today. The Barbados Defence Force has never, in my judgment, ever been able to rise above the concept of the strictures contained in, 'Boots', and it has always enjoyed less than many other institutions in the society, because of, I think, Sir, a view that enjoys a lot of currency that one should never over-endow the Army. Sir, the Barbados Defence Force has to do a lot and the facilities at Fort Willoughby are inadequate.

The Barbados Coast Guard has outgrown its present location not only because they are inadequate but in order for the Coast Guard to respond to its current operational requirements and to meet future challenges, it has to be put in better appointed circumstances. The present location, as the House knows, has also proven very vulnerable to severe weather conditions.

For example, the building and infrastructure were severely damaged during Storm Iris but more recently, in 2004, a special urgency was added to this particular endeavour because, although Barbados was not directly hit by Hurricane Ivan, the Coast Guard Headquarters at Fort Willoughby were severely damaged. We therefore have before us, Sir, a most extraordinary situation that in the event of a major hurricane, if the Coast Guard stays where it is presently located, it would be of no use to itself, far less being of use to the rest of the society. In the circumstances where we anticipate with confidence more and more severe hurricane conditions, it is now a matter of urgency that we should proceed with the relocation of the Coast Guard.
10.30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I, therefore, want to give a background to the project. I do not think that the House should quibble on the question as to whether the Coast Guard should be relocated. The onus is upon the Government to justify the scope of the project and to satisfy this Parliament that the planning, the designs of the project and all matters related to its financing have been undertaken with due regard to propriety and in such a manner as could solicit the support of all sides of Parliament that what we are doing are not just the right things but that we are also doing them in the right way. Therefore, I need to give a full background to what it is that we are doing and how we have sought to do it and also give justifications as to the cost and to the methodologies that are being proposed in relation to have this matter dealt with.

Sir, this matter has been 10 years in planning. It is a project that will eventually cost \$60 million. The House will agree that a matter such as the planning of a \$60 million investment has to be gone into with all due regard for propriety and seriousness. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, the Government decided that the Barbados Coast Guard should be relocated from the Fort Willoughby site to lands reclaimed to the north and west of the Flour Mill at Spring Garden.

Sir, let me make it clear, from a planning point of view, that every time a major project has to be undertaken in Barbados that involved intrusion into the marine environment, that due care and deliberation have to be made, especially with projects on the West Coast of Barbados. Effectively, we are closing environmental doors in this country, but we have to be very careful as to how these environmental doors are closed.

Sir, this country is increasingly becoming a coastal economy. Most of the income generated in Barbados is generated along the coast. Therefore, every time there is a major investment that involves going into the marine environment, great care has to be taken in planning it to satisfy ourselves that all coastal conservation and coastal environmental issues are met and answered especially relating to matters affecting the drift of sand.

Mr. President, this high concern for the protection of the coastal environment pertains as much to Government projects as it does to private projects and in part explains why we have been so very careful in undertaking this project. I say that because while this project would have been agreed to in principle in 1996, in reality, in terms of the concept, the project embraces two sets of work, work in the marine environment and territorial works, that have to do with the provision of specific, administrative and operational facilities for the Coast Guard to carry out its work.

Mr. Speaker, as regard the project concept, the project involved marine work entailing first of all berthing areas and moorings to accommodate vessels ranging between 60 – 67 metres in length and rafts of up to five metres. It will also involve the provision of a protective offshore breakwater with shoreline stabilisation.

Sir, it is at this point that I would have been glad if I could have had the benefit of a slide projector or something to let the House understand what I am talking about.

Also in terms of its marine work, it provides access to berthing facilities. It will make provision for a haul up facility for vessels up to 12 metres in length. The marine works would also provide for lighting for safety navigation operations.

Mr. Speaker, all of the designs for the marine works were the subject of an environmental impact assessment study to make sure that as we respond to the needs of the Coast Guard, we do not put the coastal environment in Barbados in jeopardy. We are doing this now, Mr. Speaker, in every major project where there is an intrusion into our marine environment. I wish to let the House know that we have held the Coast Guard to the same exacting standards for

coastal conservation as we would expect for any private investment.

Mr. Speaker, as regards the onshore works, there is to be the provision of security facilities including a sentry post and buildings for the military police, armoury and security fence. There is to be an administration building to provide suitable accommodation for the officers and staff of the Coast Guard.

Sir, may I say to the House that if they were to see the existing administration buildings at Fort Willoughby they would understand the dire circumstances under which the Coast Guard now operates.

There is to be an operation centre to include conference, communications and operations room with radar facilities. There is to be a medical facility to treat minor injuries and ailments and a fitness centre. There is to be onshore, a workshop for general ship repairs and maintenance and storage for vessels, spears and dive equipment. There is to be accommodation for the regular and reserve officers, male and female, of the Coast Guard as well as facilities for the Sea Cadets.

Sir, this project has two important components; an onshore component to provide for the administration and the operation of the Coast Guard in total, as well as a marine capacity, that would allow us to have it in safe conditions that would even be appropriate for the use of the Coast Guard even during a hurricane, to provide protective offshore breakwaters and shore stabilisation, to provide berthing for vessels, as well as to provide a facility for the haul up of vessels.

Mr. Speaker, I would think that the House would agree that the scope of the project is realistic in the context of the needs of the Coast Guard and the extent to the function that it has to undertake.

Sir, in relation to the planning of the project and the arrangements to carry out this work, as I said earlier, this project has taken 10 years to properly design and to bring us to the stage where within days the actual construction work will begin. We have taken great pains in making sure that we have this right. Phase 1 of the project, including all the preliminary work, the establishment of a steering committee which was responsible for defining the scope of the project, managing, the tendering and the procurement of design consultants, and more especially the undertaking of an initial environmental assessment study, was done by Alleyne Planning Associates and on its completion an outlined planning approval was granted by the Town Planning Department.

Mr. Speaker, the design drawings and the tender documents were completed on June 27, 2003 with the submission of the final report by the design consultants, Halcrow International. The design drawings and tender documents were produced at a cost of \$2.4 million. Prior to the submission of the final report, the designs specifications, drawings and tender documents were reviewed by a technical subcommittee, they were discussed and were modified. The major modification was to incorporate an important concept, that being that the marine component should be so designed as to allow our Coast Guard base to constitute a hub for the Eastern Caribbean. I think this point is very important.

Mr. Speaker, Barbados cannot just have a Coast Guard facility that meets its own requirements. Barbados is part of a Regional Security System (RSS) and our security is provided for through a network of relationships with the Regional Security System. Mr. Speaker, I must thank the RSS for its assistance recently when we had the little issue over our Prison.

10.40 a.m.

We are designing a new Coast Guard facility not only to meet our requirements but also to specifically enable what is being developed there to be a hub for the Eastern Caribbean. Sir, some of the designed features of what is proposed and hence the resulting cost stem from the fact that we are building a facility that has a twin dimension.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to procurement, this matter was the subject of tendering. On October 23, 2005, after the tendering had been undertaken, Cabinet agreed that contracts for the construction of the new Coast Guard Station should be awarded to C. O. Williams Construction Limited in joint venture with Edghill Associates and JADA Construction Limited for a sum of \$49 million. This amount is only for the construction but there are other project costs having to do with supervision and whatever else that also have to be taken into account in arriving at the final project costs.

Mr. Speaker, in compliance with the wonderful methodology that was prescribed to Parliament in 1992 by the then Minister of Finance, the Government of Barbados felt that this project should be the subject of a Build, Operate, Lease and Transfer arrangement and although it is a public function that it could provide an opportunity for private investment. Sir, we have been using these instruments especially to enable the National Insurance Board of Barbados which has the requirement to manage virtually a billion-dollar portfolio to have investment opportunities in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stress this point because recently the National Insurance Board has been the subject of some critical comment by the Leader of the Opposition. Sir, the largest manager of institutional funds in Barbados is the

National Insurance Board and in the absence of appropriate local investment opportunities some of the resources of the National Insurance Board have had to be invested abroad. Today, the country has over \$160 million in what is called second-tiered reserves because the Central Bank of Barbados has allowed the National Insurance Board to invest some of its resources abroad.

Mr. Speaker, at present, the contributions of the National Insurance Board far exceed the benefits that it has to pay out but in order to maintain the viability of the National Insurance Fund into the future, the large amount of contributions in the National Insurance Board has to be invested in bank accounts. We have made a deliberate decision that nothing could be better than for the monies of the people to be invested in projects that could advance the purposes of the people. Hence, we have been deliberately creating opportunities for the National Insurance Board to be able to make investments locally and derive rates of returns that are higher than would have been the case if it were to take those same funds and put them in bank accounts.

Sir, for example, the National Insurance Board was allowed to treat the building of headquarters for all the UN operations in Barbados as an investment. The Government is allowing it to get a good rate of return on it with the understanding that after 25 years, the property would be transferred back to the Government.

Equally, Mr. Speaker, we feel that the National Insurance Board should be able to make an investment on completion of the corporatisation process in the expansion of the airport. Once the airport is made into a corporate entity would be in a position, properly managed, to generate returns of a commercial nature. Sir, nothing could be wrong with the funds of the Barbadian people being invested in the expansion of the airport to allow us to be able to meet the requirements for airport capacity while allowing the National Insurance Board to be able to get a return.

Mr. Speaker, the Port expansion should also be an opportunity for the National Insurance Board. Sir, a number of major projects that would have been large and lumpy projects on the public account, we have decided that other people should do them. It is the same justification today as that of twelve years ago.

Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West criticises these arrangements he does not intend to criticise the Barbados Labour Party. He intends to criticise the Honourable Member for St. John who was the architect of the concept that Build, Operate, Lease and Transfer (BOLT) arrangements should become part of the process.

Mr. Speaker, in 1992, the Democratic Labour Party made it very clear that they then saw it as an important way of trying to control the size of the fiscal deficit. We also see it in the same way too. I think that the carping criticism that has come from the Leader of the Opposition when he hears that the National Insurance Board is making investments to help build capacity, using the people's monies to carry forward the people's purposes, when the political veil is lifted, should be recognised for what it is. It is an attempt to stave off the unworthy challenge of the Honourable Member for St. John rather than to discredit something that he knows is worthwhile, that the people's monies should be used to help build people.

Mr. Speaker, I need to say to the House and the entire country that we have to build a new coast guard facility. The Coast Guard facility is going to be built not by the Government spending money immediately on it but by Government encouraging the National Insurance Board to see it as an investment opportunity and the putting in place of a joint venture arrangement between the National Insurance Board and a private bank, initially, Caribbean Commercial Bank (CCB) now its successor, RBTT, and that the two entities are putting up the financing. They will be responsible for building it and operating it for 25 years, the Government will lease it from them and every year over 25 years will be paying for the lease on the understanding that after 25 years, the facility will be returned to the Government. Sir, in the interval, the Coast Guard would be responsible for proper maintenance of the headquarters and matters of that nature.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that the funding for this matter is being raised by way of a Build, Operate, Lease and Transfer arrangement involving a joint venture arrangement between the National Insurance Board, initially the Caribbean Commercial Bank now RBTT. May I say that there are other projects in which the Government of Barbados will be using this means of funding to carry forward the work of the people of Barbados. One such project for which a ground-breaking will soon take place is the Tamarind Hall project in St. Joseph which will bring community facilities to the people of St. Joseph which is long overdue. The ground-breaking will take place no later than September of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the construction cost of this project was intended to be \$49 million and a contract for that was signed with the people who were the lowest bidder. However, on the sale of Caribbean Commercial Bank to another entity, RBTT, that intended to buy the project and also required that we carry out a review of this project. Therefore, there has been a delay between our agreeing to the award of the contract and our being in a position today to proceed to ground-breaking in a few days' time.

Mr. Speaker, a result of that delay occasioned principally by the requirement of one of the joint venture partners to carry out a review, many aspects of the cost of the projects have increased. We agreed in 2003, that the project was subject to review but in the interval things have happened which are not under the control of the Government.

Sir, the cost of services including cement, steel, oil have all increased in the interval. As a result of the frequency and damage caused by natural disasters last year, insurance costs have risen between 80 per cent to 110 per cent and is affecting the insurance provision of this project. There has been a 12 per cent increase in cement, 10 per cent increase in sand and an 8 per cent increase in blocks recorded over the last period.
10.50 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that there is an element of gauging and I would like to feel that somebody can bring a case before the Fair Trading Commission in the interest of the consumers of Barbados in relation to some of these matters. I feel that is why the Fair Trading Commission exists.

Sir, structural steel has risen between 65 and 70 per cent in the period. Across the world, because of the tremendous growth in certain economies, especially China and India, commodity prices are being built up. As we are aware, there has been a surge in energy products over the last two years, oil-based products have increased by 27 per cent. The total increase in the cost of components for this project over the last two years increased by an estimated \$6 million, resulting in a revised projected construction cost of \$55 million.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to construction cost, there is also the cost of supervision during construction. The Halco Group Companies, formerly Sir William Halco & Partners, is the company that has been approved to supervise the construction of the new Coast Guard Project and the total cost of construction plus supervision costs is now projected to be \$55 million plus \$3 million in supervision costs.

Sir, given the scale of the onshore work, the offshore marine work and the requirements of the Coast Guard, with all the best will in the world, one could not keep the cost of a project of this nature below what it is.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Finance has been at great pains to keep the cost of this project down. As I said, the delay in the implementation of the project had to do with the fact that while this project started with Caribbean Commercial Bank, it has been taken over by the RBTT. RBTT undertook and reviewed it, however, the \$39 million financing from the Caribbean Commercial Bank had been put into an account which then started to accrue interest. The

bank wanted us to agree to pay the interest on the project financing that had been put into an account. The Ministry of Finance argued strenuously that since it was the bank that called for a review, we were not prepared to pay any interest that accrued while the bank was undertaking a review. Thankfully, the bank has agreed to waive the interest that has accrued on the monies that had been put into an account awaiting its final review of this project.

Sir, we have also agreed to exempt this project from the payment of duties and taxes, including the Value Added Tax for a very simple reason. In a specific sense, the Government of Barbados will be leasing this facility from the people who are building and financing this construction. There is no point our including the Value Added Tax and other taxes in the cost of construction and then paying the people involved a percentage of the tax that we collect from it as part of the lease. To reduce the lease payment, we have exempted this project entirely from the payment of tax.

Sir, if we were to include these payments, every year this Parliament would have as part of its lease payment for this property, to pay both the construction costs as well as a percentage of the tax as part of the lease. Therefore, the Ministry of Finance agreed to keep the cost of this project down by exempting the project from taxes.

May I say that I would like us to pursue the same approach in relation to the Justice Project. There has been a delay in that project as well because the bank had to review it. The Government will not agree to pay interest on financing that has accrued in that interval when the bank says that it wants to review a project that it is financing. That is its business. I feel that in every instance where we are going to be asking people to build for us to lease, to reduce the cost to the Government of the future, we should have the project exempted from taxes. Mr. Speaker, this project is now exempted from taxes and accrued interest will cost \$58.3 million.

Sir, RBTT is putting up \$39 million and that money has already been committed to an account. The National Insurance will provide funding of \$19 million and the portion of the National Insurance contribution to the project will be drawn on a needs basis and we have, therefore, dedicated financing for this project. We are of the judgement that once the project starts this month, with the financing already dedicated and committed, the project can be completed on time.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the arrangement is, this project will be financed and owned by the National Insurance Board and the private sector partner and leased to the Government at a lease level sufficient to provide an acceptable rate of return exclusive of maintenance, based on the overall cost of the project. The term of the lease will be for 25 years and at

the completion of the 25-year lease period, the Coast Guard Headquarters will be transferred to the Government of Barbados. The Barbados Defence Force will retain the responsibility for the proper maintenance of the Coast Guard Headquarters. The land for the construction of the Coast Guard Headquarters will be conveyed to the National Insurance Board and the private sector partner.

Mr. Speaker, that is what brings us here today. A company called the Coast Guard Relocation Inc. has been formed to issue the bonds to investors, to receive funds from the investors and to make disbursements during the construction phase, to own the assets to be leased to the Government during the leased period and to receive lease payments from the Government during the post-construction phase for payment to bond holders.

Sir, let me say that the National Insurance Scheme and the bank have formed this special purpose vehicle called the Coast Guard Relocation Inc. and the Resolution before Parliament is intended for us to have this land vested in this Coast Guard Relocation Inc. in order to facilitate the financing of the project.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. John, who has just arrived, would be pleased to hear that this is in conformity with his concept as to how public finances should have been organised as far back as 1992. I have claimed no credit for the use of a BOLT but I have drawn to the Honourable House's attention that the criticisms, such as arrangements that have come from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, have been more intended to be a damper on the ambitions of the Honourable Member for St. John, rather than of criticism of the Government of Barbados in its present form.

Sir, I am saying that in his presence because I think that he would agree with me that nobody in their right mind could criticise the National Insurance Board from being involved in productive investments in Barbados, using the people's money to help to build the capacity to expand the people's work. All that this was intended to do was to draw negative reference to the wonderfully wise words of the Honourable Member for St. John, when he was Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that now that he is here because I do not think that it should be said without his hearing. That is how I feel about it, Sir. I know that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, on sober reflection, will join with the Honourable Member for St. John, in believing that there is absolutely nothing wrong with the National Insurance funds being invested in projects like this, to use the people's money to help the people of Barbados and that he will find nothing wrong in the future,

with the Build, Operate, Lease and Transfer arrangement because it is the best way in which to reduce public expenditure.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, they are consulting. I think that there should be a snapshot of this historic moment because you do not have consultation of this nature between the Honourable Member for St. John and St. Michael North West. I will urge the Marshal of this Honourable House to come quickly because I am sure when they have spoken a fight may break out in this Honourable House, Mr. Speaker.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, there is something really ridiculous about our present way of calling for Cabinet expenditures. We show the full cost of Cabinet expenditures when it takes place and then at some time in the future we show the full cost of the servicing of any loans, both the principal and interest of those same capital expenditures.
11.00 a.m.

Therefore, a \$100 million project in Barbados now as a capital expenditure is shown as \$100 million on the books when it takes place, then, year by year we still show the expenditure for the repayment of principal as a cost and the debt service. Mr. Speaker, this arrangement shows that if we have a \$100 million project, year by year we show only the lease payments for it and that over an expended period of time, a \$100 million capital project will be shown as less expenditure than if we ourselves borrowed, in order to finance it and that is very important.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: God Bless you, Kelly. I know you would do a lot of things that would be of assistance to me. I put myself in your tender care, in a way that the Democratic Labour Party is not prepared to accept from you.

Mr. Speaker, I had been at pains to explain the background to the project and the rationale for it to justify the expenditure. I believe that given the scope of the project, this is money that is going to be well-spent. I do not think anybody in the House will quarrel about the need for the expenditure. We sought to get the best financial arrangements. We feel that this is going to be good investment, both for the RBTT and the National Insurance Scheme. I have no doubt whatsoever that the project has been properly planned and that the Coast Guard Project Team that has supervised it, has taken into account every

environmental security and other consideration. Therefore, Sir, I am seeking to have this matter approved by Parliament so that the work can proceed.

I need this morning, Sir, to use the opportunity to speak more broadly on aspects of the security of the country and the plans that the Government has to put in place to deal with our security requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be fair to say that in the early days of the 21st Century, a very unfortunate aspect of globalisation is the internationalisation of criminal activity, with the international criminal class showing a capacity that is beyond that which would have been shown historically, also, Sir, that which is very often far times greater than the capacity available to respective Governments.

I am not going to make light, Mr. Speaker, of the security threat that Barbados continues to face, although there is absolutely no doubt that we have made tremendous progress in the fight against crime and violence. The whole country should be alert to the fact that there is now an international criminal culture that has entrenched itself. A lot of it is based around the international traffic in illegal drugs, much of it, Mr. Speaker, has to do also with the related activities in gun-running. Criminal networks have been formed and are being expanded to support this culture. It is not only a criminal network that is selling drugs, but narco-terrorism, narco-kidnapping, and other such actions sponsored by those involved in the illegal drug trades are now representing themselves in a lot of crime against ordinary members of the society.

It is a very serious thing that every time, for example, Barbados has a major success in interdicting a drug shipment, those who have locally the responsibility to pay for the drugs that had been seized, very often proceed to prey upon the society, to raise the monies that would have been otherwise realised from the sale of the drugs. I am not going into greater detail on this matter but there is a relationship between our success in interdicting drugs and the incidence of crime in this country, relative to places where funds can be raised.

There is a tremendous culture here, Sir, of a criminal network and we would do well in Barbados not to underestimate the seriousness of it, despite the success that we ourselves have had in reducing the level of crime and violence in the land. May I say, Sir, that there are some Caribbean countries now, where the impact of this narco-related criminal culture is reaching epidemic proportions.

There are some Caribbean countries, Sir, where the rate of murders, kidnappings and other such related activities and their threat to communities are now so severe that a security crisis exists in many Caribbean countries. Sir, although I will

today speak about the reduction in the level of crime and violence, I will not want this House to feel that this Government...

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is trying to interrupt me. He also wants to form an alliance with the Honourable Member for St. John. I get very disturbed, Sir, when given the history of antagonism between the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and the Honourable Member for St. John, when I see, in front my eyes, this brazen attempt to want to strike a rapport. It bothers me.

Sir, protect me from them and let them form their alliances outside the context of this Chamber, but I think he should be speaking to his leader, the real leader and not the Honourable Member for St. John.

The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that we have to undertake a serious review of the way in which Barbados has provided for its total security. I am serving notice to the House that in the light of certain recent developments, the Government will be asking Parliament, in due course to commit even greater resources to building capacity in the Defence Force, the Police Force and the Coast Guard to counteract certain initiatives that have been taken by others which can work to Barbados' disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, I am not here this morning to condemn our traditional allies. The reality is that from its very inception, the Barbados Defence Force has been the beneficiary of significant support from the British Government, the Canadian Government and the United States Government. Sir, without going into any great detail, I want to thank those Governments for the support that they have rendered thus far. I put that officially on the record.

Mr. Speaker, for many years the training and the equipment budgets of the Barbados Defence Force (BDF) have been heavily subsidised by donations from the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. In addition to that which we have voted in the House, the BDF annual budgetary allocation has been supplemented by military assistance from these various agencies. Again, Mr. Speaker, one does not want to go into detail about matters of this nature but the fact is that we have received a lot of support for military training and education. This is extended over Governments, Sir, and we have also received support for acquisition of weapons and for assistance in the field.

Sir, in recent times, our major and traditional allies have in some respects redefined their own security priorities and have also put in place certain policies that will affect

what Barbados can expect to receive from them in the form of assistance to our discipline forces. In the case of the United States of America, as you know, some of its relationship to Barbados and the rest of the world is now informed by the position of the United States of America's Government on the international criminal court and more especially, the willingness of respective countries to sign bilateral agreements to exempt United States citizens from being subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

Again, I have no interest in getting involved in any war of words with anybody, but the Government of Barbados has a foreign policy that is driven by values and principles and we seek wherever possible to marry our values and principles. The business of creating an international criminal court has gone back as far as 1951. In its present incarnation, it has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion through the initiatives of a former Prime Minister and President of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. A. N. R. Robinson. I think Barbadians have also been associated with this work.
11.10 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, an international treaty was held in Rome in 1998 and after five weeks of intense negotiations 120 countries voted to adopt the treaty. In 1998 only seven countries, and the list is interesting, Iraq, the United States of America and Israel among others, voted against the treaty to establish the court. The International Criminal Court, as you know, Sir, is concerned mainly with the prosecutions of individuals, as opposed to States, who are guilty of genocide, terrorism, sexual slavery, war crimes, crimes against humanity and undefined crimes of aggression.

Mr. Speaker, it is the Government of Barbados' strong view that in this era where, as I said earlier, there is a growing international criminal class involved in activities of the very kind that we have just prescribed, that the International Criminal Court can perform an important function in ensuring the dispensation of justice globally and ensuring the establishment of conditions for global stability and global security. It is in that context that the Government of Barbados has supported the Court. We signed the treaty creating the Court and we have also ratified the instruments for its implementation.

Sir, we cannot tell the United States of America Government how to run its affairs. If the United States of America wants to be involved and be identified with countries like Iraq and Yemen, in not supporting an International Criminal Court, that is the business of United States of America. What has happened is that in May of 2002 the Bush Administration renounced the signature of the United States of America of the Rome Statute creating the Court, citing that it had no intention of becoming a party to the treaty and therefore had no legal obligations arising from

its previous signature by the United States of America Government.

Sir, in August 2002 the United States of America Government passed the American Service-Members' Protection Act which signed into law and prohibits any United States of America court, State or local Government from responding to a request for cooperation between the International Criminal Court, while at the same time authorising the use of military force to liberate any American or citizen of a US allied country being held by the court. Sir, more to the point, the Act makes provision for the United States of America Government to withdraw military assistance from any country which has ratified the agreement creating this court.

Sir, I have said that the Government of Barbados has a foreign policy that is driven by both value and interest. In today's climate, we feel that the interest and the value of the Government and the people of Barbados are represented fully in the formation and the full functioning of an International Criminal Court that can properly pursue the responsibilities that have been assigned by the court by a treaty between the participating countries.

Sir, the Government of the United States has been seeking to have countries signed, on a bilateral basis, immunity agreements to a so-called Article 98 Treaty, that are intended to shield citizens of the United States of America from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. The Government of Barbados has refused and will continue to refuse to enter any bilateral treaty with the United States Government with the intention of shielding anybody from the jurisdiction of this court. In response to our refusal to enter any such treaty, the United States of America has withdrawn, on a bilateral basis, the military support that it has historically given to our Defence Force.

Sir, we will continue to collaborate with the United States of America Government and all other agencies in the world in security operations that have as their purpose making safe and secure the environment within which the people of Barbados live. We will pay for any military resources that we get from the United States of America Government, whether it be in the form of having our officers placed, or procurement of ammunition or any other things needed for the full guaranteeing of the security of the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I want the House to be clear that as we go forward, because the Government of Barbados has decided that we are not going to sign Article 98 agreements to provide immunity of United States citizens from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, we will no longer get some of the assistance that we have received in

the past from the United States of America Government and we will have to provide those capacities from the resources of the taxpayers of the Government of Barbados.

Sir, we are not in a fight with anybody. There are some countries in the Caribbean, which we are not criticising either, that have signed these immunity agreements, but that is their business. It does not coincide with the values of the Government of Barbados neither does it coincide with our interest for us to agree to an International Criminal Court and then to also agree to a provision which, in our judgement, would make the operation of that Criminal Court a parody as to what a court should be about. Sir, I am not quarrelling or fighting with anybody, but I hope that this position by this Government could attract the support of every reasonable person in this country. This Government will not sign Article 98 Immunity Agreements because we believe it is wrong.

Sir, that will affect our bilateral relationships in relation to the meeting of our security needs. In addition, the House is aware that in addition to the receipt of support on a bilateral basis, Barbados has also received support in the context of our Regional Security System operations.

There is a Regional Security System of which Barbados is a part. In 1996, President Bill Clinton committed to donating aerial assets to the Regional Security System to help us in our counter-drug operations in the Eastern Caribbean. In this context two aircrafts were donated to the RSS, the first in 1999 and the second in 2001.

Sir, for purposes of security, I do not want to go into too much details but each aircraft has been outfitted with surveillance sensor equipment that enables us in a way that we were not able to do before, to track maritime traffic in the waters of the Member States of the Caribbean. The aircrafts also conduct routine patrols within our region and provide the vital information that we have access to on the movement of maritime traffic from island to island.

The annual funding for the operation of those sea aircrafts amount to \$2.3 million. From the inception of the programme, the RSS was required to cover the cost of insuring the aircrafts while the Government of the United States of America provided funding for all other aspects of their operation. Training and operational support was also provided and continues to be provided by the United States of America Government, and I thank all of them for doing this on behalf of the people of Barbados and our subregion, after which the Regional Security System member states would be required to assume responsibility for 25 per cent of the operation of the project on an incremental basis after two years with the anticipation that by 2005, the Regional Security System members would provide full funding for the

operation of the C26 aircraft. Sir, we are not coming to a point where we are surprised by the insistence that the agreement signed that the RSS countries come eventually to take responsibility for the aircraft is now being asked of us. 11.20 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, when the initial agreement ended on 2001, the RSS countries are poor in general and the member States were not in a position to provide the 25 per cent of the funding required and the Government of the United States decided to fund the project for another two years. At the signing of the third agreement, the member States of the RSS were again not in a position to fund and the annual funding of the US Government was cut by \$200 000 during the financial year 2002/2003.

Mr. Speaker, strenuous attempts have been made this year to try to enter an arrangement that would regularise our relationship with the operation of the C26 aircraft. The Government of the United States of America has indicated a willingness, if necessary, to withdraw the aircraft if the RSS countries do not come on board in meeting part of the resources. Sir, that is the policy of the Government of the United States of America, and I am not here to condemn it. In fact, I am also saying that originally it was intended that it would be a co-funded operation.

Mr. Speaker, I could not overemphasise the tremendous and great value of the operation that the C26 aircraft made to the security of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. I want to thank the Government of the United States of America and the RSS for what they have done. The maritime aspects presently operated by our Defence Force do not allow us on our own ability to exercise surveillance over our coastline, neither do our own capacity in the Defence Force allow us the intercept capabilities necessary during interdiction operations. The C26 aircraft has, therefore, filled an important void by providing long-range surveillance and allowed our Coast Guard to be better positioned to interdict the speed boats used by drug traffickers.

Mr. Speaker, the range of the C26 aircraft also allows for effective monitoring of our territorial waters and is very important in the conduct of search and rescue missions by supplying maritime units with the exact location of distressed vehicles and up-to-date location status. Mr. Speaker, may I also say that in this era where the region is threatened by disaster after disaster, we also need to maintain an appropriate search and rescue capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that appropriate co-financing arrangements can be put in place that would allow us, on a regional basis, to have access to the C26 for the Regional Security System and I have come to ask the House support for this. This country may be doing well in dealing with crime and violence but let us not underestimate the threat from the criminal network involved in the narco-culture. We

are now facing a situation where the traditional sources of support on a bilateral basis for our disciplined forces have been removed. I have not gone into reason but the Canadian Government has also removed its support, the British Government has shifted its support to other places as well and we are bilaterally on our own. Yet, we have a duty to provide for the security and safety of our people and to ensure that the development of Barbados can continue on our own terms to take place within an environment of security of stability.

Sir, as Chairman of the Security Council of Barbados, I have recently convened a meeting to ask that a special paper be prepared to discuss what Barbados needs to do to fully equip our security forces to fill the gap that is left by the withdrawal of support from our former traditional donors, as well as to make a sensible assessment as to what is required for us to meet the gathering threat which is obvious to anyone, that does not originate in Barbados but is a threat coming from an international criminal class, central to which is a narco-trafficking class.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that Barbados can no longer just depend upon the aerial capacity of the RSS and the C26, co-funded by the Government of the United States of America but that we have reached that moment, in my judgement, where we have to acquire our own aircraft to do our own surveillance and our own facilities to be able to do rescue and safety operations.

Mr. Speaker, we also need a helicopter. There was a time in Barbados when the Defence Force had aircraft capacity. We do not have that now even though we have a bigger threat and the issues for surveillance are greater in today's world. Sir, I do not feel that we can any longer be at the mercies of others in providing for the security of the people of Barbados.

Sir, the Government would be in default and delinquent if we are aware that traditional support is being withdrawn and we are not moving seriously to fill the void. I think we would even be more seriously in default if we could spell out, as I have spelt out, the nature of the security threat that is unfolding and gathering and we do nothing serious to be able to provide facilities for us to be able to meet the security of the people of Barbados on our own terms.

Mr. Speaker, I do not condemn the Government of the United States of America if its priorities have shifted to the fight against terrorism and it is no longer seeing the fight against international drug trafficking as it did before because that is their business. We have enduring interest and business to carry out relative to that fight. I do not condemn the British Government if they are withdrawing traditional

support because they need to carry their training to the Middle East. The British have got involved in the war in the Middle East and now have to redeploy their resources in the context of their priority. Sir, that is their business and they have a right to do their thing as they see it.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the House in all seriousness that one of the things we must do in the rest of this term is to agree together, in a non-controversial way, that the resources must be found and put in place for us to give the people of this country the assurance that their lives would be pursued and that they can go about their business in conditions of safety and security. We must agree in this Parliament to making those resources available and under conditions that we ourselves would control in the future such that one morning we would not get up and find that our ability to provide security for our people has been compromised because others have made decisions in their interest that bear adversely on ours.

Mr. Speaker, I imagine that soon I would be able to bring to Parliament recommendations from our Security Council relating to what Barbados needs to do by way of increased capabilities, aircraft and others to cause us to be confident that we are doing all we can in our power to be able to address this situation that has shaken so many other Caribbean countries.
11.30 a.m.

Sir, having said that, let it not be said for a moment that the only way in which we are looking to increase our capacity at the Barbados Defence Force is by lifting capacity, aircraft and building the Coast Guard. The conditions of the engagement of members of the Barbados Defence Force have been bad. Sir, I am not going to get into a partisan debate here but the truth is, when the Barbados Defence Force was created, it was created under conditions of controversy, celebrated even in calypso, such that the conditions under which the men and women of the Barbados Defence Force were engaged have always been the subject of suspicion that too much was being done for them. Mr. Speaker, on the contrary, too little has been done. Sir, you will find that the budget of the Barbados Defence Force has not risen over the course of the last ten years in line with the public expenditure, and that the conditions of the Barbados Defence Force have not been improved either.

Sir, I will not try to discredit the Royal Barbados Police Force but they too needed to have been improved and we have brought to bear a flexi-allowance for them and have improved their conditions, but there has been a feeling that very often the Barbados Defence Force is to be there but soldiers must live under conditions of spartan austerity and must perform in the public's interest and if you do something for them it is bad. I have seen that culture in Barbados. The

people love them for what they do, recognise their great worth but sometimes feel that when the Government spends money on the military that it is money wasted.

Mr. Speaker, one of the tremendous areas of deficiency has been that all other public officers are subject to good pension arrangements but members of the Barbados Defence Force have not been. That is wrong and has to be corrected. In the case of the Barbados Defence Force their circumstances are different because people enter the Barbados Defence Force, not with a view always to have a full career but with a view to be able to serve and then go on. Therefore, the design of a pension arrangement in the Barbados Defence Force has been exercising the Government.

Sir, today, I say to this Honourable House the originally proposed was for them to have a pension arrangement similar to that of other public officers and I take responsibility for it. I said that in my view, given the fact that members of the Barbados Defence Force joined with the view to leave, that the occupational pension arrangements which allow for portability of benefits, that allows people to have benefits vested after a period of time and carried to their other employment, would have been a better arrangement. I had a meeting with the Barbados Defence Force establishment and said to them rather than placing them under the old arrangement, we would see how they can best use the provisions of the Occupational Pensions Act to meet the needs of their officers.

Sir, I want to make available to this Honourable House the Report of the Actuarial Valuation of the Barbados Defence Force Plan that has been prepared in pursuit of this. The arrangements for a Barbados Defence Force Pension Plan, using the provisions of the Occupational Pension Arrangements, are now the subject of policy definition. I hope to be able in the very near future to bring this matter to a resolution.

I would be glad if the Chief Parliamentary Council's Office could treat this matter as urgent and get on with the business of helping us to put it in place. I say, to Parliament that this is long overdue for our Barbados Defence Force people will be facing increased danger and I feel that people should be able to join the Barbados Defence Force and enjoy, not only the prospect of having a pension but also having pension rights, which not only can be vested but pension rights which they can carry from the Barbados Defence Force to other occupations.

Mr. Speaker, I make available for the benefit of this Honourable House, the report of the *Actuarial Valuation of the Barbados Defence Force Pension Plans* as evidence of the urgency with which we want to proceed in the matter.

Sir, I do not think the Opposition would feel that I would speak in this manner without speaking generally to issues relevant to crime and violence in the land. If only because I know what it was to have to go through an election campaign where crime and violence was in a republican kind of way made the wedge issue. I say a republican kind because a high-powered consultant was engaged to win an election for the Democratic Labour Party and the issue was crime and violence. If you ask the Democratic Labour Party how do you deal with the issue of education of children, they said crime and violence. If you ask them about old-aged pension, they said, crime and violence. It was a major wedged issue. That is what it was. Sir, I say that not at all to underestimate the fact that we still have a lot of things to do to continue to fight against crime and violence but to make the point that I hope that never again would there be an election in which the seriousness of a Government in trying to reduce crime and violence can be the main subject of an election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, none of us on either Side of this Honourable House, as Members elected to this Parliament, take any relish in the instance of crime and violence in the land. We all anguish at the loss of life. None of us take any pleasure from the incidences of robberies against our constituents and the people of Barbados. We anguish as well, I hope, when the fair name of Barbados is held up when visitors to our land are the subject of criminal activity by a recidivist element in this country.

I have no doubt as well that part of the problem is due to generational and cultural change. I stressed the point that we have become the victims in the phase of globalisation of cultural exports where our young people are being bombarded, I feel, by bad negative images emanating from examples in the Bronx and Brooklyn, which are increasingly becoming what they see as the norm. The way they live; the view of their relationship with people; how they dress and their mannerisms are being generated in that cultural milieu. Sir, when you watch television, and I wish that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation would deal with it – you now have a culture of gratuitous violence embedded even in cartoons that are being watched by children. Sir, it is shocking that you can not have a situation where the children of this country can watch entertainment for children without seeing a lot of shooting and random pillage, as if this is normal human behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a cultural situation where this was not part of my socialisation. The previous generation of Barbados grew up in that culture where that visual carnage was not part of our socialisation. We are expecting too much that young people will grow up bombarded with those visual representations of what life should be, central to which is just random murder, violence

and carnage as a source of entertainment and do not feel that it is something that they themselves should practise.

Sir, in the United States of America you now have random violence in schools. How do you explain this other than that people see what is on television and believe that it is reality? That is true. We have to begin to understand that a major aspect of this is the globalisation of a culture, the export of certain cultural products that have disturbing aspects to them that are warping young people's perception as what life is about and how life should be lived.

Sir, the difficulty is, in an age of globalisation, there is no means by which you can close a society from the influence of information technology to shield our people from those influences.

11.40 a.m.

Sir, what we have to do is to revisit the cultural foundations of our development with a view to making sure that our cultural icons, the cultural products and the environment within which our development takes place also offers a serious balance for the benefit of our young people, as regards those things that should shape their lives.

I keep making this point, Sir, that I have become the Minister of Culture just to be involved in visiting Tents and so on but because I feel – and I feel that any future Prime Minister of Barbados must understand – that the foundations of our national development, the way in which our people live, and how our people relate to this society will be driven, in an age of globalisation by this socialisation that is coming from societies, which package culture in a form that affects how people see themselves but more especially, how young people relate to their society. Sir, it is sad to say that there is a great profit being derived from people who are packaging cultural products for the sale of gratuitous violence to young people.

Mr. Speaker, I despair for the young people of the country when I see the way in which television programmes reflect how they should dress and how they should relate to symbols of authority. I am happy in a way that I was the product of a different kind of socialisation. I was never late for your Parliament, Mr. Speaker, because I went to a primary school where we had to get to school by quarter to nine and I know that there is a discipline called punctuality. Every day we had inspection, although we were poor, for dress and hygiene.

I am happy that I grew up in a village, Mr. Speaker, where as I have said over and over again, I knew a Barbados where there was self-reliance. At our village in Rose Hill, Mile-and-a-Quarter, Sir, there was a blacksmith and there used to be a man who would make the donkey carts so that people could produce their own transportation in the village.

There was an upholsterer. The Honourable Member for St. James Central is shaking his head in astonishment but this was the Barbados I knew. Sir, in the same village, there were two baker shops, a shoemaker and seamstresses and almost everything was done by persons who lived in the village. Sir, we just cannot go back to it, but we now live in a society where that has passed.

Again, Sir, we have to ask ourselves how can we, without seeking to go back to that same thing, capture the aspects of community life and self-reliance that made Barbados strong but without which we can be strong in the future? We cannot go back to that and I am not saying that it is idealised, Mr. Speaker, but there were certain essential values about it, having to do with how communities should function, which no longer are represented as the model in the way in which the images that confront our people are represented to them.

Sir, rather than there being a community based upon self-reliance and resilience now, increasingly, we are having a community in which antagonisms are deliberately fostered by a 'gimme' culture and an industry of complaining is being created such that people are not being conditioned, Mr. Speaker, to accept any inconvenience, no matter how modest.

Sir, that is a society in many respects in which the shapers of opinion are creating in this country. In many respects it is fostering alienation. People feel that if their needs cannot be immediately met that they have a right to be able to pillage the society, as if pillage is recompense for the failure of society to meet everybody's expectations.

These are some of the important aspects of the sociology of our development, Mr. Speaker, which we must come to terms with, as we deal with issues of crime and violence. It has to be therefore represented in a coherent programme to take what was best in the development of a society in the past as values, and try to embed those values in new programmes of self-reliance as we go forward.

I am not saying to carry Barbados back to an idealised form in the past but let us recognise, Mr. Speaker, that the cultural and sociological environment in which our development is being made to take place, is being shaped, sometimes not intentionally, Sir, by entities who are now in my judgment, helping to stir alienation and controversy by asking Barbadians very often to become part of a culture of complaining and that nothing is satisfactory, nothing will suffice and that everybody want everything done all at once. We are not, Mr. Speaker, as a society any more willing to encourage aspects of the self-reliance that has made Barbados a strong society.

Sir, I am happy with whom I am and what I was because I lived in an age where my parents had to use a small portion of land to send to school a large family. They did it as if by a miracle, and a large number of Barbadian families did that as well. Mr. Speaker, we now live in a society where people feel that the Government or the MPs should do everything for you, otherwise you are not living in a good society.

Sir, the sooner we return Barbados more and more to a situation where the individual must accept more responsibility for their welfare, the better a society we shall be, and I need to say that from the Floor of this Parliament. The Government will not resile from trying to develop and create conditions for growth but development does not mean absorbing the individual from the responsibility for their own welfare.

I need to hear more from the opinion makers in this country that the individual Barbadian has also a responsibility in your constituency as well as mine, Mr. Speaker, to begin to do things to better raise their families. A lot of the crime and violence in Barbados, Mr. Speaker, and I want to say this deliberately so, can be attributed to wayward parents, not so much, wayward children. This country is not lacking in the basic opportunity that a society must give its own.

The basic opportunity that a society must give its people is the opportunity of an education to let you advance through acquiring an education. If there is an aspect of Barbados that we could be proud of, it is that we have sustained the initiative to give our people opportunities through education. Everyone of us in here is the product of a process of development that has allowed us to advance through education.

There is no shortage of educational opportunities available to our criminal class because everyone of them has had the benefit of the same opportunity available to every other Barbadian. If there was discrimination in relation to educational opportunities available, Mr. Speaker, I will feel that Government are culpable, but there has been a sustained commitment to providing people in this country with the benefit of education. My parents saw it, Sir, and they grasped it for their children.

There are too many wayward families that are not insistent that the great expenditure we are making in education should be grasped, Mr. Speaker, and should be seen through and that their children too should come out of the process, Sir, with no less a capacity for development as those of us who have come through that same system.

Mr. Speaker, there is sadness when in Barbados, Sir, schools are pillaged, but parents are not held responsible

because that is where it must begin. Every year, the Ministry of Education has to deal with something that was not the situation in my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying this for the benefit of young people in Barbados. When I was at school in Barbados as a school child, every end of term we had to scrub the desks and prepare the school for the next term. This is true and we came through a process where the responsibility for the physical condition under which our education took place was ours. Now, people are going to school, in newly built schools that are being vandalised and then the Government must spend, in the Summer vacation, to put back what was made bad by the children. The parents should be controlling them. Sir, when it is not done together, there is a big hue and cry in this society and that has to stop. Mr. Speaker, a lot of the breeding ground for criminal behaviour in this country is the refusal of parents, at the level of the schools, to make their children responsible for what they do in the schools in relation to respect for authority and for property.

11.50 a.m.

Sir, it is a syndrome that is sad. It is a syndrome that a Government itself cannot issue a law to change, but it is a syndrome that a Government can call attention to and urge that the society become engaged in it as an aspect of how we proceed.

Mr. Speaker, when I went to secondary school there was a gentleman called Mr. G. S. Yearwood, who was five feet 2 inches tall, and at 10 minutes to two every day, all of the boys at the Coleridge and Parry School, some six feet tall, who refused to accept discipline were called to his office and were subjected to a positive system of discipline that helped to produce decent citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am revolted by the way in which parents now refuse to agree that discipline should be applied at schools, both primary and secondary. The sense of discipline that must go with a citizen through life must be instilled in that period when there are learning behaviours. This culture of people attacking sources of authority started in this country at the level of schools and is being supported by wayward parents. For the benefit of the country, Mr. Speaker, we have to stop it.

Mr. Speaker, the Government will do what it needs to do in terms of putting in place the facilities to fight crime and violence, and we have done so. We have responded to the requirements of the Police to equip them and we will continue to respond to those requirements. We have responded to the requirements to provide improved terms and conditions for the Police, flexi-allowances and others, to enable them to do their work and to receive reasonable

returns for doing their work under circumstances that others in the society do not have to confront.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to uplift the capabilities of our people and seek to expand the economic and social opportunities available to Barbadians as an essential aspect of the fight against crime and violence but in the final analysis it has to be understood that there are powerful sociological and cultural influences that must be faced and addressed having to do with the way in which behaviour is evolved, encouraged and fostered at all of our principal institutions over an extended period of our citizens' lives.

Mr. Speaker, we have to agree and accept that there are inter-generational changes that are taking place in Barbados that will involve a clash of generations based upon a clash of perspectives. My perspective of Barbados, Sir, is different from that of my younger sister and to that of her children. Therefore, we must begin to accept and understand those inter-generational forces that are providing the basis for conflict in our country and respond to them sensitively. Sir, I am sure that all Honourable Members of the House share the perspective that this must be a holistic approach.

Mr. Speaker, I am really making the point seriously that in 1999, I was saddened that there had to be a campaign based on the belief that a Government would not want to deal with crime and violence. Mr. Speaker, governments by their very nature, because politics is about popularity, will want to be successful. I cannot imagine why people would feel that the Barbados Labour Party Government would not want to deal with crime and violence, but that is part of the culture of the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, in 1986, the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown would remember, there was a vicious campaign led by the Democratic Labour Party that Members of the Barbados Labour Party then were involved in the illegal trafficking of drugs. That was a campaign issue. It was wrong and it was false.

Sir, I am not going to pillory the Democratic Labour Party, but the truth of the matter is that every government would want to be seriously involved in making sure that crime and violence do not attend their citizens. Sir, every government would also want to be able to report that success is being made in the fight against crime and violence. Sir, I am proud therefore to be able, on behalf of this Government, to so report that to this Parliament at this time.

Sir, I went to Trinidad and Tobago over the weekend to give a speech to the Trinidad and Tobago business community on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and they have asked me to convey to the House how wonderfully well Trinidad and Tobago business community wants to work with us in Barbados to develop the two

countries. Sir, the only question that was asked of me is how do I feel that the region should respond to the epidemic of crime that is sweeping Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica, because there is an epidemic of crime sweeping those two countries.

Sir, I hear the concern being raised about the murder rate in Barbados. Sir, in Jamaica, the murder rate is 52 per 100 000 people. In Trinidad and Tobago, the murder rate is 22 per 100 000 people. In Barbados, we get about 22 murders a year. In Jamaica, you are talking about nearly 1 500 murders a year. In Trinidad and Tobago, there is a spate of murders and kidnappings, with 22 murders per 100 000 people in a population of a million people. Barbados has one of the lowest rates of murder in the region. Our murder rate is even lower than that of St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Sir, no one in the Government can take pride or happiness when as has happened recently there have been 13 murders for the year to date, five of which involves females. Mr. Speaker, the men in Barbados have to stop treating the women in Barbados badly because a lot of our murders arise from men feeling that women are property and believing that violence against women could be justified as a means by which they take out what they fancy to be just vengeance upon women for doing those things that women have done to them that some of them are worth having done to them anyhow.

Sir, a lot of our more violent crime is driven by domestic consideration between man and woman, and five of the 13 murders this year are based upon that alone. A lot of it is also driven by what I call that criminal class involved in the drug trade who believe that they too, like women beaters, have a right to pillage, not women, but the general society.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner of Police recently spoke about the reduction of crime in Barbados. I think that is a credit to the Government and the whole society.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, does not believe in that because he has a violence in language and a violence even in relation to his own Party that suggest that he feels that institutionalised violence of a political nature is highly desirable. I have no doubt that if he had a choice – because he would not stop troubling me – that he would do violence both to the Honourable Member for St. John and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, to get where he wants to get, but that is another issue for another time, Mr. Speaker.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, could somebody in the Democratic Labour Party muzzle him in the House so that he does not treat the House the same way that he treats the Democratic Labour Party headquarters. We are having a debate in Parliament and he just comes in here and interrupts all the time.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, if ever I had a wayward son, I would call him Kelly.

Sir, there has been a substantial reduction in the level of crime across all classes in this country. There is a reduction in burglary, 12 per cent and a reduction in commercial burglary, 38 per cent. Firearm crime reduced to 38 per cent and crime against tourists by 54 per cent. The level of reported crime in Barbados is at the lowest level ever in 15 years, that has to be said. It also has to be said, Sir, that this is not just the result of the work of the Government, but as a credit to the discipline forces and the whole society. The people of Barbados want to live in a successful society. Therefore, the fight against crime and violence when it is successful is not led not only by the Government but by the people who want to live in a successful society.

Sir, there is a receptive environment in this country for serious initiatives to reduce the level of crime and violence. The Government's effort is really responding to a positive environment within which the matter must be addressed. Sir, that is where the Democratic Labour Party got it so wrong and that is why, as a result, that despite the campaign of 1996, the Democratic Labour Party lost the general election by 26 – 2 seats because the people heard them saying something that is foreign to that which they want for Barbados.

12.00 noon.

They want to live in a successful society and will never support a Government that believes they can use the fear of insecurity as a wedge issue in this country. The Barbados Labour Party would never allow you to use wedge issues in this country in the way in which the Republicans have used wedge issues about same sex marriages and so on to humbug the Democrats of the United States of America because wedge issues can be effective in campaigns.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I do not talk in the House a lot these days so my sap is not rising. I leave such things to the younger Member whose sap is rising. Mr. Speaker, there is an aspect to our crime situation that has to be discussed sensibly. Sir, it is the St. Vincent connection.

Mr. Speaker, 80 per cent of marijuana imported into Barbados is from St. Vincent. The statistics reveal that over the last two years marijuana totaling 18 275 pounds having a street value of almost \$48 million were seized in drug operations in Barbados linked directly to St. Vincent. Intelligence support also suggests that \$15 million worth of marijuana from St. Vincent landed in the same period but was not intercepted by law enforcement. Sir, this is a big business.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just the marijuana or cocaine flows that we are concerned about. Sir, organised criminal networks between entities in Barbados and St. Vincent have been formed and are expanding. When the Commissioner of Police has made representation on this matter, he has not only been referring to the flow of marijuana and cocaine but especially referring to the criminal culture involving people who are making a livelihood from that criminal activity involving entities in St. Vincent and Barbados that is being institutionalised.

Mr. Speaker, intelligence has suggested that there are at least three attempts per month to land mega-shipment from St. Vincent for the benefit of this criminal network. Recently, when there was the incident at Glendairy Prison, it was found that in per capita terms, there is a disproportionate number of Vincentians imprisoned in Barbados relative to any other nationality. Sir, 44 Vincentians were imprisoned in Barbados as compared to 49 Jamaicans.

Mr. Speaker, this activity is a major threat to the national security of Barbados. Sir, the threat is vast. It is not just the flow of drugs but the formation of a criminal network and it has to be dealt with. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy and I will join in this. Some coastal districts are under siege and the fear in communities is high.

Mr. Speaker, in certain districts in places like Duppies in St. Lucy, Six Men's in St. Peter and other districts the residents are subject to harassment by drug thugs in support of this criminal culture.

Mr. Speaker, we have made representation, to which we feel that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has given an inadequate response. It is just not enough to say that they control the demand. We speak about the formation of a criminal network and we are asking for the cooperation of the Government of St. Vincent in treating to this matter.

Sir, I do not want to get involve in a war of words with anyone in the Caribbean because I am tired of it and too old for it. Sir, some countries have made a determination that there are going to respond to globalisation by certain means. In our case in Barbados, every year for the last seven years

I have come to this Parliament and presented economic policies that recognise that globalisation is a threat, that we have to reposition the country, that we cannot do it all at once but that every year we should try to do something to advance our own domestic economy.

The Opposition may pooh-pooh this approach. They keep saying that I am talking about the same thing but, Sir, I am, because there is an enduring threat caused by globalisation that has caused us in Barbados to have our manufacturing and agricultural sectors – because of the rules the Democratic Labour Party agreed to in 1994, with the WTO – to face international competition in our domestic market. Sir, manufacturing and agriculture have been under pressure since 1998 because the WTO agreement signed by Barbados has forced us to withdraw all the traditional props and supports that those enterprises use to face.

Mr. Speaker, I am not complaining about the Democratic Labour Party. It the hand we have been dealt but we cannot respond to it by saying that because we are getting a raw deal from the rest of the world...

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: The Honourable Member for St. John, is briefing his Colleagues as to how I may, without wanting to say something, say exactly what I want to say.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that since 1998, we too in Barbados have had to respond to changes forced upon us by international trade agreements. We have had to carry a fearsome price. The decline in agriculture and manufacturing is not something that we relish or welcome. It has been triggered by a removal of protectionist trade mechanisms that have supported them throughout years which we had to remove as part of the implementation of the commitments made in April 1994, under the Uruguay Round of the multinational trade negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, we have sought to respond positively. We may not fully succeed but every year we are trying to respond. Sir, other countries in the Caribbean have faced challenges of a similar and sometimes even more catastrophic nature. Sir, Dominica depended heavily on its banana industry. A large part of the recent problems of Dominica is that the Banana Protocol has been successfully challenged and bananas went from being 50 per cent of the export of Dominica to 21 per cent but nothing has taken its place and similarly so with St. Vincent.

Mr. Speaker, in St. Vincent, there has been a formation of the Marijuana Growing Association that is now recognised as a producer organisation. Sir, in some parts of

the world, marijuana is recognised in the law as a substance to be used lawfully in small quantities for medicinal purposes. If St. Vincent wants to produce for that market opportunity, it is their business but I am not saying anything today to encourage people in St. Vincent to believe that the formation of a Marijuana Growers Association and the flooding of the Barbados market as a transit point for selling that marijuana elsewhere is something that we relish in Barbados. Sir, we want to join with the Government of St. Vincent in a proactive effort to deal with this criminal culture that is being formed. It is bearing especially heavy on communities in the east and north of Barbados especially St. Lucy and St. Peter. Sir, if the Honourable Member for St. Lucy does not join me today, I will have to go to St. Lucy and condemn him in a way that I was not able to do when last I spoke in St. Lucy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this Government has suffered in silence recently while the name of Barbados has been bashed in some respect by what was issued out of St. Vincent relative to the position that we have taken on Haiti. In recent weeks there have been some statements made in the international media about Barbados that have been in the nature of vilification of our positions. I am not interested in any war with anybody in the Caribbean.
12.10 p.m.

Sir, we have suffered in silence on this matter. We have even suffered from positions taken by certain persons in the Barbadian community who do not understand international relations, who fancy themselves as being the repositories of the social conscience and the repositories of all that is progressive and good in politics and who have taken positions on this matter without understanding that about which they have taken. I am talking about Haiti. We have been condemned by comparison to what the Prime Minister of St. Vincent is appearing to be saying.

Sir, I will be no longer be silent on this matter. Let me put it in context. If you have a wayward child or relative you may do one of two things. You may say that you are going to wash your hands entirely of the conduct of that child or relative, or on the other hand you may say that you have a vested interest in what happens to that wayward child or relative and you want to stay engaged to influence what happens to that child or relative.

Mr. Speaker, staying engaged does not mean in that context that you endorse the behaviour of the child or relative or that you support it, but that you want to be involved in what is happening in that person's life to influence it for the better.

Sir, in international relations, the concept of being engaged, obtains even when the bitterest of enemies had to treat to each other during the Cold War when the Communist

bloc and the Capitalist bloc were at odds. They found a way of staying engaged to talk with each other because they had mutual interests that were important.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America has always found a way to be engaged with China and North Korea. It does not necessarily mean that you are supporting what they are doing but you have to be involved in order to exercise influence. If, however, you withdraw all of your engagement, you create a vacuum that leaves the people whose behaviour you should be influencing, to do what they like.

Sir, in relation to Haiti, I have been involved in meetings with the former President of Haiti, where that President was told by at least one Caribbean Prime Minister, and not the Prime Minister of Barbados, that for the good of Haiti and the Caribbean, he should give up office. It happened at Monterey at the Summit of the Americas. It was not the Prime Minister of Barbados. The Prime Minister of St. Vincent should be in a position to say who that Prime Minister is.

Sir, a strong position was taken by a Caribbean Prime Minister, for reasons that are best known to that Prime Minister, that Mr. Aristide should go. That was said in the presence of Mr. Aristide. It was not the position of the Government of Barbados that Mr. Aristide should go. We also voiced strong opposition and continued to voice strong opposition about the circumstances under which he was made to go. We did not support or do not support the overthrow of legitimate Governments by anybody.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, there is a thing called the law of necessity, that there must be a Government. In the case of Haiti, despite the unsatisfactory circumstances under which Mr. Aristide was overthrown and removed, the Constitution of Haiti described what should happen in cases where the elected President is not the President. Sir, the process of complying with the replacement of a lawful authority in the event of an overthrow of the lawful authority was followed as regards the way in which the present administration was appointed.

Mr. Speaker, we do not like what has happened. We do not really support regime change in the Caribbean but in the final analysis, if there is no lawfully appointed Government and the Constitution of the country describes how one should be replaced, that constitutional provision has to be accepted for what it is, based upon the law of necessity.

Sir, when we say that we feel that CARICOM should be engaged, it is not to say that CARICOM is supporting the administration or we approved the way it was constituted or how it functions. In fact, to the contrary, we are upset as a

Government with what is happening in Haiti but we can only influence what is happening in Haiti, if as a region, we agree to be engaged, not to let them sit in our Councils but to continue to talk to them. More especially to say to them that Haiti has subscribed to a Charter of Civil Society and that we would expect, no matter if it is Mr. Aristide in office or whoever in office, that those basic precepts embodied in the Charter of Civil Society for CARICOM, that regularise how CARICOM countries relate to each other, must be respected by any administration in Haiti.

Sir, if you say that you are not going to be engaged, that you are not going to have anything to do with the administration in Haiti; it simply means that the opportunity to tell them that they must treat citizens like any other Caribbean citizens in the context of that Charter, is denied to you. It is a disgraceful moment in Caribbean history when the Caribbean region as a community has Haiti as a Member of our community, we have a Charter of Civil Society that specifies itself as the precondition under which they relate to us as a Member of our community, but we are not in a position to require that the administration in Haiti should respect the rights of its citizens, media and Opposition in the context of that Charter, because the politicians in the Caribbean have said, including Mr. Comissiong, that the Caribbean should not be engaged. Therefore, you create a vacuum, and then the Caribbean Leaders kept themselves imprisoned because CARICOM is saying that Haiti must function like any other CARICOM society no matter if Mr. Latortue or Mr. Aristide is in office, because we are not engaged.

Sir, there are two other crimes that the Caribbean community has committed. Mr. Speaker, two hundred years after the black people of Haiti ran Napoleon's army out of Haiti, the most powerful army, a French army is back in Haiti today helping to run Haiti. There are Brazilians, Chileans and Kenyans in Haiti. However, we are saying that the Haitian people are Caribbean people but we would have nothing to do with what is happening in Haiti.

Sir, that is a crime and it would be like washing our hands like Pontius Pilate. It would be worse than Pontius Pilate because at least Pontius Pilate was a Roman and Christ was a Jew but the people of Haiti are Caribbean people. While this region has washed its hand and people are pontificating in public, the worst kind of criminal disaster is being foisted on the people of Haiti. Sir, where is the Caribbean conscience? Sir, engagement means that we would bring to bear history of Caribbean democracy and the Caribbean conscience, to bear and once we engage, this cannot be done in our name.

Mr. Speaker, worse, disaster of a natural kind attended the people of Haiti and the rest of the world was able to

respond. Where was the Caribbean? What, may I ask, Sir, are our interests? Is it not the welfare of the ordinary man and woman in Haiti the interest that we must promote Mr. Comissiong? If we are not there when they need us most, of what use is our empty rhetoric to them? The Caribbean has abandoned Haiti.

Sir, I am not saying that we should have admitted them into our Tribunals but the nature of international relations involves even the bitterest of enemies finding a way to talk to each other and to influence what each other does. I feel that when history is written, what the CARICOM has done to Haiti in this day of its greatest peril will be seen as the most odious and obnoxious action ever taken by a group of Caribbean Leaders.

Sir, the media that is representing our position as wrong, are people first of all, who do not understand international relations and who, if they understand them, want to wrap them.

We are not saying that we like what is happening in Haiti. We disapprove of it. We do not believe that we should support the administration by recognition. We have not said that is what we want to do. We do not feel that they should sit in our Councils in CARICOM until such time as there are elections in Haiti and a duly constituted Government is installed in Haiti, based upon our concept of democracy.
12.20 p.m.

Sir, there is a permanent interest that we, the people in the Caribbean have in Haiti and it is about the welfare of the Haitian people. This is why we should continue, Sir, not just to hold them up because my Government is not interested in holding up the Haitian Administration but in trying to influence what they do, and make sure that these things about which the crocodile tears are being shed by some people in this country too, some people in St. Vincent and elsewhere that all of those atrocities, Mr. Speaker, we felt and we still feel that could have been avoided, if CARICOM was there.

Sir, I have consistently said, as the Prime Minister of Barbados that we are not recognising the administration of Haiti. We do not approve of how Aristide has been removed. We want normalcy to be restored to Haiti as a matter of urgency, but as practical people of affairs, we also recognise that nature abhors violence.

Sir, as practical political people, we also recognise that if you create not just violence but an environment within which people are not to be made responsible to their international or regional agreements as embodied in treaties, that you confer upon them – by that act of your own delinquency – their scope to do things to their citizens, which they could not do if you were holding their feet to the fire.

Sir, I have asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Barbados to begin to speak to this issue because all across the world, we are being vilified by those people who want to use their own position on Haiti as evidence of high-mindedness in the eyes of certain so-called progressive forces across the world.

This Government in Barbados, Mr. Speaker, does not have to use any high-minded approach to establish our credentials for being enlightened people. We draw our strength from a long history deep, deep in the evolution of this Barbadian society, as a country that is guided by the best values and principles. The late Rt. Excellent Errol Walton Barrow expressed it when he took us into the United Nations that we are the friends of all, Sir, satellites of none. We have occasions, over and over to test it and that at every instance we have said, let us look both to our values and to our interest.

Sir, those who want to, and continue to vilify the Government of Barbados must understand that in this particular matter, we have sought to take account both of values and interest. The values being that we must, in everything that we do, exhibit a fundamental respect for democracy as it is intended to be practised under the Charter of the civil society. It is embedded in our own Constitution, our domestic law and it is also reflected in the way in which our society functions.

Sir, that is our value and we want to see equitable development within the context of social justice and to see it practised at home and abroad. In our values here, we do not believe in regime change. We will condemn the United States Government or any other Government that for whatever reason, whether it is in Iraq or Haiti, goes in without lawful authority and overthrow a constitutionally elected Government. We express those as values.

In the case of Haiti, Sir, we have interests as well. The fundamental interest that we have in Haiti relates to the way in which we, as a Caribbean people who are better off, can at this juncture, Mr. Speaker, contribute to ensuring the welfare of the people of Haiti, no matter who is the administration in Haiti. It is when you get your values, your interest and your foreign policy working together that you have a serious foreign policy.

Sir, to say that you wash your hands, you cannot talk to them and you cannot influence what is happening in Haiti, is not only a folly but it is a miserable process of delinquency by the Caribbean States from the obligations that they should have been accepting in relation to that long suffering society.

Mr. Speaker, we are not taking it any more. We have been quiet while people have vilified us but Barbados will put the record straight. We must. I still feel that the

Caribbean community must revisit this business about not being engaged with Haiti. All the countries of the rest of the world but more especially, those in Latin America have entities in Haiti trying to restore normalcy and give, not the Government the opportunity to look good, but the people of Haiti a chance to live.

I have made it very clear, Mr. Speaker, that Barbados has no military assistance to send to fight any wars in Haiti because that is not how we should be engaged. We have a contribution to make to helping to create in Haiti, institutions of a civil society that can allow Haiti to become in time, a well-ordered and a prosperous democracy. Sir, we should draw from our own experience to be part and parcel of the process of the Haitian peaceful reconstruction.

We also feel, Mr. Speaker, that the extent of the plight of the people of Haiti should not go unaddressed by way of material support. It is not support for the Government, Sir, but there are people in Haiti who have died and who are suffering. The Caribbean stands mute, because there is an element within the Caribbean leadership who has put out this propaganda that in order for us to be even engaged in talking about it, Sir, we are in some respect betraying fundamental principles. It is a nonsense, Mr. Speaker, but I also say it is a malicious, wicked nonsense as well. Sir, Edmund Burke said it well, that the only thing that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.

There is a triumph of evil in Haiti, Mr. Speaker, because good people are doing nothing. The people who could do something about it, Sir, are the people in the Caribbean who could draw upon a record of democracy that could tell Latortue that we are coming in, based upon our Charter of Civil Society and what you are doing must stop, but that is not happening and we have abandoned Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, I speak with an outrage that we have abandoned that section of our civil society in the Caribbean who are the poorest and who need CARICOM the most and it is wrong. The foolishness that we have entertained in the Region has to stop.

My Government wants to be part of a process of engagement, not to prop up the administration, Sir, but to force them to come to terms with what they must do, in the context of the Charter of Civil Society that Barbados has signed, as a condition of our membership of CARICOM, and that Haiti has accepted, must be a condition for its participation.

Mr. Speaker, what has been happening in Haiti is not because of our engagement but because of our failure and the fear of CARICOM to be engaged, and it is a travesty. Sir,

unless we begin to talk about it, it would be perpetuated by those who have a political agenda that believe that the issue of wrong-headed rhetoric is the way in which this Caribbean should be governed.

Mr. Speaker, I came to this House to talk about how Barbados will provide for its security. I sought in this presentation to give a full background to the matter before the Parliament. I view this as an opportunity to enlighten the House about all aspects of the arrangement. I await response from everybody else and if there are legitimate issues that are being raised about what we are proposing to do, in relation to the Coast Guard Project, Sir, I am open as a child of this Parliament to the issues properly raised by the Opposition.

I have also brought to the attention of the House, as far as I am capable to do as the Minister of Defence and Security, matters relative to how Barbados should respond to security issues.

I have also touched, Mr. Speaker, on issues related to our place in the Caribbean, as regards the security and stability of the Caribbean. It is against this background that I do beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hour being just 12.30 p.m., I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.30 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 1.30 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
12.31 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to make a contribution to this wide-ranging debate. I want to come to the issue of the Resolution before us which deals with the vesting of land for the purposes of expanding the building of the Coast Guard.

I want to say from the outset that \$60 million is a fairly hefty piece of money to invest in the Coast Guard at this time. I am not against the level of investment but I am asking the question if we ought not to be concerned with our onshore security as much as we are with our offshore security. Could this Government not have allocated some of these resources to the Barbados Police Force? I think in the whole quest for managing the current difficulties we have and the foreseeable difficulties that it would have been, to my mind, even more critical to get our onshore security better reinforced especially in light of the challenges which we are going to be confronting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in that regard I am suggesting that the allocation of \$60 million to the establishment of the Coast Guard while not being a bad thing over the long term, in the short term, some part of that could have also been allocated to the delivery of onshore police services.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been trying to get a feel for the size of the Coast Guard as part of the Barbados Defence Force, that is, the level of employment at the Barbados Coast Guard, to what extent and how large would be the complement of persons allocated to the Barbados Coast Guard at this particular time. I say that not because I want to be in anyway critical. I think it is understood that Barbados because of its size and lack of resources would never have a Defence Force that is adequate in terms of size. Therefore, the real allocation and investment in the Coast Guard ought to be put in the area of technology. To what extent would we be able to do the kind of surveillance that is required in the foreseeable future if we accept that we would never have the kind of manpower that larger countries would have in defending their borders and territories.

Therefore, the concern for me is whether or not we are going to have the sort of investment in technology that would allow us to compensate for the lack of manpower which would attend any Defence Force or Coast Guard within the region. We need to see to what extent we can invest meaningfully in the protection of our onshore and offshore security systems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I look at the question of an administrative building but in the absence of knowledge of the amount of persons employed in this section of the Barbados Defence Force under the Coast Guard, what would be the size of the administrative building at this particular location. We are going to have an operations centre but is this going to be about the wider Barbados Defence Force or is it going to be confined to the Coast Guard facility itself. Therefore, this is the sense in which I am beginning to query and question the actual size of the investment being made in the Coast Guard facility and whether the size is commensurate with the existing size of the Coast Guard within the Barbados Defence Force.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, therefore, I am suggesting that as part of our ability to defend our shores and carry out the objectives of maritime responsibility, port security, the exclusive economic zones and the environmental protection activity that, in actual fact, we are asking the question with respect to the Coast Guard, whether or not these kinds of facilities can be conducted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the facility currently has the Barbados Flour Mill on it. Is this going to have implications for the relocation or removal of the Barbados Flour Mill? Are we suggesting that this is now the end of the flour plant at this location? Are we suggesting that there is no more future for us in the production of flour? If so, I think it ought to be made abundantly clear to those who are currently employed and involved in the production of flour at the Barbados Flour Mill at this location.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it appears to me as though there would have to be a greater level of reclaiming land at this facility. On the existing land which was previously reclaimed, the kind of operation that is being envisaged here with respect to the building of the administrative building, the operation centre, a medical facility, a fitness centre and all the other attendant needs of the Coast Guard, is there going to be some kind of further reclaiming of land to be done at this facility? Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the absence of having the privilege of the knowledge that the Honourable Member for St. Peter would have, therefore, we have to put it in the form of a question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if in fact there is going to be the further reclaiming of land at this site then it must have implications for all the beach facilities to the north of the existing Barbados Flour Mill. Therefore, the Brandons Beach, Brighton Beach and along the areas down to Paradise Beach would certainly be impacted, as a result of any reclamation of land that has to accompany the building of the Coast Guard facility on this site.

1.40 p.m.

Sir, in the absence of knowledge, I am asking the question because I do not know the details. We have never been so privileged to be given details on whether there would be that kind of reclaiming of land and subsequently the implications on the environment in the immediate environs of the Barbados Flour Mill.

Sir, those who have done any modicum of geography and understand the impact of a jetty on the wave energy and the potential damage to coast and other implications would know that, in fact, any land reclamation on this side would have some implication for the coastal area from the Barbados Flour Mill going north. Therefore, I am asking this question

in this regard. If we do further reclamation, the area that surrounds the Barbados Flour Mill, starting on the Spring Garden Highway, would have impact on the overall property values and implications for the environment within the constituency of the St. Michael North West.

Sir, we have had debates in this Chamber already on the whole question of World Cup. I am not going there. I am just saying that in this instance, there could be a direct implication for the coastal area and the implications for the way in which properties would be affected and ultimately valued along that stretch from Brandons through to Brightons and onwards to Paradise Beach and even further relative implications for the coastal area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in addition, there must be implications for the Spring Garden Highway itself. Those of us who are familiar with the Spring Garden Highway know that as it currently stands, from the top there is the Barbados Light and Power Company, Gas Products, a few gas stations and, in fact, it is already a zone of danger, from the top to the bottom of Spring Garden Highway. Therefore, we begin to ask questions about the implications of establishing a Coast Guard facility at this present site and the implications it would have on the Spring Garden Highway.

We also know that the site to be utilised for the Coast Guard, is currently used very heavily during the Crop Over season. If that is so, even Crop Over, during the month of August and all the attending things that we have around that period could be impacted with the establishment and development of the Coast Guard facility.

Therefore, there is no doubt, in the absence of a report on the Economic Impact Assessment Study there are implications for, not only the environmental concerns of the area but also the economic considerations that will attend the building of a Coast Guard facility at the site of the Barbados Flour Mill.

I think it is particularly evident that a lack of data or information in this kind of debate, where one is assessing what the building of such a facility would do and would have for the future of that coastal area. Government has done an Economic Impact Study but yet still the Honourable Members of Parliament, certainly on the Opposition side, would not be privy to the contents of the Economic Impact Study. I think that ought to constitute a major point of reference in assessing what would be the real benefits and costs of establishing a Coast Guard facility at the site of the Barbados Flour Mill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one could begin to question whether we have been denied or have not been given the

privilege of having the kind of information that we ought to have had in a Resolution such as this.

Sir, I want to look at the whole question of the implications of the company that was established for the purposes of building such a facility. Now, this Government is on record and the evidence is quite clear that we have abused this method of financing of several projects, over the last ten years.

I have difficulty with the fact that the National Insurance Scheme is now being pressured to finance several projects across the length and breadth of Barbados. I will say that I cannot agree with utilising the funds at the National Insurance Scheme in the way in which Government has been doing in the past few years.

Certainly, there has been criticism on the question of off budget financing. Government is fooling itself that once you have done it that way it does not impact on the fiscal deficit. Yes, it does not impact on the fiscal deficit the way in which we know it ought to impact, but there is no way that a Coast Guard facility is going to become an engine of financial or economic growth. In fact, the most important public good that a Government can provide, is one of defence. In fact, defence is used as the consummate public good where all persons involved cannot be excluded from being able to get access to such a service or delivery of such a service.

Sir, in that regard, you have a situation in which the Coast Guard facility will not be making funds to repay any loan. Therefore, Government will have to pay all the interest on whatever loans are incurred for the purposes of this particular project.

It becomes therefore, part of Government's deficit when you have to look for the interest payments and make those payments on a yearly basis. Of course, they would be reflected in Government's deficit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, because there is off-budget spending, this would not be seen in the fiscal side but will be accounted for below the line, which means that the Central Bank or some other source of financing will still be required when the principals have to be repaid on these loans. Therefore, that gives Government the false impression that such a method of financing does not impact on its fiscal deficit. Sir, it is a wrong to believe that you are hiding your expenditure off budget in an attempt to artificially reduce the size of your deficit. Ultimately, you have still to look for the financing to repay those loans and certainly, you have to look for the expenditure to repay any interest on those loans, so, it is just an artificial way of doing it.

I have a concern about that but my greater concern is the extent to which the National Insurance Scheme is getting involved in these kinds of projects. I made the observation before. Once you sold the Barbados National Bank and it was no longer available for such funding, then the National Insurance Scheme has become now almost like a commercial bank for the Government of Barbados. This is putting the pressure on the Scheme. Therefore, what we have seen over the last two years in Barbados where there has been a large degree of concern about people not being able to receive their unemployment or other benefits from the National Insurance Scheme, must be a direct result in the way in which Government is utilising our National Insurance Scheme funds.

1.50 p.m.

You cannot say that it is an alternative means of divesting the portfolio of the National Insurance Scheme because it is simply that the Government is guaranteeing all of these loans, and will have to pay all of the interest, and will subsequently have to pay all of the amortisation.

Therefore, this is not any model to be utilised in managing the affairs of our country in believing that we could use such techniques to hide fiscal deficits, because the people of Barbados are still going to be responsible for the repayment of the loans, as well as the repayment of the interest.

The other thing is that the National Insurance Scheme having to utilise this form of investment, cannot say that it is adequately divesting or investing its funds over the medium to long term, in a way that can guarantee adequate return on investment either, because you are simply using Government's funds to get income to justify the way in which you are investing. You have not done anything special, Mr. Deputy Speaker, by allowing the Government to guarantee these loans and therefore Government being ultimately responsible for them.

When the Prime Minister gives the impression that in setting up a company, he is doing something special by allowing this company to become responsible for the financing of the Coast Guard facility, it is not true. It is just another way of utilising the people's funds in carrying out a project that otherwise would have been carried out via the usual route of the Estimates and having to be accounted for in the usual fiscal deficit, which we have had.

We have had it before where, after complaints were made by the Opposition, the Government acknowledged that the IMP position on this was correct. Sir, that is even though you can begin to suggest that it is off-budget spending, it is still off-budget spending that has to be accounted for and will be accounted for in the real figures at the Central Bank of Barbados and in the overall figures of the Government.

I therefore am repeating that I do not agree with this method of financing projects by utilising the National Insurance Scheme funds and subsequently, putting the National Insurance Scheme under severe pressure. This is precisely what we have been seeing in Barbados over the last couple of years. It is something that has to be looked into because, it is an artificial way of addressing a very critical and serious problem in this country and I cannot therefore be party to it, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the question of the regional responsibilities, we all know that there are concerns with respect to crime and drugs across the region. Therefore, the participation by any Government in ensuring that it defends the offshore and onshore facilities of any country in the region is very critical.

Defence, as I said, is the first and foremost good and service that has to be provided by a Government. It has always been and will continue to be but let us look at this in its true context. The Rt. Honourable Member for St. Peter gave the impression that the British and Americans have withdrawn support on security which was promised before because their focus now is on terrorism.

I would like to know, like other Barbadians, what was the extent of the support granted by the British Government to the Regional Security System. What was the extent of the contribution from United States of America to the Regional Security System? Sir, it should be put in monetary terms such that we do not give the impression that there would have been a substantial contribution being made by both the British and USA Governments to our Regional Security System.

It might have come in the form of donating a plane. It may come in the form of training but, I cannot see it being a significant amount in terms of actual subvention, donation or grant to the Regional Security System. Therefore, it ought not to be used as a reason to justify the kind of expenditure in this facility that we are seeing because, I repeat that in actual fact, when you look at the reality, our Coast Guard cannot be that large. I cannot quantify it because I do not know the facts.

Sir, I know that an investment of \$60 million in a Coast Guard facility, while you may not be able to fault it from the point of view of security reasons, you can begin to ask the question, whether or not some of those funds could not have been allocated to your onshore security system, predominantly, the Royal Barbados Police Force.

I think that is a very fair question because it all has to do with allocation and decision making. Are you sure that no matter what we invest, whether or not we would be able to

truly protect the offshore in the way in which we would like Sir? Certainly, what we do know, is that if we were to grant some of these resources to onshore security forces, then we can be satisfied that there will be a greater level of protection onshore.

I think that is where the focus of the Government has to be in this effort. The Government has to be more concerned about what are the issues of security onshore because no matter what we do, no matter how much we invest in terms of a Coast Guard facility, it will have to be substantially more than this to be able to offer the kind of protection that we are seeking to offer and more important, to be able to be part of a regional system in which the security system would be responsible for other issues of maritime exclusive economic zones and the like, Sir.

Is it going to be the case, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this increased Coast Guard facility would assist us in doing surveillance of our exclusive economic zone? Are we really going to be in a better position? Would we have more manpower? Are we going to have more ships or other kinds of surveillance to be able to carry out the task that we are seeking to carry out more effectively?

I think it is going to be very difficult. I cannot see how this is going to contribute to any large expansion in our Coast Guard facility, in terms of manpower. Sir, that is why I said at the outset that I think that in terms of investing in our resources, we have to be more concerned with investing in technology as this would be a preferred way forward for us to be able to get the kind of effectiveness that we want, in terms of our coastal surveillance. It is not going to happen that we are going to see any substantial growth in the Coast Guard itself, as a result of this facility. Therefore, that constitutes for me, a major concern.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, is it going to permit us to be able to resolve the existing problem which we have between Trinidad and Barbados? While the Prime Minister was quick to say that he recently delivered a speech in Trinidad and got the support of the Trinidadians, particularly the private sector, I am not so sure that the real tension, relating to the exclusive economic zone has been released by any negotiation between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago in the last year.

In fact, there is not evidence at all, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to suggest that we have made any real advance in resolving the dispute with our fishing. There is no way in which we can begin to believe that the Coast Guard Facility is really going to contribute in any meaningful way to being able to better manage our coastal area and particularly, the exclusive economic zone between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. Therefore, I have some difficulties, of course, with the respect to that, Sir.

The other thing is that there is supposed to be the environmental protection activity which is conducted by the Coast Guard.
2.00 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while the Coast Guard has as one of its remits, environmental protection, the very Coast Guard, because of its delicate location, would be contributing to the degradation of the environment. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying this in a meaningful way. I am suggesting that the very Coast Guard, unless properly managed and monitored, can become a threat to the same coastal environment in which it is seeking to protect. I do not think that can be disputed. Sir, if you do not adequately protect your own space in which you operate, then it could have implications for the coastal areas as well.

Sir, there are going to be all kinds of oils and chemicals about the facility that could become detrimental. Sir, we are always fooling ourselves in this Chamber that Barbados is the only country that can do everything to such a level that it would have no detrimental impact on anything. In actual fact that is not true because the very fact that a facility is established in a coastal area, I do not care how high-tech it is, it could have implications for the immediate environ in which it operates. Therefore, no one should seek to suggest that what I am saying is not right or relevant. Sir, if they do not adequately manage the facility, they would see what would be the implication around the coastal area of Brandons and Brighton and the potential damage that could occur.

Sir, what is there to prevent an accident at the same Coast Guard facility that could become detrimental to the coastal area around the Bridgetown Port and to the north? Therefore, to try to give the impression that the Coast Guard, unless adequately managed, cannot in itself become a threat to the environment is to suggest that the Government is not forward looking enough because there is nothing to stop a major accident from occurring. Therefore, what they ought to do is to prepare for any such eventuality and to guard against it. The Government should not get the impression that they are insulated from any such environmental hazard because that is not so. The point I want to make is that the facility itself can become a threat to the environment in which it is seeking to operate.

Sir, I am confident of what I am saying and I am going to continue to say it. This is not to reflect on any department of Government, this is to be telling the truth. Sir, it has to be the case that you must first see yourself as a threat to the environment before you begin to see your capacity of dealing with the environmental protection activity that is required under your objectives, that has to be the case.

Other facilities along the coast between Brandons and Pile Bay, whether it is the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited, the Rum Refinery or Gas Products Limited, must be concerned about the implications for the environment of its own operation. Even small households in the Brandons area must be concerned about its ability to impact negatively on the Brandons area. Therefore, the whole question of sewerage and the disposal of chemicals must be seen as an important starting point for the Coast Guard facility, and cannot be treated as anything insignificant. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am therefore making that observation which I think it is quite a good observation to make.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, part of the remit is to enhance and improve the overall Port security in this area. Sir, I would think that the presence of the Coast Guard facility is in itself going to enhance the potential of the Port to become more secure. I can see no real danger in that happening. Given the potential location of the facility and its proximity to the Port, I can see an immediate enhancing of the Port security as a result of the location of the Coast Guard facility.

Sir, that is not a criticism, therefore I do not expect any hostile response. That is what I am here for, I am not here to praise all the time. It is a question of being objective. It is a question of asking Government to look ahead to see what problems they can encounter before they encounter those problems and therefore anticipate problems.

Government should not believe that the world is going to be perfect. It should be able to anticipate problems of that nature and prepare for them. That is what disaster management is all about. Therefore, it is in the Government's interest to be able to say that and to be able to put programmes and policies in place to protect against any such eventuality and not to be scorning or to be raising the brow but to direct those who are now in charge of the financial resources, of the best way in which the resources can be utilised in the interest of the wider cross section of the people of Barbados. That is what is precisely the remit of the department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I spoke, without expanding on it, about the impact on properties to the north. There is no doubt that the area of Brandons and Brighton would be an exciting area for development especially now that you are going to relocate the Coast Guard facility there. You have the Bridgetown Port, the Coast Guard facility and excellent beaches at Brandons and Brighton. Therefore, I am suggesting that there will be greater opportunities for investment outside of the area of the Coast Guard facility. The fact that you are going to have such a large complement of soldiers at the Coast Guard facility means that there should be potential investment opportunities on the beachfront at Brandons and Brighton.

I therefore would wish to ask Government at this stage to look into the possibility of giving persons, particularly those at Brandons who are currently involved in economic activity on the land side of the Spring Garden Highway, an opportunity to utilise the lands right next to Weiser's on the Bay Bar because I can see investment opportunities there very clearly. It is an investment but there is a need to give the people in the Brandons area a chance to be able to use the current Barbados Sailing Club facility that has not been utilised for the last 20 years and is just derelict. The people on the Brandons side have expressed an interest in establishing businesses there to cater to the cruise ship passengers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we had a visit but we have not had a response from the Government with respect to how best we can utilise the Barbados Sailing Club facility that is available right next to Weiser's on the Bay Bar.

Sir, it is known that Weiser's on the Bay Bar has a lease arrangement with Government, which needs to be looked into because apparently at one stage an individual was able to get a lease and that individual has now been able to pass on the facility to another group. Therefore, one has to ask the question why would one be able to sublet a piece of land which they have leased from Government. Mr. Deputy Speaker, all I am saying is that there is potential for persons on the landward side of Spring Garden to be able to utilise the facilities that are there that used to be utilised by the Barbados Sailing Club.
2.10 p.m.

Sir, that area below the Flour Mill by Brandons is a natural area for activity on the beach. In fact, I can think of no better place where cruise ship passengers would wish to go because it is less than one mile from the Bridgetown Port and it is already a very well-secured piece of beach. It is almost an inlet, with no wave activity, extremely safe and therefore, an appropriate area in which to put such facilities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, currently some people are attempting to put facilities at Brandons but they have not been able to secure the permission from Government to make the sort of expansion that is required. The other thing we need to do is to look at the whole question of the drainage facility. In fact, whenever there is just a shower of rain there is all kind of flooding occurring next to Workbench Furniture because when the highway was being built no consideration was taken of the natural drainage system that existed in the area of Brandons and there is considerable flooding whenever there is a slight shower of rain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hope that persons from the Farm, Brandons and Ashdeane would get an opportunity to ply their trade in that area because, with the presence of the Coast Guard facility it would now become a potential area for economic activity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the pasture between the Farm and Spring Garden would now become available for investment. It was believed at the time, and quite rightly so, that there would be an overpath but it would not have been appropriate in putting the picture together to put an overpath so it was felt...

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member has fallen short and is misleading the House. He brought diagrams to show that there should be a tunnel under the road linking Brandons to the beach.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the important thing to know is that there are opportunities abounding in that area for the people. Now that there is the project to place the Coast Guard facility on the Flour Mill site that consideration would be given to setting up kiosks or whatever on Brandons beach in order to give some opportunity to those residents who, for a long time, have been involved in Crop Over activity, beach activity, swimming in the area and who have enjoyed the company of cruise ship passengers now for many years. Sir, these individuals should be given a chance to become economically enfranchised so that this project could attach to itself an opportunity to give those people a chance to become engaged in business activity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have said from the outset that the Economic Impact Assessment Study would have been important for us to discuss. I would wish to see the details of the study because I cannot see anyone conducting a study of the economic impact of the Coast Guard facility without giving a clear plan to the way in which Brandons beach and Brighton beach would be utilised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it cannot be too hard a request to be made of Government to ensure that now further development is going to take place and now that there would be World Cup Barbados which is going to be developed just south of the Coast Guard facility that there could give consideration to allowing small people to participate in any opportunity for economic advancement as a result of building the Coast Guard facility in addition to the World Cup facility that would be established at Kensington Oval.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is critical that persons in that area be given the opportunity to participate because persons in the Farm and Brandons and Brighton, Ashdeane and Pile Bay deserve such an opportunity. Sir, I also think the people along Black Rock deserve such an opportunity.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am suggesting that we should know the contents of the Economic Impact Assessment Study that Government has conducted because it would offer us an opportunity to advance greater cause

for those persons to participate in the development that would be occurring subsequent to World Cup now that the Coast Guard facility and other developments have taken place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do hope that in the light of what would occur at the Flour Mill site that we would not find a way to abandon the current pasture on the Spring Garden Highway. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is the need for a proper canal to link the canal with the water that comes through from the Farm Housing Area at the back of where Boodhoo had his business and where Lance Bynoe has established such a large house which is now in apartments. Sir, there should be a properly built canal to accommodate the water flow that comes from the St. Stephens/Cave Hill area which passes through the Farm Housing Area and into the canal at Spring Garden. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Government would be well-advised to give the constituents of Michael North West such an opportunity to participate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no doubt that with Automotive Art, Mount Gay, Courts, RSPCA and the other businesses down to the gas station and back to Workbench Furniture that it is a heavy commercial area but you are not able to access the other side of Spring Garden Highway. There is a need for, either stop lights or something to be placed, next to Workbench Furniture, to allow persons to access the beach side of Brighton. This request was in the works for the last few years. There is no harm in putting something to accommodate the movement of traffic from the Brighton area. Something has to be done. We cannot have a situation when you reach Workbench, you have to turn left to go the stop lights at Holborn, turn by the Barbados Port Authority to come back down.
2.20 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: You have to do it because you cannot get onto the other side of the road. In fact, a car that comes by Workbench Furniture cannot get to the other side of the road without going to the top of the Spring Garden Highway. That is not right. There has to be a way of accommodating the traffic that heads to the Brighton beach, the Barbados Light and Power Company or Gas Products Limited. There must be a way of accommodating.

I also want to revisit my call for an alternative exit and entry to Brighton. You cannot continue to have a situation where there is only an entry and exit. Especially now that area is becoming so heavily commercial. You can only get into Brighton via the same road of which I just spoke and you can only get out of Brighton returning to that same road

with a left onto the Highway. There must be a way to accommodate another road closer to Texaco playing field to allow for an alternative way out of Brighton.

Sir, in the event that there is a major emergency, even around Crop Over, and I have said it before in this Chamber, there is no alternative way out for the residents of that area.

Sir, for persons who go to Weisers Bar, there is only one way out. In fact, if there is an emergency or something happening in Brighton, that blocks off a person going to Weisers from access to the road, he/she cannot get out. Therefore, with all of the development we need to have another access road with either an entry or exit point from Brighton. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is again a very reasonable requirement. I think it is a very reasonable requirement.

Sir, you cannot have a situation where you accommodate all kinds of development along Spring Garden, with a pending Coast Guard facility but yet the small people in this area are given no opportunity to grow or develop and now, you are even infringing on their safety.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is therefore critical in this debate to look at the implications of the Coast Guard facility for development within the Spring Garden area. It is very important. I said at the start of my speech that if we were to consider allocating \$60 million with respect to security, I would think that it would be a case of not allocating \$60 million purely to an offshore facility like the Coast Guard development. I would think that in terms of what we are currently experiencing in Barbados that there is need to enhance the unsure security needs of Barbadians. I do not think that anyone could really dispute that fact. You cannot have a situation where we are now devoting so much resources to a Coast Guard facility without respecting the need for us to develop resources to ensure security needs.

Sir, I have also spoken to the question of the impact of such facilities to the north of this new facility of the Coast Guard. The question of the environmental needs and the question of what Spring Garden would become as a result of this new facility. In fact, you need to look at the implication of traffic and access to the Coast Guard facility. Again, even though it is a Coast Guard facility and it is looking after security, there must be easy access to this facility from the Spring Garden Highway. As it currently stands, you cannot come out of the facility and turn right onto the highway. There might even be a need to look at the road network to accommodate the Coast Guard facility. It is something to be considered because you cannot turn right onto the Spring Garden Highway.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that it is very important that some of these things be anticipated and not wait until the facility is built to then deal with some of the issues. Therefore, it is my intention because of the impact on my constituency to raise some of these matters in light of some of the realities that will occur from the construction of the Coast Guard facility. Sir, it is a fact that you have to look at the whole traffic arrangement to accommodate this new facility in the area. I do not see how that can be an issue at this point in time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me close by saying that it is difficult under any circumstance to query anything that Government does to enhance the defence of a nation. It is the consummate public good, where persons cannot be excluded from the process, and, therefore, an investment in the Defence and Security is an investment for everyone in the country to benefit. It is the only good, in fact, that has the particular characteristic where security affects each and every person and no one can be excluded from its delivery. This is the sense in which we have to take into consideration the investment that Government is making in the Coast Guard facility.

I would hope that it could enhance our regional needs; enhance the potential of the region to deal with some of the issues that have occurred in recent times as a result of the crime situation; the drug situation, which we have, not only in Barbados but throughout the region; and therefore, in that regard, it is a worthwhile investment. I think that there could have been greater consideration to allocating some of those resources to other areas of the security arrangement.

Sir, I also expressed concerns, and rightly so, about the method of financing of this project. I am in no way in agreement with Government utilising the National Insurance Scheme in the way in which it has done. Financing projects that are now regarded as off-budget, even though they are not being captured in the fiscal deficit, they have implications for our fiscal affairs. Government has to repay every cent, interest and principal, of these loans. Therefore, Government has to put aside in our debt schedule or management schedule the impact of such loans on the public purse. Sir, while it may appear as though Government is lending to Government, the Government still has a commitment to the interest cost that will be derived from such loans being executed by the National Insurance Scheme.

Sir, the Coast Guard facility is not an economic venture. The Coast Guard facility cannot make any money to repay any loan or interest. It is a social good, a public good, and therefore it is Government's responsibility to repay the loan and interest. While it may be off-budget, it does not

deny the responsibility that Government will have in the debt servicing needs of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have seen in recent times the Barbados Port Authority, the Grantley Adams International Airport, the Hilton Hotel, the Coast Guard facility and other such ventures benefitting from National Insurance financing.
2.30 p.m.

It is not a good thing for the debt servicing of this country. However, I wish to reiterate that it is as a direct result of our sale of the BNB that we have now had to rely, increasingly so, on the funds at the NIS. I am not at all convinced that it is the best way to invest our limited resources in the National Insurance Scheme. It is not a sustainable path that we can follow. It is not a desirable path that we can follow.

I therefore will express my concerns again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the way in which we are utilising the funds at the National Insurance Scheme. I have expressed those concerns before and I reiterate my concerns for this most inappropriate way of funding projects by this current Government. It is not a desirable thing to do, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all in all, I appreciate the need for any country, especially now threatened by international terrorism, any country threatened by the whole scourge of rising drugs being in a position to offer some degree of defence, but I also want to reiterate my call that no matter how much we invest in our Coast Guard, the actual size of the Coast Guard is not going to increase substantially, and therein lies the need for us to be more concerned about giving it the kind of technology to enhance its surveillance more so than increasing its manpower.

It therefore means, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have to be also concerned about training and budgeting for the training that we have to do and attracting the right kinds of persons who can get involved in that level of training. I know only too well that there was, only last week when I was in Jamaica, some training going on for the Barbados Defence Force people and others of those in the region. I was aware of it but that was more to do with the whole question of preparing for Cricket World Cup 2007. Therefore, I understand the need for giving some degree of protection to our shores but I also want to say that we have to place increasing emphasis on the security needs of onshore Barbados.

In that regard, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we ought to have allocated some of these resources to the needs of the Royal Barbados Police Force.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to give my support to the Resolution before this Parliament for the vesting in the Coast Guard Relocation Inc., of a parcel of land which is the property of the Crown, situated at the Flour Mill Site at the Bridgetown Harbour and also for the facilitating of the financing of the Coast Guard Relocation Project.

The Leader of the Opposition has, in the last hour made really two points, one in which he laboured over and over again about the proposed relocation site for the Coast Guard and the other about the use of National Insurance funds. Essentially, he just reiterated those two points.

Sir, let me speak first to the question of the location. The Coast Guard facility is very ill-located where it is now, in the most congested part of Bridgetown, at a location where, time and time again, after even not very bad storms, vessels have suffered damage. I think it is well proven now that the inner and outer Careenage are not safe havens for any kind of shipping in the event of a storm.

I know what it is and so do other Honourable Members after a storm to see the entire Careenage full of floating planks of wood, where boats have been smashed to smithereens. The Shallow Draft is now the preferred location, in the event of a storm for a small craft.

The relocation of the Coast Guard to the Flour Mill Site, Mr. Deputy Speaker, would have been the subject of the most careful research or every kind of environmental and other kinds of impact assessment studies would have been carried out. Sir, to have your Coast Guard facility virtually at the mouth of your Port is perhaps, I think, a very forward looking security step to want to take.

I do not follow the illogic of the Leader of the Opposition when he is seeking to suggest that it is not a good location. Where they are now is possibly the worse possible location where they could have been for all the years and really they really ought not to remain.

The proposal that – and it came out first as a proposal and then the Leader of the Opposition sought to withdraw it – the Coast Guard would become an environmental hazard and would create a situation which would lead to degradation of the marine and other environment around it at the Flour Mill Site, cannot be acceptable.

I remember as a child, because Brighton and Brandons were my stamping ground, that is where I grew up as a child,

you would go to the beach and all down Brandons and Brighton, just like Browne's Beach, used to be covered in moss, 'chagas' galore. The Leader of the Opposition only knows about that when it was once his constituency, but he does not know about days running about on the beach down there in the long vacation. Today, Brighton and Brandons beaches are pristine. It is the crew, more than the cruise passengers who frequent those beaches. It is the same with Browne's Beach. Do you know why?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there used to be a sewerage outfall line from the Psychiatric Hospital and we dealt with that, this is why the beach is now pristine. It is the same thing with Browne's Beach. When we used to dispose of septage off Cowell Street and through the hospital jetty, the hospital jetty really was a vehicle for the outfall of the line from the old General Hospital for sewerage. Once that was removed, Browne's Beach became pristine.

I have the greatest difficulty understanding why a facility such as the Coast Guard would be a threat to the marine environment, in and around the Flour Mill. All of the Port traffic, in and out, some of it is dirty, some of it is clean, does not create such a hazard. All of the water sports traffic, up and down the west coast does not create such a hazard. I think that it is ringing an alarmist bell, and not fair at all to the operation of the Coast Guard to suggest that it could be an environmental hazard. I think that is really a gross overstatement to the point of irresponsibility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say this, I have said it in this House before and, clearly, I am going to have to keep on saying it that there is more to offshore Barbados than there is to onshore Barbados. Onshore Barbados is 14 x 21 and 166 square miles and that is what we were taught in Geography.

Offshore Barbados, you are talking about 200 miles exclusive economic zone. We have a Police Force in Barbados of roughly 1 800 personnel at this time. This does not include 1 600 special constables, to deal with onshore, 166 square miles 14 x 21. We have now to patrol our exclusive economic zone and to work very collaboratively with onshore security forces, a Coast Guard numbering 106 established post, but in fact, actually, 101, which is the size of the Coast Guard in Barbados.

Sir, we have to be 'making sport' to think that a small island like ours, first landfall out of the Atlantic, a well-known route for the northern traffickers and other traffickers, as we hearing now in the network of criminality. Sir, we have to be very serious about offshore. I think the Leader of the Opposition is making a mistake to somehow define and distinguish onshore security as separate and distinct from offshore security, the two must work collaboratively.
2.40 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a small island like Barbados cannot afford any more to be blasé about its marine environment and to be oblivious to the importance of the security of its territorial waters, and beyond that, its exclusive economic zone, it would be folly. Other countries in the Caribbean are doing it, so why would we think that we somehow do not have to do it. We have to look at putting a high-tech, high-powered and well-trained Coast Guard in place in this country. We cannot be thinking 2005 or 2010, we have to think now 2050 and beyond, that is how we need to be thinking.

The Honourable Prime Minister enunciated in his introduction the role, function and job description of the Coast Guard. It is a huge job and we have neither the manpower nor the equipment to afford Barbados the kind of Coast Guard capability which we need to have not today or tomorrow, but since yesterday and long before. It is a good thing that we have a Regional Security System which would help a fledgling Coast Guard, you cannot describe it otherwise because we are talking about a complement of 100 men and women, and other maritime security facilities in and around the Eastern Caribbean of which Barbados is a part.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is why it was so important when the foreign ministers of CARICOM met last week with the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Condoleezza Rice, for the first time in the margins of the Organisation of American States General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale in our annual meeting and spoke to her. Apart from Haiti, the number one issue we canvass with her was the importance of the assistance which the United States of America was giving to the Regional Security System, particularly the two C-26 aircrafts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was supposed to be a joint funding. In the Eastern Caribbean we have defaulted on this, but it would be a terrible thing, if as it is proposed, those two aircrafts were to be withdrawn at the end of June. The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States is having a summit within the next several days.

We were able to say to her that an attempt would be made to make some kind of co-payment which would allow us to continue to have the use of the C-26s. Without them, the Coast Guard would just be a handful of Boston wailers which are not even properly designed for the kind of work that the Coast Guard needs to do. It is not only a search and rescue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to move away from this now and make a couple of points because I see that my time is fast disappearing. I am very supportive of the relocation of the Coast Guard to where it is. I am satisfied that all of the

relevant studies and impact assessments have been done. I am satisfied that it will give safe harbour and safe anchorage during the worst weather that Barbados could encounter. I am satisfied that it will bring an element of security to the Bridgetown Port that it does not now have.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is an added advantage to the relocation of the Coast Guard from the Pierhead because it is proposed that the location will now be incorporated into the Pierhead Redevelopment Project which is coming to a head at a sooner point. I believe that the Minister of Tourism who has responsibility may well speak to this issue. It has very important implications for the Pierhead Project.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I need to move a little more swiftly in order to say a few words about Article 98 and the whole question of security and the position that the United States of America has taken. The United States of America has taken a position that where any of its armed personnel is arrested for whatever reason in other people's jurisdictions that they should be returned to the United States of America for trial and adjudication.

The Barbados Government has not signed on to this special proposal which the United States of America is making. We are not alone in that. Countries like Canada have not signed on to it. Many countries in CARICOM have not but some have. The cruelty is that if those two C-26 aircrafts were to be removed, because they are servicing all of us, those who signed on and those who did not signed on are all going to suffer, so I do not see yet what is the advantage to those who felt that they had to sign on to this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what the United States of America is asking is more than we can live with comfortably. What they are saying is that they have no confidence in our judicial system which is nearly twice as old as theirs and that they have no respect for our judicial system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have confidence in our judicial system and that position is not going to change. Sir, not only that, but the position that the United States of America is putting is not reciprocal. If a Barbadian serviceman was arrested for whatever reason on the United States of America soil, it is not proposed that they would reciprocate. It is more than Barbados can find possible to agree to and we have taken our position. It is a position on which as allies we have to agree to disagree, that is where it is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the shift of emphasis will also have important implications because if those aircrafts were to be removed, the coast guards in the Caribbean would be nothing more than tossing on the ocean, so we have to be very thankful to the United States of America that we have

the use of them. Therefore, we have to find ways and means to play our part in the co-funding of them because without them, as I said, the coast guards in the Caribbean would be nothing more than tossing on the ocean. We cannot exercise the kind of surveillance which criminals with faster boats and who sometimes have more sophisticated technology even than our ground and marine forces have, so we do need this assistance and we are grateful for it.

Sir, we had to say to Secretary of State Rice last week that the minute they remove those, then they are going to embolden those criminal elements, who they were keeping at bay, to feel that they have a clear road now to get into business again. So all of these are elements which speak to the critically important role of a Coast Guard in a post-modern Barbados and in a 21st century Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we live in the real world. We are not under any special protection as some Barbadians like to think. The same threats to our security which sometimes overwhelmed our neighbours and others within this hemisphere are the threats that we have to face up to, therefore we need to put in place a Coast Guard which is well-equipped, well-trained and strategically located to look after our interest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister had a great deal to say about crime and violence, and I think that Honourable Members on all sides would agree with what was said. Mr. Deputy Speaker, crime and violence is learnt behaviour. We are now allowing imported behaviours to inform what has become national practice in Barbados. I see young men walking about with their trousers virtually falling off their buttocks. What are they imitating? They are imitating young men in the Prisons of the United States of America who had their belts removed because the belt is seen as a weapon, and so their trousers are falling off.
2.50 p.m.

Sir, is that an icon or mirror image that young men in Barbados would want to emulate, as the Right Excellent Barrow would have asked?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all of this is learnt behaviour. We show it to our children on the television, we practise it as adults and then we want to say to young people that they must not do as we do but as we say but we cannot have it both ways. Sir, with reference to the Barbados bashing, there are elements both within the Caribbean and outside of it and particularly outside of the Caribbean there is an entity which claims to monitor hemispheric affairs. It is fairly far left, employs young interns and other people who sometimes would write the most querulous things and are now

employed in a campaign Barbados in the face of CARICOM. Sir, the Government of Barbados is going to deal with that and the first thing we will do is to discredit it as an organisation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is seeking to put publicly taken positions on Haiti, CARICOM, Caribbean Single Market and Economy and a whole range of issues and seeking to put Barbados in the most negative light. Sir, this is not only about Barbados, it is nothing new and we will answer those elements as we fit just as we will answer those elements in Barbados who are the echoes of these organisations. Sir, we are going to have to answer some of the accusations being thrown at us about the whole question of engagement with Haiti because the position of Barbados is perfectly clear. It is known that there is division among the heads of CARICOM as to how we would respond to Haiti.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to this day Haiti remains a member of the Community because it is only suspended and the heads of the Caribbean have to make up their minds and have the testicular fortitude to decide whether they are going to expel Haiti or seek to engage and help the Haitian people to some kind of democracy for the first time in 2000 years.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heard mumblings from the Other Side about 200 years. People keep making the mistake about returning democracy to Haiti but, Sir, in 200 years, Haiti has never had a democracy and is struggling towards that now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as we speak, there is a CARICOM Task Force on the ground led by a coordinator who is a Guyanese and the Chief Electoral Officer of Jamaica who are seeking to work with the Electoral Council of Haiti to try with the most impossible task.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, barely 40 per cent of people who are eligible to vote are registered to vote. Sir this is now mid-June, we are talking about elections in October and November of this year of Our Lord and they still have 70 per cent of people eligible to vote to be registered. Mr. Deputy Speaker, registration cannot be done by wave of a hand because it has to be done on an individual basis. Sir, Haiti is a country of eight million people but the whole rest of CARICOM has six million people so you would understand the enormity of the task. Mr. Deputy Speaker, for over a year CARICOM has been working with the Electoral Council in Haiti under the auspices of the UN Stabilisation Force to get Haitians registered because they badly wish to vote but Haiti is reeked with violence which has informed the national psyche of Haiti from the time there was a Haiti. If you go back to your history books about Hispaniola, you will find that this is the history of Haiti.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are thinking that in less than a generation, that you can turn it around but it is turning out that it cannot be done in less than a generation. We know that we may not be expected to complete the task but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are not at liberty to abstain from it. This is what the Honourable Prime Minister said not only on the Floor of the House but he has said it to his colleagues in CARICOM and wherever he has been. Sir, he has also said it to former President Aristide.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to continue to fight with it because it is a severe question mark over our credibility as a subregion that somehow we cannot respond to a member state in the way we would wish to do because for some reason we cannot arrive at some consensus. Sir, some people want to see it in black or white but you cannot help from the periphery. You have to tireless in your efforts because democracy did not come to Barbados even to Barbados overnight. Sir, people shed tears, blood and tears and people even died over hundreds of years to bring us to where we are today. We need to be a little more mindful of this and to be careful because it has been said and correctly so that eternal vigilance is the price that we pay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, democracies everywhere in the world are very fragile. We must not look at Haiti and think it cannot happen here. I was shocked to pick up the newspaper to see that in a sister country, Jamaica, that we have come to a place now where mob rule is taking over. Sir, a man commits an offence, the police are chasing him to arrest him and a mob hacks him to death. This happened within the last week in CARICOM so who are we to be pointing the finger at someone else.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I make no apology for this. I believe that if we wish to exhort the interim Government in Haiti to observe the charter of civil society, we cannot do it by standing offshore and saying that it has to be done. Sir, a democracy is not born overnight or just happens. Sir, a number of institutions which fall into place and a democracy evolves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I keep saying on this Floor that we take certain institutions for granted. Sir, we take our trade union movements, our churches, our stable parliamentary, participatory democracy and our social partnership for grant. Sir, we also take our judiciary, which is beyond question, for granted because in many countries judiciaries are riddled with corruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are the institutions that make up and underpin a democracy but they do not exist in a place like Haiti. This is where CARICOM can bring its enormous experience and expertise to bear. Sir, we have a lot

that we can teach to other countries. I just returned from the General Assembly of Organisation of American States. The new Secretary General has Haiti and Bolivia on his plate. Sir, even while we are meeting a President is replaced in a way that could never happen in a place like Barbados. Sir, today a man is President and two days later, another man is the President.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, no constitution in the English could admit of that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Nicaragua is falling apart as well. Sir, these are recent democracies. Some of them could be described as emerging democracies but they are fragile and because the institutions are weak and, in some instances, non-existent, they are trembling in the winds. This must not happen within CARICOM in our time, so, Barbados has no apology for the stance that it took.
3.00 p.m.

Sir, people are writing scurrilous pieces about how I took four Foreign Ministers and went to Haiti. That was a directive from the Heads that we should send a delegation to Haiti.

Sir, what I said in a speech in January 2005, at a special sitting on Haiti of the United Nations Security Council, that was a statement crafted by all of the Foreign Ministers. All of the Governments decided what they wanted in and out and we came to an agreement and because I was chairing CARICOM Foreign Ministers – and that Chair has now rotated to the Bahamas, at the time of chairing, I was the one who was the mouthpiece to make the statement.

Sir, we have to be very careful. We have something here in CARICOM, which is the envy of many countries, not only developing but developed as well. Sir, it would be a terrible indictment on us, if in our time we would squander, when we have educated populations; populations who enjoy free health care at primary, secondary and tertiary level; populations, whatever we may say about them. Sir, we reserve the right to be critical of ourselves. Sir, when the United Nations Development Index and others look at us, we punched well above our weight. Sir, CARICOM was not born overnight, it evolved. It started as CARIFTA and then it evolved into something else and it is evolving even as we speak.

Sir, at the Heads of Government Meeting in St. Lucia in July 2005, was the whole question of governance which has been on the agenda, and it has been on their agenda for eighteen months, because, we are looking to see how in these early years of the 21st century, the rest of the world does not stand still and, therefore, we cannot stand still. How are we

going to evolve, strengthen and grow our region so that it can be competitive and be at the cutting edge?

Sir, it would be a terrible thing, if in our time this could be brought to nought. Generations to come after us would never forgive us and we, perhaps, be the most maligned people in this subregion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, do not be in any doubt, other regions of the world look to us. There are many regions within Africa, at least six, some which do not see themselves as Africa, like North Africa, which look to us and they ask us how in our region we manage these things. In Latin America they ask us, how do you manage it?

Sir, in Fort Lauderdale, I spoke at a Breakfast Meeting to the private sector about the Social Partnership in Barbados. Later on in the day, the President of the Inter American Development Bank stopped me on the corridor to say that he had quoted me twice on the whole issue of the Social Partnership.

Sure, we must feel the right to be critical of it in Barbados. It is ours and to keep it on its tippy-toes and going where we want it to go, we must be critical of it when it warrants it. There is no other country out there, which feels that it could put such an entity on the ground.

Sir, a United Kingdom Parliamentarian told me several years ago that you could not even think of doing that in England. A Trinidadian Parliamentarian told me not to even mention those words. You have to be a mature democracy of the kind that Barbados is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you see scurrilous pieces appear trying to put Prime Minister Arthur, myself, Barbados and even CARICOM at odds, one with another, taking positions which are known not to be so and publishing what is really libellous material, we will deal with these things. We have to be very careful how we manage these situations and how we do the damage control because, like the terrorists, we do not want them to win.

Sir, the terrorists have won to the extent that we are terrorised. I saw a little girl in front of me at the airport screaming and crying because they took her little pink backpack to put it through the security system. Nobody had explained to her that she would get it back. I looked at her and thought, the Bible is right. This child was bawling and screaming, with real tears, and it showed us the obscenity of what we are doing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, her brother was petrified. He was about five years old and older than she was. He stood on the

mat to be scanned and nobody explained these things to them.

Sir, the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines likes to talk about our civilisation. Where are we bringing it to? To what past will we bring it? To what past do we bring it in the world? Sometimes when I look at the television we are going back to the primeval time. Sometimes I cannot watch because if it is not blood or mayhem, it is killing, blasphemous and all kinds of supernatural things. I do not know what you could show a young child that would speak to what is wholesome and what would allow children to grow up with open minds and as thinking good citizens in our community.

Sir, it may have seemed that this debate has ranged far and wide but if you are to speak to security you cannot see security only in one dimension. Security is not only the military, Coast Guard, the Police Force and other security forces. We have to speak to other aspects of security which touch on poverty and all of our physical threats to our security, but most of all the threat to our national psyche.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am obliged to you. I know that you have been more than generous in terms of time and I am much obliged to have had the opportunity to speak to this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am happy today to enter this debate. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has asked me to endorse comments made by him but I think that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is today suffering from short memory.

Sir, it was in this Honourable Chamber in a foreign affairs debate when I asked the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, to speak to some of the Foreign Affairs Ministers within the Caribbean, and at the time I made the comment that they knew what was going on in their countries at night. They knew of the boats that were leaving their countries to bring drugs into Barbados. The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown said that I was a bit harsh, but this is not a time when you are dealing with drugs, to know the facts and to play around.

I have a constituency that has water on three sides and the people who live in St. Lucy can tell you of the horror stories at night that they have to put up with. That is why when it was suggested by the Barbados Labour Party to close the Crab Hill Police Station, when the present Chief Justice was the Attorney General, I said from the Floor of this Honourable House that it cannot be closed and he was wise enough to listen to that demand.

Sir, it is regrettable that when the Crab Hill Police Station was bulldozed and I made the request that it should not be rebuilt on the present location, that request was ignored. I requested that it be removed from that particular site to Nesfield because I felt, and I still do, that the site at Crab Hill is too small, based on what is going on in the north of Barbados and that Nesfield would lend to an expansion of the Royal Barbados Police Force so that they could better control what was going on.

Sir, I did not like the idea of the Royal Barbados Police Force being watched by people who know of their movements. The Government refused to accept that information.

I also negotiated with the Arawak Cement Plant to give the Government of the day permission for a boat to be stationed at the Arawak Cement Plant's jetty. Permission was granted and it was never accepted by the Government. All of this can be found in Hansard, so when the Prime Minister today spoke, I endorsed everything he said about the north of Barbados because he probably read Hansard and realised he had a friend on This Side, which he could not find on the Other Side in this particular comment.
3.10 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It has to be said because when I spoke about what was going on, Senior Ministers chastised me on the Floor of this House for making the comment.

I am saying, Sir, that the biggest threat to the economy of Barbados is the drug trade that is going on within the Caribbean. The Prime Minister made another valid point. Every drug shipment that is stopped, it means that the money must be found somewhere for it to be financed. You would be surprised, Sir, that there are now situations in Barbados where people are being kidnapped and taken to their homes and money being demanded from them at gun point for their release, just to get money to finance drug shipments. This evidence can be found and I will not give it on the Floor of this House, but there is evidence to show, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The police know because it has been reported to the police and they are well aware of what is going on, so we also have to be very careful. Sometimes you cannot blame the police, if they are not prepared to report certain crimes, because it will impact negatively on our tourism product. Therefore, when we see crime statistics looking pretty, we cannot blame the police

for suppressing the crime statistics because they have to be conscious of how it will impact on the economy of Barbados.

I am saying, Sir, that crime and violence is not a joke any more but is something real in Barbados. People thought it was a joke a couple of years ago, but they are now experiencing it in a serious way. Yesterday I was in discussion with a gentleman who was able to tell me about some experiences that have been occurring. If you were to hear about them, Sir, you would not believe that these things are happening in our sweet little country called Barbados.

Sir, that the great late Rt. Excellent Errol Walton Barrow knew why he wanted a Coast Guard. I have endorsed that on the same Floor of this House because people who understand the significance of a Coast Guard would know that it is better to have a Coast Guard than to have a Defence Force.

We are better protected by the Coast Guard than the Defence Force and people who do not understand that, need to understand right now that it was not by accident that the late Rt. Excellent Errol Walton Barrow went for the Coast Guard and not the Defence Force.

The Barbados Labour Party blasted the Democratic Labour Party for setting up the Coast Guard, but they are now understanding the importance of the Coast Guard. I am saying to them that I congratulate them for making a 360° spin around but we must understand...

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I hate to interrupt the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. He is on a spiel. What the Barbados Labour Party opposed was the attempt to build a Coast Guard at Oistins. What we ended up with was not a facility and that is why we are in here today now to spend 2005's dollars because all we got was an enhanced beach at Oistins...

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Sir, we did not need to spend that kind of money to get an enhanced beach at Oistins. Sir, that is what we opposed and if we had it right then, we would not now be spending this money to put a proper Coast Guard Facility in place.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, now we are hearing from the Other Side of the House that the people in Oistins and the whole of Christ Church are not deserving of that good beach. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East is in his seat and is not saying one word about it...

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy does this all the time. This is what he is saying and nobody here has said that and Hansard will show it, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please proceed.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at least if an error was made, the late Rt. Excellent Errol Walton Barrow was able to correct it, as we always do when errors are made. We corrected it by allowing a good beach to be nurtured.

The same thing they said about Sherbourne, which is the best used building in the world. The same criticism all the time but one thing about it, they have Greenland and cannot find the alternative use for it, Sir. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have to understand what is happening in this country that whenever a project is constructed, it does not mean that you cannot look at the opportunity cost and make a change. At least there must be some opportunity cost to that thing and you must be prepared to put it at the best use and the Democratic Labour Party has always been able to do that, Sir.

Sir, nobody can quote any white elephants, not even the crematorium that was supposed to be at Warrens because at least we were able to get a good polyclinic up there. The Democratic Labour Party can make and shift and change to suit the needs of the people of Barbados but the Barbados Labour Party cannot make that claim.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy must not mislead the House. What the Honourable Member is saying is that the Democratic Labour Party in its time will put projects in place which, at the end of the day, will bear no relationship to their core function.

The crematorium that was being built at Warrens was never built by any Government but we have a crematorium today that the private sector has built, so he should not mislead the House. What is at Warrens now is a polyclinic built by a Barbados Labour Party administration, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for the City must know that we will turn Greenland into a fish farm. We will find uses for it, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that in this Parliament, a couple months ago, we also had a debate where we spoke about the contribution of the Caribbean countries to the University of the West Indies.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, the Prime Minister spoke in a supplementary about the Caribbean Governments not paying their dues to the University of the West Indies, and he was right.

Today now, we are hearing that the same Governments expect to do that in localisation and now they want to move it into globalisation. They are recognising that what they did in localisation they cannot do in globalisation. They now stand to damage the good image of the Caribbean by forfeiting the goodwill created by the British Government, the Canadian Government and the United States of America Government in order to protect Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean countries, by not paying their dues in relationship to the boats, and just servicing airplanes.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Hold on a minute. The Prime Minister said that in the initial years, they refused to do it and the American Government picked it up. Then they suggested a formula. They did not do it and now, we stand the risk of losing two planes that provide surveillance for the whole of the Caribbean, so that we can control the drug trade – and there is a possibility – so said the Prime Minister and I support him on this particular matter.

We in Barbados cannot afford to allow any more drugs to come into Barbados. Enough has come in already and is creating the wrong type of influence in this country. I said on the Floor of this House and I will repeat it, without fear of contradiction that there are people in Barbados who are using the drug trade to change the demographics of politics and the power of Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You want them to change the Democratic Labour Party but I want you to know that what will happen is that, in trying to change the Democratic Labour Party, the Barbados Labour Party will destroy the whole country.

Asides.

3.20 p.m.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: On a point of order. No one over here has spoken. The Honourable Members over here are hearing the Honourable Member in silence in accordance with the rules of this House. The Honourable Member therefore cannot read into the record anything that is not in fact occurring.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, I am saying that Article 98 must be studied. I am also saying to the leaders of the Caribbean that they have to be very careful about not signing on. We must ask ourselves if it is not better sometimes to give up a little liberty. We must ask ourselves who are the real criminals. Are the servicemen working on behalf of the United States of America Government to protect the Caribbean our enemies, or those drug people who get in boats every night and come next to the fishermen who go out fishing, put guns to their heads, put drugs in their boats and send them ashore and tell them if they do not bring back the money they are going to kill them? Who are we going to give liberty to? Do we want to give liberty to those men or to the servicemen working on behalf of the American Government who are protecting the interest of the people in the Caribbean? Sir, we need to look at Article 98 and its opportunity cost.

Sir, I understand that we are now caught up in this new independence and this new republican status and the need to feel that we are a republic and might want to demonstrate our total rights, but at the same time we have to look after the good of the people. If they are protecting the rights of the Caribbean citizens and are fighting against the drug pushers and all of those persons who create negativity within the Caribbean, then we can forget about Article 98 and sign on because it is the lesser of the two evils that I would have to support.

Sir, if it means that the withdrawal would make the Caribbean territories not safe and it would have an impact on the people of Barbados... We have to understand that we depend on tourism and we have to be very careful about the type of signals that we send in the outer world and how they would impact on our tourism product. Are we going to allow drug pushers to control the Caribbean and deprived the United States of America servicemen who will protect the Caribbean from having that right? We have to ask ourselves that. I have no connection to the American Government.

Sir, I have a connection to the Caribbean people and I must look and see what is in their best interest and based on what I have seen, I would prefer to give that liberty to the American Government than to allow the drug pushers and all of those people who want to control the Caribbean the right to control it the way they want to control it.

Sir, this is not picking against the foreign policy and I hope the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade does not believe that I am attacking her ministry because she knows well that my heart is within that ministry and that good service would come from within that ministry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we also have to understand that our democracy is under attack but not by Caribbean governments.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: I do not beg for any ministry as some people might think. I come to represent the interest of the people of St. Lucy and I have a job to do and no sidelines would divert me from doing it. I will do what I have to do and I will do what I think is in the interest of the people of St. Lucy and the rest of Barbados. All those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is one thing to criticise one Government for doing something but it is another thing to be faced with making the same decisions all over. The Democratic Labour Party was criticised for putting the Coast Guard station in Christ Church. We heard it not too long ago. They said that we chose the wrong location. We do not know what would happen when the Coast Guard station is relocated to the Flour Mill, because the same advice that the Barbados Labour Party is now getting, we got and there is a possibility that the same thing that occurred in Christ Church will happen now.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: On a point of order. The Honourable Member must not mislead the House. He does not know whereof he speaks. Yes, they got the same good advice but they did not take it.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: The record does not show that, Sir. The record would show that the Democratic Labour Party got advice that was the suitable place. In the beginning the evidence was shown because when the boats were up there everything was well. It is only when there was a shift in current that things changed. In the initial stage, everything was well. I visited there and I was so impressed that I wanted to join the Coast Guard and I applied and I had my interview there, and there was no good beach at that time.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George North, a man who does not know what a sea looks like and who cannot see a sea from his constituency, is questioning my credibility about my swimming, a man who lived in Checker Hall, operates in Moon Town and is from St. Lucy that has water on three sides. A man that does not know anything about water is questioning my credibility, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. I have not spoken in this debate as yet, but I will speak.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, what the Honourable Member is telling you is that in future when I am speaking, he will keep his mouth shut.

Sir, I have no intention of telling the Government that the Flour Mill might be the worst site. What I would say to those persons who expect to get a spinoff from the Coast Guard in terms of beach facilities when it goes to the Flour Mill to forget it because a Coast Guard is not a shop, it is a security facility and there would be a particular demarcation line to protect the interest of the Coast Guard. Therefore, we have to be careful how we welcome the Coast Guard into our area.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: It means that the Government needs to explain to the people in the constituency of St. Michael North West what they are doing, which is going to limit the possibilities they had previously from being so near to the Port. Sir, it will happen.

Asides.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, one has to be very careful how this particular debate is allowed and the impression that could be created because it can create a lot of false hope.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have said in here that what we need is a hybrid between the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Coast Guard. I am making the call again that those Honourable men that we employed in the Barbados Defence Force could be better used within the Coast Guard and the Royal Barbados Police Force. The Royal Barbados Police Force wants them and the Coast Guard needs them.

Sir, if they want to develop our fishing industry, they should use the money that is normally used to buy equipment for the Defence Force to buy additional boats for the Coast Guard and station them out to sea so that they can protect our fishermen instead of having them berthed somewhere.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that it is about time that Government ministers move from their offices and go into the fishing villages and listen to the fishermen so that they can get some evidence of what occurs on the high sea. If they do that they would be able to appreciate the point that I have been making ever since and which I continue to make this evening.
3.30 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East should be able to substantiate what I am

saying. I expect the Honourable Member for Christ Church East to defend this point when he gets up. If he does not defend this particular point, I will have to go to Christ Church and hold a meeting and tell the people there that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who understand their fears and what they do, is not protecting them and not allowing me to get enough sea cat.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party talks about CSME but I speak about CSM because the CSME cannot work in the Caribbean because countries will want to change their currencies. I know that the Prime Minister and many others have agreed with this point because we need to speak about CSM. Sir the biggest threat to CSM is the drug trade in the Caribbean. I cannot see the Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados continuing to sit down with other Prime Ministers in the Caribbean knowing full well that those Prime Ministers witness and watched boats coming into the Caribbean on a nightly basis and would not tell them to stop the foolishness. Neither the Commissioner of Police should not continue to sit with people in the Caribbean who have an international connection with what I speak and does not tell them that he fears to divulge certain information because before he leaves the table that the information would be in the hands of persons that he seeks to protect others from.

Sir, I finish on that point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I now see why the Honourable Member is often out to sea because it was his intention to join the Coast Guard but the Coast Guard is better for the fact that he is in Parliament rather than in the Coast Guard.

Sir, the Honourable Member who just spoke fascinates me. I know he is a successful shopkeeper who deals with dollars but I never knew that in his foreign policy he would have gone to the level of thirty pieces of silver. I do not believe the Honourable Member believes that, as he suggested, that the purpose for which a fundamental issue of sovereignty, respect for the rights of our citizens and the principle of reciprocity should turn merely on access to resources. Sir, this is no more than an argument of thirty pieces silver.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I never mentioned anything about resources. I mentioned about protection of our people. I am very sorry if the Honourable Member sees people only in terms of money. Sir, he should speak for himself and not for me.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the end of the day, the most fundamental responsibility of every country is to protect its people. It is fine if you are able to obtain help from other countries but obtaining help from other countries can never, for any country great or small and certainly not for this country, be a reason for selling out our sovereignty. If it means that we have to pull our pockets, deep, long and hard to protect ourselves and citizens, let us pay the price but it should not be for thirty pieces of silver.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no question of any slippage in the level of protection. Indeed, the Right Honourable Prime Minister when he spoke made it quite clear that he recognised the importance of the access to aircrafts as part of the surveillance and protection of our country. He said that he believed the time had come when this country would have to look once again at having aviation resources because we had an aircraft and he asked for Parliament to support him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question is not a trade-off between Article 98 and the protection of our citizens but about the extent to which we are willing to say that one country is able to ensure that only that country can look after punishing its citizens but the citizens of every other country, including ours, can be punished by them as well. Sir, it is fundamental respect and if there is a reciprocal arrangement to that effect then there is no problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am disappointed that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy should use the thirty pieces of silver principle in a matter which should not be subjected to those peculiar interests so I will spend no more time on that aspect. I will follow the principle of Errol Barrow in this matter – friends of all and satellites of none – not the principle of Kellman.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this debate, the provision of resources for our Coast Guard is a matter which is fundamental to our existence but we have a basis challenge. There are 49.3 miles of coastline around this fair island of ours and there are 85 beaches in Barbados. We are opened, exposed, vulnerable and unprotected in relation to our land but in relation to our economic zone there are 48 300 nautical square miles of ocean which we need to protect in our exclusive economic zone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, make no mistake, the 20th century was the century in which we conquered space and the 21st century is when countries of the world will seek to conquer the ocean, not for navigation but for exploiting the life-sustaining, economic, mineral resources of the oceans. Sir, it is not just oil and gas that would be exploited but also mineral.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you can rest assured that countries are already staking out markers. This is why maritime delimitations have become important. I would not go into detail about that today but I want to make the point that our Coast Guard is an important national resource and that, as an island nation, exploitation of our marine resources is fundamental to our economic and social development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to salute the Coast Guard for the excellent work which has been done over the years and, in particular to say, that all the tasks which they are going to do, that the protection of our fisherfolk, of pleasure craft and of ordinary persons who use the sea, is an important aspect of their work which they discharge with decorum, efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a Government we have to recognise that our boats, both pleasure and fishing, are getting larger and go further and if we are to fully exploit the fishing industry, we need to go a lot more into long-line boats and do what the Korean and other... We need to look towards the east where there are larger boats. In fact, we need to do what the Koreans and other non-nationals are doing, by way of larger boats that exploit the waters in the Caribbean. Of course, that would require the protection of the Coast Guard. We need larger boats, more boats and air resources so that the people in Silver Sands will be very much in support of what we are doing today. They know only too well how their livelihood is affected by this investment in the Coast Guard.
3.40 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, we have people in Silver Hill, Maxwell, Gall Hill, Lodge Road and all over Christ Church who are in the fishing business. We have people in Christ Church who are in the pleasure boat business, jet skis, sport fishing, and they need the protection of the Coast Guard.

Sir, if we follow the Marine reports, we have an increase in piracy internationally. We have a new brand of pirates. They are not wearing eye patches, hooks on their hands and are not dressed in stripes.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, they do not fly the skull and crossbones on the ships but they are plundering boats on the high seas. They are forcing boats on the high seas to accept drugs and to bring them to shore otherwise they would sink the boat.

Sir, they are stealing equipment, cash and jewelry. Mr. Deputy Speaker, piracy represents a threat to the thriving boating business, make no mistake about it. Every December, January and February, at Carlise Bay you will see large expensive luxury yachts and smaller sail boats. You could look into the carenage, thanks to the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, it is beginning to look like somewhere again, and you will see the number of sport fishing vessels, vessels that are there for charter to take locals and visitors out to sea for a day game fishing. Sir, you will understand why we need to ensure that our seas are safe.

Sir, we have ordinary Barbadians, our neighbours and constituents, who are out there for seven or ten days in iceboats who need the assurance that either protection from army intrusion or if there is a mechanical or physical problem with their boats that we, the Government, have provided resources for the Coast Guard to provide search and rescue. This is important and this matter is fundamental to the social and economic life, particularly to the people of the wider Christ Church area, a community based on fishing and the ocean for tourism and agricultural purposes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to support them in this regard but I want to say that I totally disagree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, who sought to draw some contrast and to suggest that one should not spend money on the sea because you have to look to the land. Somehow, he does not realise that Barbados is surrounded by the sea. Clearly, he did not do Geography.

I want to inform the Honourable Member that there is an ocean that surrounds the island of Barbados and if he understands anything about criminology and sociology or if he had been reading the newspapers over the last twenty-five years, he would know that two of the issues that have plagued law and order in this country are the issues of illegal guns and drugs, and that the challenge we have is because of the porous nature of our border and that efforts to effectively control them have tended to be a little challenging. The further challenge, if he had his finger on the pulse, would be the issue where criminals, sometimes Barbadians trying to go out and others trying to come in, attempt, sometimes successfully, to make their landings at one of these eighty-five beaches or otherwise they make their transfer by boat to slip in or out of the country; sometimes to commit crimes or to get away from crimes. Therefore, securing law and order on the land for a place like Barbados depends on the protection of our high seas. It is fundamental.

Sir, I cannot agree with the Honourable Member that we should not spend this \$58 million in establishing a proper Coast Guard Headquarters because there are needs on the land. This investment is what would protect our fair land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we are able to stymie the flow of drugs and weapons, reducing the mind-altering nature of drugs to our people, it means that less resources would have to be spent on land to control because the problem would be greatly reduced. It is a very straightforward issue.

We also know that the current location of the Coast Guard is a security and logistical nightmare. There is no way in the world that members of the general public, some of whom may be criminals, should be able to know whether your boats are in or out or whether you have 10 or 20 boats. As it stands now, the boats are at the Pierhead, next to the pleasure craft, and when you drive down the Wharf Road you can look and see if the Coast Guard vessels are in or out, or if they preparing to sail or whether they are under repairs.

Sir, this facility, given its location on the very end of that reclaimed land, is beyond the Barbados Flour Mill, going into the sea. It is an area of land that I do not think that many Barbadians have ever seen. As you will recall, that is land that was not in existence up until twenty-five years ago. That was the last piece of land to be reclaimed as part of the Port Expansion Project. The area where this Coast Guard station is going is not visible from the road. It does not represent an intrusion or reduction of anyone's access to anything or its use for anything.

In fact, the Honourable Member, who if by constituency borders are correct, represents that area or just outside of it, questioned whether Crop Over activities would be affected by the location of the Coast Guard station, the answer is no. It is not that area directly adjacent to the Spring Garden Highway where this Coast Guard station will be located. In fact, one cannot see it from there. You have to drive down the road right down inside and the Honourable Member knows that. I believe that he was trying to pen a calypso as he was asking that question.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Sir, the bottom line is, one of the things about which I am particularly pleased, that this Government, unlike the last administration, has taken its time to ensure that many full and careful environmental impact assessments, many of them have been done.
3.50 p.m.

In fact, Sir, I know well that we even have on the marine side – because we wanted this project to be done faster but we had to wait because the experts told us that if you are to do proper assessment of the tides, you had to give a full one-year cycle because the tides change during the course of the year. I remember very clearly that great time had to be spent in making the full assessment.

We are satisfied, therefore, that there will be no adverse environmental impact, based on all of the waste studies that have been done. Indeed, Sir, what we are effectively doing is augmenting the existing Bridgetown Port because the land in question is part of the Port, so we are adding a marine security component to the Bridgetown Port and that is really what it is all about, Sir.

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression that because the Coast Guard Station is going to be located next to the Port that it will enhance the security of the Port. I want to beg to differ because the opposite can be true, Sir.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was not even making that point. I was making the point, Sir, that the physical location of the facility, is in fact making an enhancement to the general Port facility and that the matter of the studies and the impact must be taken in that context.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the existence of a Coast Guard in Barbados also provides us with an opportunity to further exploit our marine resources. I think, Sir, that we do not appreciate very often, the range of skills that exist within our Coast Guard, and how we could build on those skills to provide further opportunities for Barbadians, for example, scuba diving, marine operations. I want to speak of two aspects of this training which I believe are important for us as we seek to chart new economic opportunities for our people.

Certainly, the Barbados Cadet Corp is affiliated with the Barbados Defence Force of which the Coast Guard is a part. Of course, Sir, I did not interrupt the Honourable Member for St. Lucy but he should know that the Coast Guard is part of the Barbados Defence Force, and he was speaking about the two of them as if they were separate, but that is another matter.

I want, Sir, to salute the Barbados Cadet Corp, celebrating 100 years. In recent times, in fact, on the 1st January, 1993, they established their marine arm of the Cadet Corp. Over the years, Sir, some 360 Cadets have been trained in maritime operations. Those young boys and girls are a new breed of Barbadians, disciplined because of their full Cadet training, but also trained in a wide range of skills such as navigation, swimming, life saving and boat operations.

Indeed, Sir, it is my view, both my personal view as well as my view of Minister of Education that one of the areas of training that this Government certainly will further and fully exploit is the area of marine operations. As an island nation, we must be a centre of excellence for anything to do with the ocean, Sir, whether the environmental side or

the operational side. I want to say that the Sea Cadets have provided an opportunity for youth development, building character and building skills.

I want to say as well, Sir, that at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic we offer a one-year Certificate in Maritime Operations and this is done in association with the Barbados Coast Guard. In that one year, students are taught seamanship, navigation theory, communication skills, automotive engineering, diesel engines and things of that nature, basic machine shop, metal work, personnel management, oceanography and a range of skills.

It is a multi-disciplinary programme recognising that if you are to be competent at sea, you need to understand the science of it, you need to have some technology skills as well as your swimming, sea navigation and other traditional seamanship skills.

We believe, Sir, that on the foundation which is built by these Sea Cadets, by the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic graduate in maritime operations that we have the capacity to build a new fishing industry, going into long-liners and the like and for persons to work either in the cruise industry or in the merchant navy industry, so that persons can gain employment in a range of skills at sea.

I want to say as well, Sir, that we have developed a programme in the area of diving. Much of the diving has traditionally been taught by persons offering commercial pleasure diving, but our Youth Commissioners in the Youth Affairs Department have, in at least two coastal communities, sponsored special diving training for youngsters in those communities, who have the natural diving skills but who wanted to augment those skills by going the route of scuba. Indeed, Sir, we will be putting down one of those in the Silver Sands area very shortly, as soon as some of the youngsters who are out to sea now come back at the end of the fishing season. One was done in the Bayfield area.

Sir, for those persons in the diving industry, the Coast Guard has been of particular significance because the Hyperbaric Chamber at the Coast Guard has been the lifesaver for many persons in the diving industry, persons who were suffering from the bends and who have been treated at the Coast Guard Headquarters. Indeed, Sir, if we are to have any serious diving industry, it is important to have those facilities on hand.

Therefore, the Coast Guard is not just a matter of providing security, but I see it as on the cutting edge and being a form on which we could truly launch an assault on the economic and social opportunities, which are available in our marine environment. This investment in providing new facilities for them must be seen in that particular area.

In closing, Sir, I want to say that this is money well spent. I am satisfied that the Government has exercised all due care, particularly on the environmental side to do a full assessment to make sure that the mistakes of the Democratic Labour Party... where they ignored the technical advice and put the Coast Guard station where they felt like putting it. Yes, we are happy that there is a beach but the fact of the matter is that after a whole Coast Guard Station was built, it had to be abandoned.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: I know it well. I used to cast a line out from the rocks on Enterprise Road and catch some fish, Sir, before the beach was there.

Asides.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have not gone down that road. We have taken our time. We have done our assessments and we are satisfied that this development will contribute...

Mr. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House and giving the impression that they have been consistent in everything they have said. You were in here today and heard the Prime Minister say that he did the best thing when he moved District E from up on the hill, and took it near to a beach.
4.00 p.m.

Sir, I was in here when the Honourable Member made the point that the Hometown Police Station should not be on the beach, that it should be at Porters.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: That is a point of disorder, Sir. Mr. Deputy Speaker, all I was trying to say before this Honourable Member interrupted is that this investment is for our safety and security.

Sir, on behalf of my constituents in Christ Church East and on behalf of those constituents in Christ Church West Central, who are well known to you, who make their living out of the sea, whether as vendors, boat owners, fisher folks or operators of pleasure crafts, we are happy that there is a Government which is paying attention to safety at sea and our protection because it is only through the confidence given by an efficient, effective and well-resourced Coast Guard that we, in our two constituencies, and indeed all of Christ Church will be able to continue to live our way of life based on beach and ocean culture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution to this debate. First let me support the Resolution before the House because it is obvious that it is a Resolution that goes to the heart of protecting this country. Anything to protect the way of life that we enjoy here in Barbados so that it would continue in the way we enjoy it and have enjoyed for years, I will always support.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to speak a little about what the Prime Minister said, particularly about visual presentations in this House. I too have to agree with the Honourable Prime Minister that the time has come for this Parliament to embrace technology so that we can have opportunities to have power point presentations and the ability to use laptops in the Parliament when necessary.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is not the first time I am speaking about this. I think it is absolutely necessary that this Parliament must be the leader in showing to the people of this country that we are keeping pace with technology. This is now a technological world and we must not be afraid to embrace and use the technology. I believe that it is only a matter of time before we can see power point presentations by ministers and be able to see people using laptops here on this Floor to be able to make their points and to bring more effective and efficient governance to this country. Therefore, I would ask the Management Committee to look at this with haste and join with the Prime Minister in his suggestion for the use of technology in this Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to go back to the substantive point about the Coast Guard. It is obvious to all that the Coast Guard plays a major role in the security of this country, not only from the point of view of drug interdiction and protecting our borders from unwelcome invaders but also from the point of view of providing search and rescue operations when necessary to this country.

I wholeheartedly support that the Coast Guard must be looking at having additional air assets. One that immediately comes to mind would be a helicopter. A helicopter will move at a significantly faster pace than a boat will. A helicopter can cover significantly more ground in a search and rescue operation than a boat can. With respect to an aeroplane, it can help you search but it cannot help you rescue. Therefore, I think we should look with certain haste at finding the funds or the support necessary to arming our Coast Guard with the necessary air assets, one of which must be a helicopter. It only stands to reason.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East spoke about the hyperbaric oxygen chamber, one of two in the Caribbean. We all know of the significant contribution the Coast Guard is making through the hyperbaric chamber

with the people suffering from the bends, but that is not all. The hyperbaric chamber can also be used to treat people with certain diseases. The House may not know, but there are certain cancers, that when the persons are given the necessary drug, hyperbaric oxygen has been proven to enhance the rate at which the diseases are combatted, a significant medical application to what we have already in the hyperbaric oxygen chamber, something that few people are aware of but something which the Coast Guard is contributing not only to the security of the country but also to the health of the country. So I will give support to any measure to enhance the Coast Guard.

Sir, while on the topic, I have to say that I came through the Cadet Corp and I would encourage the young members of this society to get involved in the Cadet Corp or the Sea Cadets. It did not only teach me discipline and how to be a team player, but also enhanced my leadership skills. I join with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, in saluting the 100th anniversary of the Cadet Corp. It is a fine institution that has helped to mould me into the personality that I now am.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heard the Prime Minister speak of the village which moulded his personality. I came from a district, not from a village, but what he learnt in his village, I also learnt in the Cadet Corp. I learnt respect for elders, respect for authority, understanding discipline, important things and important values which I think sometimes we are now forsaking in this society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while on the matter of the Coast Guard and the Barbados Defence Force, I also want to join with the Prime Minister and ask for a pension benefit scheme for the members of the Barbados Defence Force. For too long, members of the Barbados Defence Force have been excluded from a pension scheme and I salute the opportunity and the day when they too would be able to benefit from a worthwhile pension because they have contributed their time, their efforts and their youth to the Barbados Defence Force and to the Coast Guard. We must recognise them when they are no longer able to contribute, something which I think is long in coming in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister also spoke of an interesting matter. He talked about narco-governance, this interest me greatly and I will explain why. There is a phenomenon of 'drug dons' in this region. The 'drug dons' in Jamaica are now known to be supporting candidates for elections and are turning around and then supporting candidates not only in political parties but candidates in general elections not only in local Government but in central Government. This is nothing new.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was at a conference when the Prime Minister of Jamaica made it clear that there may come

a time when governments of the region may be captured by the 'drug dons'. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that we have to be very vigilant in this country and in this region. The 'drug dons' are handling lots of money and they are trying to use that money to exert political influence, this is why the Prime Minister spoke about narco-governance. This is an important aspect that we must guard against.

4.10 p.m.

We are seeing it happen in Jamaica and we must never allow that kind of behaviour to be prevalent in this small country of ours because it would be the beginning of the end for this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if there is one criticism of this project, it is this. The Prime Minister made it clear that there was some lapse of time between the concept of the project and its implementation. The concept of the project was supposed to have cost \$49 million but now, at its implementation, because of the time lapse between the concept and the implementation, there has been an increase from \$49 million to \$60 million. This must be a criticism because if the Government was able to act quickly on the project, we would have saved the project cost of \$10 million or 15 per cent in the final cost. Sir, it is important because it shows the cost of red tape and bureaucracy in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometimes in Government you can try to negotiate a loan but while you are negotiating the loan the interest rate is low but because of the slow wheels and the slow way in which the bureaucracy of the Government works, by the time you come to implement or draw-down the loan, the interest rate has gone up which adds to the cost of the programme and hence adds to the cost that the taxpayer and Government would have to pay.

Sir, it is obvious to all that red tape and bureaucracy is costing this country. I would like to ask Government to cut the red tape especially in matters of financial dealing when opportunity exists when you can lock in fixed interest rates at low and reasonable rates as opposed to leaving projects for too long when interest rates would increase and there is increased cost to the taxpayer. Sir, this is the only criticism I find with the project. Apart from that, it is a masterful stroke, which is absolutely necessary to protect the people of this country and visitors who come to this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to speak on one other matter which relates to Haiti. Sir, at the conference of the OECS, I had the privilege of meeting some the General Secretaries from political parties in Haiti. There is absolutely no question that Haiti is in crisis. There are 85 political parties vying for Government in Haiti and each of them feel that they have the right formula for the Government of Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, there is a law in certain parts of the United States of America called the Good Samaritan law. Basically, the Good Samaritan law says that if you see somebody having difficulty or an emergency, you have a duty to society to give assistance to that person. Sir, this law should be applied to the people of Haiti because clearly, Haiti is in trouble, its Caribbean brothers have a duty and responsibility to offer support and assistance to Haiti.

Sir, I am not saying that we have the wherewithal to offer military support to Haiti but we have centuries of experience in governance between all the CARICOM nations and any administration that comes to power in Haiti after the next elections would be a new one because the present interim administration is not allowed to contest the elections. Sir, the new administration would need help in finding its way not only in the governance of the country but also in international relations. It is high time that we in the Caribbean stop burying our heads in the sand, wake up and give the necessary assistance to our brothers in Haiti. This is of utmost importance and I agree wholeheartedly with the Prime Minister in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, a wise man once said that when they came for the Jews, he did nothing, that when they went for the Indians, he did nothing but then they came for him and no one said anything. Let that not be said in Barbados. We know of the policy of regime change. We know of people who are purporting to give regime change some sort of legal backing so not let that be said of Barbados. Let us be the first in line to support our brothers in Haiti so that should they come for us, they would be there to support us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

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

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter this debate at the point of trying to clearly place on the record my own view that this is perhaps a defining moment in the evolution of both our country and society. I say so from my own perspectives and from the assumption of the reigns of full self-governance on November 30, 1966. Sir, perhaps it was an inevitable juncture that we would have one day to come to. Above and beyond the social capital requirements of independence like education, health, responsibility to look after our own agricultural and social security, et cetera, the issues of the national security of Barbados would one day have to fall within the realm of those things which a fully sovereign and independent state holds dear.

Mr. Speaker, it was inevitable that the time would come when we would have to assume full responsibility, as in

large measure we are speaking today, for matters not only of the coastal well-being of our country but, broadly speaking, matters of national security and national defence.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has, quite rightly in my view, articulated the case that defence is perhaps the most basic and most essential of the public goods. I want to say that I take a broader view of what we are about today. I put it in the context of a national security debate.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asked the question who is going to pay for it. Sir, the figure is \$49 million in this debate, last week it was the figure of \$2 million, and as is often the case, as Opposition and I do not find any fault with that, will focus on the dollars and cents issue.
4.20 p.m.

However, there is a broader question which we have to focus. That is why I began in the context of the inevitable juncture that this country, one day, would have to come to – that is, the question of the economic cost against the social responsibility and expectation.

Sir, let me say that I ask myself the question, what is the value of the preservation of the living resources of the sea off of Barbados. What is the value of our non-living resources of our territorial waters and our exclusive economic zone? Sir, bearing in mind that terminology of the exclusive economic zone carries with it certain legal implications which we are, even as we speak, at an advance stage of having the necessary memorials and counter-memorials being filed in arbitration matters with our neighbours and CARICOM brothers in Trinidad.

The fundamental question has to be not just what is the cost of the installation which is being contemplated and upon which work will very shortly start, but what is the overall cost in the national security context, the national interest context in which the Prime Minister placed our foreign policy, of the living and non-living resources of the territorial waters of Barbados.

Sir, as we look further afield into the Caribbean sea, what is the value of our being able to ensure that we have the capacity as a country to ensure that commitments of a maritime nature, made with respect to the preservation and protection of the resources and the efficient management and harvesting of the resources of the Caribbean sea? What is the value that we place upon these things?

Mr. Speaker, the junction that we are at, quite frankly, in my view, is a junction which says that, perhaps now, for the first time in the history of Barbados, the populace of this country has to see its economic well-being in a broader scope

and context. Sir, we had to come to the shuddering, startling and, perhaps, in some instances painful conclusion that our criminal justice system and our system of civil justice, upon which we depend so heavily for British participation, intervention and assistance, that system would have to change and we would have to assume in a real and tangible financial sense and in a meaningful way, full responsibility for that aspect of our self-governance. We have decided to do so in the same way economically, the intervention, the assistance and participation upon which we were so content to depend. Let me say from which we not only depended but from which we also benefitted and benefitted handsomely.

Sir, payday has come and the time has come for us to recognise that those people upon whom we were able to rely, have their own priorities. They having carried us, in some instances, not necessarily happily but having carried us thus far, are saying to us in a very real way that we have our own set of priorities upon which we now focus and we say to you, the people of the Caribbean, that part of the independence dialogue has to take on this new aspect of your own national security interest.

I think that once the people of Barbados understand that we are at that defining moment, then a lot of the issues in this debate become very straightforward and I am happy to say that in spite of, perhaps, niggling difference, thus the debate has not demonstrated that there is necessarily a parting of the ways politically on this issue.

Sir, I want to say that it is a matter of concern to me, I have enjoyed in another aspect of my own personal development and association with the Coast Guard. I believe that which we are attempting to do today has also to be placed in the context of how valuable a contribution the Coast Guard has made to Barbados and how this country must now recognise that we are to continue to maintain, not only national stability and well-being but if we are to continue to maintain the value of the contribution, that Barbados has to take that institution called the Coast Guard and by extension the Barbados Defence Force a lot more seriously.

Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition raised the question of cost and that, perhaps, is a good point to return to just by way of example. The HMS Trident, the flagship of the Coast Guard, was manufactured in 1980; that makes that vessel twenty-five years old. So, our flagship is at a stage where many will argue that she is approaching the stage of obsolescence.

The cost of the retrofitting of that vessel today would be in the vicinity of \$2 million. No one can gainsay and no one in this Parliament will get up and debate in a manner of contesting the value of the contribution that vessel has made.

However, we have a history of a happy reliance on the association, not only with the United States of America but other powers, upon whom we could in the past rely because there was an Iraq issue or any of the other modern day issues which are making telling financial demands on the so-called industrialised world as they fight a war on international terror, demands that run high in the hundreds of billions of dollars, US currency.

Sir, the fact of the matter is, we have to focus on our own priorities because the protection of the territorial water of Barbados and the protection by extension of the Caribbean Sea and all those issues I spoke to; the capacity that we have to participate meaningfully in a Regional Security Service and many aspects of the Coast Guard's day-to-day business, means that we have to decide quickly whether we can afford to continue to wait in the hope of getting assistance. For example, I only used the retrofitting of the HMS Trident, because, to me, that is one of the most urgent aspects of the business of the Barbados Coast Guard because that is the flagship. Sir, in the event of major disaster, heaven forbids, that is one of the first vessels that will be called upon.

Sir, I made the point that there are myriad – it has been said before in this debate and I will not repeat it *ad nauseam*, but there are a myriad of other callings of the Coast Guard, narcotic trafficking, maritime surveillance and piracy.

Sir, we are at a stage where we are contemplating the establishment of a new form of transportation to link Bridgetown with Oistins, Holetown, my constituency, and going further afield to Speightstown, the constituency of the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, that form of transportation would be via water. It is contained in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party at Page 43. It has been discussed on public platforms in this country and it is an idea whose time will come.

Mr. Speaker, even as we contemplate a new form of transportation – in the language of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, the conquering of the seas for transportation purposes in our case – what do we do in order to ensure the maintenance of law and order? In my view, there will have to be an enhanced Coast Guard presence. Therefore, I make that point to briefly reflect on the contribution made by the Leader of the Opposition when he raised, in my view, a false dichotomy between manpower on one hand and increased technology on the other.

4.30 p.m.

I say respectfully, Sir, that I do not see that dichotomy. I see both as critical components to the continued evolution and development of that institution. Let me also say to you that I also see the Coast Guard having to play a

very important role in our own capacity to maintain both our air and sea rescue.

Sir, it is a painful reality in Barbados and I would have to say that in my constituency we have the monument so we know it and perhaps we are reminded of it on a day-to-day basis. In 1976, I think it was on 6th September when an ill-fated Cubana Airline was a victim of terrorism off the coast of Barbados. The footage is still very fresh in my memory of the little fishing boats going out in order to try to perform what rescue operation could, in effect, have been performed – such little rescue as was able to have been effected.

The reality, Sir, of a Barbados in 2005 when we have such heavy international air traffic, the reality of a Barbados in 2005 which serves as the hub of the Eastern Caribbean means that we must have an enhanced Coast Guard Facility so that we could have the kind, standard and quality of air and sea rescue that is expected of a jurisdiction which is attracting, conducting and maintaining the presence of that kind of business.

My own experience, Sir, at the Criminal Bar, and I say to this House very candidly that one of the things I had to do as a lawyer at the Private Bar was to have a meeting with the then Attorney General of Barbados, now Chief Justice, to inform him of information which came to me as a result of a case in which I was involved, concerning the effect, the presence, the sinister threat posed by gun trafficking and gun traffickers who were prepared to use vessels off the coast of Barbados to get guns into Barbados. Again, the role of the Barbados Coast Guard became exceptionally important.

There is no doubt in my mind, Sir, that one of the things this country has to look at very urgently is to get an accurate set of statistics which will reveal the percentage relationship between illegal guns in this country and serious crime involving guns. I suspect, Sir, that if we are anything like Jamaica, we will again find that the seepage through a very porous border has been facilitated by access via sea.

Sir, we sometimes hear of an AK-47 being found by the Police. An AK-47 is not likely to come through Grantley Adams International Airport or the Bridgetown Port. The AK-47 is more than likely going to be coming off of some vessel which landed off the coast of Barbados during the night. The point that I am trying to make, Sir, is that the increase surveillance and capacity for maritime surveillance is very important, not only in terms of gun trafficking but also in narco-trafficking and these are areas which the Coast Guard is going to have to look into, Sir.

The Right Honourable Member for St. Peter spoke to the issue of marijuana seizures linked to St. Vincent. I

believe there were his figures which reflected that there was some approximate intelligence in the case, \$15 million not intersected. Sir, this raises for us, the context of organised crime and criminal networks in the Eastern Caribbean.

I would want to speak briefly to the so-called criminal culture of those people who are making a livelihood through the institutionalisation of crime and to connect it to this debate that we have here. As I said, this debate is about our national security and how best we create the necessary institution or expand the institution with relevant installations and facilities to better protect the national security of Barbados.

Sir, again I speak from the so-called well-spring of experience. At the Private Bar, it is now common knowledge for those of us who have had to come through the criminal practice that there is a day-to-day reality of some of these same drugs which are imported from other Caribbean territories, finding their way into the homes of people, especially in urban Barbados, where a drug lord is going to come say that I want x amount of marijuana stashed under a cellar, or I want it kept in a backyard, put in a pit and in exchange for that, the *quid pro quo* is that drug lord then pays the bills for light and water. He will provide financial assistance where it is necessary.

The reality is that to the extent that we are able to correct these seepages into Barbados, then we are better able to correct the moral and social decay that takes place as a result of that kind of interaction.

We have a Barbados today which would have, for argument sake, a prison system in which there are many females, most of whom are from this region and are here as a result of being drug mules, some of whom are taken into custody when pregnant. The reality is that these children then become, for some period of time, a burden on the social infrastructure of the country and State.

Therefore, the point is that it is only through building a network of relationships in the Eastern Caribbean that, unequivocally, makes Barbados a hub for Caribbean security, not only unequivocally makes a statement against the drug trade and the running of guns but make Barbados a hub for Caribbean security, because we are the sought after marketplace. We are the place where there is perhaps a higher standard and quality of living but it is only when those persons who are charged with the responsibility of protecting the State, fighting crime and ensuring security of our people are able to collaborate across this region, in the same way that the criminal elements seek to collaborate across the region that we will be most effective in protecting against the scourge of illegal drugs and illegal guns.

I felt it is necessary to say during the course of this debate that it is perhaps a most unfortunate thing that part of the difficulty we face is to get the authorities across CARICOM to speak with one voice, unequivocally, on some of these matters. Therefore, when a Member of the Judiciary of a neighbour CARICOM State albeit, the Petty Judiciary, I believe it was an ex-magistrate, will make a call for the legitimising of the drug trade, it makes it very difficult for us to be able to speak with one authoritative voice across the region.

Sir, when an argument is made that it is not the production of marijuana or the shipping of the marijuana but there is a demand for that which we know to be a highly addictive drug. I mean it runs contrary to all good sense and reason anyhow, because once you have been a user or you have repeated use, you are likely then to also become addicted to it, so the demand issue does not really arise. It creates its own demand.

4.40 p.m.

Sir, the fact of matter is that we in this region need not to be beating against each other with a view to saying whether it is the question of shipping or the question of the existence of a demand. The point is that we need to have an authoritative voice which is speaking to building relationships of the wholesome nature between legal law enforcement authorities to ensure that those of us who are affected are no longer that affected.

Sir, it is not only the question of demand and supply, there is also another issue that this region has to face. That is why, with great respect, I cannot agree with the Honourable Member for St. Lucy when he talks only about a single market and not the economy because it follows as day follows night that part of what we are trying to build in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is the kind of collaboration that will stop us being picked off one by one by these kinds of sinister efforts at ensuring crime rules in the Caribbean.

Sir, the failure to collectively confront and to resolve the common causes of our economic hardship is going to be a problem that will continue to cause us to continue to stumble and fall.

Mr. Speaker, I start from a philosophy which says that poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere. As the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was speaking, I was making a list of some of the specific characteristics and problems economically which we face in this region. Sir, because of the fact that we have not been collectively able to speak to finding a satisfactory solution, that has allowed the slippery slope into what is really a form of complacency because the man who is selling drugs is not working hard to

change to any economic structure because he is making quick money off the back of the society. He would sell it to the children, the children will suffer and he is going to the bank with a lot of hundred dollar bills, that is the problem.

Asides.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, I compiled a little list. We can look at issues like our inability to compare to the rest of the world or to stimulate a satisfactory level of diversification in the economy. That is true across this region, particularly so in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and Barbados. Sir, this Parliament has seen the efforts made by this Government to continually every year to try to take additional steps to stimulate further diversification.

Sir, issues such as the difficulties in attracting foreign investments, issues of our comparative physical isolation and distance from traditional markets such as the United States of America and Europe, insignificant participation in the international trading systems and minimal share of world trade which increases pressure on our public finances to provide essential goods and services are some of the difficulties that we have to contend with in this little subregion.

Sir, if we are going to contend with them, we have to collectively confront issues such as the enhanced vulnerability of our economies and shocks about which we have no control, such as the hurricane that swept through Grenada last year, which has set back that economy about two to three years or even a decade. Sir, if it were to happen, heaven forbids, it could offset something as mammoth, in terms of income potential, as the Cricket World Cup that we are talking about. These are the difficulties that we have to look at.

Sir, one half of the society or two-thirds of the society of the Caribbean is focusing on those issues and you have another side who are prepared to wink and connive at those weaknesses and say, as a result of the very weaknesses that are causing these problems, they are going to try to slip through to ensure that naked personal agendas are looked after. Sir, that is why, as part of the regional platform we need to be talking about national security in the same way the United States of America, as part of its domestic political agenda, is always building into the equation its external outlook, what is in the national security interest of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, before he became a Member of Parliament, tried to trip over that type of thinking one night when he did an injustice to himself in a debate on television. I believe that he has been around long enough to have a better grasp of the concept.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that part of our effort to advance our own domestic well-being has to be found in the collaboration of this region and a deepened participation in terms of things like the Regional Security System, *et cetera*. Sir, that brings me to the issue of July 1, 2003 because it was on that date that the decision was taken by our neighbours in the north to rescind the military aid in some quarters arising from our failure to sign the Article 98 Agreement.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has two minutes to conclude.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no military service in the world which is beyond reproach. One does not have to dwell on unhappy and unfortunate instances whether they be at Guantanamo Bay or anywhere else. All one has to recognise is that they cannot be one law for the Medes and another law for the Persians. If it is that some countries in the world are not required to participate in that arrangement, then what makes it necessary for us to be asked and demanded that we participate. It cannot be a satisfactory resolution. It cannot be that we just opt out of our responsibility to our people and say, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would have us say, that we could sell our soul for a mess of pottage.

Sir, I believe that the better solution has to be to build meaningful relations with other states who share a similar outlook and who are prepared to work with us toward obtaining what are really hemispheric objectives.

Sir, we must recognise that when we talk in here about narco-trafficking, that the Caribbean uses only a comparatively small amount of the drugs. Many of it is transhipped further north. Sir, the reality is that while certain folk have their own outlook and their own agenda, we too must have an agenda which looks after the well-being of this region.

Sir, I want to urge the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, because he is a self-proclaimed 'Barrowite' to remember that it was the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow who said that the Caribbean has to be a zone of peace. It was the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow who took that principal position in the language of our Prime Minister based on values and self-interest. It was the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow who said there was not supposed to be any army or military down here in the Caribbean Sea conducting what was the equivalent of an orchestral practice or an orchestral rehearsal before they went to invade somebody's country for a public performance, that was said by the Honourable Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Could you conclude, please.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, I say, as I take my seat, that there has to be a clear and guiding philosophy in the way in which we conduct these matters. Sir, I am satisfied that after much careful deliberation, the Government of Barbados is on that precise track.

I thank you.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, we have had a pretty far and wide debate already on this particular vesting and I want to thank the Prime Minister in particular for expanding the debate far beyond just a matter of crime and violence issues and for introducing the element of security into the broader dimensions which would obviously include not only one's social security but one's economic security. Therefore, I am not going to spend anytime this evening looking at crime and violence issues with respect to how a Coast Guard may very well attempt to reduce such scourge on our people.

4.50 p.m.

I want to look at our security from an economic perspective in relation to the regional and extra-regional matters because, Mr. Speaker, I believe that those are primary in determining whether crime or violence are going to be imported into Barbados. If entities within and outside the region exist in abject poverty and squalor then, by extension, some of those conditions of existence would visit Barbados. Sir, it does not make sense for us to sit and think that the types of crime and violence waves that exists in Jamaica, Trinidad and elsewhere outside of Barbados that they would not be visiting on these shores.

Mr. Speaker, as a result, the types of regional policies in which Government engages are directly linked to our security and, from that premise I will enter this debate. First, I listened to the Honourable Member for St. Peter very carefully this morning as he spoke with respect to the division that exist with respect to the Heads of CARICOM regarding areas of fundamental concern to the survival of the Caribbean Single Market and the future development and sustainability of a Caribbean Single Market and Economy. I am becoming very disturbed and somewhat cynical for the simple reason that regionalism as a strategy to develop economic sustainability in small States like ours or larger States that have formed the European Union (EU) is, indeed, an experimental path.

Mr. Speaker, it is as experimental as the multilateral trading system that is being imposed by the World Trade Organisation as a rules-based entity. Sir, they have not been tried and tested but are experimental. I am fundamentally concerned with respect to how those impact on our social and economic security because, given that there is no place in the world where there is evidence that it has been tried and demonstrated that they have delivered in a significant way,

I question why this administration believes that it should be moving with such repetitiveness and alacrity to adjust all our legislative framework to give, not only credence to but establish rules to allow the legislative framework to have administrative effect.

Mr. Speaker, I am not convinced in the context of the fluidity, given the fact that this is an untried and untested set of political, economic and social circumstances, that we should be heading down this direction.

Mr. Speaker, there are those who interpret what may be considered a way forward based on what is said in America or England but....

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. It is incorrect and inappropriate for him to be making a case to the effect that there is any untried set of political rules and systems when he speaks about international trading relations. Sir, there has been a number of rounds of trade talks internationally going back to the 1950s on commodities, textiles, agriculture and more recently services. The fact of the matter is that on every single round there has been binding agreements of an international obligatory nature and behind those agreements are built further obligations. Sir, the Honourable Member cannot have it both ways. He cannot stare history in its face and defy it since 1955 or so and then turn around and say that it is brand new.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the Honourable Member made such an intervention. If he were wise to history, he would recognise that in 1950, that United States of America was at total variance to the formation of free trade areas and regionalism because it represented the largest single contributor to the Gross Domestic Product of the world, which was about 70 per cent at the time. Sir, because we now have the development of the EU, the development of Asian blocs and Latin American blocs, the same United States of America that was not in favour of free trade arrangements is now deepening its arrangements not only with the Caribbean but with Canada and Latin American. I want the Honourable Member to know that this is ephemeral from the context that it is in transition. Therefore, I am concerned that we are putting all of our legislative elements toward this in this manner.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I truly do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member when he is in full flight but he must not mislead the House. The Honourable Member cannot now be heard to say that we should be part of it but that the United States of America is part of it because they recognise the importance of the rules. Is the Honourable Member saying that we should stand in splendid isolation outside of the

international trading regime? Is that what the Honourable Member wishes for Barbados?

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, I will make one last comment in reference to that and then move on. If the Honourable Member understood the writings of Vynner when he spoke about custom union and understood trade creation and diversion in its application, there would be no place in the world where any small developing poor States has become rich by integration. I want the Honourable Member to show me where one of them has become rich because he cannot find one of them.

Mr. Speaker, when I speak of economic security, I believe that the people of this country must understand and begin to appreciate that because one looks at a regional system, it does not guarantee their economic or social security. The reason I posit that position is that this is a transitional set of economic and political relationships. Sir, this is why I am concerned for the social/economic relationship of Barbados under these circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, those who do not want to understand, let them not understand. Sir, I will now proceed to another point which deals with the financing with respect to this project. I have some concerns when I look at how the financing arrangements have been established. It pains me to have to revisit the National Insurance Scheme.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the demographics of this country. It is necessary for me to explain one thousand times through you to the public because Barbados is an aging population and the fundamental reality with respect to whether our National Insurance remains solvent or not depends on a dependency ratio. The dependency ratio in Barbados is declining at such a rate that we are almost at the point where we cannot replace our population. How can anyone argue with me that the contribution base will remain the same or increase when the demographic data is going in the opposite direction. Sir, I cannot be comfortable with that nor can I rationale that reality when this administration has given the option of early retirement, which would further complicate the problem. Sir, when I have to speak, those who have ears, let them hear.
5.00 p.m.

Sir, within the last eight years, I looked at where the National Insurance has been used for financing and I counted nine projects, the Hotel and Resorts Limited project, the new building at Warrens, that is still under construction, the Grantley Adams International Airport, the National Housing Corporation building at Country Road, the Bridgetown Port expansion, Needhams Point Development, several loans to

the National Housing Corporation and the Barbados Coast Guard.

Sir, I am saying, without question, given the demographic reality and the fact that many of these investments cannot show one cent in profit in twenty years, that it is compromising the potential stability of the National Insurance Fund capacity to be solvent. It is questionable because no one in here can tell me what would be the future value of the dollar ten years from now.

Sir, in reality, we are mortgaging, in a way, the economic and social stability of Barbados. That is what this is about. That is the point.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who wants to sit and understand what I am saying just needs to appreciate the demographic data and I did not make the demographic data. Sir, if it is an Immigration policy that you could through the airport or seaport, get a work permit as a foreigner, and as long as you get a work permit, you could contribute to the National Insurance even though you do not get a cent in return, then I may understand why there are so many Guyanese, Vincentians and other non-nationals working in Barbados.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: I want to refer to the implications that financing has with respect to our economic security and by extension its impact upon crime and violence in Barbados.

The Opposition has been on record indicating to this administration that it is an economic misnomer, and I will repeat, an economic misnomer to speak in terms of off-budget financing for any project where Government has to provide the payments for the principal amortised and the interest. Even though it is not reflected in a central Government debt or a fiscal Government deficit programme, because Government has to look for the revenue to service the loan, it is, therefore, reflected in the fiscal deficit, as indicated by the Accountant-General fiscal deficit Gross Domestic Product ratio. That is the reason why I am raising this.

Mr. Speaker, for too long we have sat in this Parliament and fooled Barbadians into thinking that the correct measurement of their economic security is some amortised fiscal deficit to the Gross Domestic Product as is with net enterprises. It cannot be. That is a convention that does not reflect the true reality with respect to your expenditure to revenue. Sir, you could challenge me if I am wrong today.

Sir, it is important because the false sense of security undermines, and it frightens me, the stability of this

economy. The reason why this must be so is because this administration must find the funding for the loans. Therefore, that will have an impact, without question, on your foreign reserves capacity. That is the reason when one looks at the significance in foreign reserves over the last year one would find that it is staggering. Sir, between January and March 2005, we lost \$118 million. I am waiting for the figures for the period March and April 2005. If the Honourable Member for St. James Central wants to read, I would point him to the *Economic and Financial Statistics of the Central Bank* for April 2005 at Page 2.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, we are talking about security without appreciating that it is the economic and social security that will have the impact on crime and violence. So, crime and violence represent a symptom of a set of underlying problems. We must get those underlying problems right at the fiscal level and we are not doing that in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have chosen not to speak to police vehicles, boats or Coast Guard equipment. I want to speak to the underpinning economic basis that will drive the social conditions for crime and violence.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, when I speak about Barbados' security now and the future security of Barbados, I speak in terms of whether we should be running with the type of alacrity that we are, adjusting all of our legislative frameworks, administrative capacities, putting regulations in place and doing all of this in an environment where we do not know what the outcome is going to be. We listen to the same European Union that is already unraveling. We sat and made determination as to what will happen to our sugar, to sugar in Jamaica and other produce in the region based upon the European Union deepening their own integration process based upon their custom union dynamics. All the European Union was doing was looking out for their own interest and not caring about us.

Sir, as a result of that, it bothered me the way in which we dealt with the matter. We sat down without understanding the broad national and international dynamics that are associated with this economic experiment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, as long as we did not do that, we would be putting the future of this country at risk. That is why I am going to speak along these terms. Sir, I am not

finished yet because the Honourable Member for St. James Central has caused me to be a little heated and I will now start to get very dialectical.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, if the Honourable Member wants to feel my autocratic weight he would feel it this evening.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, we have in Barbados people that are culturally penetrative. One of the first methods of integrating a people is to culturally penetrate them, detach you for your historical dynamics so that you do not know your culture, so, a Barbadian young man is quite happy and comfortable walking like an American because he feels that is the better thing for him or he would speak like a Jamaican and would sing while imitating a Jamaican because that is more important as a cultural reality for him. They want to wear Buffalino or 'Ronaldhino' and all sort of different clothes because that is what is supposed to give them some special position in life.

Sir, it is important having those things because they are part of the underpinning of what is driving us down a road of social deviance and crime and violence because we do not have a cultural identity. We have Reporters at Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation who want to speak like if they come from CNN. We have people who want to speak like if they are out of the Queen's backyard and are afraid to stand up and defend their national cultural dynamics. I will not be part of that. Sir, I will not be a fraud to myself.

Sir, when we sit in this August Chamber and get on our high horses planning and establishing legislation and so on, that is why I speak to the relevance, but if you deal with those underlying capacities...
5.10 p.m.

Sir, we get on 'high horses' and we plan and establish legislation. This is why I speak to the relevance because unless you deal with those underlying capacities, Sir, you are not doing anything for Barbados.

Sir, this is why for me this debate is very important because I would hope that we would find it necessary to really come to this Honourable Chamber and appreciate that the deviance in school, church and on the street are all related to the fact that there are two forces of cultural change, acculturation and intercultural processes, these are the basis for social change.

Mr. Speaker, social change is not bad. We must determine what changes we want. We must not accept the

changes that are United States of America based, European based or Chinese based that undermine our fundamental principles of goodness and what is just and what is right.

It bothered me when I heard the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, who is responsible as far as I think for Information and Culture in Barbados, could be telling me about the cultural damage that has been done to Barbados that fall under his portfolio. What has he done about it? Why does he censure anybody at CBC about showing BET with people with their pants down by their toenails and speaking lewd language on TV? Why do we not censure whoever is responsible for information in Barbados? What do we see, in terms of radio and media?

Sir, I am not going to fool myself. I hear some of the lyrics on some of the programmes as well. We sit every day as a bunch of hypocrites. Sir, you will go down town and you would want to prosecute a prostitute who is trying to make \$50 for taking off her clothes, but yet you go and buy pornography and watch it at home, and you go to the drive-in cinema and watch naked people, morning noon and night and then go to church the next day.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: These are the realities, Sir, but you will get charged in Barbados if you take off your clothes and walk naked but it is all right to show it on TV. This is what I am talking about, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are talking generally, not about these Members here.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important that when we all deal with these matters that we bring it down to its fundamentals so that we can apply ourselves as legislators and do what is right in the interest of Barbados and not be cosmetic about it, Sir. We have to analyse it, make the structural adjustments and not just say about the good old days and we have now gone into a new era. Where did the new era come from? Is it from the TV?

Sir, I have had exposure to psychology and psychiatry and I heard some psychologists speak about whether or not television has the sort of impact on our children in a negative way.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what bothers me, it is very simple, if television did not have a fundamental impact upon change of individuals and their behaviours, advertisements

would not work. You would not go to a horror movie and then run home and cry.

Asides.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, you attribute reality to what you see and that is why you become afraid and that is why your sympathetic systems work. How could one argue that you are attributing reality to what you see in one context but you do not attribute reality to what you see in another context? This is a bogus argument.

Sir, we have to understand, if we want to change Barbados that we have to take control of the informatic systems that affect our people, and come into this Honourable Chamber and pass the types of legislation to protect the interest of those whom we really need to protect. Once we do this, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that we would be able to solve some of the problems.

Sir, my last point is that I would want to advise this administration, you have already gone really far like you are on a speed boat, and what you are going to find is that all the contradictions that now exist in CSME, where one Prime Minister is saying A, the other one is defending B, Sir, is because they are all defending self-interest. The day you put self-interest first and not the community's interest first, you have a mess and problems on your hands. This is why I am concerned with respect to the alacrity that we have moved in adjusting our legislative and administrative systems to make these same things become real because they have an impact upon Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your patience.

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

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, thanks for the opportunity to contribute something substantial to this debate. First of all, clearly this is a Resolution that deserves full bipartisan support by all Honourable Members of this House. I do not think that should be an argument. I believe that the need to protect our society is indeed fundamental to our social and economic existence.

Mr. Speaker, regarding matters of national security and to protection of the coastlines around Barbados, which is fundamentally what this Resolution is about, any Act that permits us to secure our coastline or enhances our coastal security, clearly is important and vital to the development of Barbados. Sir, any Act that strengthens and raises the confidence of the Coast Guard or any of the other disciplinary forces is also critical to our development.

Sir, clearly there is a link between coastal and on-land security. I thought that when the Leader of the Opposition was focusing on the issues of the parallel between land based and coastal based security, I really thought he was going to move on to the further point that you really cannot have one without the other, particularly in a small landmass that has so much coastlines and so many beaches.

The real issue can only be, Sir, that rather than talking about diverting the resources from one area to the other, I would have thought that you find a happy medium to link the two areas together to be able to create a basis. Sir, if we strengthen the coastline and we strengthen our coastal security, relative to the entry of illegal substances, drugs, firearms and the like, we also strengthen our ability to deal with issues on the land. I thought, Sir, that is where we were going.

Sir, to try to create some form of separation between how we deal with coastal and inland issues relative to security, in my opinion forces a wedge between areas that we really should be trying to bring together as a people and as a Parliament.

I therefore, Sir, want to give my clear endorsement to the concept that we need to strengthen our ability to deal with issues relative to coastal security because they in turn will help us to deal with issues relative to our land based protection of Barbados.

Clearly, Sir, there is also a need to commit resources to the physical environment as it relates to the oceans around us and our coastal areas. Sir, the Honourable Prime Minister looked at the areas in which in the past we used to get help from the more developed country, but if that aid is withdrawn, then clearly we would have to dig deeper into our own pockets to continue to protect the people of Barbados and our own socio-economic existence. Mr. Speaker, he stated very clearly that we do not need to surrender our sovereignty as a people to be able to gain that aid.

5.20 p.m.

The concept that the Democratic Labour Party would have proffered through their founder and leader, the late Right Excellent Errol Barrow, that we do not need to surrender our sovereignty to be able to access resources is a fundamental part of how we deal with the issue.

Sir, I say again for the second week that the Democratic Labour Party has a number of people in it now who are ideological and philosophical deflectors from the principles that would have driven that party, that is why they are in the state they are in today.

Mr. Speaker, there is a need for us to adequately protect our country. Sir, because we are a tourism dependant nation which people visit on a daily basis, there is a need for us to protect our Port and the cruise vessels that come into our jurisdiction.

Sir, I highly endorsed the relocation of the Coast Guard facility near to the Port because after September 11, the cruise ships coming into this country told us that we needed to provide divers to ensure that nobody was planting bombs on the hulls of cruise ships and other vessels coming into our Port. That is as deep as it got relative to the resources that we needed to put in place. Sir, I believe that there is no better way to protect our Port than to relocate the Coast Guard facility to the Flour Mill site. Sir, I believe that we are moving in the right direction.

Sir, there is an issue that is also important to our own economic development as it relates to this particular project. The site on which the Coast Guard facility is now located is going to become the site for the Pierhead Redevelopment Project once that facility is moved to the Flour Mill site.

Sir, this Pierhead Project has been in discussions for almost five to six years. Clearly, there have been difficulties with the site. Sir, the Pierhead Development Inc. which was set up in 2003, has held the lands for the two principal investors in the project, the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited and the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated in whom the lands at Fort Willoughby are vested.

Sir, the Pierhead Project is now at a stage where we can actually say that it is going in the right direction relative to its direction and its start toward completion. The Pierhead Project investors group was set up specifically to manage that product. The first component of that project would be the marina project which would happen when the Coast Guard station is relocated. Work should commence on this project during the third quarter of 2006 and is scheduled to be completed within 18 to 24 months after its commencement.

Sir, it is our understanding that the Coast Guard facility should be fully relocated within 18 months. The Government of Barbados is committed to funding the marina component of this project. However, this is not the only component it would have, there would also be a hotel component, a condominium component and a retail component.

The feasibility study of the marina has already been completed and the investors in the group have already commissioned market testing to ensure that the feasibility results would stand the marketing conditions and are marketing compliant. The group has asked the entity Halcrow International that carried out the feasibility study to

look at the issues regarding how we move forward with the particular project. Regarding the hotel component, the heads of terms were signed 30 days ago and we are now negotiating management agreements with the Meridian Hotel, which is the hotel brand that is coming to that particular site.

Sir, the Hilton Hotel has been reopened. Barbados needs another two brands to strengthen its marketing muscle relative to how we can move. We already have the Meridian Hotel, the Four Seasons Hotel is signing now to come to the Paradise site.

Sir, I am going to go on to another issue. We are actively recruiting an international firm to sell the retail component of the marina project. The marina is going to be the centrepiece and it is going on the site where the Coast Guard facility is now. It is estimated that project would cost about \$45 million. We are going to have forty 40-metres berths for large yachts so that we do not compete head to head with some of the other yachting destinations in the region.

Sir, Barbados being the first stop across the Atlantic clearly needs to leverage its geographical position to strengthen where we are in the boating and marina industry. Barbados has not capitalised on its geographical position but this marina component and everything else that is coming to this Pierhead Project does strengthen our hands relative to service quality and the movement not only in the tourism sector but the boating and yachting sector. There will also be 75 small berths for smaller vessels.

Sir, one of the ways to fund the project, apart from what would be done by the private investors, is that 40 of those berths are going to be put out for lease to be able to pay back the bills in the future.

Sir, I do not want to question the concept of how we utilise the national insurance funds which have been the basis of a lot of debate and 'long talk' relative to how we build capacity in the future.

Sir, it really is an archaic view of the world and an archaic view of development coming from a trained economist that one would question the concept of building new capacity for future earnings and the utilisation of those funds.

Sir, I do agree with the concept that we got to pay back the funds. I agree that the NIS funds need to be protected in a secure investment that allows us to get a certain minimum return. The philosophical reason that we have privatised and corporatised the airport, the seaport and the Hilton Hotel is to give them the profit motive that they would not have had in the past under central government.

Sir, if you strengthen the hands of these particular entities and give them the ability to earn, we would be able to get funds. Sir, if we did not have those specific money earning or profit earning entities, I believe that building more productive capacity in the society in the long-term would give us a better lien on being able to pay back rather than having to build more capacity in the future.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip West asked what would a dollar today be worth 20 years from now. I do not know, but I believe that the more capacity we build for the economy to perform, it will move us to another level. Apart from that, I do not hear any of the Honourable Members on That Side proffering any alternative views on how we can finance capacity building in the future for our economy. I hear a lot of talk. All I have ever heard from the Democratic Labour Party here and the doctor turned economist is complaints. I have not heard any fundamental and philosophical issues on how we can create a more productive capacity in the future.
5.30 p.m.

Sir, if the Honourable Member for St. Philip West had broadened the debate outside of the crime and violence issues and talked about economic security which will have an impact on our social security, clearly, what he is putting forward is not the case in Barbados. If what the Honourable Member is saying is true, then something is fundamentally wrong with his formula for Barbados. Clearly, the formula proffered by this Member is not the case in Barbados. If the concept is that weakened economic security is leading to crime, then something must be wrong because crime is going up in Jamaica, Trinidad and elsewhere but it is coming down in Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Sir, I am quoting the statistics that are reported. I believe that it was only on Sunday that the Commissioner of Police reported that incidences of crime and violence in Barbados are plummeting. As a man with some modicum of sense, this would leave me to conclude that if issues of economic security create a basis for proliferation of crime, that people in Barbados must feel economically secured because crime is going down.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, people claim that Trinidad is the most prosperous country in the region yet crime is going up. Sir, unless we get into issues of distribution of wealth and the like, I want to ask, how come the crime rate in Trinidad is going up if it is so economically strong. I just heard the Minister of Security of Trinidad said that criminals are taking over the country and that he will hang 68 people.

Mr. Speaker, the formula proffered by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West is not the case here in Barbados because our crime is going down and people continue to have a sense of a well-run, well-managed country from an economic standpoint.

Mr. Speaker, the ability to deal with issues of how cultural penetration is affecting us and whether or not people are on television wearing their pants on their toenails... I believe to bury our heads in the hands or to bring laws and regulations to deal with what the Honourable Member for St. Philip West calls cultural penetration, is in my understanding, exactly what we do not want to do.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of cultural penetration cannot be stopped by passing laws because there has been the proliferation of the media, air travel and the internet and we cannot put people in a straight jacket or stifle them. Sir, the way to counter issues relative to cultural penetration is by strengthening the pillars of our own culture.

This is where I part company with the Democratic Labour Party. When we try to bring things here as we did last week with the symbols at Rock Hall, the Democratic Labour Party said it did not want to hear anything about symbols but this is the way to deal with cultural penetration because you cannot block off every avenue from people being able to get access to the culture, which you believe are foreign or negative. Sir, the way to do it is to strengthen internally your own culture and pillars.

Mr. Speaker, it begins with your own concept of being able to identify things which are symbolic and to deal with your own identity. It means to be able to praise those who have performed excellently in any area of Barbados as we have done with our National Heroes and to strengthen and give us someone to emulate. It begins with a principle of being able to strengthen examples of your cultural demonstrations like Crop Over and NIFCA. Sir, it is not done by cutting off the strings which people are going to use for their own edification and development.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West is living far back in the past. He would like to straight-jacket the people of this country and their children into a cultural abyss from which we cannot emerge. Sir, this is the difference between the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party. You do not tell people that they cannot watch BET Television but counter it by showing other things on your television that would allow us to have a sense of identity and through the process of integration that allows for cross-culturalisation within the Caribbean for things on which we have built the Caribbean. Sir, you do not get it by running away from it. If you want example of how regional unions have strengthened the hand of a country, you can look at Ireland. Sir, the concept of regional

integration as a process of building a society has been proffered by the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. Therefore, we get to a stage in our existence where we want to pull down all the things on which our base of development has been built.

Mr. Speaker, this shows the different between the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party. Again, I tell the people of Barbados that when they are looking for greener grass on the other side, that sometimes the greenest grass is under their feet.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

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

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, it is with gratitude that I make a contribution to this debate. I will start by saying of the former speaker that he made some good points because he has a good mind. The problem with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South is that his mouth moves so far that his mind cannot catch up with it and so much of what comes out is short of thought.

Mr. Speaker, no Member on This Side ever said anything about censoring what CBC was outputting. Rather we joined shoulder to shoulder with the Prime Minister and the Honourable Member for the City in expressing concern about some of the fear that our young people are exposed to via the television, cinema and other forms of the media. I understand how anxious the Honourable Member is in trying to create a political divide on that issue but I think that we have a lot in common. Sir, there is no doubt that we as a Parliament and by extension as a people, have to devise various bulwarks to these cultural mores into our way of life here in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I well recall as a member of the Film Censorship Board in the early 90s before the internet that we were concerned as a Board about what was being shown on CBC. We are dealing with videos, the legislation was adjusted which was to be put in place by this Government but we left office untimely in 1994. Sir, we were trying to address the issue of CBC and were told to butt out because CBC is a law unto itself.

What I want to say to the Honourable Member for St. Peter, the Honourable Member for the City and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South is that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is still a wholly-owned State entity and that they must take the lead.

We are not suggesting that you can control everything that goes into every household but, certainly, there is no

point coming to Parliament and trying to impress people when you are in a position to do something about it. I want to join with all the comments that were said in a positive manner about the Barbados Coast Guard because I think that they are given a tremendous job and they have a difficult task. I think that the resources or lack thereof that they have had to work with, that generally speaking, they have done well. There is no doubt that if you want to see a glaring example of the inadequate resources that they have had to work with, you just have to take a stroll over the Bridge to Fort Willoughby and clearly it is an inadequate facility. I would sincerely hope that what is propelling this Government to move the Coast Guard from Fort Willoughby is a genuine desire to see improved facilities with a view of improving the impact that they can have on narcotic trafficking and security, and that is what is propelling the movement from Fort Willoughby and not necessarily, as I gleaned from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, that it is simply because that Willoughby Fort is a humbug for the Pierhead Development Project. Basically, in order for investors to come from overseas and for us to develop the Pierhead we have to get the Coast Guard from there because they are in the way.

5.40 p.m.

Sir, the impression was left on the basis of what we heard from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Asides.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. He is putting his own spin on what is the truth. The truth is, it is prime land and we are sensibly taking advantage of it. The Coast Guard has to move in any event. It is not a case of moving the Coast Guard to accommodate the project but it is prime land. What must we do? Should we leave it there languishing?

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, you note the adjective that was used, prime land. I get very nervous. Remember the agreement with Mr. Iglesia, the most efficient use of land, *et cetera*? We are not disagreeing that Fort Willoughby Fort was inadequate.

Sir, I had an opportunity to see the facilities which that Coast Guard enjoys in St. Kitts, Nevis and St Vincent. In fact, I had the opportunity to play a small role as a professional insofar as those Coast Guard facilities were concerned. Sir, I would say, by way of declaring an interest in this particular debate, that I had an opportunity through the local consultant here to have played a minuscule role insofar as the Barbados Flour Mill site is concerned for the Coast Guard.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: I declare that interest, a professional interest, so, I will use that point to declare a convergence of opinion here with the Government.

The Honourable Member for St. Peter was at some pain to tell the Parliament and the country by extension that the environment concerns were kept upmost in mind relative to the work down by the Barbados Flour Mill. That is a view that I can, not only associate with but I can confirm. It was very reassuring to see what was being done by the marine authorities, with regard to protecting the environmental concerns on that project. Mr. Speaker, they were doing painstaking, bone-breaking work.

Sir, I remember some professional divers, one I am told is a nephew of the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, going through and individually trying to relocate the coral and so on to protect that vital aspect of our marine ecosystem. Therefore, I would associate myself with that and say that it is good. I would sincerely hope that view towards the protection of the environment could be extended to Carlise Bay, where I heard that luxury vessels were damaging the coral and they got off with very minor fines.

Sir, further north, near the Barbados Rum Refinery, I understand that entity had effluent which was going untreated into the general Brighton area. I am sincerely concerned about where our terrestrial concerns go.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Peter spoke of territorial and marine works but I believe that he was just misreading his brief. He meant to say terrestrial and marine works. I am saying that even with terrestrial aspects of our environmental concerns, so for issues, for example Louis Lynch Secondary School and Mount Hillaby that we would see that same approach in terms of protecting our ecosystems.

Sir, the reality is, where finding a site for any sort of berthing facilities, not only for military vessels but for cruise, cargo and any type of vessels, we have a challenge in Barbados because we have no natural harbours. We, indeed, have to create any sort of facility to berth our vessels.

Sir, I would not say that the Barbados Flour Mill site is a bad one but we have to work with somewhere. Indeed, we must understand that we cannot totally protect anywhere because even with the best of works, we cannot anticipate storm conditions, seismic activity or what hurricane conditions will do. Even though we may monitor, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said, tides and wave activity for a year, we still cannot totally anticipate all storm conditions. Therefore, we have to work with certain

situations that allow us to make the most of what is the best site, all things considered.

Mr. Speaker, we would hope that the resources for the Coast Guard would also improve, commensurate to the improvement that they would be given, insofar as our national security interests are concerned and the relation between the Coast Guard and what the Coast Guard has been doing to protect our national security. I sincerely hope that all our factors will be considered. Sir, we understand that the help will no longer be coming from the United States of America because of a position that we are taking *vis a vis* the International Criminal Court.

Sir, let me make it very clear that I do not believe that we should compromise our sovereignty to satisfy the United States of America. In fact, I do not think that we should compromise our national sovereignty but having said that, I think that we need to be very careful how we define what our national interest and, indeed what is our national sovereignty. I am hearing that apparently, because of a position with regard to the International Criminal Court that we are compromising our national sovereignty. The jury is out on the International Criminal Court. I may not say it, but there is a feeling out there, Mr. Speaker, that the International Criminal Court is no panacea for dealing with international crimes.

5.50 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Sir, Idi Amin went to his grave, Mr. Speaker, playing golf with the Sheikhs in Saudia Arabia. He never got a writ, a word or anything from the International Criminal Court. Paul Pot, the dictator from the killing fields of Cambodia never had a day before the International Criminal Court and we could continue. Augusto Pinochet got into trouble, not because of the International Criminal Court but because of attempts in terms of travelling from Spain. I am just saying by word of caution, I see that the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter is in his seat...

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The International Criminal Court could hardly have been expected to deal with matters that obtained before it was created, so it cannot be blamed for not having dealt with Idi Amin.

Sir, there are some people in Barbados who feel that they are experts on foreign affairs really because they have a manner... Sir, to suggest that the International Criminal Court can be condemned for not having dealt with Idi Amin reflects such a fundamental ignorance of the matter, that it should be struck from the record.

I am asking, Sir, that the remarks that are misleading to the House should be struck from the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, no one has condemned the International Criminal Court. Obviously, people have an itch to get up because they are feeling something. Clearly CARICOM needs to look at this matter seriously. Is it really worth it? Mr. Speaker, that is all I am suggesting. Therefore, if I am told that we are compromising our national sovereignty where this issue is concerned, then explain to me the position where Haiti is concerned.

I understood that the same United States of America that we are standing up to where this matter of the International Criminal Court is concerned, and whom we stood up to where the Shiprider Agreement was concerned, albeit that Shiprider Agreement was only altered in a very minor fashion, what we in the end signed. Sir, given the fact that we were able to stand up to the United States of America, how is it where Aristide and this Haitian question is concerned, we seem to have been all over the place?

Mr. Speaker, I understood that they were a member of CARICOM and we remember the initial position taken by CARICOM by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Jamaica at the Security Council, where they said that the circumstances surrounding President Aristide's departure had to be investigated. Sir, all of a sudden now, we are not so much interested where Aristide is concerned but, the Doctrine of Necessity is what we are preaching now where Haiti is concerned. We are not preaching the Doctrine of Necessity where we are dealing with the International Criminal Court and our national security is concerned. We cannot have it both ways.

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because he just will not do his homework and be fully aware of what the position is, Sir. In January of this year, there was a special meeting of the UN Security Council on Haiti. CARICOM put out a statement which I read, simply because I was the Chair of the Foreign Ministers at the time.

Sir, because we have concerns about the way in which former President Aristide departed office does not mean that at one and the same time, we do not have concerns about the people of Haiti and their attempt to arrive at a democracy. One is not exclusive of the other. They are not mutually exclusive positions. You take a position of principle, which CARICOM took at the beginning, but at one and the same time, you still have a duty. Haiti remains a member of the CARICOM to this moment and we have an obligation to help the people of Haiti.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I can only say that any leader of any CARICOM country that is forced to depart office under suspicious circumstances really cannot expect to look to CARICOM for anything. We are told that we have to investigate because something is wrong here. Then, we are told, oh, but the people of Haiti and the Doctrine of Necessity must obtain. Therefore, we must engage the new administration and indeed, because of the Doctrine of Necessity, we are not standing up to the same interests that were propelling the departure of Aristide in the first place.

I am not in here to take any case for Mr. Comissiong so the Honourable Member for the City or the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter do not have to get vex with me. I am just merely calling a spade a spade.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, we have always believed that Barbados' foreign policy should be done in our national interest and that is all we are suggesting. We are to understand that our interest is at one with CARICOM and albeit that CARICOM has this shifting position on Haiti, we are only suggesting...

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is 'neophyte' and his real skills are getting contracts at Sports Councils and elsewhere that are not deserving.

The point is that as regards a CARICOM position before the United Nations as to whether the circumstances for Mr. Aristide should have been investigated and condemnation of the way in which he was deposed, there was no Caribbean division. It was a decision of Heads, arrived at, at a special meeting of Heads to carry before the UN, a request for an inquiry and we have opposed and, today, Sir, I once again oppose the circumstances under which he has been deposed. I make the additional point, Sir, that the administration in Haiti exists in accordance with the prescriptions of the Haitian Constitution and that is a different matter.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central does not understand the link between the two and is therefore misleading the House. Sir, there is a distinction between the two, calling for an inquiry into how he was removed and finding the way to deal with an administration. May I make the point, Sir, that CARICOM sought and received an opinion from the Legal Council of CARICOM, regarding the status of the administration that exists today in Haiti. The advice of the Legal Council of CARICOM is on record and that is the advice which the Government of Barbados is respecting and is duty bound to respect. The administration, although we do not like how it came into existence, exists

now in accordance with the Constitution of Haiti and that is the fact, Sir.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, we have heard today alone, two or three positions on Haiti from the Government of Barbados. We have heard several others prior to that and I would say it because, yes, Sir, there are some of us out here, when we are in Opposition, our professional competence is enough. We do not have to get in here and cry because we can earn money from sovereign Governments all over the Caribbean, including the one here.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Contracts your Government gave me because of my competence and that is the point, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Point of order, please.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I am not referring to the contracts given to him by this Government. I am talking about contracts given to him by the National Sports Council and the Ministry of Home Affairs under a previous administration, which shall soon become the subject of discussion because some of them affected our national security.

Asides.

6.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: One minute, please. Order please. Proceed, please.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I am moving on in the interest of providing decency as far as this debate is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, the relationship between our national security and crime is a very appropriate link. I believe that this Government is guilty of having a short memory because I heard about 1999 and how unfortunate it was that a political party was making crime an issue, but it was affecting the people that we were trying to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I still hear Government Ministers using statistics time and time again saying that crime was down at the time when heinous crimes are still taking place. Mr. Speaker, at the very least that is irresponsible. Mr. Speaker, you cannot appraise and reprobate at the same time.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, protect me, please.

Mr. Speaker, we were hearing that it was wrong in 1999 to make crime and violence an issue, but in 1994, we were told that the Government of the day was mismanaging our crime fight. In fact, we were told, Mr. Speaker, that the then Attorney-General, Mr. Maurice King, was doing an awful job. I heard with my own two ears a Barbados Labour Party spokesman describing the then Attorney-General as a hippopotamus. I would not identify who that person is. They are no longer in active politics. They have gone on to higher office now. They are responsible for the whole justice system of Barbados. Sir, that was the politics that was played with the issue of crime in 1994 because it suited the Barbados Labour Party, but when we raised it in 1999, it was then something to be frowned upon.

Mr. Speaker, if the Barbados Labour Party is suggesting that crime is now a bipartisan issue and is no longer a political matter, then I will join with them, but they cannot have it both ways. They cannot have their cake and eat it too. They cannot appraise and reprobate at the same time. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South should be ashamed getting in here and quoting statistics from the Police Department when he knows that Brittons Hill, the community that we represent jointly, has been identified as one of the areas for special focus by this new task prevention on crime. Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible to use crime statistics at a time when crime...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of order, Sir. A Member of Parliament cannot get up on the Floor of the House and accuse a public official in the nature of the Commissioner of Police of having presented to the public false and misleading information unless he is prepared to adduce the information that contradicts those put before the public by the Commissioner of Police. It is a serious matter, Mr. Speaker. I am asking that those words be withdrawn. Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest that there may be aspects of crime in this country within the very personal knowledge of the Honourable Member that is not being reported to the Police that should be reported. Sir, if certain things in his conduct were reported, this speech may be given from Glendairy Prison.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Sir, I am asking that those references to the Commissioner of Police providing misleading information to the public should be withdrawn because they are calling into disrepute the conduct of a

public official in his public capacity. If the Honourable Member has information that contradicts that, Sir, he must put it before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you used the word “false” in reference to the Commissioner of Police. Could you withdraw that statement, please?

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I never directly spoke to the Commissioner of Police or his activity.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, just withdraw it first, please.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: I cannot withdraw something I did not say. I never imputed anything to the Commissioner of Police.

Mr. SPEAKER: Did you not use the word “false” relating to figures?

Mr. R. L. SEALY: I never said anything about figures being false.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I need some simple guidance from you. Please tell me what it is that I said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir, I am asking you to withdraw the word “false”, however you have used it in the context with the Commissioner of Police.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: I withdraw the use of the word false, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir, you have one minute to wind up.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I withdrew the use of the word false.

Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the Brittons Hill area, as a Barbadian and as a national politician, I am saying that celebrating statistics that might show some aspect of crime in decline is an act, in my mind, of irresponsibility because Government still have a responsibility to persons against which crimes are still being committed.

Mr. Speaker, I am taking my leave from the Honourable Members on That Side who said that they were so disappointed by the Democratic Labour Party making

issues of crime political. I am saying that if it is said that it is political for the Opposition to use it, it must be wrong for the Government to use it and that maybe we should just work in a more bipartisan fashion. That is what I was saying.

Mr. Speaker, I never referred to the Commissioner of Police. I support the Commissioner of Police in all of his efforts, he will tell you that. I have had reasons to correspond and to speak with him and we have an excellent relationship. I am only saying that if it was wrong for the Opposition to use crime as a political issue that it has to be wrong for the governing party to use it also because statistics do not mean anything to the young lady that was chopped up and tossed out of a car. Sir, we need to work together on this issue.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time has expired, Sir.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: I am obliged to you, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding that we have been at it for some time, I am compelled to make a contribution to this debate and I will do so with a little more reverence in the House.

Mr. Speaker, this debate got off to a very good start. The Honourable Member for St. Peter set the stage for what I thought would have been a very enlightening debate, but somewhere along the line, with each contributor from the Opposition Benches, the debate fell apart.
6.10 p.m.

Sir, the last two speakers from the Opposition ensured that the debate reached a low point. I hope what I have to say would lift the standard of the debate once more so as to get us back on track.

Mr. Speaker, once again we have seen a Party in total disarray. Sir, I give my full support to the Resolution but from what I heard from the Other Side, the Democratic Labour Party is at odds with itself on the virtues of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Mr. Speaker, only a few months ago in this Chamber and much further afield, we had good support from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West on the virtues of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy especially after he was reminded about the contribution made in the initial stages of forging a closer Caribbean region back

in the day of CARIFTA and then with the formation of CARICOM and the role Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford would have played at Grand Anse in 1989. When the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West was reminded of these things, he then remembered that the Democratic Labour Party played a role along the way in trying to forge Caribbean economies and Caribbean people closer together.

Mr. Speaker, today I heard the Honourable Member for St. Philip West telling us that there is nothing to be gained by participating in a process that would lead to a closer working relationship with our neighbours in the region. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West went on further to suggest that all integration movements, irrespective of what time they started, were just experimental and that there was no success story in any of the integration movements for the smaller participatory territories. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South then reminded him of the experience of Ireland within the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Member for St. Philip West sits next to the Leader of the Opposition, he lets things spout from his mouth about the lack of success anywhere across the globe with integration and economic blocs, and that then we are reaching a low in political discourse in this country.

Mr. Speaker, we have to look at the experience of Ireland and how the European Union responded to the challenges of Ireland and put at the disposal of Ireland the social cohesive fund so as to ensure that the weaker element at the time was given a hand up. Sir, the economy is now built to a point where it is a success story of a smaller element in an economic grouping.

Mr. Speaker, everyone knows of the virtues of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West knows better than most because he took the virtues of Caribbean Single Market and Economy to New York yet his Deputy is at odds with him and is saying that there is nothing to be gained by participating in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Dr. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I said there was no evidence any part of the world where poor countries integrated that there was improved performance amongst them. The Honourable Member is speaking about the European Union but we are talking about a large bloc and a small country like Ireland. Sir, the Honourable Member does not understand what he is talking about.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to dwell on the point but we have to look at where the

Caribbean region has come from by going back to CARIFTA, looking at the formation of CARICOM and looking at where the economies in the region have reached. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West wants this Honourable Chamber to believe that the Barbadian economy that has prospered so well over the last 30 years had nothing to do with our participation in the arrangements of CARICOM. Sir, the Honourable Member has to be lost or sleeping.

Mr. Speaker, once again the Democratic Labour Party is at odds with itself when it comes to whether or not we should do things to undermine or jeopardise our sovereignty. The Honourable Member from St. Michael South Central spoke as though he is the Democratic Labour Party's spokesperson on foreign policy. Sir, what he said did not make sense but at least he was brave enough to speak as if he was the spokesperson for the Democratic Labour Party on foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member said that the position of the Democratic Labour Party on foreign policy is to do things that are in the national interest.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Philip South is certainly misleading this House. In fact, the Honourable Member from St. Michael South Central built his political reputation in a debate with the Honourable Member for the City on issues of foreign policy. Sir, what he said today was precisely what he said all along, that issues pertaining to our foreign policy ought to reflect our domestic... the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in his contribution said something completely different. Sir, once again they are at odds with themselves. We heard another instance where the Members of the Democratic Labour Party came into this Chamber and sought to question the integrity of those who compile and report statistics in this country. They have dealt telling blows to the integrity of many public officials in Barbados and today, it was the turn of the Commissioner of Police.

Mr. Speaker, they are going down a dangerous road, I have kept warning them over and over again but they are not 'taking heed', as older folk would say.
6.20 p.m.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, in his reply he sought to deal with the issue of the Coast Guard relocation in a very strange way. He asked the question, who will pay. This was in response to the manner in which the Honourable Member for St. Peter outlined the financing arrangements for the project. He also made the point that things pertaining to

defence and security are the ultimate public good and he explained what a public good is. The Honourable Member for St. Michael did not give the obvious answer to who will pay and if no one could be excluded from the benefits of the relocation of the Coast Guard and the work that the Coast Guard will do, then they will be paid for through the taxation system.

Sir, there is no way of identifying the class of individual or individuals to whom the benefits will accrue. If the benefits will accrue to all Barbadians, then all Barbadians will pay through the taxation system and that is fairly obvious.

Mr. Speaker, on the other side of the coin, the Honourable Member did not tell this Honourable Chamber and those listening on the outside what are the benefits to this national economy, from us agreeing on Both Sides of this Honourable House, to this investment. That is what the Honourable Member did not tell us and there are numerous.

Sir, many Honourable Members alluding to some of these benefits and the protection of the coastal borders of Barbados to stamp out the pirating of our waters by illegal fishermen. That is a real benefit and it has been a concern to the fisherfolk in Barbados and the Ministry of Fisheries for some time that Taiwanese boats from far away have been finding their way into the Caribbean waters pirating and raping them of the fisheries resources.

Sir, by spending this money on the Coast Guard, this investment would allow us to deal with that problem which is a real problem. If we were to read the reports of the discussions at the level of the Regional Fisheries Mechanism we will understand when we come in here and worry, on one side, who would finance what, we need to pay some attention to the hard core benefits to be derived for the national economy.

Mr. Speaker, another benefit to be derived from equipping the Coast Guard properly is a proper facility with the necessary resources to function properly, intercepting drug dealers and gunrunners to minimise the ills associated with this illegal activity afflicting the economy and the people living here.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West sought to make this distinction between crime associated with the movement of illegal substances and guns across the water and what is happening internally. Sir, you are aware that we have real experiences. Only this year many substantial drug hauls were done offshore Barbados, by a Coast Guard acting in concert with its counterparts elsewhere in the region and the Police participating in the surveillance activity where millions of dollars in drugs were

seized offshore. The frequency with which this has been happening should have been a cause of concern for all of us in this Honourable Chamber and those on the outside listening. Equipping the Coast Guard would ensure that they are in a better position to deal with that.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what did you rise, Sir?

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: On a point of order. Sir, the impression is being given that I linked offshore and onshore, which I did, but this is precisely the point of this debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South is misleading this Honourable House.

Sir, I sat and listened all day. Are we not relocating...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your point of order must relate to something...

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: I have not yet made my point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, please. Honourable Member, you cannot go back to what has happened to build up to make a point of order. Your point of order must relate directly to what the Honourable Member was saying, please.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: Sir, I told you what the Honourable Member said. He linked the offshore and onshore security and said what I said and I did not disagree with him. However, I am making the point that he is misleading this Honourable Chamber in suggesting that the new facility, which will now be placed at the Barbados Flour Mill, which is supposed to be the replacement facility as far as I gather, is going to make a substantial difference to the performance of the Coast Guard in surveying the offshore security of Barbados.

In fact, the Honourable Member just referred to evidence of this Coast Guard doing substantial work, in the absence of any new facility, in bringing almost \$50 million in drugs – I am saying that this constitutes the core of this entire debate for the day. Are we now saying that because we are relocating a facility at the Barbados Flour Mill that it is going to mean that we are going to solve all the problems attendant to crime and drugs associated? This was said during the course of the day and it makes no sense whatsoever.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you, Sir. It is really no point of order. It is just an opinion that you are giving.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, I was about to make the point that everyone has agreed that the Coast Guard has been working under trying conditions and they have been doing a good job. I am saying that given the size of the threat in light of how things have been happening in neighbouring economies, a Coast Guard that has better working conditions. If you put a man in a better working condition it gives the man a better incentive which makes him feel better and he wants to be more productive, that is the point that I am trying to make.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, who should know better, got in here this afternoon and sought to suggest that we should not be putting these resources behind the Coast Guard in order to make the Coast Guard more comfortable and that we should be paying more attention to our internal security problems without understanding that there is a direct link to our...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. C. A. MASCOLL: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable Chamber. This morning I said it is true that the allocated \$60 million, to my mind, is a sizable chunk and that if I had to allocate the resources to deal with crime, I would have allocated part of those resources to the onshore security needs of Barbados by reinforcing the capacity of the Royal Barbados Police Force to do its job. What is so wrong with that?

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Let me explain to Honourable Members once again what is a point of order. A point of order is not where you have spoken and you can get up if a Honourable Member is stating a fact about your speech and say that I said so and so. That is not a point of order.
6.30 p.m.

I am speaking according to the rules of this Chamber. A point of order is when the Member has said something and you, according to the rules, are disputing what the Member has said.

Continue, please.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Mr. Speaker, that is precisely the point I want to make, there should be no issue with the funds that are being allocated to improve the working conditions of

the Coast Guard, given what the Coast Guard is being called upon to do, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Another benefit to be derived, Mr. Speaker, is allowing Barbadian fishermen to ply their trade free of harassment from these bandits that you find at sea. Many a Barbadian fisherman will tell you of the horrors that they have to face when they set out to ply their trade in a legitimate fashion. It goes further.

I was the Minister responsible for Fisheries, Mr. Speaker, and I know what some of my workers at the time in the Fisheries Division had to go through who were stationed at fish landing sites that are located in remote areas, and Conset Bay is one example.

I am saying that any attempt to improve the function of the Coast Guard which would allow them to respond more effectively and improve their working conditions, this in turn would have a positive effect on how those workers in the Fisheries Division who have to be stationed at the landing sites, and how well they approach their work.

The final point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that better working conditions for the Coast Guard would certainly send the right signal to all and sundry about Barbados' intention and commitment in assuming more responsibility for its affairs.

We heard in here that this is happening at a time when large countries that were very benevolent, up to this point in time in respect of the release of resources that will help us to do our surveillance work of the coastal water, may be taking a slightly different view in how they relate to countries because of other positions these countries take, Sir. Mr. Speaker, all these are real benefits so while we may want to look at the cost on one side, we have to understand what it is we are aiming to achieve by this investment.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister earlier today, in emphasising the Government's position on this matter was very explicit when he said that the time might have arrived for Barbados in signaling to all and sundry its intention to provide better security for itself, we might even want to look at enhancing our surveillance capacity through the purchase of a helicopter. Sir, I fully support that because this is not the sort of thing that we can leave to task.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, without a concerted effort to better seal our borders, we will have a lot more to do in dealing with crime internally and we know the potential for economic destruction in retardation of economic progress, if

crime is allowed to take root in a country. We have numerous examples to see around us.

Sir, mention was made earlier and I have to reiterate this position, we will remain committed to equipping our arm forces in the best possible way. Sir, the experience with the police is there. Yes, there is more work to be done in respect of the physical condition under which the Police Force has to function, right across the board, but there is also tremendous evidence of a Government's commitment to improving the working conditions of the police.

Sir, what is of significant import in that regard is to improve the communication systems of the arm forces and to ensure that there is greater connectivity, not only within our borders of the armed forces but there is greater connectivity between our armed forces and armed forces elsewhere in the region.

This House should not be allowed to forget that this Government just recently invested millions of dollars in a communication system for the Police Force. Sir, only last week, two police officers and my Chief Telecommunications Officer were dispatched to the United States of America to get a firsthand look and a demonstration on how some of this sophisticated equipment works, so that when everything is installed, with respect to the communications system in Barbados that we have on the ground expertise to ensure that the communications system can be used in the most effective way.

The same thing obtains with the Coast Guard. It is not just about, Mr. Speaker, relocating the Coast Guard and putting the folks who work there in a building. It is all about ensuring that a proper package is given to the Coast Guard, so as to have the workers functioning at their optimum. The ultimate success of what we are doing here can only be obtained if those who live in this region and make strategic decisions at the highest level, see eye to eye and they function on the same wave length as us.

Sir, when the Honourable Member for St. Philip West started, he hinted that he was going to make a point but he did not develop it, Sir. The point is that we want our neighbours in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and elsewhere, to understand that they have just as much a responsibility to reducing the incident of criminal activity in this country, in their country and in all the countries in the region as us, Sir, and that our efforts cannot meet the sort of success that we want, if there is a fairly lapsed approach to surveillance issues elsewhere in the region.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up but I will give you two minutes for all the interruptions, please.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that I fully support this Resolution. There comes a time when the entire country must understand the value of having proper surveillance in place and a well-equipped arm force.

Mr. Speaker, just the other day we had a most unfortunate incident taking place in Barbados and that shocked all of us into thinking about the real value because, you know Barbadians can be placed in a state of complacency very easy, but when we had that unfortunate incident at the Prison, everyone stood up and took note about the importance and the real value of making investments in this field.

Sir, nobody is questioning the speed and the spending that we had to make in order to get things quickly done, so as to have those prisoners housed. Nobody in their right minds would question what it is this Government intends to do at Dodds in St. Philip in respect of providing a new prison.
6.40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, in the same way that everyone in this country rallied around each other to ensure that situation was wrestled to the ground in the most efficient manner without any real threat to the society at large, this relocation of the Coast Guard should be seen in that light.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Right Honourable Leader of the motion is absent, a Minister can wind up, please. The Honourable Member for St. James South will wind up.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to wind up this debate on behalf of the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, a debate, which I think at the beginning of the day nobody expected would have come to this hour. It has been interesting in part largely on This Side and disappointing on the other, but a range of issues relating to national security at various levels have been discussed.

Sir, the reality is that I, like other speakers before me, must support this Resolution because of the importance in using multiple agencies of defence to ensure national security, and, like the Honourable Member for St. Philip South who made the point that while it would be a laudable thing to invest more money in the Royal Barbados Police Force, but that there is a critical role to be played in national security and defence by the Coast Guard, therefore, I cannot support the views as given by the Honourable Member for

St. Michael North West who is suggesting that the money would have been better spent on the Police.

Mr. Speaker, there is a role for the Coast Guard to play in national security. It is even a more important role in a post-September 11 world, which sought to redefine issues of national securities and national vulnerabilities because we saw how easy it was for the well-laid plans of a terrorist organisation to humble the United States of America and to now have it engaged in what some are calling the third World War, a war against Christianity and Islam, against terrorism allegedly and the forces of good. Sir, that could be a subject at which we could speak at great length in itself.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Honourable Member for St. James Central made a valid point, because not only did he speak to the benefit and uses of the Coast Guard in relation to narco-trafficking and to a strike against terrorism, but he made the very critical points of the role in protecting Barbados' marine assets and coastlines as part of our national security thrust.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is a role for the Coast Guard to play in respect of protecting us against issues like the illicit dumping of waste by cruise liners which threatens the Caribbean Sea. There is a role for the Coast Guard to play in policing to ensure against the entry of invasive species of one type or another into our waters. In recent times we in Barbados were shocked to find that another Caribbean territory was claiming lands within our exclusive economic zone, again the Coast Guard has a role to play there.

Sir, it has now become a practice of certain developed countries to extract biodiversity, living organisms and other materials from the Caribbean Sea and derive economic benefit from them. There is extensive fishing, deep-line fishing and other types of fishing, by countries well outside of the Caribbean, and because we do not have the resources to police our coastline, we do not derive the revenues that we should be deriving from this kind of activity in our waters.

Sir, the Caribbean is seeking to have the Caribbean Sea declared a protected area or a special area. We cannot do that unless we have a strong and able Coast Guard, well-manned, properly equipped and sensitive to its multiple roles in national protection.

Sir, while some might not see the environmental issues as critical to national protection, if one thinks of the marine resources as the next exploitable frontier for revenue generation, whether the extraction of living organisms that can be sold or minerals or other materials that are there to be mined and to be used for our benefit and for the benefit of generating foreign exchange... These roles do not detract

from those to be played by the Royal Barbados Police Force. In fact, the organisations must work in a complementary way to ensure that our national sovereignty and our coastlines are protected and that there are adequate defence and security mechanisms in place. Therefore, the spending of this money cannot be seen as extravagant or misplaced, but has to be seen in the context of the realities in which we live today.

Moreover, Sir, I believe that the Caribbean is potentially vulnerable for a terrorist strike of some sort.

Asides.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: An Honourable Member is suggesting that I am extending an invitation, indeed, I am not, but the reality is that prior to September 11, 2001 nobody would have thought of the kind of strike which the United States of America suffered. Unless we, as small territories, are adequately policed and equipped to deal with incidents of this sort, we may well be seen or be viewed by terrorists as potential easy picks for them to come in and strike against the United States of America or British interest or nationals.

There is a medical school in one of the island of the Eastern Caribbean where a large number of United States students go, that is a potential security risk, so we must not see the Caribbean, even though it has been peaceful up to this point, as outside of the purview of international terrorism.

Sir, at the international level, even when one goes to negotiate environmental agreement these days, it has happened recently at a meeting of the Jeff Council where issues of multilateral environmental agreements are being negotiated and are being tied to issues like governance, corruption, national security, the ability to keep off the drug threat and the ability to defend yourself and to have ample measures in place for national defence in the event of terrorist and national security threats... Hence, for us now to be able, even as small developing countries, to negotiate in the international arena, issues of national defence and security and issues of national governance are assuming a larger responsibility and profile on the international agenda than they did 20 years ago.

Sir, it is with that in mind that we have to equip the multiple national agencies responsible for dealing with these issues of corruption, national security and issues relating to protection from narco-trafficking.

Equally, the role of the Coast Guard as a barrier to the transatlantic drug trade and ensuring that Barbados is not used as a transshipment point for drugs, is critical and cannot

be underestimated. There are sleepy fishing villages across St. John, St. Lucy and St. Philip where old ladies are going to bed in fear at night because of the way in which people heavily involved in the drug trade are coming up in previously inaccessible parts of the coastline with high speed boats and heavy duty equipment in an attempt to land drugs. 6.50 p.m.

In fact, a case in St. John has caused much speculation and national controversy. The matter concerns the death of a police officer and has engaged national attention with all kind of speculation. Sir, any attempt to strengthen these agencies is going to have my wholehearted support.

The Ministry of Housing, as one would expect, has had to play a facilitation role in ensuring that the 4.033 acres of Crown land by the Flour Mill at Spring Garden is vested in the Coast Guard Relocation Inc. for use by the Barbados Defence Force for the establishment of their new facility.

Sir, like other Members, I support the Resolution before the House, which has been certified by the Attorney-General as fit for introduction into Parliament and move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 7 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF THE PARCEL OF LAND THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN SITUATE AT HUSBANDS IN THE PARISH OF SAINT JAMES IN THIS ISLAND AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James South. Before the Honourable Member speaks, I want to say that the last Resolution was a vesting one and that for obvious reasons, security and regional concerns, I allowed that Resolution to go wide. This Resolution is a simple one which is vesting Crown lands in the National Housing Corporation and I will not entertain any wide debate whatsoever in this Resolution.

Honourable Member, please proceed.

Hon. Mrs. H. E. THOMPSON-McDOWALD: Mr. Speaker, I thank Your Honour for your guidance in this matter. The hour is late and I think we are all amenable on

This Side to the strictures of the Chair. The Resolution seeks to vest in the National Housing Corporation some 1.324 hectares or 3.3 acres of Crown lands situate at Husbands in St. James, some of which were previously under the control of the Crown and some under the control of the National Housing Corporation and a parcel under the control of the Crown but under lease to the Caribbean Meteorological and Hydrology Institute which has surrendered part of the lands under lease and which they were not using to facilitate a housing development at Husbands as a joint venture between the Barbados National Bank and the National Housing Corporation.

There are 26 houses, 10 detached and 16 semi-detached units at the area. We expect to convey them to first-time homeowners as is the mandate of the National Housing Corporation in a project which is part of the wider project which is expected to realise revenues of \$25 million for the National Housing Corporation.

Sir, the houses will range in size between 1 379 square feet and 1 652 square feet. It has always been part of the mandate of the National Housing Corporation to provide middle-income units and these middle-income units at Husbands would join other middle-income units at West Terrace, Oxnards, Wanstead and other areas of Husbands which were previously built by the National Housing Corporation.

We anticipate that the revenues from the joint venture programme will be used to finance other projects of the National Housing Corporation particularly the Primary Homes Programme.

Sir, with those words, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. P. WOOD: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dame Billie MILLER: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today. I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, June 21, 2005, at 10.00 a.m.

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

The question that the House be now adjourned until Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
6.58 p.m.

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