
THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 2003-2008

House 84, sequence 03, 10:21 a.m.
Tuesday, November 29, 2005.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10:21 a.m. on Tuesday, November 29, 2005.

PRESENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. W.F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.), F.D.S., FDRCS, J.P.

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

Prayers were led by Pastor Dale Brathwaite.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday, November 22, 2005.

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes so cited be confirmed, subject to any omissions, observations and/or corrections.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY YOUR HONOUR THE
SPEAKER

I am to report to this Honourable House that I am in receipt from the Auditor General of the Accounts and Statements for the Financial Year 2003/2004.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

- 1.The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2005.
- 2.The Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2005.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Mr. R.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following Bill be read a first time.

- 1.The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2005.
- 2.The Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous) Provisions Bill, 2005.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of today(s Sitting.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the order of the day. Order No. 2

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 2 - RESOLUTION TO TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LAW AND ORDER

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is no act of coincidence that this debate reflecting on what will come to be regarded as one of the most important reports filed in independent Barbados is taking place on the eve of the 39th Anniversary of the celebration of this country(s sovereignty.

Today is the 29th November and tomorrow this country will celebrate as a nation, 39 years of achieving statehood,

reflecting as we do so, that in these clear terms, it is a generation being regularly recognised as spanning some 38 years. It is propitious that this country should at this stage seek to take stock as to where we stand, in relation to the gains that have been made not just to the state of Barbados but to the people of this country, the citizens and visitors, also to the welfare of the Nation, not just the material welfare but to the spiritual welfare and, indeed, what I call the psychological welfare, the state of confidence in ourselves.

We, Mr. Speaker, as a Government held firm to the view when we met in Georgetown, Guyana in 2002, that part of the difficulties and challenges confronting the Caribbean region was the issue of peace, order and security. Indeed, there was no nation within the Caribbean community that could regard itself as immunised from changes in behaviour, values and changes in level of stability and security.

Sir, to that extent, the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting at Georgetown in Guyana, agreed that countries should be encouraged to establish national commissions on law and order that in their composition would be broad-based and would seek to have a consultative process on issues broad as they may be, affecting the state of stability and security, in respect of territories.

The Government of Barbados took this to heart and, indeed, I had the Honour of carrying to Cabinet a proposal to establish this Commission and to have this Commission chaired by a distinguished Barbadian, Sir Roy Marshall, whose service to the region had already been proven beyond any shadow of a doubt, in respect of his tenure at the University of the West Indies as one of its early Vice Chancellors in the late 1960s early 1970s, then subsequently as Vice Chancellor of the University of Hull and, indeed, Chairman of the Commission of Racial Equality in the United Kingdom.

We have been fortunate to have Sir Roy (retire(in Barbados, and I use the word, retire in quotation marks because we have pressed him into service that really has been almost a form of full time service, not only on the National Commission on Law and Order but, indeed, in relation to the drafting of the new Constitution in terms of his commentary, indeed in relation of work for the revision of the framework for the practice of law in this country under the Legal Profession Act.

Sir, Sir Roy alone is not to be singled out.

House 84, sequence 03, 10:2902

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY:

The Commission also had as its Deputy Chairman, Mr. Harold Hoyte, who has distinguished himself as one of the foremost publishers and indeed a pioneer in modern Barbados in being able to establish, along with others, an indigenous enterprise that sought to strengthen the pillars of democracy by ensuring that the perspectives of ordinary Barbadians could be reflected through their own eyes, through the newspaper which they came subsequently to call the (Nation Newspaper(. Sir, I

believe that newspaper celebrated its 32nd Anniversary last week. Sir, that newspaper has now sought to change its structure and indeed to lay the foundation for growth by amalgamating with other entities in the context of a new Caribbean with the new legal and administrative structures afforded under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Mr. Speaker, we felt that the rest of the Commission had to represent all of Barbados as far as possible, and you would forgive me if I spend two minutes on it. To that extent we then ensured that we, by the composition of the Commission, would guarantee its respect in the Barbadian society since it would not be chosen along any particular lines of partisan consideration, class, race or indeed age.

Mr. Speaker, we were lucky to also press into service a former retired High Court Judge and former Director of Public Prosecutions, the Honourable Mr. Justice Elliot Belgrave, a person who is not known for holding back his views on matters of public concern, particularly within the area of the law.

We also had from the academic community, the Vice Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, a distinguished Professor of social development, Professor Christine Barrow, whose writings and whose work is well-known to all in this field. We had a gentleman who perhaps would be regarded as one of the more outspoken commissioners of police in post-Independence Barbados, Mr. Orville Durant, who was controversial at times, but solid for the most part in all that he has said and done to build and to reform the Royal Barbados Police Force.

We had the then head of the Private Sector Agency, Sir Allan Fields, who was a key partner in the Social Partnership of this country and who spoke on behalf of the private sector and articulated their concerns and their view of what their responsibilities were in the building of this country.

We had Mr. Rodney Grant, who has become familiar to the public of Barbados as the voice of the Pinelands Creative Workshop, who has done significant work in showing how it is possible for a civil society organisation to benefit fully, not only from its relationships with domestic governments but with international agencies, to build a platform for the improvement of the welfare of ordinary Barbadians without necessarily relying on Government alone.

Mr. Speaker, we had Cannon Andrew Hatch. You would forgive me if I pause here because Cannon Hatch has in truth and in fact been associated with social development through the church across Barbados for decades. I know him better from his role then at the St. Mary's Church in the City of Bridgetown. One of my memories would forever be a sermon that he gave on the occasion of my grandfather's funeral that sought to contextualise his involvement in this society by reason of the social considerations that were brought to bear in his life of service. I listened to that sermon at seven years old and I would never forget it.

The Commission also included Mr. Adrian Husbands, better known to most Barbadians as (Lil Boy), a person whose sense of responsibility and duty to this country certainly in terms of persons of my generation, in my view, is unequal. He has a

disarming manner that may cause one to feel that he is not serious, but the level of thought and commitment, which he brings to developmental issues in Barbados is heartwarming, and therefore, his contribution was to be noteworthy.

Also included on the Commission was the first head and former head of the Barbados Defence Force, Brigadier Rudyard Lewis, a person who has been saluted regionally as one of the pioneers of modern Caribbean in relation to the development and utilisation of standing armies. I say so cognisant that at the same time other independent nations would have faced challenges from their military arms and that the experiment that we embarked upon as an independent nation, as to how to manage a defence force as part of a civil society and a country that the rule of law is regarded as being paramount, was one that could break us or make us.

Brigadier Lewis' contribution to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, particularly through the establishment of the Regional Security System, which this Parliament came to have to rely on earlier this year when the events at Glendairy broke on the March 29, indicates the kind of valuable contribution which Brigadier Lewis would have made to the development of this region and to the maintenance of the mores that see the necessity of a defence force in a small developing state as being an adjunct to development but not as replacing the authority for the rule of law, and for that we are grateful.

Also included was Miss Catherine Jordan, who undertook a pioneering task some ten years ago in becoming the first Principal of the Alma Paris School, a school that recognised that there was a dignity in the agency and ability of each person, even if that was not reflected in their academic capacity and that we would be prepared to hone children and develop them as responsible citizens of Barbados while at the same time making sure that they were given skills that could allow them to be proud independent Barbadians. I believe that she has now moved on to be the Principal of the St. George Secondary School and I have every confidence that her task at that school would be successful as the early results already show that she is developing a new sense of worth for an institution that, unfortunately, has been the subject of the most salacious comment and activity over the course of its history.

Another Commissioner was Mrs. Dorian Pile. Mr. Speaker, you would forgive me again, I do not know of any person who better represented the precepts of empathy, consideration and compassion than Mrs. Dorian Pile, as a Principal of a secondary school while I was Minister of Education. I believe that the example which she set as the Principal of the Combermere School is worthy of emulation at any school in any part.

The reality is, and this report speaks to it, that children while they go to school to get an academic education must also receive a moral compass and a sense of nurturing during their period of time at that school. That does not absolve the responsibility of parent, extended family or community. The school is a central and critical institution through which one's sense of security and confidence can be honed. I believe that Mrs. Pile exhibited this and that is one of the reasons we asked her to serve on this Commission because that balance with the

standard education which children are given is critical if we are going to be successful in staying the course and path of development in this country.

The Commission also comprised Station Sergeant Hartley Reid, who represented the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados, and who in his own right, even if he were not representing the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados, has been regarded as an outspoken but reflective participant and one who has dedicated his life to the improvement of the working conditions of ordinary people in the service sector of this country, whose responsibility is to work and to protect the rest of us while the rest of us are allowed to feel comfortable in what we do.

There was also Miss Tracey Richards, who the Honourable Member for St. Thomas could perhaps speak better about than I could, who has been an outstanding ordinary citizen of Barbados, who just wants to be able to play her part in making her community of Rock Hall a better place, in making her parish of St. Thomas a better parish and in making her country of Barbados a better country.

House 84 Sequence 4

10:40 a.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, Barbados is fortunate to be able to bring together such a gathering of persons who take their charge seriously. Sir, apart from the national consultations which they held across Barbados, they felt that there was a category of Barbadians who might have been intimidated or who, for some reason might not want to become part of a national consultation process in a school hall, therefore, this gathering of persons, ably led by Sir Roy Marshall, went into the bus stands, onto the (blocks) at Haynesville, Brittons Hill and other parts of this country, and met with people to get their views and perception as to law, order and social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this report can, in a sense, be regarded as a state of the nation report. We asked them to comment on a Draft Plan on Justice, Peace and Security, which is here. What they gave us was a comprehensive commentary on the state of the nation of Barbados. Therefore, on behalf of the Government and the people of Barbados, I would wish to publicly acknowledge their contribution and to I thank them for adding to the value of Barbados(development.

Mr. Speaker, that perhaps better explains why, with the limited resources in the Office of the Attorney-General, it has taken us this long to bring this matter before Parliament because what they have reflected on is not just simple phenomenon but they tried to understand the underlying reasons for where we are in Barbados and to prescribe, according to their views, where they feel we should go.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you that every recommendation is acceptable or has been accepted. The truth is that there are

some which are frank and honest, to the point that they require further national consultation, but I can tell you that the majority are, in fact, acceptable. I can tell you that we welcome the fact that they have accepted the recommendations in this Draft Plan on Justice, Peace and Security.

Mr. Speaker, we had to make a judgment call as to how we may proceed, while recognising that their work should not simply be saluted by a Government in 2005 and acted on for a year or two, but that because of the nature of how this has come about, that it should, in fact, become a blueprint for the pursuit of justice, peace and security in this country, over the course of a decade.

Mr. Speaker, the only way that can happen, would be by very painstakingly taking a number of steps which will require the perspectives of both Houses of Parliament, then the sign off by Cabinet, then the publication of what I would hope to be a single document, which synthesises what we have accepted of the Draft National Plan, the majority of which we do, so that there is a single document that can guide discussion, debate and the implementation of policy.

In addition, resulting from that document would be what I would call a second user-friendly document for the public of Barbados, which would identify how this Report and Plan, as synthesised, speaks to the responsibilities and roles of individual citizens of Barbados, whether they are individuals, parents, employers, employees, persons who are members of civic society organisations and as members of the Church.

Mr. Speaker, part of the development process that we take for granted is that we believe that everybody knows what are their roles and responsibilities. Sir, the debate over the last decade has shown us that while we did an excellent job at Independence in articulating that Barbadians were to have rights, we did a less than commendable job in reinforcing in Barbadians the need for responsibility. Sir, there is no house that can be built, that will stand on its own without periodic maintenance and support. Therefore, a nation is no different from a house.

Mr. Speaker, that contribution which requires the nation to remain healthy, must not only come from Government, the Church, the media or other agencies, whether those agencies are either unions or private sector, but from the collective effort of the people of the nation. Sir, equally as important, it must also come from the institutions of the nation that will guarantee success and allow us to be able to build on the legacy which we have received, so that those who come after us, will continue to enjoy a better standard of living and a better quality of life than those of us who are here.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very tall ambition which goes beyond this Government, this Opposition and the authors of this report. Therefore, all we can do would be to facilitate and support it and to recommend it to the public of Barbados, for them to hold and to act upon it. Sir, we do so, while being cognisant that the report starts the distillation process of the values which are common to us all, such that we are prepared as a nation, irrespective of race, age, class, gender or religion, to say these are the things that we the people of Barbados value as being

common to us all, while we respect the dignity of difference between each of us.

Mr. Speaker, I believe, as in one's personal life, that if one has a final destination that is clear and if one understands the routes by which this destination could be reached, that would be half the battle in terms of moving the country along to be able to get it there safely.

Mr. Speaker, I was heartened this morning when I read the comments of a former Cabinet Minister, who was also President and a leading Member of the Democratic Labour Party of this country. He reflected what, quite frankly, had been my views while I was in Opposition and now in Government. He said that the issue of security and crime is not a partisan one and must never become one, and that those unfortunate examples that we see around us, where this topic is used for partisan political reasons, should never become part of the domestic landscape of this country. Again, I will stand by these words while I was in Opposition and now as Government.

Mr. Speaker, it is for that reason that one of the most important recommendations in this report is the insulation of the Office of the Commissioner of Police. It is for that reason that I have refused to participate in anything that will lead even vaguely to a hint of politicisation of the security forces, because we have had a good heritage in this regard, unlike other nations of the world. Therefore, long and forever may that be the case of Barbados, in relation to our security forces.

Mr. Speaker, as I said these recommendations have been many, and you will bear with me if I carry you through some. Sir, while we are working to the completion of this synthesised document which will take the Draft Plan with the National Commission on Law and Order Report, to create that single document for policy guidance, and then the user-friendly document for the citizens of Barbados, it is noteworthy that both plans take a broad approach to the issue of crime and security.

Mr. Speaker, the Draft National Plan is divided effectively into seven strategies, starting on the issue of crime and culture. Sir, what a country believes in, what it stands for, and how people define themselves, are all integral to the ability to attain security, peace and stability.

H:No84(5)1050 a.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY:

It also recognises that there must be a strategic intervention in the lives of human beings at a young age if you are to get them on the straight and narrow path and not to become a burden or cause harm to society in relation to the breach of their laws. It then goes into the dedicated subject areas of the modernisation of law enforcement, penal reform, the issue of legislation and the real fact that individuals must accept responsibility as well for their own security and, hence, there is a role for individuals, reducing the opportunity for crime by how they behave and what they do in respect of their own

person and property.

Mr. Speaker, equally, the Report of the National Commission on Law and Order while not following that exactly, reflects the same breath. It deals with the issue of what are the objectives of the plan itself, endorses the plan and says specifically that, in their view, that the word draft should no longer be used and that it should be a final plan. In truth and in fact, as you will find out in this debate, we have been implementing aspects of it already because we cannot wait to have the final component completed to treat to some of the issues which confront the country.

It speaks about constitutional support for a just society. Most important, it reflects as its basis, the need for justice, as opposed to the maintenance of laws and the rule of law alone, as an objective of a society which wants to see itself bring about development to its people.

Why is justice different from law? Laws are rules made by men and women but justice is a phenomenon that reflects whether there is equity, fairness and whether you can effectively cause the improvement of the human condition in a manner that is not unfair to others who live within the same society. Law does not mirror justice, as the report says, but is simply a barometer of justice. Men and women make rules that try to approximate to justice but, because we are humans, we are not always successful in that endeavour. Sir, equally as important, justice in our context, given our social, cultural and historical realities may have broader connotations than that which can be supported by the rule of law.

Therefore, one of the key components in this report reflecting on the state of the nation is the extent to which even outside of the strict ambit of the rule of law, this country is seeking to tend or not to tend towards the pursuit of social justice and the reduction of marginalisation of people who are citizens of this country.

Mr. Speaker, it speaks to social institutions, cultural values, the narrow and dedicated area of law enforcement, criminal courts and punishment. At the end, it reflects on some contemporary issues which, even in the way in which it is written, suggests to us that they believe that this should be the subject of further national conversation and consultation and that the society itself has to come to terms with this conversation as we move forward on a broad range of very controversial topics. It recognises that the best laws and policies are those which have been the subject of consensus in the process of governance and not those imposed by any form of edit, be it parliamentary or otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, that is the ambit of both plans. Sir, for ease of reference, I took out all the recommendations of the National Commission, which came up to 52 pages, taking the recommendations out from the editorial comments and you can well imagine that this is more than the work of a single five-year Government. In my view, this is the work that must receive the commitment of Barbadians over the course of a decade. I firmly believe that if we could stay the course that some of the gains we have already been seeing, in a way that others in this region have not been seeing, that we would

continue to improve and that we could build upon them ensuring that, for the most part, that we would continue to feel safe as we go about doing our business in this country.

Mr. Speaker, what is the context in which all this comes? Barbados had a spike in criminal activity that carried us to a substantial jump in 1990, of 11 636 reported crimes going right up to a peak in 1993, of 13 047. I do not believe that statistics is the only measurement that can be used to determine safety because fear of crime, which is a subjective perception, is equally valid but I do feel that it is still a legitimate barometer by which we must assess performance on all fronts.

Mr. Speaker, I have also said in the past, that I do not believe that making Barbados a safe country is the job of the Royal Barbados Police Force alone but that it is the job and responsibility of every citizen of this country. It is for this reason that we believe that the establishment of the National Commission is the way that best represents and signals that there must be joint ownership in the process of keeping Barbados safe and secure.

Mr. Speaker, while I would want to commend the work of the Royal Barbados Police Force, I do not believe that they alone can receive the commendations for us remaining relatively safe as compared to the other nations in the region. I believe that the responsible behaviour shown on the part of most Barbadians, has allowed us to be able to enjoy this level of security and safety. But, there are blemishes and we must deal with them to the extent that they exist.

Mr. Speaker, I relish the fact that in 2005, I can say that in last year that crime in Barbados was lower than it was in 1988. In 1988, crime stood at 10 037 but in Barbados last year crime stood at 9 435, a lower figure of almost 700 as compared to 1988. There are not many other countries in the world today, irrespective of how you compute that can say that they have seen a reduction in criminal activity as part of the domestic landscape. I do not want us to gloat about it or be complacent as a result of it but, at the same time, I do not feel that the country can take for granted gains that we have made collectively as a nation, recognising that these have allowed us to be able to move forward and plan our development in an orderly way, such that there can be a significant improvement in the lives of ordinary Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, those gains as reflected last year continued this year. The truth is that the statistics for January to October, the first ten months of this calendar year shows that crime is a further 8 per cent down on last year. Even though last year was the lowest figure since 1988, the figures show that even beyond that, there is a further 8 per cent reduction in criminal activity as reported in this country for the first ten months of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I set all of this in this context because it is important for us to recognise that even though we are making gains that this Government and this Parliament recognise that we can do better. Sir, as long there is a death, a murder or an incidence of crime of any type, we can always do better. What is salutary is that the index which is perhaps used even more than general crime and reported crime to gauge the level of security in a country, is the issue of the murder rate.

H84/11:00

Sequence 6

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: it is sanguine for us to reflect the statistics as we speak on these matters. So far, for the year, January to October 2005, we looked at the figures in Jamaica, there were 1,476 murders for the year. Last year Jamaica recorded a total 1 471 murders.

Mr. Speaker, we emphasise, and in the context of the new regional security architecture, we believe that we have a role to play with every member of CARICOM to help reduce the incidence of crime and the threats to their security by working in a cooperative manner, and with the new architecture the Heads have just agreed to in July 2005. Sir, the figure of 1 476 murders translates to a per capita rate of 67 murders per 100 000 people. Sir, it is a phenomenal and an unfortunate figure.

Mr. Speaker, by the same token, to our South in Trinidad, they have seen 343 murders for the year, which is 28 per 100 000 persons. This too reflects a difference because it is more in the last five years that Trinidad has seen the rapid increase in criminal activity, such that it is now affecting stability and investment in that country.

Mr. Speaker, in Lucia there were 33 murders for the year, recognising that as recent as 1998, St. Lucia only had ten murders recorded for a whole calendar year and those thirty-three murders for the year, from January to October, reflects a rate of 20 per 100 000 persons. Sir, Barbados, had 23 murders which reflects a rate of 9 per 100 000 persons.

Mr. Speaker, I do not give these figures for Barbadians to gloat because I am going to talk about danger of feeling too precious and smug as a people and a nation. I gave them for us to be able to contextualise where we stand in relation to the problems that face us. Equally, the National Task Force on Crime Prevention, did a study on homicide over thirty years in Barbados. It showed that the murder rate had effectively remained flat over a thirty-year period. We did further work which also showed that almost 80 per cent the people murdered in Barbados knew one another and it was not a case of strangers being killed, but more to the point a case of absence of ability to resolve conflict, whether domestically or among friends in leisure time activity.

Sir, what is worrisome, although the figures are still very much small, are the high profile murders that seemingly appear to come from disputes in relation to illegal activity and in the illegal transaction of the drug culture in particular.

Sir, we are cognizant of it. We are not going to retreat from the challenge that it places and imposes on us. We are equally sanguine that the only way you can deal effectively with the insidious nature of the drug culture, is through a collective partnership involving the citizens of goodwill of this country.

Sir, I want to repeat it because the police are only as good as the intelligence which they have and the cooperation which they are afforded from the citizens of this country.

Mr. Speaker, part of the difficulty they would face is if people who otherwise regard themselves as honest citizens, turning a blind eye in order to supplement income to meet some acquisition or another, then you are going to find that the drug culture will act like a slow cancer on this society and will undermine all that we thought that we stood for and all that we considered valuable at the point of becoming an independent nation.

Sir, it also undermines the ability of our citizens to be productive, those who become the victims of addiction and who very often are least capable of fighting that addiction. Mr. Speaker, we feel strongly that there must be a collective effort on the part of all Barbadians, because it is one thing to treat to the addiction, as we must but we recognise that we need the capacity to provide the treatment. Sir, the report recommends that we establish the drug courts, which is simply a court when dealing with an offence for possession, instead of recording a criminal conviction against that person right away, would offer that person an opportunity to participate in a treatment programme; if after a year that treatment is successful, no conviction will be recorded against that person. We want to establish that. It is not just a decision of the office of the Attorney-General or the judiciary alone, but it is one that is dependent on the programmes which the Ministry of Health and other institutions can provide.

Sir, we have already been in discussions with the Ministry of Health and we recognise that there is a glaring deficit in relation to the provision of treatment for addiction in Barbados for women, because there is no residential care facility, that treats to women and it must be corrected, whether through Government or partnership with the civil society. We also recognise that we need to correct the deficit that exists for those under the age of 18. That too will be corrected.

Mr. Speaker, what is of significance is that we have continued to expand our support for civil society organisations like Verdun House, in the provision of treatment to those who are the victims of addiction, as well as the Psychiatric Hospital and others. In fact, I believe the Honourable Minister of Health could speak in this debate about revisiting the functioning of the Psychiatric Hospital and to what extent it could better be reoriented to meet the challenges of today, given the fact of the changes in philosophy as well in modalities for treatment for those who are either psychiatric patients or the victims of substance abuse. Mr. Speaker, we see this as an effort from the entire country.

Sir, separate from the addiction issue, is the issue of corruption and the extent to which corruption can infiltrate every institution in this country if we are not careful, in pursuit of those who want to make a quick dollar. Mr. Speaker, I am only forty years old, but in my forty years, I have yet to see anything that comes fast or quick in life to be worthy of keeping. Fast food gives us bad stomach. Fast living very often leads to prison and if not prison to death. The message must be clear and one which is supported by all sides and

institutions in this country that there is no substitution for hard work. There is no substitution for hard work.

In addition to that, this is reflected, I think deliberately so, in the Motto of this nation, (Pride and Industry). Sir, false pride can also be the characteristic that undermines this nation the most. False pride, unfortunately, has led some people to believe that there is work that is unworthy of them in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I trust and hope that these are some of the things that we would grapple with through national conversations and responsible people guiding their own in their families or communities. I welcome, therefore, the Sermon which was given by Reverend Walfall at the Independence Service on Sunday, where he spoke to the concept of service in the context of manners, civility and serving others beyond the point of feeling that service is a form of subservience.

Sir, we have to grapple with the fact that one of the things that fuel the drug culture the most is the belief that you can make quick money and satisfy yourself in an instantaneous way. These practices will destroy this country. It is easier for us to turn the other eye as individuals but when we turn the other eye, a day will come when we no longer turn our heads and each of us will become the victim of that underdevelopment that will ensue from corruption and the drug culture taking root in this society.

H84: 1020 a.m.

Sequence 7

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

House 84, sequence 08, 11:10 a.m.

Continuation of Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY:

As to whether there should be further discussion on how we manage the issue of it, the Commission recognises and says clearly that it does not accept that there should be decriminalization of marijuana at this stage of our development but that there is a clear recognition that this debate will continue, as happened with the debate surrounding the use of alcohol and the prohibition of alcohol in the United States of America.

What is more worrisome is that the usage of heavy drugs is becoming more pervasive in the society. Therefore, once funds are available, the usage of cocaine, heroine and other synthetic drugs, which can be completely detrimental to one's health and well-being are things that we will have to grapple with in Barbados. The work of the National Council of Substance Abuse will be expanded, not just in the schools but in the communities across Barbados.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we speak specifically to the incidence of the values of the nation in both plans and what do we do to correct the perception as was stated on the first page of the Plan, (your law is not my law.) This is a serious statement and it behooves us, Mr. Speaker, not to respond in a negative way or in a way that will lead to further division but,

in truth and in fact, to understand what is giving cause to this perception and how we can manage it and bridge the gap in what is to be the common destiny of all Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes you have to ignore the fact that you are in a partisan political unit, which demands compliance more often than not to a set of agreed programmes, and it can lead to difficulties. There are certain things that must never be breached in this country.

I spoke about the politicalisation of the security forces. I spoke, Mr. Speaker, about the need to preserve the separation of powers in Barbados, and you will forgive me if I divert slightly because over the last few weeks, there has been much comment as to what I should and should not have done as Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs in this country, in relation to an incident involving the behaviour of a company whose activities may well have led to breach of the laws of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General of Barbados does not have the power to issue prosecution, other than in a very small range of offences as defined under section 79.A of the Constitution, such as treason and piracy. The Constitution goes further.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is completely independent in this country, in relation to prosecutions which he chooses to bring or not to bring. It is fortuitous that in two successive weeks, the issue as to whether the DPP should prosecute or not prosecute has become the subject of public comment. The public comment has focused more on the arm of the Executive, as if the Executive were one and the same with the DPP.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is clearly a need for an education process of where the powers lie and why there can be no breach of the principle and precept of the separation of powers. The Judiciary is separate and we should not reach into the Judiciary. The Executive is separate, the Parliament is separate and in all of that, the DPP is a unique creature of the Constitution whose powers are immune from influence by anyone from the Governor-General right back down to the union, lawyers or anyone else.

Mr. Speaker, when the incident arose, for example, at Kensington Oval with the working of persons without work permits or even applications for work permits, I spoke in the context of those persons who were working and had no valid visitor(s) visa to remain in Barbados. This was not because I wanted to penalise them because I still think strongly, as I said then, that they were the victims of exploitation.

This is why I was very precise in my language and I said then that I was giving them the opportunity to leave because I did not think, in my heart of hearts, that they should have been the subject of deportation as a first option. Why should they leave? We felt so because there was no basis for them to be in Barbados as visitors far less as workers. We felt as well that it would be difficult for the Government of Barbados to justify providing welfare to a group of persons because they had to be able to live, if you allow them to stay in Barbados and they had

no legitimate basis to work.

The situation became complicated because they were given legal advice - whether on the basis of a legal agenda or other agenda, and perhaps the Honourable Member for St. Philip South can advise me better on these matters - which in my view I would not have given them because it made them subject to a Deportation Order as opposed to leaving voluntarily, as was the wish of Government. Comments have been made as to the need for prosecution of the company which is responsible for their engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I can comment like any member of the public but what I cannot do is to give instructions for the prosecution of anybody in Barbados for the breach of anything other than those few things that fall under the Constitution such as piracy and treason, as I said. I have kept quiet because sometimes I believe that public commentary has to take its course, and it is better to come after the fact and clarify the issues rather than to be in the mixed of the fueling of public debate.

Sir, those who are familiar with the Constitution would know that the only role I had in this matter was as Minister of Home Affairs under the Immigration Act and that if the law is to take its course, then the Commissioner of Police, in terms of investigation, and the Director of Public Prosecutions in terms of prosecution, would determine what is to be the legitimate fate.

I feel that when you breach the law, you should be held accountable and if that is what would have happened or would happen to the company, I would not complain but I cannot direct it, Mr. Speaker. Equally, I feel that if you are charged in this country by the police that you must face the courts and that there is to be no special pleadings to the DPP whether you are students at the University of the West Indies (UWI) or you work in departments that are quite familiar and close to the law courts.

I say this, Mr. Speaker, because the perception that was identified in this National Commission on Law and Order that your law is not my law, will get worse if people do not have the confidence that the system is transparent, fair and requires accountability, irrespective of who you are, from the Head in the country to the lowliest worker in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am clear, clear, clear on this matter and it is a matter that will go with me whether I am a member of a political party or whether I am an ordinary citizen of Barbados. I feel that the phenomenon that has attacked Jamaica, in relation to the disrespect for institutions can be a fate which can befall us, if we do not start to ensure in this country that if a person has done something wrong, even if there is a case that they may be innocent or a case for mercy, they must face the courts of law, unless the DPP is satisfied that there is no case absolutely at hand. This is not a decision for any politician.

House 84, sequence 08, 11:2016

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, as politicians or political leaders in this country, we must not give succour to the perception that if you are related to someone, if you are an academic student, if you are a member of corporate Barbados or if you are a member of the clergy, the media or Parliament, that you should be immune from prosecution in this country, I would not be part of that. Mr. Speaker, in relation to the criminal law, we see it in its clearest form, but it is also in relation to accountability of public institutions and the benefits that they confer on people.

Mr. Speaker, I feel strongly about this country. I feel that all of us have a duty to make sure that the institutions which we found, we leave intact and that they are capable of functioning for the benefit of all Barbadians. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, there have been over the course of independence - and this is not attached to any one government, it goes across the board - occasions where people feel that who you know and who you are, are more important than what you are about, what you believe and what you do.

I have come to public life, Mr. Speaker, because I do not believe in injustice. I have come to public life because I do not believe that one set of people should be conferred as lording over another set of people irrespective of whether it is on the basis of politics, race, colour, gender or whatever.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I met with World Cup Barbados, because as I said on that occasion, two or three weeks ago, there may well be a case for migrant labour in this country. As Minister of Home Affairs, I am not going to stand in the path of the economic development of Barbados. Equally, I am not going to be party to the exploitation of anyone, whether Barbadians or otherwise, and I am not going to be party to the marginalisation of Barbadian workers who ought to be given the first opportunity in this country where the investment of public funds are being used.

Mr. Speaker, if I am to stand condemned for that, so be it, but I feel that the policy must be Barbadian workers first, CARICOM workers second, and then thereafter we could go to the wider world in relation to migrant labour.

Mr. Speaker, I met with World Cup Barbados and I warned them that I am going to speak to it today, so I am not bringing any tales out of school. The Minister of Sports was there with me at that meeting. Mr. Speaker, I feel that the public of Barbados needs to understand what the debate was about. They have said that they need additional workers from outside of the region. They have produced a table which showed that 401 persons came, out of which 205 are eligible to be considered.

Mr. Speaker, they are also following a process in Guyana, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Grenada, and I have also asked them to do it in Belize. The Government has also said that to the extent that workers from the Ministry of Public Works and the National Housing Corporation can be used, they would be made available as well.

Mr. Speaker, they have said still that there is need for a particular unique skill in relation to a particular form of box work that is not available in the region. Mr. Speaker, I am not a

technical person, so I would take advice. If that is the case, and I would meet with them later today, and we have satisfied the evidential basis that skill is not available in the region, then there is no legitimate reason for us to refuse appropriate applications for the utilisation of migrant labour as has happened in this country already, continuously, and still happens.

Mr. Speaker, I prefer to be dealing with a country where unemployment is not the dominant issue. The dominant issue is migrant labour, which is what Barbados is dealing with. When we became the Government of this country unemployment was the dominant issue. The dominant issue now is: How do we use skills in the growing of this economy, to ensure that we do not hinder its economic and social development, and can we do so on a path that does not affect the character of the nation?

Mr. Speaker, in September or October, I announced that my Ministry was working on a guest workers registration programme to be able to deal with the issue of having migrant labour come in and work under specific circumstances that would allow them to be monitored by the Ministry of Labour to reduce the incidents of exploitation. I am happy that preparatory process is continuing. Yesterday, the Chief Immigration Officer would have met with Sir Roy Trotman, as Head of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados, and we are waiting for their comments, which they have promised us in two weeks time, so that we can bring this programme to Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just World Cup Barbados because the truth is there are a number of activities that would take place, starting in January. The new prison is to be built. The Halls of Justice in this Ministry has to be built. The Board of Whitepark Developments Limited is about to issue the tender to the contractor to commence. The Coast Guard relocation project is under way. The Paradise Hotel would start in January and they expect that would be an investment of some US\$4 million over a two and a half year period. Sam Lord's Castle is being redone by CLICO. There is also the third phase of the Crane Hotel, and I can go on.

Mr. Speaker, there are at least 27 major projects being undertaken that would span the course of the next two to three years and therefore I was very clear in saying there may well be a case for migrant labour. Mr. Speaker, the process - and this is how I got into this topic - sometimes is more important or as important as the substance of what you are trying to achieve. When people feel that they have been breaches of process, it leads to a cynicism and an apathy that would cause people to dissociate themselves from the normal course of development and would lead to the kind of comment that your law is not my law.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that is the most pressing problem facing this country and because of that the ability to unite behind a single vision to which all Barbadians could commit, whether it is a feeling of marginalisation because of the justice system or because of access to land or because of things that may not even be buttressed by fact, we need to deal with it to ensure that the path of lack of social cohesion does not become the reality of a modern Barbados in its second generation of

independence.

Mr. Speaker, when economic decline happens, you can turn it around in two or three years, we have done it, but you cannot turn around social cohesion that has declined, you cannot turn around social decay overnight and you cannot turn around the negative consequences of unemployment. That is why this Government was at pain to run a counter-cyclical deficit in 2001-2002, to make sure that we held employment at all cost because the majority of Barbadians live on marginal amounts when you take out what they have to pay for their shelter, for their food, for their children, et cetera. We therefore recognise that a person facing six months or a year of unemployment would have a mountain of bills that may take them a decade to come from under that mountain.

Mr. Speaker, we may take a lot of blows on a lot of things, but these are the things that are fundamental to this country(s development and these are the things that I hope would forever mark the ethos of governance in this country. In a sense, that is what I felt when I read the Report of the National Commission on Law and Order. I sense that issues of social justice, fairness and equity must be at the centre of development. By the same token, equity and equality of opportunity does not guarantee to people everything that there is. It is that dichotomy between what was promised at Independence in terms of rights and what we must pursue in terms of social justice, that has led us perhaps to be dealing with some unfortunate phenomena in terms of productivity in this country.

Mr. Speaker, when I said therefore that sometimes we have to be careful of being a little too precious and believing that we have no responsibility for anything, I was serious, because if it comes to that, this country is only as strong as the arms of us as citizens holding it up. When we lower our arms to our side and say that it is the responsibility of someone else, there is not the buttress to hold the nation of Barbados aloft and to continue to build for future generations.

House 84 Sequence 9

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that is not a phenomenon that is unique to Barbados, and that anyone who reads widely now... and I will recommend the book. I noticed that the National Commission on Law and Order, has chosen to quote extensively from Mr. Jonathan Saxs, who wrote a marvelous book called (The Politics of Hope(. He has written another book called (The Dignity of Difference(, which seeks to explain the clash of civilisations and the phenomenon such as how do human beings grapple with the pace of change that has been imposed on us across the world.

Mr. Speaker, that book also points out that within the course of the last decade, we have seen information and capital moving at paces that could have never been contemplated at the

time of Independence, at our 20th Anniversary of Independence, and I may even suggest, the use of the internet was not even contemplated by us at the 30th Anniversary of Independence. Therefore, these circumstances have caused people to feel insecure about their own future.

Mr. Speaker, ten or twelve years ago, we kept hearing the mantra that a person could not own a job for life anymore, that the world in which we live will not guarantee us a job for life and that persons had to be readily retrainable, including the fact that people could go to sleep every night knowing the job in which they began 20 or 25 years ago, would be what they would be doing when they retired. Sir, these things no longer have security because of the phenomenon that makes it easier for companies to move from country to country, responding to fiscal incentives, issues of governance, maximisation of shareholder value, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the credit of this county that one of the benefits of the Social Partnership, has been to allow us to say to some of our larger corporations that they can send more people home, so that these companies would be able to make more profits and have higher dividends, but in a small society like ours, where would we put these people? Therefore, in this regard, sometimes it may be preferable to hold onto a 15 per cent return on investment and maintain employment at (X(level, than to try to get a 25 per cent or a 30 per cent return on investment by reducing the level of employment, which ultimately would increase the level of unemployment, and in a short period would reduce the purchasing power of the very same people who they would need to purchase the very goods and services.

Mr. Speaker, this would be self-defeating. It is also an approach that has been promulgated primarily by North Americans in the post-1960s environment. Sir, prior to that, there was the recognition that what a company made, needed to be ploughed back into the country to help produce more and to help expand research and development.

Mr. Speaker, in my view, it is one of the reasons why the North American companies, companies in the United States of America, in particular, are no longer as competitive and as far-ranging in their research and development, as in other parts of the world where they continue to recognised that there is something called a public good, where they continue to recognised that the capacity to produce on a broader and wider basis, is as important to the advancement of mankind, rather than simply maximising the returns of profits for individual shareholders, as if one were at a casino gambling on a nightly pursuit.

Mr. Speaker, we feel strongly that these issues are germane to the kind of society and that part of the difficulty is that we live in a world today where, though markets predominate, they have no moral compass. Markets would throw up successful, and hugely successful, winners and would create poor losers, so that the difference between the very rich and the very poor in the globalisation today, is becoming wider and wider.

We also have a perception of politics that it should favour more technical and managerial issues and that it should move

away from the broad ideologies that have garnered movement of people together to bring about improvements in the quality of life. Sir, if politicians do not stand for something, they will fall for everything. People have to believe in something. People have to believe what it is that will help take a young nation like this forward. They have to believe that there is a direct relationship between that and the outcome of a just, peace and secure environment.

Mr. Speaker, of the largest hundred economies in the world, 51 of them are the budgets of global corporations. Sir, fifty-one global corporations rank among the hundred largest economies in the world. They do not have the power to make law but what is more, is that they are not motivated by the improvement in the quality of individual welfare but by the maximisation of shareholders' return.

Mr. Speaker, in any language, too far west is east, and too far east is west. Sir, I am attracted by the McDowell's Philosophy within the Chinese civilisation because it speaks to balance, and I believe there must be balance in all that we do. Barbados depends on the rest of the world for its living. It depends on things such as the level of investments and the infusion of both skills and technology. Therefore, how we use it, how we adapt it to our needs, and how we produce and save, are all critical issues that must be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, we believe there are some things in this society that we need to draw brakes and talk about. The Ministry of Public Works must treat to the issues that have been clearly articulated in relation to how best to manage a PSV culture, even if not so responsible, is believed to be responsibility for a lot of the decay on our roads and among our young people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Education has been working on a national school transportation framework with the Transport Board. These things must come to fruition, sooner rather than later. The Minister of Education will speak to the progress in relation to policy document on a National Youth Service because we have been working on it, as it includes issues as to how the various components are made up. Sir, we recognised that we cannot have uniform prescription for all the young people in this country because there are different phenomena and they are at different stages of development.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the modernisation of the curriculum of the Ministry of Education, that is already underway. In addition, the After-School Programmes have been started on a pilot basis and we hope to expand and to engage that programme. Sir, the simple message which must go out more and more is, How do we find opportunities for inter-generational communication between people of different races, ages, classes or religion? How do we create that social and public space, where people can interact in a way in which they have not previously interacted for the majority of the last two decades?

Mr. Speaker, when was the last time you saw a leading member of the private sector at a cricket club, working with young people who want to learn to play cricket? Sir, stories are legendary about those who used to be there in the 1950s and

1960s. On the other hand, if a young person into trouble and did not have a father at home to speak to, he would have gone to somebody with whom he was interacting on a daily basis and asked for advice from that older person.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a world where the language that we now use is (I want(and (I will(, and not (I ought to.(The moral language of the society has been removed. Nobody thinks of the power of (we(anymore, they think of the power of (I(.

Mr. Speaker, Barbados is small enough and one of the things that I would like the media to do, while being cognisant that we have persons of influence relating to this report, is to take a chapter and focus on it per month. After that, I would think that right-thinking Barbadians should be able to go to communities across this country and speak to young people.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I spoke to the Director of Pan African Commission and asked him to ensure that there are at least two evenings per week, where they can show movies or play music. This may not be literary appreciation in the classic sense but it will be a form of literary appreciation in different medium, so that people can discuss what they feel and how they see things operating.

H:No84(10)1140 a.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY:

There are stories that we need to be able to discuss about how we feel and respond and how we resolve conflict. I feel that the electronic and print media can coordinate a response as a form of national duty to take a chapter per month to foster a level of national dialogue which we would help lead but which members of civil society must be part of us. Sir, we will not save everyone but we will raise the level of consciousness as to the kinds of things that must be important to building this country and keeping us in a situation where our murder rate is less than ten per 100 000 than on that would become 67 per 100 000. Sir, it requires positive action. It is no more than seven months of concentration that we require to discuss this over the next few months.

Mr. Speaker, I have a responsibility to account to Parliament for the issues relating to the National Commission Report and the Justice, Peace and Security Plan. Sir, there were a number of recommendations for the establishment of institutions to reform the processes of governance in Barbados and many of these have to be determined by Cabinet. I can say to you that the Draft Constitution of Barbados speaks to the establishment of an Integrity Commission, as it should, and that there would have to be separate legislation buttressing that. Sir, the issue for us as a nation to decide is that corruption is not a public sector phenomenon but a cultural problem, which attacks the public sector as much as it attacks the private sector. We need to treat to it in that way rather than believing that only people in the public sector are corrupt.

Mr. Speaker, secondly, part of the difficulty is that you have to determine what are the appropriate mechanisms and where

the balance lies. I hope when we discuss it further in the context of the Constitution that the debate would open up. Sir, if I recall correctly, it was the independent Senators in the mid 80s who most resisted the need for accountability in relation to assets as members of Parliament in this country. Sir, it was not the politicians of the political parties.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, it speaks to the need for the deepening of public sector reform and establishment of a civil service college. I believe you would find University of the West Indies at Cave Hill responsive to need for the establishment of a civil service college that not only speaks to Barbados but to training in the OECS, Barbados and any other Caribbean nation because it is a large market. The truth is that Government is not structured to deliver that kind of training, whereas the university is and could partner with entities from overseas. I was happy to have conversation with Professor Beckles in this respect. It is not an initiative that would spring from the bosom of Government but, in my view, should be an initiative that springs from the wellspring of Cave Hill and that we should respond to it by ensuring that people have access to systematic and strategic training.

Mr. Speaker, I really do believe that the ability for us to improve the skills and capacity of the public service is one of the key strategic matters facing the development of this country and that, irrespective of which Government is in power, you are going to be constrained in your capacity to implement, if you do not ensure that Barbados can retain the boast it used to have as having the best public service in the region and one of the best in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, it is a serious issue that may also require other consideration that may not necessarily be popular in relation to how we treat to the 74 amendments, and the lowering of the entry requirements into the public service. What I am certain about, Mr. Speaker, is that if we do not do something, we are going to continue to suffer from incapacity to implement in this country. The valid comments of the Commissioner are noted that the public service must equally feel as though they are responsibility for the implementation of policy and not just the political class of the country.

Mr. Speaker, he spoke of the need for legislation on discrimination and we have agreed to that. Right now, our Constitution makes it possible to sue the State for discriminatory acts but, we believe that the standard set by the Constitution should be adhered to not just by the state but by private players, corporations and individuals that there should be no discrimination in this country on the basis of religion, age, race or gender.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that the demographics of Barbados support the very strong case made by the National Commission on law and order for there to be a specific framework to treat to the protection of the aged in this country. I am happy that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has articulated in a comprehensive fashion the White Paper on the protection of the aged and Government is working towards its implementation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this a matter that has taken central

place in the National Strategic Plan. We have now gone out to wider members of the society to be able to see how we are going to hone and refine what we should do.

Mr. Speaker, every week we see another centenarian in Barbados and it is a matter of which we should be justifiably proud. Sir, there was a time when a person reached 100 years, you were not too sure if they were fully *compos mentis* but all the centenarians whom I have met are not only fully *compos mentis* but are repositories of wisdom and have much to give back to this country if we only listen and receive from them. We should be grateful for the incidence of prosperity that allows these people to reach this age in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that there would be an issue in relation to the Ombudsman and whether we agree that a small society like Barbados can continue to support a proliferation of Ombudsman or whether there are not more effective ways of guaranteeing the accountability and transparency of the system which must be integral to our development if there is to be development with equity and social justice in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, before I come to the ones in my Ministry, there is comprehensive recommendations as to the role that the law enforcement agencies must play in the preservation of the environment. I believe that Barbadians need to be sensitive to the fact that we, more than most nations of the world, will suffer from deleterious consequences to the environment. In fact, anyone who has seen the climate and seas of this year will reflect that while we cannot specify what is happening, we know there are changes in the global climate that would potentially speak devastation for us if we are not careful.

Mr. President, part of the difficulty once again is because you live in a society where your ability to make change happen is so limited, people sit back and do not feel that they have a role. While the Government deals with the broader issue of climate change and greenhouse gases, the truth is that every individual in Barbados has a role in relation to the household, around the household and the areas of public space within their community.

Mr. Speaker, there was a time when people would keep even their neighbour's property clean if it were empty because it reflected negatively on their own. I am a little amazed that we now have workers from National Conservation Commission and Ministry of Public Works working in residential areas to clean outside of houses which abut and abound the road. I fell strongly that each individual has the responsibility to clean outside of his/her house. If you cannot reach an arrangements with the person next to you to keep the lot clean, it is not going to kill you or me to cut the lot and keep it clean.

H84/11:50

Sequence 11

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, people do not see their responsibility as extending beyond themselves.

These are the kinds of areas that we would want the country to look at and engage because it negatively affects the quality of life when it starts to harbour mosquitoes. Sir, when we then have the possibility of dengue fever and other strains of diseases that are carried by mosquitoes. They do not respect who you are by your living standards or your status in society.

Sir, if there is an epidemic it is going to threaten all of us. It is not the responsibility of Government alone. Mr. Speaker, when Government has to fulfil those responsibilities, it is a resource taken away from something else, which may not be done by private individuals in the society. These are the kinds of discussions that I think we must maintain.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the public service vehicles, the Minister of Public Works, at a point during this debate, I believe, would speak to these issues and also to the fact that we are awaiting his Ministry to present to us the expanded ranges of offences for ticketing. We recognise that they are a lot of Barbadians who would be happy to accept and acknowledge that they are wrong and simply to pay for it, rather than lose productivity from attending to court for six hours two or four times. While the tickets would give you the option of paying the penalty, it would also allow you the option of objecting if you do not accept guilt but would prefer a date set to go to court to fight and state your objection that you were not parked, speeding or whatever. Sir, all of these adjustments improve the quality of life, justice, peace and security in the country.

Sir, in relation to the law courts, we advertised for two additional magistrates during the month of October 2005, and it is hoped that once those Magistrates could be appointed, we could seriously start to deal with the significant backlog of traffic cases. We believe that when people do not have cases; heard quickly, they believe that they can take justice for granted.

Sir, we wanted to have a national consultation this year 2005, but unfortunately, and I speak very frankly, most of the agenda of the Ministry was thrown aside by the urgency of managing what took place at Glendairy and Harrison's Point. We want to assure the country that before World Cup 2007, we would have a prison that does not cause people to feel unsafe in anyway in Barbados, either Barbadians or visitors.

Mr. Speaker, it therefore meant that our desire to have the National Consultation on Justice, this year, did not materialise but I hope it would be early in the new year. It has not done injury to our agenda, because from January 2006, and the Chief Justice will announce the details very shortly, we will be abolishing the criminal assizes and establishing continuous criminal trial in the High Court, such that the number of cases done will be increased on an ongoing basis through the High Court system. Sir, hopefully this would reduce the length of time that is needed for the cases to be heard.

Sir, we are also hoping to have a system where we could meet with the prosecutors and the registry to review and improve the rescheduling of cases to be heard because we recognised that it is a monumental loss of time and productivity to have everyone arriving at the same time on mornings. Also, because we have not yet finished the accommodation for the

justice sector, they should not be delayed in circumstances that are not the most comfortable and which can be improved.

We look forward to putting this in place.

Sir, we also believe that what we were able to achieve in the conduct of murder cases could go beyond murder cases. Sir, in a post-Pratt and Morgan arena, we have set time tariffs to schedule the movement of cases from Magistrates Court to the High Court to Court of Appeal to the Privy Council. We want to ensure, even though Pratt and Morgan is no longer the law of Barbados, that we commit ourselves to maintaining those time lines and we to expand beyond those time lines not just for murder cases, but after the National Consultation on Justice, to a wider range of offences across Barbados.

Sir, the Commissioner of Police has indicated that they are in position to take the provision of the Evidence Act, which would allow them to do the electronic interviewing of suspects, which is one of the key aspects we believe to be necessary to assure confidence in the system, particularly in relation to the more serious offences. He has asked that we limit it to a few offences, murder, aggravated robbery, rape and the more serious ones to start with. Sir, while more than a thousand officers have been trained over the last two years to use the technology, we want to make sure that we get it right, since any negative consequence will lead to some suffering on the part of an individual. Therefore, we would want to make sure that we walk surefooted and steady.

Mr. Speaker, when I reflect on what we have done in the Royal Barbados Police Force for the last four years, it is amazing. The Automatic fingerprint Identification system is up and running. This Honourable House would have approved the Supplementary last year. We would have indicated that it is a \$26 million project to move Barbados to a modern digital communication system for the police, to be eventually utilised by the Barbados Defence Force and the fire service, CERO, et cetera.

Sir, the civil works at the various sites are virtually complete and I am assured that by the end of December they will be. The Automatic Fingerprint Identification system, which was a component of that project, is up and running. I suspect that nobody in here on that side has ever had their fingerprints taken, so I will explain that previously you would have had to roll your fingers in black ink. That process is no longer utilised. It will take your finger and palm prints electronically, therefore reducing the length of time it takes to process people, but also increases the capacity for investigation. We, therefore, feel that we would see the benefits.

Sir, as you know, this year when we passed the Forensics and DNA Bill, we would have ensured that we brought a capacity locally that was previously acquired overseas. That DNA capacity would be built upon. It has not yet reached the point of optimum levels but they are on their way and we are beginning to experience, little by little, its benefits.

Sir, we expect as well that the police would be relying on the forensics lab also to be a part of their scenes of crime investigation and not just to be the recipients of samples to test.

To that extent, one of the expenses for the Estimates next year is the acquisition of a mobile forensic lab, to help us to better preserve scenes of crime and to utilise the outflow in a more efficient way.

Mr. Speaker, this is an area this Honourable House would have approved earlier this year. We have exhibited a level of best practice for the Government of Barbados with the management of our fleet. This year we took a decision to which the central agencies, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Public Service, agreed that instead of replacing the entire fleet of vehicles every four, five, six, seven years or whatever it used to be, we have a policy now that every vehicle in the force will be replaced every three years. Sir we will not replace all of the vehicles at once. So, every year you are replacing a component and a part of the stock to ensure that they can maintain maximum visibility and maximum capacity on the roads.

Sir, it may seem like a simple decision but if you know the processes of Government, you would know how difficult it was for us to be able to move to that point and we are here. I am grateful for it.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, the force has already taken possession over the last two weeks, of thirty brand new motorcycles and I understand that the other cars should be delivered within the next month. That would represent the first \$2.5 million in vehicles. You will see more of the money of the \$8 million package next year and in year three. We will continue to spend on average \$2.5 to \$3 million every year on vehicles because a police car does not work an eight-hour shift. A police car is on the road virtually twenty-four hours a day other than when... our fleet management software is being used to help us better manage the maintenance of these vehicles, so that at least there are minimal breakdowns during utilisation of them.

H 84: 12.00 p.m.

Sequence 12

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

House 84, sequence 13, 12:00 p.m.

Continuation of Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, in addition we have seen in the police force an improvement in the terms and conditions of policemen. We have increased the numbers in the police force by over 200, but the last major decision was to convert 177 Special Constables into Police Constables.

What does that mean? Mr. Speaker, 177 people would have been special constables who may not necessarily have had the qualifications initially to become police constables. What we are not doing, is automatically converting them to police constables but they have now to be subjected to additional training and assessment before they become police constables but it gives them a career path that, hitherto, would not have existed for them.

In addition to that, this House is well-aware of the fact that we now compensate the families of policemen who die in the line of duty. This was only done in the last four years and we have also introduced the flexibility allowance so that people are paid for the extent of their effort and not simply a flat salary. This is right, Mr. Speaker, because policemen, nurses and prison officers have to work hours that respond to what is happening on the ground and not necessarily within a neat 8-hour block. They were the beneficiaries as well of the Job Evaluation Exercise, the regrading exercise, and one of the major beneficiaries was policemen.

Sir, even though there may be one or two instances where people feel that more could have been done, the truth is that in relative terms more has been done for the police in the Job Evaluation Exercise, than most other categories of the public service because we recognise that when we are sleeping or capable of hiding behind the comfort of our homes or places of work, they are on the front line keeping this country safe.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we want to expand is the training available to them. In this year(s Estimates - and I expect the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed before the end of the financial year - once again with the University of the West Indies, hopefully through the Centre for Management Development to provide systematic management training for middle level and senior police officers.

The Regional Police Training Centre, Mr. Speaker, for all of the years only dealt with basic training and perhaps ad hoc training at different levels. We feel that it is impossible to manage a force with a budget of over \$100 million and more than 1 500 people in uniform, without giving people the skills of management to be able to effectively do their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner has indicated very clearly to the Ministry that there have been problems in terms of recruitment. People in Barbados do not want to become police officers or members of the army for some reason in the way that they used to anymore. It is unfortunate because the police force still represents one of the few institutions that will take a boy and make him into a man, or take a girl and make her into a woman. It gives you a career path. It takes care of your education, training and provides for you in a broader way. It is a form of support.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I am not a member of a lodge so I cannot tell you whether it gives that fellowship but I suspect that the succour it gives to its members might even be better than the succour that Parliament gives to its own in here.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I am not.

Mr. Speaker, I really think it is regrettable...and unfortunately and it is something that the country is going to have to decide because we have to keep manpower numbers up. Once again, I keep saying that this country, unfortunately is being forced more and more in the discussion of importing

labour, rather than being able to find the skills domestically.

The truth is that the statistics for unemployment among men at the end of June this year in Barbados was 6.8 or 6.9 per cent. It was less than 7 per cent. If you discount those who for some reason are not able to work and what the late Tom Adams used to call, (the voluntarily idle) then, Mr. Speaker, you understand how close to virtual full employment is among men in Barbados.

We have however, a problem among women. It is 11 per cent and we need to be able to close the gap but by the same token, while I support women's rights there has to be a process of transition and there are only so many women you can use in law enforcement. Some of them will go on the front line but you are not going to have a 50/50 situation at any time in the future in terms of gender balance in this country.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployment among men in this country is 6.4 per cent and among women 11.5 per cent as at the end of June of this year. This is why I said earlier that the case of migrant labour will come upon us but how we do it is as important as what we seek to do. The police force is only one of those other institutions but it is suffering for broader reasons than just more employment for people.

Unfortunately, policing is not a first option among most young people and people will tell you about things like (Babylon). Mr. Speaker, I know it is not part of the English Language but I think your concept of Babylon in the Bible will help you to understand what I mean.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that the country has to ask itself why we are reaching a stage where our own does not want to be responsible for policing our own. There are other countries in the Caribbean that had to import policemen. In fact, we lose policemen to Bermuda. It is true that the Bermuda currency is stronger and that is part of the attraction.

We have exported police throughout our entire history over the last 100 years. If you go to any island, they would tell you to meet so and so, his father was a Barbadian policeman who came down here in the 1940s, up to last weekend in St. Lucia, because we have had a culture of exporting labour.

The problem is that we have reached a juncture in our economic development where we may have to look at these things across the board and not just for economic activities. Mr. Speaker, I am awaiting a full human resources paper from the Commissioner of Police that will speak to recruitment, retention and issues to accelerated promotion, based on equity and fairness, and not just academic degrees because I am not going to promote only on the basis of academic qualifications, and training. Mr. Speaker, as I said apart from the MOU that we will sign with UWI, for the provision of systematic management training at high and middle levels of the police force, we have been working with the rest of CARICOM to create an Institute for Law Enforcement Training for the whole region that will take each of the police training colleges, and will see them in a network, where they will each develop a centre of excellence, so that each country does not have to replicate the spending of money to deliver the skills in every

country.

We are hoping to have this proposal together, to see how best we could develop this Regional Law Enforcement Institute, while at the same time the UWI will develop an Institute for Criminal Justice Research because we recognise that the economic and social development of this region could be undermined completely if we do not get the issues of justice, peace and security correct among us.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, in terms of accommodation, the new District E Station was opened recently. Crab Hill is under construction and underway. We have also been working with the Barbados National Bank for the construction of a new station at Wilkey. In relation to the other accommodation needs, we are hoping to deal with them in a holistic way, where we look at District C, and Six Roads, St. Matthias as opposed to Dover, since the Police Mobile Unit in St. Lawrence Gap has been highly beneficial. This causes us to believe that we do not need to build a physical building in Dover any more but the preferred site is St. Matthias. We have to look at St. Thomas which still does not have a police station and also at a Command and Control Centre.

In relation to Tamarind Hall, Mr. Speaker, the documents are with the Chief Supply Officer and the Central Tenders Committee who should have approved the Terms of Reference this week to go out for private expressions of interest for the construction of a police station, court and library at Tamarind Hall in St. Joseph to replace the old Horse Hill Institute.

Mr. Speaker, we have enhanced the capacity of the police in relation to training. The Criminal Intelligence Unit has been a major beneficiary. A large part of why we have seen reduction in crime in Barbados, in my view, has come also from the shift to more problem-oriented and intelligence led policing.

House 84, sequence 13, 12:1014

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY:

Since I have been Attorney-General in this country, we have seen a reduction in firearm offences by more than 50 per cent. One of the first decisions we took was to support the establishment of a small Firearms Intelligence Unit where people come to work every day to deal with the intelligence on the movement of firearm and usage of firearms in this country, it cannot be left to serendipity.

Similarly, we have a draft Wireless Interception Bill in my Chambers for some time which we have sent to the Commission on Law and Order. I regret that the Leader of the Opposition, either one, because I sent it first to the one who was the leader before and I also sent it to the one who is leading now, has not responded because I do not feel that this should be the subject of divisive debate, and I would like to urge them to respond. St. Lucia has just passed a legislation and Jamaica has it. The truth is that you cannot fight terrorism or transnational crime in today's world without utilising as many skills and resources that are available to you. It must be

done in a transparent and just way. That is why we want a regulated framework for it.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we continue to see a reduction in crime against visitors, and I trust that the Minister of Tourism would speak to it. In the first ten months of this year, we saw a further reduction of 23 per cent in crime against visitors. We recognised however that harassment is still an issue on our beaches and we have to find ways to deal with it appropriately not just through the police on the front line but through a combination of measures that causes ordinary Bajans to understand that when they harass someone or they litter the place that the only thing they are doing is destroying this country.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the National Commission Report speaks to, and it is an endorsement of our plan, is the establishment of a category of offences as ticketed offences - those which destroy the social capital of this country, people littering, people cursing and people using jet skis in a way that is dangerous - for which the penalty of the court should not be imprisonment or monetary fines but that person should be forced to build back the social capital of this country by volunteering their time in a particular activity. If you are going to destroy the social capital, then you have to go back and work in the community to build back up the social capital.

Mr. Speaker, we expect that we would be able to bring that legislation to Parliament in about a year(s) time because it requires us finetuning work with the Office of the Attorney-General, the Probation Department and the Judiciary. It is not a simple matter and we need to make sure that we get it right. That is the direction in which we are going for what I call offences that breach the social capital of the country.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, there is a development that we have supported in the Estimates of this year, which we expect to take root from January 2006. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it would come to be regarded as one of the better innovations in the management of justice in the society in this country and indeed would be replicated in other countries.

In the draft plan, Mr. Speaker, we called them parish committees, but we bowed to the wisdom of the National Commission on Law and Order and would rename them Council of Guardians because the Commission felt that it would be a confusion because of the use of the phrase parish committees with the community independence celebrations that we have.

Mr. Speaker, one may ask what is it that we are seeking to do. We feel that the administration of justice and the policing of Barbados is best conducted in a decentralised manner. Mr. Speaker, it is one of the reasons that I would never support the centralisation of Magistrates(Courts in this country, I really will not. I wish to maintain and see a situation where magistrates effectively exercise jurisdiction and responsibility for the tenor of behaviour in a particular district. The stories of old that linked certain magistrates with the quality of behaviour of the community and individuals bear replication again today.

Mr. Speaker, because we recognise that decentralised mode

of the management of justice is the preferred option and, because as I said earlier in the debate, we recognise that the police cannot assure the safety of this country on its own, we feel that every Station Sergeant should have access to what we would now call a Council of Guardians who would act in an advisory capacity but who would also do certain things within the community. Once we move to the stage of the community service for those breaches of social capital offences, they would also be responsible for making the list of things that we believe that people should be forced to work in, in a district like cleaning a cemetery. No one should have to call a Minister or a Member of Parliament for those things. There are things that can be done at the level of a parish, there are things that speak to the benefit of the community at the level of the parish and we feel that to cause all of these things to be centralised has not worked well.

Mr. Speaker, I am not saying whether there should be local Government or not because quite frankly the Barbados Labour Party has not discussed that issue, what I am saying is that I feel that there must be decentralisation of the delivery of services in certain areas and the utilisation of decentralised entities, whether they are community councils, whether they are dedicated to specific areas such as this Council of Guardians to work with law enforcement entities to be able to ensure that there is a more personal approach and the capacity to build trust at the level of the community, while preserving public space and public good at the level of the parish and the community.

The Commissioner of Police would be responsible, not the Minister, for the appointment of persons who would serve on that Council that would work alongside the police stations. There would also be representatives of the groups within the particular parish. We expect parishes like Christ Church and St. Michael that are populous to have two because clearly one Council cannot serve the needs of those parishes. The Commissioner of Police has indicated that as of January he would wish to start with three councils recognising that we would do them throughout 2006, and probably bring on another three at the end of each quarter so that you get individual councils running properly rather than just being a policy edit and nobody remembers about it after. We are starting with St. Philip North, St. Michael South and coastal St. James - whether there would be two or not in St. James, he has not indicated to me as yet - and where we believe that there is urgent need for community intervention working alongside their community policing programme, but building upon it.

Mr. Speaker, we have before us recommendations for a new juvenile criminal justice policy in Barbados in draft. In other words, how do we change the legislation and how do we change the institution that deal now with young people under the age of 16 who break the law in the country. Part and parcel of those recommendations, Mr. Speaker, speak to the issue of not using the adversarial system of justice as we know it in the law court, but seeking to use restorative processes and to get young people to understand that if they do wrong they must pay for it, but not in an adversarial way as we have now in the law courts. If we finally accept that, because we have not reached the point of signing off on the policy yet, this kind of council is the kind of council that can play a deliberative role and can be

trained in alternative dispute resolutions in communities and in parishes across Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, we therefore expect that there would be at least two to three Justices of the Peace depending on the size of the particular council in addition to other members representative of social and community organisations in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that if this works well, it will become a model for other developing countries across the world because it is the tangible proof of the extension of the responsibility of the citizenry of a nation for the fight against crime and for the preservation of justice, peace and security. Mr. Speaker, in this financial year the Government has given them \$100 000 to get off the ground and we would give them funds again later.

House 84 Sequence 14

11:20 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY:

However, we are not proposing to pay any member of the Council because we believe that the component of voluntariness must return to this society, with regards to public good and the preservation of community spaces. Sir, we are proposing that the funds should be available for community-wide projects, which the Council says are necessary in the particular community, regardless of the parish chosen.

Mr. Speaker, in a sense it mirrors what we have done with the Anti-burglary Project, first in the areas of Long Gap and Grazettes and now in Maxwell and Brittons Hill. Sir, where we have seen a marked reduction in burglary, especially in Long Gap and Grazettes, where we went in and with a holistic approach, have installed streetlights, embarked on a debushing programme, formed community groups, got people to mark their household properties and also to tighten security around their homes.

Mr. Speaker, if we could expand that kind of project across Barbados and if we could use the Council of Guardians to help us in the front line in the expansion of the three pilot projects in Grazettes, Maxwell and Brittons, and we could do it across Barbados, I believe that we would continue to see even further reductions in the incidence of burglary, aggravated burglary and residential burglary, which have already been reduced in the last three years.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, there are things which we support but we do not believe that we are in any immediate position to implement, largely because of commitments of the Government and also because there is a capacity to execute. Therefore, we look forward, not immediately but probably in two years time, to begin the work on the establishment of a national prosecution service. That is going to require significant integration resources of the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. We have the policy paper for it and we hope that after a number of changes, which I have requested to be made, that I could refer it to the

National Commission on Law and Order for their comments, as there were changes since the early incarnation of that Paper.

Mr. Speaker, we have also support, in principle the compensation of victims of crime, but quite frankly we do not believe that we could introduce new expenditure in this context, until we could complete the expenditure under which we embarked and to which we are committed. Sir, this too has been exacerbated by our need to prepare for Cricket World Cup, 2007. Sir, therefore, post-2007, we hope we could move to a position where we could look at capping damages for victims of crime and in some instances, look at the powers of compensation of the Judiciary, in relation to forcing accused persons to pay for their crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to go into a comprehensive dissertation on correctional services or of the Prisons, suffice it to say, that the new prison is well in execution. The clearing of the site has begun, the cells have been ordered, and we look forward to being on target, in terms of having a new prison constructed. We also look forward to not to belabour on the good patience of the people of St. Lucy for beyond early 2007 in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the Department of Correctional Services, the Parliamentary Secretary and Honourable Member for St. Michael West, would have spoken to this matter. He is, in fact, tracking that matter and bringing it to a stage of completion. That too requires legislative changes because at present the Superintendent of Prisons does not have to take instructions from anyone. Therefore, if we are going to create a Department of Correctional Services with overarching support, with the power to direct the Superintendent, the Probation Department and other departments, we would have to root it in legislation.

Mr. Speaker, only three weeks ago, I would have sent back the second redraft of the Parole Paper for revision. Once again, we have to get these things right because we cannot introduce a system and at a later stage, try to work out the teething problems, particularly in an area such as parole, but we anticipate that the system could be up and running by the time the new prison is built.

Sir, when we consider that it costs us about \$30 000 a year to support a prisoner, you would recognise that it is cost beneficial for us to have a system of parole in this country. Sir, the exact details and the nature of crime for which one can be paroled has to be worked out because there is lesser margin for error in a small society, than there is in a large country.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps part of the exercise of ageing has made me more cautious in implementing policies that particularly can have an impact on a broader range of people in society, without ensuring that we have the best possible information, to make the best possible decision that we could make, even if not expecting perfection.

Mr. Speaker, we are also in the process of implementing connectivity across all police stations in Barbados. We will, in fact, be purchasing new crime-management software before the end of this financial year. You will see it budgeted for in the

Estimates of Expenditure this financial year. Sir, this will bring about the capacity to maintain appropriate databases, to allow the ticketing that the Ministry of Public Works is talking about introducing, which we would wish to introduce further, for the social capital offences to happen.

Mr. Speaker, what is more is that we will now have that type of connectivity but we will be working towards realtime connectivity between the Police Force, the Immigration Department and other law enforcement agencies, because one of the requirements in the Cricket World Cup, 2007, will be for greater freedom of movement people during that time. It, therefore, means that we must be in a position to know and to act immediately, in relation to anyone who is on a (stop list), either in terms of terrorism or transnational criminal activity. This would also be because of the fact that one's first entry into the region is likely to be by passport but thereafter, persons would be able to utilise a form of swipe card, to move between countries, as if the Caribbean were one political state, and I would hope that could be so.

Mr. Speaker, it would also mean that the region would be as strong as the weakest country within the region. Therefore, to that extent, it means that before the end of the next calendar year, we have to have the realtime connectivity between the Police Force and the Immigration Department fully up and running, not only in Barbados but across the rest of the region.

Mr. Speaker, there has now been established a Special Subcommittee to deal with issues of security for Cricket World Cup, 2007. Our Regional Security Chiefs met in Barbados last month to prepare for the Ministerial Meeting, which is likely to be in early January. We look forward to this happening because there is still much work to be done, not on issues of venues security, but because we recognised there are certain vulnerabilities which the region would naturally have in hosting a global game, and that there are partnerships which we must foster outside of the region, to help us ensure the safety and economic security of this country, the safety and security of the citizens of this land and the safety and security of those who visit. Sir, we give the country the assurance that we will participate in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the report speaks to other broader issues. One of the things which I found very attractive is the concept of how community organisations should work and whether, in truth and in fact, community councils should not be part and parcel of the governance of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that we could have dealt with Parliamentary Reform at the same time as Constitutional Reform, but the fact is that the report on Constitutional Reform spoke only fundamentally to broad constitutional reforms but did not investigate into the issue of Parliamentary Reforms officially.

Mr. Speaker, that does not excuse the Government from putting that on the front burner, and I believe that we would. I believe that there is now unanimity across most parts of both Houses, as for the need for reform of Parliament, so that it could play a more effective role and reformation of the structures of Government. Sir, once local Government was

removed, it placed a tremendous burden on individual Members of Parliament. In addition, people vote for Members of Parliament for different reasons, some of which can be from wanting a good community person, to a good community representative, to one who can contribute to national policy formulation, to one who can represent Barbados internationally.

Mr. Speaker, what we do is somewhat unfair to us and to the electorate of Barbados. It, therefore, makes it more difficult for individual Members of Parliament to be held accountable because of the broad range of activities and the broad range of expectations which we have of them.

H:No84(15)1230 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation of Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there really must be a national dialogue on what are the appropriate adaptations that we must make to the Westminster system to allow for more effective accountability on the part of those who come to public life to represent others realistically looking at what they are capable of delivering. We should recognise that in the same way there are members of Parliament who defend the interest of their constituency that there should be dedicated Members of Parliament elected to represent a national interest that is not unique to any particular constituency, that it should not be on the basis of serendipity or higher patriotic values that it should happen but that we should elect persons whose primary responsibilities are to the constituency of Barbados. It may well be that it may not be more than ten or twelve members but the issue of parliamentary reform in a modern democracy such as ours is not popular because politicians are pariahs and anything to do with politicians do not attract support. We are partially responsible for it but it is also as a result of the centralisation of power that is taking place in the growth of the modern state.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that the citizens of a country is less well-served when the Cabinet exceeds any other number of persons or bloc of persons in a Parliament of country. If you are going to have Parliament act as an effective check on the power of the Executive, then Parliament needs to be larger in order to ensure that Cabinet is not the single largest bloc in an elected assembly.

Mr. Speaker, if you think that the Barbados situation is bad, the truth is that in the Eastern Caribbean it is worse because you have Parliaments that have less than 20 people but yet the responsibility of the governance of a democratic society still requires fairly sizable Cabinets because the range of responsibility now that a democratic society has domestically, regionally and internationally are such that, with the best will in the world, this country would be challenged to have a Cabinet of less than 14 or 15 again in its modern development. In those circumstances, I am not reflecting the policy of Government now but am speaking as Leader of the House and using my privileges as a Member of the House of Assembly to speak to the development of an institution which I have come

to love and to which I believe I am charged with the responsibility of ensuring its development.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East who happens to be the Attorney-General and Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados is misleading the House by giving the impression that she can come to this Parliament make such a substantial statement and then divorce herself from the policy making arm of the Party.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member that is not a point of order.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the Honourable Member for St. Lucy who is normally such a maverick will now want the succour of the rest of a political party and feel that I should stay only within the comfort of mine. Sir, I have enough confidence in myself as an Honourable Member of this House to believe that I have a responsibility at times also to speak as a parliamentarian, who speaks to the development of the institution which I have come to love and which I believe is necessary for the development of this country. I should not be constrained or seek to bang members on this or the other side but I do not take comfort in the fact that the Honourable Member for St. John has spoken consistently recently on the need for the reform of Parliament and in the same areas we have been speaking about. Therefore, I hope and want to believe that this is an area like the management of crime and stability that would be the subject of mature deliberation and consideration that would inure to the benefit of the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, there is enough to fight about between political parties in terms of how to do other things but there are certain things that should be the subject of consensus for the development of the State. Sir, I come to this point recognising that our duty is to improve the quality of life of ordinary Barbadians but it is also to preserve the development of institutions because, Mr. Speaker, when you and I are gone, the institutions will still have to defend and define the relationships between the citizens of this country and to uphold the values which we hold dearly.

Mr. Speaker, we have to be careful that in broadening the rights to the freedom of expression and the rights under the Constitution of this country that we do not do so not only to the detriment of other individual rights but to the undermining of institutions that are necessary for the governance of this country.

Mr. Speaker, after disrespect for the rule of law, the next thing that goes is disrespect for institutions. If we reach that point there would be no transparent framework to protect those who are most vulnerable in our society. The work of more than two or three generations of Barbadians, particularly started in the early part of the 20th Century would come to naught if we do not retain an independent and transparent architecture that allows people equality of opportunity and protection from oppression and injustice in this country.

Mr. Speaker, when you say so, particularly as a third term

Government, people feel that you are trying to oppress and restrict expression of opinion but that is not what we are saying. Perhaps, it may well be that because of the delicate balance, other institutions in civil society such as the media have to play a more aggressive role in defending the development of institutions in this country and ensuring that commentary is on an informed, factual basis rather than being reduced to speculation as to whether something is so or not.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who are here will not really suffer because the undermining of an institution does not happen like a hurricane gale force wind but it happens like the erosion of a foundation by water, little by little, year by year. Sir, in those circumstances I believe that at some point there is a need for a debate of how we protect not just the rights of other individuals but how we protect and defend the institutions of this country such as the court system, the school system, the church and the media, which we love dearly and are prerequisites for Barbados in which social justice is the hallmark of our social, economic and political activity.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I feel I have the greatest honour in presenting to this Parliament a report which reflects the state of the nation. I believe that the contribution of all members of Parliament would add to the richness of the debate but, more important, would allow us to be able to hone in on that body of recommendations. Sir, we believe the recommendations to be acceptable and to work in conjunction with the Draft Plan on Justice, Peace and Security, not as a plan merely for this Government or any future Government to implement but one on which they can be discussion which I hope would take place during next year.

I hope that we would have the media leading it by concentrating on one chapter per month so that the country and the people of Barbados could say that they are prepared to hold faith for the most part to this Plan over a ten-year period because they recognise that the country did not get so overnight and will not change back overnight.

Mr. Speaker, all of us whether politicians, media, church, private sector, whoever, should be part and parcel of that national conversation that defines what are our roles, rights and responsibilities in helping to make this country a better one and in helping to define for the second generation of Barbadians that would come in post-Independence Barbados, a framework that is more capable of sustained growth and development than that which we have today. The challenges which we face as a nation are tremendous, the opportunities for policy coordination and development are becoming less and less and the fiscal resources are those that must concern us at all times as well as the human resources to implement and execute.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are a nation which has done well in the past with limited amounts of resources. The fact that those resources are limited and that our policy options may become narrower and narrower should not daunt us but should only force us to dig deep down and to draw on the resilience that guaranteed the success of previous Barbadians.

H84/12:40

Sequence 16

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Continuation Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: ..I say, Mr. Speaker, that if we do that, we can then adopt the words of our National Anthem, and truly becoming firm craftsmen of our fate in this second generation of Independence, rather than victims of the pawns and actions of a broader and wider world, who believe that small States should not have a legitimate voice or small people should not have a legitimate role to play in the development of mankind.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this report in broad terms to all Barbadians and look forward to us carrying forward the process of accepting and implementing a large part of the number of the recommendations. On behalf of the Parliament I thank all those who are responsible for its preparation and dissemination.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg further consideration of this Resolution be deferred. I am being informed that there are some Independence related activities that will make it difficult for the Honourable House to proceed any further this afternoon. In the circumstances, the motion is that further consideration of the Resolution be postponed.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable House do now adjourn until Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before proposing the Bill, I would like to recognise the presence of Members of the National Commission on Law and Order.

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

H84: 12.43 p.m.

Sequence 17