
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2003 – 2008

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 06, 2007.

PRESENT

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

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

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON, LL.B.(Hons.) (Leader of the Opposition)

Sir Louis R. TULL, K.A., .Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.)

Mr. G.W. PAYNE, Q.C.

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

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B.(Hons.)

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss H.E. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Minister of Energy and the Environment)

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister) (Minister of Economic Affairs and Development) (Leader of the House)

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

Rev. the Hon. J.J.S. ATHERLEY, B.A., B.Sc., J.P. (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)

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

Hon. R.R. FARLEY, B.Sc., J.P. (Minister of Housing and Lands)

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., F.R.C.S. (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) (Acting Minister of Finance)

Hon. D.D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.)

L.E.C., (Attorney- General and Minister of Home Affairs)

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

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

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 Rev. Cannon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of Tuesday, January 23, 2007.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: 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 HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to report to this Honourable House that I am in receipt from the Auditor-General, the Report of the Auditor-General for the Year, 2006.

PAPERS

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, the following:

1. Annual Report of the Barbados Vocational Training Board for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: I am further commanded to lay for the Honourable Member for St. Philip South the following:

2. (a). Audited Financial Statements and Annual Reports on the Activities of the Boards of Management for the period 2004 to 2005 for the following:

Alleyne School

Combermere School

Grantley Adams Memorial School

Louis Lynch Secondary School

St. James Secondary School

St. Lucy Secondary School

The Lodge School

St. Michael School.

(b). Audited Financial Statements for the Board of Management of Queen's College for the Period 1998 to 2004 and Annual Reports for the period 1998 to 2003.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Annual Report of the Barbados National Bank, Inc. for the year 2006.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the first reading of the following:

1. Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. Customs (Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. Catastrophe Fund Bill, 2007
5. International Business Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2007

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

House 123, sequence 02, 10:20:14

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER No. 16

IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter, which is necessary within the context of the measures that we continue to put in place to facilitate the hosting of the Cricket World Cup both here in Barbados and in the region in a few weeks time, and to facilitate the movement of persons into and out of our shores.

Mr. Speaker, with the leave of the House and in concurrence with the other side, Government proposes to deal with the matter of the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2007, and the Customs (Amendment) Bill, 2007, which is part and parcel of that framework of measures that we are seeking to solidify, within the context of one debate.

Mr. Speaker, in August of last year, the House approved a measure which amended the Immigration Act in an effort to facilitate the movement of persons into and out of Barbados as part of the total framework of the free movement of persons in anticipation of such a phenomenon taking place at the time of the hosting of the Cricket World Cup.

Mr. Speaker, those amendments of last year would have mandated airlines and other carriers, both by air and sea, coming into Barbados, to provide, in advance of arrival in Barbados, certain types of data with respect to passengers in order to enable us, in terms of our border enhancement strategies, to ensure that we could facilitate free movement while achieving that objective of enhanced border control.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, one minute please. I cannot hear the Honourable Member and the reporters cannot hear the Honourable Member.

Earlier, Sir, you had indicated that you wanted to do both Bills and I have not given permission as yet, but if that be the will of the House, so be it, Sir. Just proceed, please.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, we are here today because it is necessary to make these amendments with respect to that data which was stipulated in the measures of last August, not with respect to the requirements of the data and with respect to the implementation of the system, but with respect to the data set, which would be required to facilitate entry into Barbados, as part of the free movement of persons connected with the Cricket World Cup to be staged here shortly.

Sir, some amendments would be made to the set of data which is required and some amendments would be made with respect to the attaching of the time frame within which the data must now be provided or submitted, that was not the case of last August. Provisions are also being made to give the facility and authority to the Minister responsible for immigration to waive by order, the requirement of any such data.

Mr. Speaker, you would find with this amendment that there is also now a provision that the requirements be attached to vessels departing from Barbados to ports of call outside of the Caribbean single economic space for the purposes of this Cricket World Cup.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments therefore are intended to help us to fit the data, which we are now going to be receiving, within the context of the template for the improved data collecting systems, which we are now employing in Barbados with respect to the functions of immigration, both at the airport and the Bridgetown Port. The template to the new technology would not be totally accommodating of some of the information originally intended to be received.

In addition to this, there are issues with respect to domestic law in other jurisdictions as that relates to privacy and confidentiality, as that further has to do with the sharing of personal information relating to passengers. Therefore, to square with the international requirements, to square with those peculiarities of certain jurisdictions and to ensure that the data is accommodated by the templates, which we now use to retrieve, store and process such information, these amendments have become necessary.

Mr. Speaker, in the fluid circumstance of a major event as the Cricket World Cup with persons coming from far and wide, it should be anticipated that there would be the odd occurrence where it may be necessary that a Minister, either in relation to immigration or in relation to customs, has the authority to waive the requirement with respect to the data which is required and with respect to the time frame. Therefore, that is also being provided for.

Mr. Speaker, what is before us today is really the issue of the wider Cricket World Cup event. I think it gives the House the opportunity, in a wider frame, to look at the matter of the Cricket World Cup and the hosting of the Cricket World Cup by the Caribbean at this time and the critical role that Barbados is being asked to play in the staging of the World Cup related events.

You would recall, Mr. Speaker, that Heads of Government of the Caribbean region in mid 2006 agreed to a strategy designed to ensure the hosting of both a safe and secure event, agreed to the implementation of a strategy, which would ensure that the environment within which the games would take place and the environment within which we would welcome multiple thousands of persons to our regional shores and here to our own domestic situation, would be such that we can give some measure of comfort to those who would come by providing that safe and secure environment.

Mr. Speaker, we have long pass the era of the 70s. Mr. Speaker, events which have been tragically etched in the minds of many were associated with world games as early as the 1970s, from my own recollection, when in Munich, Germany, at the Olympics, there was the horrific massacre of some Israeli nationals, I think it was, who were targets at the time of that World Cup event.

In the ensuing years, we have seen many instances where innocently seeming contexts and innocently seeming occasions provided the opportune moments for those who were bent on terror and on ills to pursue their devious designs. We have seen that in parts of Africa in relation to their tourism centres, and we have seen it in parts of the Pacific paradise. Mr. Speaker, we do not in any way want to suggest that we are immune from such eventualities, therefore, that we should give attention to this matter is imperative and essential.

Mr. Speaker, the Heads, having reviewed the strategy proposed, agreed on the strategy for the implementation of methods, which would seek to offset and minimise as far as possible, that likely eventuality in the Caribbean. They agreed on this both with reference to matters of public order and matters of public health.

Mr. Speaker, public order and public health issues, in the context of what is happening in the world around us

now, should be obvious, because threats to our security not only come by means of those who are bent on criminal endeavours, but threats to our well-being and indeed to our security come in the form of health related issues and factors.

House 123 Sequence 3

10.20 a.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, the world is now the stage where many highly infectious and contagious diseases are par for the course. We have now again started to witness the outbreak of "Bird Flu" in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Speaker, just as we are not immune to threats to our national well-being posed by criminal intent, just as we perhaps are even more exposed to threats to our well-being posed by health hazards, therefore, the strategy implemented and agreed upon to ensure that we could reduce the possibility of this event, being the occasion when either criminal tragedy is wreaked upon us, or when health related threats become the reality for us, this strategy is designed to ensure the two broad areas become the subject of very serious and intense focus.

A special framework for the movement of persons, therefore, to facilitate the event is obviously necessary but it has to be in the context where we also realise the achievement of enhanced border security. Sir, we would want to see the multiple thousands - who, it is indicated, would be coming to visit us for this World Cup event - to come, to spend a lot and to have a good time, and walk away with good memories of the Caribbean. They would then spread such good memories to their relatives and friends across the world, which would result, hopefully, to additional visits upon our land and the increase receipts of tourism happens.

We would want to make sure that our own people from the Caribbean are facilitated, in terms of movement, with reference to their own desire to this cricketing event or their normal movements, which might be coincidentally occurring at the time of the event. Sir, we have to facilitate movement of multiple thousands, it is anticipated, such as we have not seen before because we have never hosted an event such as this before, and because there has not perhaps been an attraction such as this before, which is pretty much the focus of the Caribbean effort, across the region at this time.

Mr. Speaker, we have a situation where facilities with respect to capacities are very much constrained, even the larger, perhaps more modernised facilities to be found

at Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, to some extent, will be stretched to their limits, so too would be the capacity to accommodate the flow of movement of these multiple thousands of persons. Therefore, one has to put in place mechanisms which would, in the context of constraining capacity, facilitate ease of movement, while, at the same time, ensuring there is meaningful control of our borders.

Sir, if one would imagine the challenges posed to the Grantley Adams International Airport, Piarco International Airport, or some other port of call of some magnitude, then one could imagine what would happen in places such as St. Vincent, with its rather small capacity or Castries, St. Lucia, with its rather small capacity.

Sir, these challenges have to be met, in order to facilitate the event. Therefore, since there is limitation on the capacity to the extent that we can add to that, we need to do more. We need to facilitate movement by reference to other mechanisms, strategies and methods. This is a context within which, therefore, we have provided for an Advance Passenger Information System, for measure such as pre-clearance, as was also approved by this Honourable House in the middle of last year. Sir, we are seeking to meet those challenges.

Mr. Speaker, there are broad elements of that strategy, to ensure a secure environment for the World Cup, 2007; to ensure that we facilitate the movement, while providing for meaningful control of our borders for security purposes; and to ensure that there is no serious breach of our immigration or customs regulations and laws.

There are some broad elements of that strategy, to which I might perhaps take a moment to refer. Sir, you would be reminded that a significant component of that strategy was the implementation across the region of a common policy on visa requirement, or a common visa policy. Largely, you would have had, in the existing circumstances of the time, situations where persons originating from one country, coming to the Caribbean, may find that the requirements for visa would differ between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, whereas, coming out of India or Pakistan, you may be required to have a visa. If you are going to Trinidad and Tobago, you would not be required to have one coming to Barbados and vice versa. Therefore, to avoid the obvious potential for chaos, which would necessarily have arisen out of that kind of anomalous circumstance, it was thought useful that there be put in place a common Caribbean regional policy on visa requirements for entry. Therefore, the law now stands that there be a common visa, which would be issued for persons coming into the region, at this time, and until May 15th, and that those visas would be valid for entry into all of the participating States within a common policy framework of the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, a second plank of the strategy is the issuance of a Special Visa, which results, obviously and necessarily, from that policy, that visa, in terms of its validity, now extends from February 1st to May, 15th, 2007. Sir, it would be required that persons coming to the Caribbean, who fall into the various categories of those requiring visas, and outside the categories of those exempted from such requirement, would have this visa in advance of arrival in the Caribbean, at their first port of call. Of course, there are exceptions from this and this principle relates to persons, who are designated officially as diplomatic representatives in the jurisdictions of the Caribbean or principals associated with the event itself. In several cases, those persons would be issued special permits. Sir, generally speaking, the application of the visa policy applies across the Caribbean and the Special Visa to be issued has a validity from February 1st to May 15th, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, the experience today, as I understand it, is that, in the initial stages, there has been some concern about the visa requirements in some international centres, particularly, I think Australia. But as far as I understand it, significant and meaningful efforts have been made to address those concerns. It seems that those concerns have been addressed satisfactorily to the extent that I am made to understand that, in the short space of time, as far as the policy has been in place, there have been to date, as of yesterday at 6.00 p.m., 8 000 applications for the issuing of such visas. In fact, the the region has found that it has had the capacity, both here and at centres abroad, to respond by approving almost 7 000 of those applications from persons, who are going to be coming for the cricketing event. I am also further told there are about 18 persons, who have, for various reasons, been denied visas.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think we need to get into that. What we need to note is that the interest is such that the applications have come in quick space of time, in the multiple thousands and that the system set up has been able to respond to the extent that almost 7 000 of those applications have been, as of yesterday, approved.

Mr. Speaker, there were some concerns about cost, and that has been substantially addressed. There are some persons who are exempted from the payment of the cost originally attached to the visa, universally, but there has been some address of that as well. There have also been some concerns about capacity but I think the experience, to which I have just referred, in terms of the number of applications and in terms of the number of approvals, in the short space of time, suggests that there is the capacity, through the systems established to respond to the volume of applications and, in fact, to facilitate that ease of movement into the Caribbean.

10.40 a.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

(EDITED)

Rev. the Hon. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, you can have a common visa policy, as we do, the requirement for Special Visa for entry but I think that one has to stop, take pause and note that what the Caribbean has been able to do, faced with the circumstance of the World Cup, is to bring into being a single domestic space. I think often we speak of that and lightly pass over it but I think it is a significant occurrence - even though in this instance it relates to the staging of the World Cup event - it is a significant occurrence and a significant achievement that 10 Caribbean states have been able to so collaborate and cooperate together that some level of sovereignty has been ceded and that we have created a single domestic space.

Mr. Speaker, we have done that rather smoothly, and so smoothly that people talk of it fleetingly and lightly but it is a serious achievement, a significant moment, at a time when we continue to talk about Caribbean integration, at a time when we continue to talk about Caribbean Single Market and Economy, that we have been able without an abundance of difficulty to call into being a single domestic space. What that represents, in essence, is that if you are in Dominica, tomorrow, it is just as good as if you are standing in Bridgetown, Barbados, in a certain sense because it is a single space we are dealing with. It is an achievement to be touted. I believe it is a platform on which to build for the future and it signals what Caribbean countries can do when we put our minds to it and the proper motivation and impetus is there. I think there is a lesson in that for all of us, those who lead and those who follow in this region, there is something to be noted there. I think that the Heads of Governments of the Caribbean ought to be complimented at this stage.

Mr. Speaker, it is the reality that a single domestic space does not include Belize, Bahamas, Suriname or Haiti. These are countries who have opted out, not simply because they are not part of World Cup, 2007, but opted out as being part of the movement at this time for their own particular reason. Sir, Dominica is not immediately involved in the hosting of the World Cup, 2007, event but Dominica is part of the single domestic space because Dominica is of the view that there are benefits to be derived to their economy from the staging of the World Cup, 2007, in the region at this time, and from the opportunity it would give to visitors to hop over to Dominica and to be part of the event, even though cricket matches would not be staged in that jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, a principal component of the strategy as well-implemented as I intimated earlier, to ensure ease of movement while at the same time making sure that we provide for meaningfully enhanced security arrangements -

is the intelligence sharing mechanisms, which have been put in place. We have somewhat of a history in the Caribbean of sharing intelligence but the history is that we have done that insufficiently in the past. I think the World Cup, and the commonalities, which we now share, both with respect to opportunity and threat, have provided the context in which, across the Caribbean, we have now realised the importance of higher levels of more meaningful arrangements for the sharing of intelligence and information with respect to those common threats, with which we might be faced at this time from whatever the source, whether external to the region or internal and deriving from the region.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a framework within which the sharing of intelligence among Caribbean States is going to be taking place. Sir, beyond that, we have seen a heightened platform and enhanced context, in which there will be sharing of information from international and external sources with the Caribbean. This is important in this day with all the ease of travel; with the international criminal networks; with transnational crime; it is very important with the criminally bent looking for safe havens and safe harbour and jurisdiction where, perhaps, the law enforcement and security architecture are not as developed as it is in some international centres. It is good that this opportunity provides for us the occasion on which we are brought more so into the picture in terms of the intelligence, which is available to more developed centres, who have a long history, practice and culture in generating that intelligence and in acting upon that intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that this is important and as part of the intelligence sharing arrangements, the establishment of an international fusion centre to be staffed by officers representative of all the countries participating in the World Cup. These are not only the Caribbean countries, which are the principal staging centres but all of the international jurisdictions from which the sporting personalities will come and so whether you talk about Pakistan, India or South Africa or Australia, you are talking about a fusion centre of an international character, with officers representative of all of these countries into which information will come for processing, for scrutiny, for collating, and for dissemination so that from all points we can stay on top of the business of meaningful and, as far as possible, accurate intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, it is so important that our actions are based on proper intelligence. We do not need to be reminded of the recent horrendous incidences, where very heavy-handed actions may have been premised upon poor or inadequate intelligence. These actions resulted in the deaths of multiple thousands because the intelligence provided was misleading. Sir, to the extent that we have a meaningful framework in which intelligence is shared among ourselves and shared with us by our international

partners, that is the extent to which we go much further in terms of providing for that secure and safe environment, which we want to provide for the staging of the World Cup.

Mr. Speaker, there is in place as well a CARICOM Joint Regional Communications Centre, occupied and staffed by immigrants and customs officers from across the Caribbean and for receipt and processing of the information related to the Advanced Passenger Information System. It is one thing to have it mandated that airlines and carriers provide the information but it is another thing to be able to collect, collate and process the information in such meaningful ways so that the objectives, which we seek to realise are properly served. Sir, the is designed to help towards that.

Mr. Speaker, I have said earlier that the threat that comes by means of health hazard is a real threat and our security relates to that. Sir, part of the strategy to be implemented to ensure the safety and security of the environment around the World Cup involves the effecting of a number of health surveillance strategies. I would rather assume that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, the Honourable Minister of Health would later on speak to some of those health related issues because these things are very important.

Mr. Speaker, there are some countries that are exempted from the visa requirements...

H123/10:50

Sequence 5

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Rev. THE HON. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: ... Sir, as we said early, obviously, the CARICOM countries, associate States within the framework of the CARICOM membership, but beyond our regional borders, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Holland, United Kingdom, South Africa, Spain and the United States of America, THIS IS the range of countries which would be exempted from the requirement of the mandatory Special Visa, for entry into the Caribbean.

Sir, you could not talk of success, to the extent of which we are advised, with respect to the applications and responses to those applications, in terms of approval of almost 7 000, unless the sites established in the region and around the globe were in fact functional. There are Visa issuing sites set up in Australia, through the Trinidad and Tobago consular offices; in Canada, through the Jamaica consular representatives; in India, for the Asian region, through the Trinidad and Tobago consular offices; in New York and Miami, and in the United Kingdom, for the intended visitors, as well as the Middle East and persons

from the African region. There are other visa issuing sites, set up through consular Representatives, situation in Geneva, Germany, Belgium, China and Venezuela.

Sir, we are really talking about a strategy, points of which are to be found around the globe, but points of which seek to serve the interest of the small geographical part of the world that we call the Caribbean. Sir, perhaps, may I say principally so, this blessed place we call Barbados, which will become the centre for the staging of several of the staging of the more important games, and then ultimately, the final game itself. Sir, these activities are of tremendous significance.

Mr. Speaker, in a more general frame, I believe the Caribbean's ability to stage this event, and to stage it successfully, will speak volumes to its management capacity, skills, resources and competencies available through the human resource of the region. I believe that, dare I say, Barbados is of special note in this regard.

Sir, I am aware that in many respects and in several spheres of endeavour, in relation to the World Cup, Barbados is leading the effort both at the governmental and political level, as well as at the public service level.

Sir, whether we talk about Immigration skills and expertise, Customs skills and expertise, or other types of management expertise, both at the level of the public service, governmental or political level - including our Deputy Prime Minister, I am aware - hence, that mechanism which has been charged principally with the responsibility of ensuring matters of security. I am of the view that is to be noted. Sir, I am pointing, therefore, to the management capacity and skills, which exist in the Caribbean and which are significantly reposed in the bosom of this place we call Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, it speaks to the management capacity of this Government. Sir, World Cup is a tremendous undertaking. I do not know that there is any small State in the world that has been so privileged, as we are, to host the final of games of this type of magnitude. Therefore, to the extent that Government has responded thus far and has brought us to this point, is to the credit of this country and this Government. This is not an administration which is at all ambivalent about the hosting and staging of this World Cup. This Government has led from the front, with respect to this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I laud those people in the Local Organising Committee. Their efforts area credit again, as I intimated to what we are doing. This Government has led from the front and has been very clear on the course upon which we are embarked, the type of ambivalence, which seems to be associated with the position on the other side, is not to be found here.

Sir, we believe that this World Cup is a good thing for this country. We believe that this country can successfully host all aspects of this World Cup, that we called upon to host. We believe that this World Cup will redound to the long-lasting enduring benefits of the masses of this country, at all levels of this population and all sectors of this economy. We believe that we are in no way ambivalent about our position. Sir, when the annals of history are recorded and read, it will show that the Owen Arthur led administration, at this time, was firm in the view, that World Cup was an event which had to be hosted, Barbados had to participate and Barbados would do well in staging all aspects to be hosted by us here. Sir, without reserve, without ambivalence, the commitment to the project, programme and event, has been clear. I think history will also note that there was apparent ambivalence on the other side surrounding this issue, perhaps, in the interest of short-term political gain, I do not know, but we can go beyond that.

Sir, a lot of people have talked about the expenditure associated with World Cup. They have looked at the rebuilding of a facility at Kensington Oval. They have suggested that it should have been built in St. Philip, they called for it to be built in St. Lucy, they said that it should never have been done at Kensington Oval, that the circumference is too confining. Mr. Speaker, the truth is, and this is my view, the expenditure on World Cup provides for some significant investment, in the economy of Barbados and the well-being of our people.

Sir, the investment, to be derived from advertising associated with the World Cup, must be seriously noted and not scoffed at. Sir, the thirty-three Member States of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, plus the private sector, my research tells me, spend annually about US\$1.5 billion in tourism marketing and advertising. The thirty-three member countries of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation and the private sector spend every year, US\$1.5 billion in advertising and marketing, for the purpose of tourism development. Sir, that is a lot of dollars spent every year to generate the returns from tourism we have seen, in the thirty-three Caribbean Tourism Organisation States of this hemisphere. Mr. Speaker, that is a lot of money.

Sir, the advertising mileage that we will get out of this World Cup in one year, in one short period of two months, will take us way beyond US\$1.5 billion on an annual basis, by all of these States and private sector, will see return on our investment in advertising and marketing.

Sir, it is important that we see tourism development. It is important that we see the enhancement of the performance relative to the tourism sector. Again, my research tells me, that one in every four persons across this region is employed because of the tourism sector. The

tourism sector employs a quarter of our employed force across this Caribbean region, so, tourism then becomes important. Sir, I am made aware that we recognise four times more dependent on tourism as a region, than anywhere else in the world

H123: 11.00

Sequence 6

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

House 123, Sequence 07, 11.00 a.m.

Rev. the Hon. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: World Cup is important because of tourism. Sir, If for no other reason, we should see the money spent around the World Cup event as an investment, it is for the purpose for tourism. One in every four persons across the region is employed by the sector. Annually, US\$1.5 billion are spent on marketing and in two short months, we will be able to show the Caribbean to the world, on a stage, the likes of which we have never been able before to show ourselves. This is the context in which I see this as a significant investment.

Mr. Speaker, Germany, a developed country in Europe, recently hosted the World Cup of Football, a tremendously hosted sporting event, bigger than the World Cup of cricket, invested much of their hard earned revenue in staging a successful event. Survey results show that 43 per cent of those who went to Germany for the World Cup, were first time visitors to Germany, suggesting that were the World Cup not staged in Germany, they would not have gone there.

Sir, if we could get this type of visitor dynamic taking place around the World Cup in the Caribbean, we would have done well. Could you imagine almost 50 per cent of those who come for World Cup Cricket, coming to the Caribbean and to Barbados for the first time? Sir, that is tremendous advertising and it is tremendous pull associated with the event.

Sir, the places from which we hope to attract our visitorship, are cricketing nations, essentially. The United States of America is filled with multinationals from cricketing places of origin, whether Asia, Africa or the Caribbean. Sir, the UK, South Africa, Australia, Pakistan and India, all have multiple thousands who are almost fanatical cricket. The pull of this event is there.

I am simply trying to say that we can sit on the other side and simply say that we should not have built at Kensington, we should have done it in St. Lucy or we should have done it in St. Philip. We can make that the totality of our response, or we can be ambivalent about the event, but at the end of the day, experiences elsewhere

suggest that the result could have a rather healthy bottom line. If we could see that type of visitor dynamic taking place around the World Cup, Barbados would have done exceeding well.

Mr. Speaker, 90 per cent of those who visited Germany for the World Cup, went away recommending Germany as a place to be looked at by friends and relatives and other contacts, as a good tourism destination. In other words, their experience around the World Cup of football in Germany was such that 90 per cent, almost all of them, went home suggesting that Germany is a place to be recommended for a visit.

I would want to think that our ambition and aspiration could be such that 90 per cent and more of those who come to the Caribbean for the hosting of Cricket World Cup 2007, would walk away from this World Cup saying that the Caribbean is the place to be, the Caribbean is the place to go, and if you have not travelled to the Caribbean, you have not gone anywhere else. Sir, if 90 per cent and more of those who come to Barbados for those important games and for the finals, would go away from here saying that if you have not visited Barbados, you have not gone anywhere else, they would go away from here recommending Barbados.

Sir, we can advertise as much as we like using the technology, but nothing beats the testimony of personal experience, and nothing beats the testimony of word of mouth. When I could say that I went to Barbados and I lived it, the people are friendly, it is a healthy environment, it is a safe and secure place, the service is excellent and cricket is a fantastic game and the West Indies did very well in winning the World Cup, Sir, when we could have 90 per cent of more people walking away and saying that, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West would agree with me, we have done exceedingly well. Sir, that is what we aspire towards.

Sports Travel Magazine, Mr. Speaker, claims that the annual sports related tourism market is worth US\$118.3 billion. Sir, no one could be in his or her right mind, if he or she would suggest that the Caribbean and Barbados are not to seek to have its share of that cake. Do you know what is US\$118 billion a year? Therefore, this World Cup of Cricket, being a major sporting international event, has the potential to bring money into the Barbados economy, and to have the positive impact on all levels of our population both big and smaller alike, a tremendous and positive impact indeed, I say.

There are some legacy issues, Mr. Speaker, and the Local Organising Committee for World Cup Barbados has launched and promoted their legacy programme. We want to see the realisation of all the components and aspects of that proposed legacy initiative, whether we think Barbados,

green Barbados or grow Barbados. Whatever we do, we want to ensure the realisation of those components of that legacy, as expressed by the LOC in Barbados.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, there are other legacy issues that, I think, we must seriously consider and take note of. The security architecture in the Caribbean, in particular Barbados, resulting from our hosting the next World Cup will be such, that the region would be a different place all together.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, although we have made meaningful efforts in the past, constrained by resources, perhaps limited somewhat by experience, perhaps inhibited even by some of the challenges coming out of the obvious threats that are out there, the Caribbean has made a fairly innocent response, in terms of the establishment of a security architecture, within which it has responded.

Sir, we have been making some response, but what I am saying here is that this occasion because of the support, which we derived from each other in the framework we have established, and because of support from other external sources, perhaps we are going to see the creation of an architecture for security, that will serve our interest well, and long beyond World Cup. This would also help us to better respond to some other very present and immediate threats, which are totally unrelated to the World Cup event itself, and to any idea of terror.

We have to live with the phenomenon of the drug trade, and other transnational and international criminal activity. We have to protect our domestic space, both here in Barbados and regionally, in that sense. Therefore, in putting in place an architecture with certain features, which are common to all the region, is an important exercise, and will serve as part of the legacy, left in the wake of World Cup Caribbean 2007. The intelligence sharing relationships that we are now in the process of building, would serve as well for the future.

House 123, Sequence 07, 11:10:14

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is not unknown to us that persons travel this region from one country to another committing criminal offences. Mr. Speaker, because distance is so short a span, and because travel is or has been so easy in the past, one could commit a serious offence in Barbados at high noon and be on an aeroplane to elsewhere in the Caribbean by 12.30 p.m. or 1.00 p.m. and nobody is any the wiser.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the framework of intelligence sharing relationships which are being built around and derived from this World Cup event and

exercise would serve us in the future to respond to some of the issues which are part and parcel of the normal course of life when there is no event such as the Cricket World Cup taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the very frame within which we settle this business of hassle-free movement is more than simply an experiment and more than simply an exercise associated with the event of the Cricket World Cup. Mr. Speaker, it is an experience now that we are going to have when people see themselves as being part of one domestic space where they could travel without hassle. Mr. Speaker, it is an experience we are building and it is an experience which would serve us well for the future as we further entrench and establish the systems associated with a CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

Mr. Speaker, this is part of the legacy which would derive from the hosting of this event. A very important part of the legacy which would derive from the hosting of this event is the issue of urban enhancement. There are obviously some issues related to urban enhancement, which are now engaging the interest and attention of the Honourable Members on the other side.

Mr. Speaker, dare I say that before the day is o'er, I anticipate we would hear about that some more and there will be a huffing and a puffing in an attempt to blow somebody's house down. Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of building people up. The Government is bent on the business of improving the lot of people and building them up, not huffing and puffing with the intention of blowing anything down.

Mr. Speaker, urban enhancement is tremendously important. Mr. Speaker, Jubilee Gardens and Kensington Oval are wonderful sights. Mr. Speaker, the fact that this rebuilding has taken place down there in an area, which is heavily populated by the poorer sorts of our population, is a good thing. If we had built a new stadium off in some remote area of Barbados, I do not think that we would have served, as sufficiently as we would in this situation, where we are bringing benefits to the poor working class people in tremendous numbers, as would be the case with those residing in the urban centres of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Jubilee Gardens is now a wonderful sight to behold. It used to be filled with grease, oil, dusk and the odd rodent. It is now a very beautiful area. It is very aesthetically pleasing and it is very well-complemented by the enhancement to the St. Mary's Church. Mr. Speaker, we have to give the Rector, the Church Council and the congregation of that Church, credit for uplighting that Church to such an extent that it really fits in well and complements what the Government has been trying to do in that area. Mr. Speaker, Heroes Square is no longer just a drab place, traverse by many feet and

many wheels day after day without reference perhaps to anything sacred or solemn. Heroes Square has become a place which is almost a hallowed place because of what we now attach to its use and the recognition that we have chosen to pay to those who have established themselves as our National Heroes by the contribution which they have made to our development and are making to our development as a people.

Mr. Speaker, Heroes Square is much uplifted. A lift bridge has now replaced the Swing Bridge. Independence Square is the most recent addition to the refinement which is being brought to urban Barbados. Independence Square is a wonderful sight, it is a very welcoming place, and people are rushing now to get into Independence Square and to spend some time there for various purposes. Our honourable friends on the other side cannot wait until all the works are completed so that they also might rush to get there to perform and to pursue whatever interest they may have to serve. There are also the developments along the Wharf and the Careenage areas of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, Bridgetown is really a changed place. We have the top of the town, the centre of the town and Kensington Oval at the bottom of the town, which are all undergoing change. Mr. Speaker, we will see further refinement at Spring Garden, at places like Trevor's Way and along the Constitution River area right across to the back of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as we approach the Queen's Park area. These places are to be significantly upgraded not simply for the Cricket World Cup but they deserved to be upgraded, because they are very much part and parcel of life in the city and because multitudes of Barbadians every day traverse these areas about their everyday normal course of life and business.

Mr. Speaker, no one said that a city must be a drab, dreary and impersonal place, which is not aesthetically pleasing. The city can be lifted and the spirit of life can be made evident. I think this Government is achieving that purpose by what is in the city. Mr. Speaker, what would be unveiled at Kensington Oval in a few days from now would significantly enhance all of these improvements to urban Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, much credit must be given to the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, who over the years has sought to ensure that Bridgetown is improved and upgraded. Sir, when the records of history are written and read, future generations of Barbadians would recognise that the name of the Honourable Member for the City was synonymous with Bridgetown. Her contribution is not only to be measured in terms of what she did to advance the foreign affairs agenda of Barbados and what she did in terms of how she represented herself and this country in the various public international arenas but by what she did in

terms of transforming the City of Bridgetown. I believe that such credit should be accorded to her even now.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the upgrading in commercial Bridgetown and its environs, there is some upgrading to be done in some of the heavily populated residential areas around Bridgetown. That we are spending so much money to upgrade the cricket facility at Kensington is something to be pursued with unapologetic energy, and so we do. It is the policy of this Government that we just cannot fix up Kensington Oval and not address some issues in New Orleans, in Kensington New Road and hopefully, I pray, I plea, in Westbury Road.

Mr. Speaker, if poor people in Kensington New Road, in Westbury Road and the New Orleans, and if small businesses in Baxters Road and in other streets around Bridgetown are to become the beneficiaries of help from Government to improve their circumstances so that they too can cash in on the Cricket World Cup event, then I do not think that is a thing to be regretted and to be apologetic over.

House 123 Sequence 8

11.20 a.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, I challenge any Honourable Member in this House to say that public assistance should not be given to the small shopkeepers in Baxters Road, the Orleans, Westbury Road or Kensington New Road, or that at a time when Government could find it possible to facilitate a cricketing facility at Kensington, that poor people, who need some help with their housing, should not be helped at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that Government is giving public assistance to people in poor housing conditions in urban Barbados is not new, it predated the Cricket World Cup, 2007. In St. Michael West alone, since I have been representing there for over seven years, there have been 60 poor people, whose houses have been rebuilt by this Government. This is not some new programme associated with Cricket World Cup, 2007, and I challenge any Honourable Member on this side or on that side to say differently.

Mr. Speaker, since I have been in this Parliament for seven years, we have seen tenantry roads built at Yearwood Land, Bank Hall; at Nurse Land, Barbarees Hill and at Mayers Road, Richmond.

Asides.

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Sir, we have seen them all over this country, it is nothing new and I challenge anyone to get up in here or anywhere else and honestly say or suggests that poor people should not be helped by means of public assistance or public purse. Therefore, I challenge anyone to say that the poor shopkeeper on Baxters Road should not be allowed to make his precincts look a bit more presentable, so that the hundreds of visiting tourists for Cricket World Cup, 2007, who would be walking down Baxters Road every day, from Passage Road or from Kensington, after seeing the cricket, cannot stop and buy a drink, non-alcoholic, of course.

Asides.

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, I challenge anyone to say that a man, who is selling cheese cutters, ham cutters and bakes in his small shop, which are all Barbadian traditions, must not be allowed to make his business seem so attractive that a man, with many US dollars or pound sterling, would want to stop and spend some with him. Sir, maybe those who suggest that, would be pleased to suggest an alternative that rather than help the poor man in his small shop at Baxters Road, that we should help those in the big supermarkets and superstores, to enrich themselves further. Sir, I look forward to much improvement taking place in urban Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, there is a technological capacity which we are developing around the business of Immigration and Customs and border control in Barbados, that is seeing the issuing in of a culture around the management of Immigration and Customs services and border control in Barbados, such that we have not had before. We are not only enhancing the technological capacity, we are now doing screening of passports by technology. We are now issuing the kind of visas that we could not have done before. Therefore, the technological capacity is being enhanced but what I am pointing to, in terms of being a part of the legacy, is that there is a culture which is being evolved around the management of border control in Barbados, which is coming out of part of all of the initiatives, resulting from the strategy implemented around this time. Sir, that is so very important.

Mr. Speaker, we are building further our coastal protection capacity. Sir, I need not go into details about that but we have, all around us, vulnerability resulting from exposed coastlines all around Barbados. We have heard stories about the breaches of our coastal sovereignty because we do not have fully the capacity to address that on a 24/7 basis. We do not have the capacity to address it effectively, at all time.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a build-up of resources and capacity, to look after the business of coastal protection. This will help us in the immediate instance of

the World Cup, 2007. We will have several ships berthed in and around the precincts of the Bridgetown Harbour. We will have a lot of movement of smaller sea-going craft in and out of Barbados at this time, but beyond that, there is the existing threat of criminal activities by various means. Therefore, we have to be able to better protect our coastlines. This build-up we are seeing, in terms of resources and expertise, will help us to achieve the objective of ensuring that part of the legacy to be carried forward, is that we can better protect coastal Barbados, against the threats that are real; against people who mean ill, insofar as our institutions are concerned; against people who mean ill, insofar as our quality of life is concerned; and insofar as our human resources are concerned.

We are seeing training being given to our people, occasioned by the opportunity of this World Cup, 2007 and because of partner relationships, which we have been able to forge with international centres that have the expertise. Sir, we have people, at present, who are being trained to handle security with respect to VIPs, who actually face immediate threats on a day-to-day basis. We have people being trained so that their skills may be enhanced with respect to Immigration, Customs and matters of intelligence sharing. This will be part of the legacy coming out of this World Cup, 2007 experience, so that border control and policing can only benefit from this exercise.

Asides.

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know how there could be those who could be so short-sighted, that they cannot even see these benefits. Sir, perhaps these benefits cannot be so easily measured in terms of the financial benefit associated with it, but certainly in other not so obviously tangible ways, we will see movement of this country upward and forward. Sir, that is what it is about.

We believe the service culture of Barbados will be enhanced. The NISE initiative is a programme in progress and is working and achieving meaningful results. We spoke about that in this very Chamber not very long ago. Sir, we hope outside, even in the context of the NISE initiative, that there would be a culture of excellence of service that would become a part of the Barbadian reality, to the extent to which it has been in the past. We would all have to admit that we have been, from time to time, subject occasionally to instances where service was less than was desired by us. We want to bring a change to that.

11.30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

(EDITED)

Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: We want to bring a turn around in the way people see service; in the way people perform service and if it take the circumstance of the World Cup to be the stimulus and context in which we see a resurgence of that Barbadian excellence attaching to service to other, then that is part of the legacy we carry forward and money well spent.

Mr. Speaker, there is a sporting legacy to be derived from this exercise. The World Cup should not pass Barbados by and a cricket industry be not developed in the Caribbean, be not developed in Barbados.

Asides.

Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: Sir, hopefully we would see the resurgence of the interest of youngsters in the game of cricket, irrespective of the fact that we are exposed to all kinds of other sports, not traditionally popular to Barbadians or played by Barbadians but becoming more so, whether it be basketball, golf or what have you. Certainly, we believe that we would see a resurgence of the interest among young people in cricket. Mr. Speaker, there should be a cricket industry developed out of this World Cup somewhere in the Caribbean, or at home in Barbados. Certainly, the business of cricket needs to be better managed and hopefully, the experience of managing the World Cup can translate into better management of cricket itself in Barbados. Sir, the management of cricket in Barbados has been under stress for some time; the management of cricket in the West Indies has been under stress and driven by a spirit of folly for some time and, hopefully, we would see best practice with respect to management brought to bear on the issue of managing cricket in the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, marketing cricket in the Caribbean should become something which we are meaningfully concerned with because in the past, we have not marketed our cricket or cricketers. Sir, rather than market our cricketers, we have done our best to destroy some of them, when they had much to offer to cricket, which made them and made us. We need to market our cricket as other nations do and this World Cup provides an opportunity which, hopefully, would not simply be a one-off opportunity for the marketing of cricket in Barbados; the marketing of cricket in the Caribbean or the marketing of cricket in the West Indies.

Mr. Speaker, part of the legacy would be institutional strengthening whether you talk about health services or emergency services. I have already spoken about Immigration and Customs and others will speak to that but health services and emergency response services, we expect that as a response of this, there would be given

impetus to the institutional strengthening when it comes to these types of entities.

Mr. Speaker, there will be exposure of our cultural products to the world and to a market, which is immediately present and which has the wherewithal to buy. Sir, hopefully, there would be those who would see the capacity of our people to create in various way, whether you talk about craft or fashion products or whatever cultural products, there will be those who visit our shores, who would be able to interact with our icons of culture, with our craft people, with our fashion people and will see exposed to them, the types of products, which grab their interest.

Mr. Speaker, it is not farfetched that some of them could be in a place to help some of our people to move to the next level in terms of what they do with their products, simply pointing to the fact that you could see a dimension of the export thinking, so to speak, being added to the mind set of those, who now do their craft; who now do their fashion and other cultural products for local consumption and perhaps, with some faint hope that there might be some regional consumption as well. Mr. Speaker, I think these things are important.

Mr. Speaker, we are staging a world-class event, we are building a world-class centre. The unfinished Kensington Oval right now, has the appearance of a world-class centre and I cannot wait until it is fully finished. Sir, I can see it with both eyes, from close up and from inside the facility, which has been provided by the public purse of this country, for future generations of this country and it would become a facility not only to host the World Cup but it could become a facility in the future, where other world-class events are held. Sir, there are all kinds of world-class events for which people need capacity of the sort that we would now have at Kensington Oval and hopefully, we could attract some or a lot of them.

Mr. Speaker, I have some questions and one of them would be what is the plan of the region? What is the plan that the region now has, given the successful staging of the World Cup, to ensure that the successes of this World Cup and the virtues of this region are promoted beyond the World Cup to the wider world? I say that because the eyes of the international Press would be very present and the tendency of the international media, when present, in developing countries is to look for the negatives. They would look at your health care systems; they would look at your service quality; they would look at your other systems and institutions and they would pinpoint the inevitable bad experience as being the normal, as being the general way of life and they would point to that and so, a drain not covered, as is the tradition in Barbados, becomes to the international media an exposed sewage system. Sir, that is the way it is given to the world. We can encourage and

facilitate the international Press in spreading the good news about the World Cup experience but they will need no help from us in spreading the bad news, the negatives of the experience in relation to their visit to the Caribbean and to Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that to suggest that beyond the World Cup that this region needs to ensure, there is in place a mechanism for selling the successes of World Cup, 2007, and the virtues of the Caribbean to the rest of the world, to ensure that the receipts derived from staging this World Cup event are not only derived as a result of those who come, go away and by word of mouth, say they had a good time but by some deliberate action and strategy our part. Sir, a wider platform for advertising mileage should be built in the international public arena.

Mr. Speaker, this is a Caribbean event, which we believe would be staged to international standards. Certainly, in Barbados, we are looking to stage that to international standards and we must, because that is how we derive best benefit and how we testify to the world that we are capable people.

Sir, for Barbadians, I daresay that in a very special sense, this has not to be a 'Caribbeanise' event but a 'Barbadianise' event, to the extent that we host aspect of it here in Barbados. I am trying to suggest that we must bring a special flavour, that special touch, that special nuance, which is Barbadian to this event. Yes, we are doing it as a region but Barbados also is taking centre stage at critical aspects of this event. Therefore, we must bring that special Barbadian touch, that special Barbadian characteristic, that special Barbadian note to this event. The world hereafter must know that there is a place called Barbados and what it stands for and what Barbadians represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have the capacity to do that and this Government has the resolve to make that happen. We are in no way ambivalent about that. We are sustained in that purpose to make that happen so that Barbados takes its pride of place in the world.

Mr. Speaker, we have, as a people, to appreciate the implications of not doing this well but we also have to appreciate the implications of doing it well. I believe this Government is seized of that understanding, that there is significant weight to be attached to Barbados doing this and doing it well in every respect and, we are committed to that cause.

H123/11:40

Sequence 10

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Rev.the Hon J.J.S. ATHERLEY: Sir, I say again, I do not think that any nation this size, in any point and time, during the history of this world, has had the privilege of staging an event of this magnitude and in these circumstances, Barbados, I believe, therefore, has a tremendous opportunity to take its pride and place on the world stage, to make its name in this way, in the world.

Mr. Speaker, April 28, 2007, the date of which the final is set, is National Heroes Day. I would like to encourage Barbadians to believe, think and to understand that on April 28, 2007, all Barbadians can be heroes, because we did this and because we did this well. This Government is resolved in terms of its purpose to make sure that we do this well, that all Barbadians on April 28, 2007, can be heroes in this World Cup, at home.

I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, we have been treated this morning to a very long, laboured presentation. If I accuse the Honourable Member of empty platitudes, he gets annoyed. I do not believe he is dishonest, but I wonder if he really believes the things he says in the debates in this Chamber, because there is a wide gap, a chasm, between what the Honourable Member says and what is the reality, both in relation to Government's performance or non-performance, and the reality that ordinary Barbadians face. That is why I have difficulty in believing that an Honourable Member so specially endowed, would come to this Chamber and say things that he does not honestly believe himself.

Sir, these elliptical presentations or presentations characterised by ellipse, in which sentences are never completed, new phrases are thrown about in the course of a speech, as if by saying it, you are waving a magic wand and that the people Barbados are so dumbfounded by the language, so empty of reasoning, that they cannot see through the smokescreen the emptiness of the rhetoric and the complete indifference of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, to the reality of ordinary Barbadians.

Sir, the only time in this presentation that I found him clear, was when he was quoting the fairytale story of The Three Pigs and the wolf huffing, puffing and blowing people's houses down.

Sir, this Government has a very forked tongue in relation to the concept of Opposition support. They want to be able to tell the public that the Opposition does not support World Cup. Sir, when we say we support it, they then switch the argument and tell us how we must support it. If we are not echoing the same empty rhetoric and

platitudes of Ministers on that side, then it means that we are not really supporting World Cup, so, we must say what they say, even though we know it is not true, even though we know it is not the reality, and unless we say what the Government is saying, then we do not support World Cup. That is not how we are going to operate in relation to this matter.

Sir, I believe we have given broad support to the concept of the Caribbean hosting the World Cup in 2007, but there have been concerns in relation to the World Cup. We do not speak only for ourselves in that regard. We hope for the success of World Cup. We hope it would help the region to get together. We hope not for the empty platitudes, but sifting through the empty platitudes some of the important things that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West said. Sir, you have to do so much knocking down and cutting down of bush and chaff to get to the substance of what he said, that sometimes one wonders what the Government really hopes to achieve from the World Cup exercise.

Sir, we believe that safety and security are paramount, and have also felt so. There is a uniqueness in the way that the World Cup in the Caribbean is going to be executed, and it brings into focus issues which may not have been relevant in relation to other places which have executed it before, and we understand that. Therefore, we will support attempts, and certainly there is nothing controversial in the substance of this Bill, because we did not oppose the substantive Bill, and this, perhaps, even reduces the impact of the substantive Bill.

Sir, the Honourable Minister wants a debate on World Cup, so he would have, I cannot say bore you to tears, because I do not think you are that kind of presiding officer, but he would have stretched your human capacity to the limit, because there is no subject he has left untouched in his presentation today. Sir, today the World Cup, including National Heroes Celebrations, Independence Celebrations, the ecosystem around Barbados, the gullies, the hills, the soldier, the sailor and the candlestick maker, have all been touched in his presentation.

Asides.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Sir, the only reason he did not get there is, I believe, the benches were getting emptier and emptier the longer he spoke, and have only now refilled when the Opposition is replying, if not he would have reached the St. John Polyclinic, Greenland, GEMS, the UDC, RDC, Ministry of Social Transformation, the primary schools in Barbados and the inability of the National Housing Corporation to build houses. We would have had a full national debate that would have superseded the Annual Budgetary Presentation.

Sir, the point I want to make is, the Opposition has made its position in relation to World Cup abundantly clear, but if the Government plays politics in relation to World Cup or uses the World Cup as a guise for carrying out some kind of electoral programme, then we will oppose it. If the Government takes a Barbados Labour Party Candidate and pays him \$10 000 a month, plus perks, to carry out a programme of rehabilitation in the City, where he is supposed to be running as a candidate, and then talk about empowerment. Who have been empowered? Did you pay anybody else in the city \$10 000 a month? Can any of those vendors...

Asides.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: You would worry about Clico, and you know why. You should ask the man who gave you that, if he paid the money that he owes Clico or if they are going to put him in court shortly.

Sir, I am not going into that because there are people in here who are like lizards. They can change their colour according to the surface they are walking on.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. Let us do it orderly, please.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Sir, who would believe that this country was put into turmoil just a few years ago, when a certain politician backed an attempt at urban renewal and the building of shop stalls at Ferniehurst, and the Government took bulldozers and 'licked' them down.

Asides.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, we would have had all of that, an attempt by communities to uplift themselves, stalled and destroyed by the Barbados Labour Party.

11.50 a.m.

Sequence 11

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

House 123, Sequence 12, 11.50 p.m.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: We would have had all of that, an attempt by communities to uplift themselves, stalled and destroyed by the Barbados Labour Party.

Sir, now we can have a situation, where there are Honourable Members on that side who represent urban constituencies, and who have been elected by the people in that urban constituencies, some who even have ministries, who cannot get houses repaired in their constituencies, who

cannot get land conveyed to the residents in their constituencies, who are earning less than the person who has been paid, and is being paid by the Government to undertake this urban rehabilitation work in Kensington.

Sir, every now and again they come in here, they talk about the inadequacy of the NHC and the challenges of their constituents, yet, just because an election is on the horizon, Cricket World Cup can be used as a smokescreen for electoral campaign, which is being carried out by this Government at a high price to the taxpayers of this country. Sir, if it is true, it is unethical. If it is true, it lacks integrity.

Sir, there are Members on that side who knew nothing about it. I received a telephone call, Sir, I would not say from whom, totally shocked, dismayed...

Asides.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: You want to know from who, so you can victimise the person. I am not going to do that today, Sir, because I believe in the genuineness and sincerity of most of the Honourable Members on that side. Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Sir, if that is the way Cricket World Cup 2007 is going to be used, then we are going to draw the line in the sand. The Government will not get the support of the Opposition, on initiatives of that sort and may very well find that the entire exercise will receive the total condemnation and this country would be divided at the end of the day.

Sir, you will not tell us how to support Cricket World Cup 2007. If there are people who want to support illegality, and unethical practices, that is their business. There is no other country in the Caribbean undertaking World Cup, in which practices of this sort are being undertaken. Sir, we will denounce them completely.

I have noticed a certain emptiness in all of the presentations of the Government, in relation to the question of the World Cup. They cannot tell us what is the state of the bookings in the hotel sector, the reservations for rooms and so on. They cannot tell us if there were bookings made that have been cancelled, but there are people in the tourism sector, in the travel sector, both inside and outside of Barbados, who had been raising concerns, in relation both to the bookings and the cancellations that had been taking place for Cricket World Cup 2007, and it is not all that it was cut out to be.

Sir, this is one of the important concerns that the Member for St. Philip West raised, when he was pilloried and attacked in here for raising legitimate questions, that in every country in the world, where major sporting events are

taking place, people are asking questions. Sir, people are asking about the Olympic bid in London.

Sir, to this day an entire Government fell in Quebec, as a result of the Montreal Olympics in 1976 because of expenditure, in relation to the stadium. There have been scandals in relation to Vancouver, the Los Angeles Olympics, the Atlanta Olympics and they have even, in recent time, been issues arising out of the last series, due to the financial problems facing the so-called, "Barmy Army". Sir, these are important questions but the Minister was silent on them, because what we are to do is to dream about how great World Cup would be. It has nothing to do with reality.

In 1981, Barbadians dreamed about CARIFESTA. CARIFESTA was brought here and at the end of the day, the economy went into the hands of the IMF, a few months later, as a result of reckless spending by the then Barbados Labour Party administration, in relation to CARIFESTA. Sir, some items could not be found, money was overspent, all kinds of challenges and infelicities arose and now, the files cannot be found.

We are having that experience now in the year 2007. Sir, I understand what it is like and can see when you are dealing with a forked tongue. There are people previously on this side, who said they want oversight of the Cricket World Cup finances. I did not know the extent to which they wanted it, and they now have the oversight of the Cricket World Cup finances.

Sir, on this side, there has been no involvement, no reporting to Parliament, no consultation in relation to the Opposition on questions of expenditure, planning and developments, in relation to the World Cup from the point of view of Government.

I say that because there may have been other entities in the process, that would have involved us in the discussion but at the end of the day, the taxpayers of Barbados would have to foot a substantial bill, and we have a right to know what the significance of that bill will be, Sir.

The Government said that they would be bringing a cruise ship to Barbados to supplement the need for rooms. We want to know if that has been fully booked, if it half booked and if there any spaces available. Sir, is that a wise and sensible decision? How much of the expenditure, from those who are going to be on that cruise ship, will accrue to the economy of Barbados? What about the ticket sales? Sir, the Government needs to respond to these questions.

We do not need to hear about National Heroes and, as I said, about the hills and gullies of Barbados. The Minister needs to give us hard and concrete evidence that

the Government has goals and objectives, and they are being met. Is the money that is to be earned in relation to World Cup, commensurate with the expenditure that is going to be involved?

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, in a very empty way, suggested that this is Barbados' time on stage, and we should be happy that people are coming to experience our country. Barbados did not have tourism from last week. This country was one of the first countries in the world to be involved in the hospitality industry. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South is always saying so. Sir, hundreds of thousands of people pass through this country on a yearly basis, and more pass through when you add it over time. We had cricket tours here before, which have pumped millions of dollars into the economy of this country.

Therefore, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, to my mind, certainly has not given us the kind of information that would help us on this side, as well as the members of the public, to have total confidence in what has been happening, in relation to Cricket World Cup. Sir, I have heard some of the same people who were touring with the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, grumbling and complaining that nothing was being done for the small man, in relation to Cricket World Cup.

House 123, Sequence 12, 12:00:14

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, all that has not been done in 12 years to effect urban renewal in Barbados is going to be done in three months, so the people in Headley's Land would have no more flooding after the Cricket World Cup.

Sir, there is an element of fairytale in the mind of the Honourable Member for St. Michael West, but I am not going to go into that. Sir, all of the problems that afflict those urban constituencies will be solved because of the Cricket World Cup. That is the message which the Government is sending.

Sir, there is another element of this whole process that is vital. Sir, because of the size of the undertakings of the Cricket World Cup, the Government needs to tell this House what kinds of prudential controls are being put in place in relation to the expenditure that Government is undertaking on this very important project.

Government needs to tell this House what is the cost so far, what is the global breakdown and the breakdown in relation to the capital expenditure and related projects associated with the Cricket World Cup. Government needs to tell this House what are the oversight mechanisms that

the Government has put in place to ensure that we would not have another CARIFESTA, that we would not have another financial fiasco and that the objectives of the programme, unlike EduTech, would be met at the end of the day.

Sir, we have had this from the Government before. We heard that EduTech was the largest ever public sector investment programme in Barbados. Sir, having committed all of those resources, where is EduTech in the year 2007 and what is the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports doing to ensure that the programme gets back on track?

Mr. Speaker, people cannot live on bread and circuses. The Cricket World Cup is not only about bread and circuses, it is about the well-being and the life of ordinary Barbadians. At the end of the day, Sir, there are other people, beyond the surroundings of Kensington, the people in Christ Church West Central, the people in Silver Sand in the constituency of Christ Church East, and the people in St. George North who have a daily existence in Barbados. I went to a funeral in the constituency of St. George North the other day and I saw the condition of an old lady's house, for which she said 12 years of request for assistance had been ignored by the Government. There are people who have been making similar claims for assistance for 12 years or more who it appears are going to be untouched by Cricket World Cup.

Sir, in St. Michael Central, there are people for whom I know the Parliamentary Representative has been making requests for assistance that have not been met and they are not going to be touched in any way by the Cricket World Cup.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not tell you that.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, Sir, you did not tell me, but you know that I know.

Mr. Speaker, rather than to let the current Member of Parliament go out in a blaze of glory... They will not be touched by this urban programme of which the housing Czar is being paid over \$10 000 a month, because he will not be visiting those areas to replace any homes. He is not going to be visiting the constituencies of St. John, St. Michael North East, St. Joseph, St. Michael East, St. Thomas or St. James North. Sir, we know what that is all about, but the people of Barbados are not foolish and will not be fooled because at least we still have a democracy in this country where infelicities of that type can be brought to public attention.

Sir, if the Government wishes us to draw the line in the sand, they can continue on their merry way, indifferent to the standards of integrity that are desirable in this

country and indifferent to ethical practices in relation to Government, but there will not enjoy the support of the Opposition if they are going to use an expenditure of money during the Cricket World Cup as a means of currying political favour, rather than doing something for the poor in this country. Sir, that is what the challenge is about.

Mr. Speaker, anybody would think that urban enhancement in Barbados only relates to the restoration of a car park previously called "Scruffy" or Jubilee Gardens. There are people living in all parts of urban Barbados whose conditions of life are totally unsatisfactory and who have not been touched in any way and will not be touched by this urban enhancement project, but you could read foolishness in the newspaper that some of the people who have been helped are supporters of the Democratic Labour Party. The people whom I assume we are to help are taxpayers of Barbados regardless of the political party they support.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Sir, we would support any attempts at an orderly and transparent programme. Sir, It was not I who summoned some of the directors of the Urban Development Commission to answer questions about infelicities in expenditure in urban Barbados. I was not the one accused of pillorying him and seeking to crucify him. Sir, all of a sudden that has been forgotten.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: But you are not washed in the blood of the lamb, that is the problem with you.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Empty platitudes, empty rhetoric and a smokescreen once again. Carry them down Spring Garden and put them in the water and say that you are ministering to your flock.

Sir, we know them when we see them and from whence they come, and we are not going to back-off in relation to that. There is no epithet that any one of the Honourable Members on that side who sits and condones those practices can put in front of their names that would stop the Honourable Members on this side from criticising them if they are wrong. Sir, you do not sanctify yourself by using special titles, it is not going to work in here because we are in here to represent the people of Barbados and nothing but the highest standards of probity in relation to public expenditure are necessary. Sir, those who previously complained about the \$11 000 being used to cut down a tree in urban Barbados are now mum, mute, and almost drown at the sea in Spring Garden when being baptized.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not talking about the Honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: There is silence in relation to all of those infelicities and more are being piled on top of that, and the silence continues. Sir, there is a reason for that. The reason for it is the fear of Honourable Members on that side. If they were not fearful, they would not have to find ways of establishing slush funds to keep themselves in office.

The late Right Excellent Errol Barrow once said in Independence Square that it is an unfortunate thing when a Government tries to bribe people with their own money, and that the people of Barbados should understand that if you fool me once shame on you, but if you fool me twice, shame on me. That is exactly what is being plotted and planned by the Honourable Members on that side in relation to this particular matter.

House 123 Sequence 13

12.10 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, there are no special qualifications that the person, who has been appointed to this task, brings to the job. He is not a builder but, Sir, that has never been necessary because as an Honourable Member on that side has pointed out to us, there were contractors for the Urban Development Commission, who did not know the difference between a hammer and a screwdriver.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I do not come in here, promoting the objectives of friends and, therefore, I am not going to allow for a situation to develop in Barbados where undiluted nepotism is allowed to overtake the financial affairs of this country. I am not going to stand idly by and accept that. Therefore, the Government needs, as I say, to stand on notice that a line has been drawn in the sand. Sir, I also hope that all the citizens of Barbados, who have been making legitimate claims for public assistance, in relation to welfare, housing, streetlights, putting up light poles.... In fact, in relation to the whole gamut of services, which the Government says form part of its welfare programme, would be similar beneficiaries, under a transparent programme, which the World Cup, 2007, should - by the standards which the Government came here as asked our support for - bring to

the people in this country. Sir, not just the people in any one area.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate the point that if the Government wishes us to draw the line in the sand, we can do so in this debate. Government must not expect that we are going to be moved by all of the platitudinous phrases about this is a national effort; about how Government and Opposition Party need to work together; and about it is irresponsible of the Opposition Party not to support. We are not going to support any activity that is illegal, unethical, wrong, and not in the best interest of Barbadians. Therefore, Government is not going to pull any smokescreens over our eyes that we must support World Cup,2007, simply because it is a national event.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have explained very clearly what are our concerns. I hope, during the course of this debate, that the Government would make information available to this Honourable Chamber, in relation to the financial expenditure to World Cup,2007; in relation to whether it is meeting its objectives in terms of bookings and reservations in the tourism sector; in relation to whether the capital program for the World Cup,2007, is on stream; in relation to the nature of the ancillary activities being undertaken in relation to the World Cup,2007 and how they are being managed; in relation to the financial and prudential controls that are supposed to be put in place, to manage a project of this sort and to ensure its timely and effective implementation. Mr. Speaker, we as an Opposition Party give our support and give our support in relation to some of the initial legislation that came here, to facilitate the information that would be necessary, in relation to the Customs (Amendment) Bill and the Immigration (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. Speaker, if this debate was only characterised by that, we would give our support to the legislation, but that does not mean that we are going to give our support blindly, and fettered.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for St. Andrew wants to get up and speak, after four years, these are new microphones and they work very well. I know the Honourable Member has not used his as yet, but they do work.

Asides.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew does not need to heckle me, I will give way. The Honourable Member is older than me, he was my first attorney and, therefore, I respect him. I will take my seat, if I have to, if the Honourable Member wants to speak. I am not finished yet

but I am quite willing to give way. It would be a pleasure to hear, since I have not heard him for a long time, from the Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, we are not going to blindly support it. There are no platitudes pretty enough or dress up enough, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would be able to pull wool over our eyes. There has been no scenarios in his presentation, which have been announced today, which would give anymore comfort to the people in the tourism sector in Barbados, who would be expecting a substantial windfall from the Cricket World Cup,2007, but who have no information coming from the Government, in relation to what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, it will give no comfort to those persons, vendors or otherwise, who, despite all the talk from the Minister and his friends or colleagues, who will not be included or the persons who are offering public transportation services, for instance, taxi drivers, who may not be included, or persons who may provide other related services for Cricket World Cup,2007, who will not be included and who have been left by the wayside. Sir, there are still many of them, who are dissatisfied and for whom no tangible comfort would have been given by the Minister, in today's debate.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all taxpayers in this country expect that the Government will abide by the Financial Rules, and that the Government of Barbados will be as transparent and open as possible. Sir, regrettably, that has not been the case. There have been developments, in relation to Cricket World Cup,2007, which have introduced some of the most odious breaches, to my mind, in relation to the practices to which we have been accustomed and in relation to good governance in Barbados. Therefore, it devolves on a responsible Opposition Party, where those matters arise, to raise those concerns on the behalf of the people of this country and to put a stop, in the early, to practices which, as I say, are unethical and wrong. These are practices which are not meeting the highest standard of integrity, and in which conflict of interest situations arise, and which are not supportable by standards of financial prudence, by the Financial Rules, or by the way Government has operated.

Sir, it is very important that these matters be brought to the attention of the public, not in anyway to pull down the Cricket World Cup,2007, not in anyway to pull back support where it should be given, but to draw the attention of the public to the way in which public funds, hard-earned taxpayers' money in this country, is being diverted to political campaigns. There is also the need for us to restore some integrity, so that, at the end of the day, we do not get an Auditor-General's report in which all kinds of infelicities are highlighted. H:No.123(14)12.20 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

(EDITED)

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: We have had it in relation to the St. Peter flood relief effort in the 1980s; we have had it in relation to CARIFESTA and we have had it in relation to other areas of public expenditure in the Urban Development Commission and in the Rural Development Commission. We have it in relation to the number of Government members who are receiving consultancy contracts and candidates for the Barbados Labour Party, who are on the payroll of Government Ministries for providing consultancy services and who are able, by their decisions, to access resources of Government without being accountable to the Parliament of this country.

Mr. Speaker, do you think there is any serious democracy in the world where a candidate for a political party could be employed as a consultant to the Government, whether to the Drug Service or to the Ministry of Social Transformation.

Asides.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: I am not talking about Honourable Members of Parliament yet. I am talking about candidates, who are not necessarily qualified for the task, which they are employed to do and if we are reaching that sorry stage in relation to the financial affairs of Barbados, it will open a door that we will never be able to close and something needs to be done about it now.

Mr. Speaker, if at the end of the day, the Government of Barbados can ignore the wishes of sitting Members of Parliament, both Government and Opposition in relation to the pleas of their constituents and can then vest powers in one individual and pay him a \$10 000 salary a month on top of that, to make decisions in relation to the allocation of resources to citizens of this country, without reference to the usual procedures, which are put in place; without reference to those, who have been on the waiting list sometimes for ten, eight and five years; without reference to any criteria brought to the attention of this Parliament at any time; without reference to any accounting brought to the Parliament of this country at any time, then Sir, we are paving the way for some very dangerous practices that all of us would come to regret, at the end of the day, in this Parliament. Sir, I am not going to sit idly by and allow that to happen. If the Government opens a can of worms in this regard, it will find itself having to catch those worms and put them back in the can but the Opposition is not going to assist them in that regard. We have our concerns and we will continue to agitate on behalf of the people of Barbados.

Thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Mr. Speaker, I join this debate because it does seem to me that an issue that really needs to look at the whole question of Government procurement has now been dragged across the political trail. There is no doubt of the merit of World Cup to Barbados. In fact, as Leader of the Opposition of this country, I issued a statement that supported the Government's position with respect to World Cup. I felt honestly that the hosting of World Cup would have done wonders for Barbados and at this stage, I have no regrets. Sir, more important, in that said statement, I said that there is need for the communities surrounding Kensington Oval to benefit from the development of Kensington Oval and that small people ought to be able to get any benefit from the hosting of World Cup, 2007. Sir, I well recall that I issued a statement and made that comment deliberately.

Mr. Speaker, I am now concerned that an attempt to allow communities around Kensington Oval to participate fully in the World Cup is being questioned, not on the basis of the integrity of the financial system but because it is believed that an individual should not be coordinating an effort in his constituency, from which the boys on 'the block' and people within the community would benefit.

Mr. Speaker, what is most surprising about this is that the Honourable Member in his statement yesterday said that if the individual is removed from that position, then all it well, it would be okay. Therefore, it means that the process is not wrong, that it is a question of who is coordinating the efforts but, Sir, the process is not wrong. Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, the Public Accounts Committee can only deal with the process, not the individual. What is wrong, Sir? Is not a politician, the supreme development agent in his constituency? Is not the politician the one expected to organise events in his constituency? Is it not the politician who holds Christmas parties, who holds events such as footballs, who gives out hampers, who is able to organise in such a way that constituents may get access to some social provision by Government? Is it not a politician who is responsible for looking for jobs of his constituents? Is it not a politician who is expected to be there every time there is a need within the constituency? Is it not, therefore, the politician to whom the people look in order to deliver?

Mr. Speaker, why then would an Opposition accepts and understands the need to spend millions of dollars on World Cup, on Kensington Oval itself, on developing the highway, on the environment, on the health sector, on security and not be able to deliver a mere couple of thousand dollars to constituents around Kensington Oval. Sir, I do not understand that. Why are you not protesting about the expenditure in relation to health? Why are you

not protesting about the expenditure in relation to security? Why are you not contesting the expenditure in relation to Kensington Oval? But, why should it bother you that a few young men and women in a constituency would benefit from such an initiative from the Government? In fact, it speaks really to the question of Government procurement.

Mr. Speaker, let me explain what I mean. We have heard that small people ought to be able to get access to any project that Government is engaging in. Sir, a small person would not get access to a big event or a big project because he does not have the resources, so small people, if Government procurement is to work effectively must have access to small projects. They, therefore, can be no disputing that what is occurring in the City is, in fact, exemplary on the part of Government because Government is not breaking any financial rule. Government is simply saying, let me now begin to empower the masses around me, let me find a way to give small people an opportunity to participate in the economic and financial wealth of this country.

Asides.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Sir, it is affirmative action. In fact, it is extremely positive. I would think that you would not want to collide politically with such an event. The judgement of the Opposition disturbs me, to believe that it could now come and speak against such an initiative. I have that view because it could only redound to the benefit of the person who is seeking to become the representative of the City. I wonder if there is not a deliberate attempt here on the part of that Party to exclude the individual who had been there in the previous election.

H123/12:30

Sequence 15

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Sir, I cannot understand why you would wish to go against it.

Sir, let me explain this. No financial rule is being broken. It was determined, because we had a walk in the constituency of the City, and it was determined that the best way to empower the young men and women in the City constituency is, in fact, to give them a chance to help beautify the environs. Therefore, it was suggested that we should divide this large project, into several small projects to give those individuals access. In the absence of doing so, they could not have access. Sir, you want to paint and to make the houses in the vicinity to look better, and upgrade any palings in the area. You want to make the environment look better, therefore, there is debushing. You want to ensure that the overall health of the area surrounding

Kensington Oval is in a much better condition. Sir, how could you speak against such an initiative, on the part of Government, when it does not break any of the financial rules?

Mr. Speaker, if you were given an opportunity in another constituency to have such a programme, would it not be appropriate to identify the individual, who is perceived to be the prime mover and shaper in the constituency, and give him that opportunity to have access to such resources, such that he could deliver social goods to his people?

In fact, they are community practitioners in this Assembly. Sir, my good friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East is known to be a community practitioner. Whatever happens in the Pinelands area he was at the forefront, when there was the development of the initiative in the Pinelands area, relating to the Pine Community Workshop, he was at the forefront. Mr. Speaker, there is a community practitioner from St. Michael East, he is at the forefront of the Israel Lovell Foundation. Are you suggesting that a politician ought not to get involved in any such initiative within his constituency? Then why are we in politics? Why are we participating in the process of uplifting people and there is an opportunity to coordinate, not, to give money but to coordinate, which is the greatest weakness of small businesses in this country, the ability to manage a process, the ability to execute a process, because they have the talent but do not have that managerial skill in order to be able to deliver. Sir, I have recently experienced it.

Mr. Speaker, I was told, last year, that it was impossible to bring carpenters together in this country to build hardwood houses, it could not happen, that is what I was told. Sir, as I speak to you now, hardwood houses are being built at Six Roads, St. Philip, less than three months later, because you give small individuals, who do not have the managerial capacity and financial resources, the opportunity to be established in business. Sir, the same thing is happening here.

Mr. Speaker, you do not come and criticise, because it appears as though it is a good political move and may not redound to the benefit of your candidate. Look at the wider concept of economic enfranchisement, look at the wider concept of Government procurement, look at the wider concept of giving smaller people a chance to participate in the economic resources of this country. Do not confined to simple narrow political concerns.

Mr. Speaker, by the way, they are Honourable Members on the other side who, in one day, would have given property transfer tax relief to thirteen companies, and not companies engaging only in agriculture, but a company that was buying property for development was relieved of

property transfer tax, to the tune of millions of dollars. Sir, millions of dollars were relieved of a company, and I have the information before me. It is written to the General Manager of Cllico Life Insurance Company.

Sir, how is it that you can have a principle of relieving property transfer tax on thirteen properties in one day, April 13, 1994, but you do not understand the need to give small people in this country to engage, and you talk about economic enfranchisement.

Asides.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: The Minister of Finance, 1994. Give it back to me. Mr. Speaker, the truth is, I want to speak about myself.

Mr. D.J.H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. I am very happy about that intervention by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, but I am a little surprise at the glee at which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is encouraging him, because the person who made the application on behalf of the company was the late Sir Harold St. John, who was at that point acting for the company and who drew to my attention that there was a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Barbados and the Government of Trinidad that facilitated the establishment of Mutual in Trinidad and gave them tax concessions, and similar concessions in relation to insurance assets were to be applied in Barbados.

I am a little surprised at the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, but I am not all surprised at the empty fulminations of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West. Sir, that document had been made a document of the House on four or five occasions, and not relevant to this debate.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Mr. Speaker, it has to do with principle. It is simply this. How do you justify speaking against an opportunity for young men to engage in economic enfranchisement, yet you can understand why you can relieve a company of millions of dollars of property transfer tax, but would try to speak ill of a group of young men and women in the City being involved in such a process.

Sir, let me say, and I say it proudly, that I am the one who suggested the initiative. I do not mean to boast in this case. I am saying that, in fact, during the summer of last year, in the constituency of St. Michael North West, a group of young men, in the Bridge Gap area, painted an entire school, Eagle Hall Primary School, for a quarter of what it would have cost the Ministry of Education. The men who worked on that project were, in fact, paid much more than if they had worked with a contractor. It is not a question of exploitation, they were paid much more than if

they had worked for a contractor, because they were paid much more than the actual going rate per day for painting.

Sir, the issue is, there are inefficiencies in this economy which are allowed to be retained, such that people can exploit workers, and not necessarily give workers what they are due. Therefore, when people parade as contractors, who really do nothing, most of them parade as contractors, and then refuse to pass on the benefits to the poor worker, I have to be concerned as an average ordinary Barbadian boy. I have to be concerned.

Sir, I know contractors are able to quote individuals retail prices for houses retail prices, but get a 20 per cent discount on the materials and keep the 20 per cent discount in their pocket. That is why it is easy, four years later, to deliver a purple heart house at 20 per cent less cost, because of the need to look at efficiencies, because of the need to get ordinary Barbadians involved and go the route of non traditional artisans. We need to empower black people. We need to empower small people. We need to go on the 'block' and make those men and women believe that they have a chance in this economy. That is all that is happening here.

12.40 p.m.

Sequence 16

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

House 123, Sequence 17, 12.40 p.m.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: I have grave difficulty trying to understand why an Opposition would even object to an initiative that gives expression to a small group of young men and women in the constituency of the City, the opportunity to participate so fully, in this economy.

In all fairness, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a lot more of this happening. I would like to see that this kind of initiative is carried across the length and breadth of Barbados, so that small people could engage and participate in the economic means of this country. I would hate to see the day when they are confined to bus fare and lunch money. Sir, that is myopic, and narrow minded. You must have a vision that is much broader than that. Therefore, you have to understand that if you truly want to give people a chance in this country, you need to give them that opportunity to participate so widely.

Mr. Speaker, there is talk about St. Michael North West, where there is a pasture that is to be developed and I look forward to seeing it happen. Sir, I cannot understand why residents of the Brandons and the Farm, cannot get a facility that would allow them to participate in the economic resources of this country, by attracting higher

numbers of cruise ship passengers to the Spring Garden pasture.

Sir, I cannot see why the residents of the areas of Brandons, the Farm and surrounding areas, cannot participate more in the Crop Over activities along Spring Garden. I cannot see why one of the best beaches in Barbados cannot be developed, for the benefit of the average resident, in those areas.

Sir, do not to come and use a smokescreen that my fellow Combermerian, who happens now to be a candidate for the Barbados Labour Party, Jeffrey Bostic, collides with some political fortune. Politics is really about the ability to grasp an opportunity, so if it happens to be his luck that when he comes into the political arena, he would benefit from such an initiative, so be it. Luck is a part of life.

Asides.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Do not tell me, Mr. Speaker, that you are now going to promote a policy that denies the men on 'the block' a chance to participate in the economic means of this country. Sir, only because a few dollars are being spent to engage those individuals, you see it as something now to speak against, when World Cup is in fact consuming, many millions. Sir, we are happy with the investment. I will never oppose World Cup cricket.

Mr. Speaker, I was born playing cricket. I was raised in the backyard, playing cricket. I was on the pasture playing cricket. Therefore, cricket for me, is not just a game, it is a religion. Sir, for a true Caribbean boy, cricket is a religion.

Asides.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Sir, if you cannot play cricket, you cannot love it. If you cannot bowl or bat, or if you never bowl or bat, you cannot understand why cricket is so important. If you never went down to the New Orleans, and then went up into Grazettes, and went across Bridge Gap, and went in Brandons to compete with your fellow teenagers back in the 1970s, if you never travelled Bush Hall and Bank Hall to play cricket, how can you love it?

Sir, You only love it because the other people are socialising and, therefore, you go into the George Challenor Stand or you go in a box, but you do not really understand the intricacies and nuances of the game. You would not understand an "in-swing" from an "out-swing". You do not understand a "googly" from a "leg break", or you do not understand a "china man".

Asides.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Sir, if you wait until you get big, you would not understand it. Mr. Speaker, you do not understand playing "milk-tot" cricket, you do not understand playing "kneeling-down" cricket, or you do not understand playing "rubber strand ball" cricket, because you are not really Barbadian, so you should not oppose cricket.

Sir, whether or not the Government spends \$1 trillion on cricket does not matter because for me, cricket is a religion. Cricket is at the heart and blood of the average Barbadian boy, so you do not oppose it. In fact, you look forward to seeing a game of cricket.

Sir, to be at World Cup, even to get the chance to glance a fellow like Ponting or Lara or some other top class cricketer, because you feel good to know that when you reach about 60, you can speak of the occasion when you went to Kensington. I am fanatical about cricket. I am a Lawrence Rowe fan, like you, I suspect, and all of us who saw him. When I get an opportunity to see a game of World Cup cricket, do you expect me to deny it?

Asides.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: I played with Mr. Speaker at Spartan.

Mr. Speaker, what is more important, when I get the opportunity now to go beyond cricket and give young men and young women an opportunity for the first time, truly to be engaged, then I feel even better as an individual, because there is now a holistic approach to the hosting of World Cup cricket.

Mr. Speaker, I am so happy that constituencies or communities around the environs of Kensington are being uplifted. I feel so happy to know that communities can get an opportunity to be transformed, because it always takes a great event, a war, a famine or some major event to transform societies and economies. It does not happen overnight.

This is the major event for the Caribbean and the CARICOM region, because you are not going to get this opportunity twice. Therefore, what you have to do is to so host the World Cup, so develop your society and your economy, that you can look back and say it was a transforming moment in the history of the Caribbean. We would not have the sort of security network we have in place now, where it not for Cricket World Cup 2007. The truth is, we would not have been so concentrated on developing the infrastructure and the environs of the entire country, as we are now.

Sir, it is like when you are a little boy and you have to host a guest, and I have said it before, and you look into

your mother's cabinet and see the cutlery that you could not use that would come out, because it is a special occasion; the crystal glass that you could not use during the course of the year, but would come out when there is a guest at the home.

I never ate with a knife and fork until it was Christmas time. We ate with either a spoon or a fork. Sir, you know what it is to have a knife and fork, as a little boy around Christmas because a guest is at the home and you can practice. People cannot understand these things because they never lived them.

Therefore, you cannot put cricket in a box. Cricket is not played only on the field. Cricket is not about a ball and bat alone. Cricket teaches you life. In fact, it is only when you reach the age of 40 to 45 that you dream to be a cricketer again, because you are now mature enough to understand it. Sir, you do not really understand cricket at 19. You hardly ever understand it at 25 and that is why you love it when you reach 50 and 60, because it is greater than a game.

Cricket teaches you about being a team player, how to run out yourself, when the fellow batting with you is batting better than you, and there is a mix-up. You run out your hand for the sake of the team. If you have never done that, you do not understand what it is to sacrifice.

If you believe that you have been born to be a Prime Minister or to lead, you would never understand it. You cannot understand it and that is why you cannot underestimate the importance of games, Mr. Speaker, because they build character, they do not build selfishness. Sir, people who have never played team sports, find it difficult to lead because they do not know how to sacrifice.

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Hon. C. A. MASCOLL: Mr. Speaker, I said all of that to say that because of the Cricket World Cup 2007, this Government has an opportunity to lead communities and to lead and manage a country. Mr. Speaker, if this Government is on course to doing so and is doing so proudly, then one should not create smokescreens or situations in order to pull back any advantage that one perceives one may be gaining as a result of hosting such an event.

Mr. Speaker, the people would determine their future. The people would decide who can lead them into the future, and the people would know who has the ability to lead them into the future. One does not have to try to create artificial situations.

Sir, if you are counterpunched in a game, you take your punch. It has to do with knowing when to defend and knowing when to attack. It is when you begin to get desperate, that you would be knocked out because your defensive mechanisms would not have been in place when they are needed.

Mr. Speaker, this Opposition is heading for a complete knockout because they are now getting wild and desperate and they are not putting the right kind of thought into the political process. As a politician, it makes no sense whatsoever to oppose what is currently happening in the City constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I can rest proudly and say that I support the initiatives 100 per cent, that I support the Cricket World Cup 100 per cent, and I look forward, within the next two months or so, to being fully participatory in the process. I also look forward to it being an outstanding and overwhelming success for this country.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.00 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.00 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

House 123 Sequence 18

12.53 p.m.

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RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in this debate. Sir, there is not doubt that one of the most important events that will occur in the early part of this century, is Cricket World Cup, 2007. Sir, if one had to measure Cricket World Cup, 2007, based on the amount of money spent, then substantially one could easily expect a very large return. Sir, in addition, one would expect that when a Government spends so much money on any one particular project, one of the first things any Government would do, would be to look for the matching investment to suit the amount of money spent.

It is clear that because of its location, we cannot now look for that matching investment. It is also clear that we have lost a golden opportunity, as has been admitted by the lead spokesman this morning, that we will not see the development that one would have expected, like how the country Greece and Germany were able to see substantial developments and were able to get 43 per cent new tourists coming to those countries.

Sir, one now has to question how is it that suddenly, a figure of 21 ships has now been reduced to that of seven. One must also question, even with the limited number of ships that will be in Port, how is it that these seven ships, up to today, are not one-third booked. These are ships that can accommodate up to 3 000 passengers but as of today, there are only 800 booking. There are some ships that can accommodate 2 500 passengers but as of today, according to my information, there are only 700 or 800 bookings.

Mr. Speaker, one would have thought that, based on what we were told in this Honourable House, based on the information given, which would have come from credible sources, that something is terribly wrong with the bookings, as they relate to the ship aspect of it.

Mr. Speaker, I would expect the Minister of Tourism and International Transport to tell me that people have seen the vision of the Democratic Labour Party because we focused more on housing, as it relates to land. Sir, we have argued before the event, that some incentives should have been put in place, to encourage Barbadians to cash in. Sir, I was very happy to hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, mentioning how the Honourable Member would be able to use the opportunity to enlighten the lives of people in that constituency.

Sir, this is now a policy of Government. We have seen it in St. Michael South East and in St. Michael East. It has now been extended to the City, to St. Michael North West and will continue into St. Michael West. Sir, this is a continuation of the policy of this Government, where they empower politicians, to empower the constituents within those constituencies.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, it goes further, if this House had listened - and within a few months from now, I will be repeating this very statement - to the point that social good should not be given to politicians, for politicians to decide what to do with them but instead that should be the job of civil servants.

Sir, I will repeat, during the Estimate debate, that this is why I still believe social health should be divided on the Floor of this Parliament, so that each politician would know what is in it for him or her. Sir, too often we come to

this Parliament and vote blocs of money and at the end of the day, I cannot tell my constituents how much of that money would be spent in my constituency.

2.00 p.m.

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(EDITED)

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: This is why we will get this problem all the time where, on special occasions certain persons would be allocated social goods to empower their constituents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over \$300 million that will be spent on World Cup is not an urban issue, it is not a rural issue; it is an issue that will affect the whole of Barbados. Sir, the spending of World Cup money cannot only be for a few constituencies. If there is any social good, the whole of Barbados would have to repay the money spent in financing World Cup and it cannot be for a 'two-few'. Sir, the benefit cannot be for a 'two-few', it has to be in the interest of total Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, this piecemeal approach that we are hearing about, where you can push your hands in the cookie jar and allocate certain slots for a particular group of persons, it cannot continue. Sir, this House at the time of Estimates will have to come to a decision because all 30 Members of Parliament, through their constituents, will have to repay the loan for World Cup, 2007, and, I have always said that the best persons to deal with the money are the civil servants because they are governed by certain rules.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no time for nit-picking. This is something I have always said and I will continue to say it, that I do not believe in politicians controlling money and I honestly believe that is the job for civil servants. Sir, we have to be very careful, we cannot continue with this piecemeal approach but we must have a policy. If this is what the Government calls their policy, then I have no problem. All the Government has to do is to tell the public of Barbados what is their policy. If the Democratic Labour Party does not agree, let it state its policy. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that the public of Barbados cannot be treated to a piecemeal approach when it relates to matters as important as this.

Hon. Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member in his comments is misleading the House. I should like to think that is not deliberate but out of a lack of information. The reality is that while there may be Members of Parliament and Members of the Cabinet involved in the administration of the programme, the funds are actually being directed,

controlled and the appropriate regulatory framework administered by the Special Unit, responsible for the World Cup, which is headed by Permanent Secretary, Juanita Thornington-Powlett. It is not true that the politicians are controlling the money, handling the fund and directing the money as is being suggested by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. I would just like to clarify that because it is an important matter and an important distinction that has to be made.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very glad for that clarification because here it goes again, it is a Board. I have warned this country about the use of Boards in this country. When you get a Board that is supposed to be independent....

Hon. Miss H.E. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Permanent Secretary is a member of the Civil Service. It is not a Board. She has a responsibility in the office of the Prime Minister, like other Permanent Secretaries. Sir, it is in the Civil Service, it is not a Board.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it even makes it sweeter. Sir, a Permanent Secretary should know the rules and a Permanent Secretary should know that politicians cannot get directly involved in the day-to-day affairs of running anything which belongs to the Civil Service and that it is the Permanent Secretary that is supposed to run it. I am happy for the clarification from the Honourable Member and I know the Honourable Member would not mislead me. I take the information given to me by the Honourable Member and I accept 100 per cent of it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Permanent Secretary must account to this country for the decision to have political operatives directing the affairs when the Permanent Secretary is supposed to be the person who directs. Sir, this is very interesting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Section 81.2 is another interesting section of this Act. It gives the value of \$1 million or three times the value of the aircraft or ship as if they do not have small vessels. Sir, supposed somebody has an aeroplane that is purchased for \$100 million, then three times the value is \$300 million. Am I to believe that we are only getting involved in larger ships? Why would we quantify a figure of \$1 million not realising that World Cup, 2007, would see many types of vessels? I would believe that there is room for smaller planes and, Sir, as you know, value has to do with the cost of the aircraft and the number of years used. Are you talking about the cost of aircraft/ship or the value of aircraft/ ship? It is rather interesting when you try to tie a value without first stating whether you are dealing with cost or value.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is another interesting point, which I would like debated. Am I now to believe that

we have now accepted that World Cup, 2007, is not a revenue or foreign exchange earner for Barbados; that we have now decided that it is now a decision of Government that this is not a revenue or foreign exchange good for Barbados; that Barbados has finally recognised that this could be a social or political good; that the reason this particular project is being discussed and why it was located in urban Bridgetown that had no room for expansion; that the social and the political good was looked at; that I wasted my time looking at the economic good by trying to get the Government to see that it would have made more financial sense if it has been located in the north when, in truth and in fact, the Government was only looking at the social and political good but never looked at the opportunity cost of the project?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us discuss it. Clearly, I can now tell the public of Barbados, based on the judgment of the Government, that I was wrong in expecting this project to be located in St. Lucy. Sir, if this project were located in St. Lucy, the social and the political good for the Party would not be of the same value as if it is located in urban Barbados because in urban Barbados, there are many constituencies that could benefit from this particular project. Sir, if it were located in St. Lucy, then the only two or three parishes that could have benefitted would be St. Peter, St. Lucy and sometimes St. Andrew. Sir, when you bring it to urban Barbados, the social good that this Party is looking for could be divided much greater and the political influence at this cost would have been much greater, collecting political assets for the Party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, whereas I was looking at the bigger picture and the development that could come out of this particular project, the Government of Barbados was looking at the social good and the political good that could be gained from this project. Sir, what we have today is a substantial cost to the whole of Barbados and the beneficiaries would only be a 'two-few'. I was very happy when I heard the spokesmen on the other side telling of the benefits because nobody on this side should ever want to deprive the small man of a share of the World Cup cake. Sir, do not ever believe that the World Cup cake should not be shared in urban Barbados and that rural Barbados cannot share in the cake too. I want to ask the Honourable Member for St. George South and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North if they would be sharing in the social good of World Cup?

H123/14:10

Sequence 20

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Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: ... and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, if they would be were

sharing in the social good of World Cup. Clearly, they are all part of urban and rural on one hand, and I want to know if they will benefit from the goodies that are coming.

It is not new for politicians to allocate workmen to do work within the constituencies. There is nothing new about that, but that is when you are dealing with work in a particular constituency, like schools and so on, but when you are speaking about a national project where you are dealing with total Barbados, then one would expect all thirty constituencies to share in that national good.

Sir, if you have a school to paint in an urban constituency, there is nothing wrong with asking the fellows on the 'block' to do it. I support that, and I support the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West on that particular point, but I cannot support the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, with the of World Cup and only a 'too few' share in it. However, at the same time, I will make the point that the civil servants must be the ones to control, they must control. We have to be very careful, how we continue to allow outsiders to dictate the pace of Government, when we have civil servants who are supposed to do that particular job.

Mr. Speaker, World Cup 2007 is no longer about bringing many tourists to Barbados. World Cup 2007 is no more about twenty-one ships in the Port. Sir, as we hear today, there are only about seven ships in the Port, and that people around Bridgetown should benefit from World Cup 2007, because of the proximity to the stadium, they are the ones who should share in the goodies.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: If that is true, what happens to those persons who moved to Barbarees Hill, that were closer than the ones that are now benefitting? I am saying that by rights, the persons who lived closer to Kensington Oval, who benefitted from Kensington Oval, every effort should be made for them to share in the cake. I know that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West would agree, because I have heard him argue on their behalf already. Sir, it cannot be only about those who are now living next to Kensington Oval, but it also has to be about those who were near to Kensington Oval and who previously had the advantage. We have seen the advantage taken from them and now a new group is being introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I am not saying that the new group should not share in it. I am saying that those old ones should also benefit, and on top of it, all 270 000 Barbadians, plus the 35 000, should be entitled to share in the goodies, because at the end of the day, they will have to contribute to repayment of the over \$300 million that will be spent to get Kensington Oval right, and to host World Cup 2007 ready for this country.

I am saying that we have to understand that World Cup 2007 is not about making money anymore. It is not about bringing tourists anymore. It is about the social good and the political goodwill that can be gained from this event.

Sir, I asked myself, what other event could be so substantial in cost, while limiting itself to just two objectives, the social good and the political will to achieve.

Sir, am I to believe that the measurement would be the legacy of continuing, or would it be the development of Barbados? Clearly, anyone who cares about Barbados, will agree that the bigger picture must be looked at. We might have made an error as it relates to the location, that is accepted, nothing can happen, nothing can change, because we are too far gone. Sir, now in these latter days we cannot narrow it to a small area called urban Barbados, around Kensington Oval. We must look at the bigger picture and recognise, that even though there are some failures of World Cup 2007, we still must try to maximise World Cup 2007, in the interest of this country called Barbados. Instead of looking at the 'too few' that can benefit, we now have to sit down as responsible politicians, to see what we can do with the nightlife of Barbados, so that the whole country can benefit, because we have to bleed every cent out of the tourists pockets, when they come to Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I have already suggested, that those seven ships have no right anchoring in the Bridgetown Harbour. They should be sent out to sea and made to return at midnight, so that the people who go to cricket, will spend some time on land, then Barbados can truly benefit from the backs of those tourists, instead of having to benefit from the investment incurred by the Government of Barbados.

Sir, this is about raking in foreign exchange. We have spent a lot of foreign exchange on World Cup 2007, and we must maximise the foreign exchange returns. Sir, at the end of the day, even though we did not have the investments, at least we would have earned some revenue by bleeding the tourists, the few that might come, because of what is happening in the market.

Sir, when we spoke, it was twenty-one ships, now we are hearing about seven. When I said that the bookings are down, the impression was created that I am wrong. If I am wrong, I can only be wrong based on advice given to me, and normally my advice is not wrong. If my advisors have misled me on the occasion, I will take the guilt for myself, but I know, based on what I am hearing on the ground, the bookings are not as good as people want us to believe. If the bookings were good, we would not move from twenty-one ships to seven ships. We would have been asking for more ships.

Sir, one of the problems we need to sort out early is, we cannot close down the Harbour to cruise ships, because we still have to do business in our commercial and manufacturing sector. The commercial and manufacturing sector cannot play second fiddle to World Cup 2007, we should have worked out a formula to solve the particular problems that we are having in the Port.

Sir, we cannot have cargo ships out to sea. The ships out to sea must be the cruise liners to make room for the cargo ships, and the cruise liners can return at midnight. Sir, once they are off the ship, we have to encourage them to see Barbados.

Sir, the same problem we had with all-inclusive tourism, we are experiencing with all-inclusive World Cup 2007. We are bringing people to Barbados for World Cup 2007, and allowing them to be within a small area called urban Barbados, more so the City of Bridgetown, because we are not behaving as though this is an event for all Barbados. We are behaving as though this is only an event for urban Barbados and the City of Bridgetown. Everything is concentrated on the City of Bridgetown. Sir, you cannot sell Barbados by promoting the City of Bridgetown. You will sell Barbados by promoting rural Barbados.

Sir, for example, a parish like St. Thomas, very good for heritage and eco tourism, and must be exploited. I said it during the by-election, and I thought that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would have picked it up, and would now be able to advertise the areas for heritage and ecotourism in St. Thomas. I thought that there would have been a development plan coming out of St. Thomas, based on the type of information I gave during the by-election. Sir, outside of Kensington Oval, the next stop should have been St. Thomas, because of the heritage tourism.

Sir, most of the plantation houses can be found in St. Thomas. Most of the ecospots can be found are in St. Thomas. I am saying that the people of St. Thomas should have been gaining tremendously. Sir, the other rural parishes have a lot to offer to tourism, but if we concentrate tourism in Bridgetown, at the end of the day, the 43 per cent, that the Government is expecting in new tourists, will not come back to Barbados. If we encourage the 43 per cent of tourists to traverse rural Barbados, not only will we get 43 per cent returning, but their children and grandchildren will return. I saw it on the West Coast and other places.

Sir, when you allow people to interact with the people of Barbados, after they leave, their children and grandchildren return because they have a base in Barbados. Sir, Bridgetown cannot be the base. It has to be the people of Barbados.

14.20 p.m.

Sequence 21

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House 123, Sequence 22, 2.10 p.m.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: We have to allow the tourists to develop a relationship with the people of Barbados. But what we are interested in, are customs and immigration, whether people are able to move around. No. Sir, that is not the important thing now.

Sir, the important thing is to have a capacity, where you can develop it to such an extent, that they can build a relationship with the people of Barbados, and encourage people to come back to Barbados. It cannot be about dividing the social good and the political will being maximised, at this point in time. If you do what I say, you would not have to worry about the social good, or the political will, because it would come automatically.

Sir, what we are having, is a mad scramble to get across the finish line to achieve the political good, and the social good, without realising that at the end of the day, it is the economic good that would help the Minister of Finance. On this point, Sir, I want to say that if one continues to listen to the mouthings coming from the Minister of Tourism, based on statistics, what was reported about the world tourism last year, could easily have been Barbados.

Sir, based on what the Minister of Tourism said, Barbados would have been the best served tourism country in the world, and the exact statistics would have proven that last year would have been the best year ever for Barbados, and no one would have been able to surpass that year, based on the mountings coming from the Minister of Tourism.

Sir, we heard that worldwide, last year was the best tourism year. One would have thought that the Minister of Tourism would have been able to push his chest in the air and say that we were in it too. Instead of that, we heard about declines in tourism. Sir, last year, the world had the best year, and Barbados experienced declines.

The Honourable Member now is not interested in the number of people travelling on a plane. The Honourable Member now has introduced a new statistic. It has to do with the numbers of bookings, even if the bookings do not turn out to be passengers.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: This Honourable Minister uses his statistics so well that whenever he is cornered by Cabinet, he could produce four statistics and has a choice of four statistics to pull one to prove his case. Sir, one time

it is hardware, next time it is revenue, next time it is units; count the heads; and next time you hear, check the bookings.

It is rather interesting that this Minister of Tourism told this House that twenty-one ships will be in the Port for Cricket World Cup 2007, and today I am hearing that seven ships will be in the Port.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, that did not come from this side. It came from that side, and I have it here, that seven ships will be in the Port.

We also heard a very interesting comment and I want to thank my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West for agreeing with me, that contractors take away from the development of Barbados and they do not add. But when you allow artisans to do the work and you allow people to buy house spots and not houses, then you get more economic goods.

Sir, only if the NHC would listen to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, oh what a wonderful country we would have because NHC would get involved in getting house spots and not joining in relationships with contractors to deprive artisans of work, in this country.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James Central.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I confess that I came here this morning, expecting to hear that the debate had been joined by the Opposition who, if memory serves us correctively, Sir, came to this House in the very first substantive aspect of this matter, and found it possible only to contribute on the issue of human rights.

I do not wish to belabour the House by going through that debate again. In fact, Sir, it would not be in accordance with the best practice of the rules. Sir, I expected to hear at long last that a new Democratic Labour Party had found new life, new guidance, new vision and direction, and having placed the country, as I understand it, Sir, on amber alert, that we were going to have a debate which was joined by matters of substance, with respect to this very critical issue, as part of our national development. Sir, unfortunately that was not to come to past and it could safely be said that we are placed on alert only to the fact that, clearly, the Leader of the Opposition is asleep.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there is a lot about which this Government and by

extension this country, can be proud. Sir, to the extent that the Opposition would want us to go into the issues that they suggest are relevant and, I believe, they are treated as unethical practices. This is the language that was tossed around this House, as usual without any substance, in terms of evidentiary foundation or basis; words like infelicities and irregularities. Sir, we would come to those in the course of this speech.

Let me first of all make it clear, Sir, that there is nothing about which this Government has to be defensive. We begin from the perspective that when we came to the House for the first time, and even today, we sent a very clear sign to Barbados and by extension, to the Caribbean.

Cricket World Cup 2007 is not an eternity. It is an event which constitutes a moment in time. As policy makers and responsible policy makers, you are charged with a duty, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to say to the country what you intend to do with this moment in time. How can you translate that moment in time at which the whole world focuses its attention on Barbados and the Caribbean, into sectorial policies, sector by sector, building out capacity, so that this moment in time can have enduring benefits, as part of the country's development? Sir, that is what we are charged with doing, as policy makers.

Unfortunately, it is not to that aspect of the debate that the Democratic Labour Party comes. It comes, Sir, rather to a wellspring of unsubstantiated and ill-founded rumour and speculation, almost akin to market gossip on a Saturday morning. Somebody passing a vendor's stall, and hear about the irregularities and the infelicities; this is what we have been reduced to, Sir, by the new leadership of the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, if we, as policy makers, are charged with a duty, as I contend we are, to demonstrate to Barbados how we can build out capacity in every sector of this country's economy, so as to translate this important moment in time, into an enduring series of legacies for the benefit of all Barbadians, then we have to enumerate what we are doing, and how we go about it. Sir, we begin with the point about security.

There is no doubt, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that a small country like Barbados and a small region like the Caribbean, is undertaking a mammoth task. Sir, we invite teams to our shores that really represent countries, which are at present in the global community, hotbeds of geopolitical dispute and fracture. Sir, when we invite people from Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka and even Great Britain and Australia to these shores, we cannot separate them from the fact that those teams represent countries, which have, as a result of domestic policy in their homeland, found themselves at the centre of disputes. For example, the global war against terrorism.

House 123, Sequence 22, 14:27:13

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Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Sir, Bali and other parts of the world have been targeted, so what do we do in order to ensure that this region, if it is targeted, and we must hope it is not, is in a position to adequately defend itself. Sir, how do we know who would be coming for the Cricket World Cup or at Cricket World Cup time and for what reasons.

Sir, people treat to it as though it is an eternity, it is not an eternity, it is an event constituting but one important part of this country's developmental process. Sir, we must build out an infrastructure in security so that for the first time in this region's history, we will now have an Advance Passenger Information System, so that all vessels arriving into the Caribbean are able to notify, before coming in here, exactly who is on board. Sir, in real time, all of our immigration offices, all of our police and all of the national security installations across the region are in a position to respond in a way that we were never in a position to do even to today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is in that way that the Cricket World Cup exercise transforms security in the Caribbean. Therefore, it is to our credit that we have been able to put such an institution or an arrangement in place. Sir, it is even more to our credit that we are trying to build this out so that it can be sustained as part of a Caribbean understanding, a Caribbean practice and a Caribbean-wide response mechanism and security mechanism into the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, of course that does not form part of the debate coming from the lips of the Opposition up to this point. We are treated to forms of gobbledegook which tells us that we support. Of course, we support, but how do you support and what exactly are you supporting. Sir, that is what the average man in the street must be asking today because you are supporting out of one corner of your mouth and crying down out of the other corner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, above and beyond the regional security strategy, we are looking at a framework for movement and enhanced border control. Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you listen to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and the Honourable Member for St. John, you wonder whether they are aware about the existence of a common visa policy. For the first time, the sovereign States of the Caribbean are pooling together to create a single CARICOM domestic space. These are things about which any true blooded Caribbean man or woman born must feel proud, and justifiably so, because it is that, that our forefathers fought and toil to achieve that

we are bringing to this region today as a 'done deal' and present it to the Caribbean people.

Sir, perhaps the mistake I made is to say Caribbean born. When the leadership is not Caribbean born but has visited and seeks by way of visitation to acquire rights as though they are divine rights of the colonial coming to the colonised power, we would understand why there is a difficulty coming out of the Democratic Labour Party to embrace these issues.

I go further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to shared visa issuance resources. As a sovereign State, Barbados has always arrogated to itself the right to control those matters. It is the same across CARICOM. Today, we come to the people of the Caribbean to share these responsibilities, to pool sovereignty and to find a new form of collective advancement to our region's well-being. A Democratic Labour Party that was once at the forefront of the integration process now pours scorn and treats these matters as though they never took place. Sir, one is asked repeatedly what is the substance about which this country has been placed on amber alert.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is impossible for any of us sitting in this Parliament not to feel almost ashamed at the fact that something as critical as urban enhancement can be treated in the way it had been treated to today from across the Floor of this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I remember well the pain that I felt picking up an article in the Nation Newspaper - I tried to put my hand on it to bring it to this House but unfortunately I have been unable to find it - but I know that the Honourable Member, as an avid sports enthusiast, as well as others in here, would recall an Australian writing of Kensington Oval and making a mockery of Kensington Oval as a so-called Mecca but located in the middle of a slum. He talked about our Bridgetown, the surroundings immediate to Kensington Oval as nothing but a slum saying that it was impossible to gain entry or to get egress from Kensington without going through the worst possible experiences. That was how the imperial editors spoke of Kensington Oval.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as policymakers, we had to take a moment in time and pause and ask ourselves how do we translate this moment in time so that it becomes an enduring legacy for the people of Barbados. Sir, in so doing, we are in the process of building out new arrangements around Kensington Oval. Therefore, there has of necessity to be some urban enhancements. Sir, the Democratic Labour Party throughout the years has had as the bedrock of its foundation - and I say so without any apology - the support of the people of St. Michael. Sir, the question was then asked by the people of St. Michael for so long have we supported you, what do we have to show for

that by way of social transformation impacting directly on our community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the urban enhancement to which I speak is being manifested every single day by the policies carried out by the Ministry of Social Transformation. It only therefore follows, as logically as night follows day, that a responsible body of legislators would want to take this special event, which is but a moment in time, to transform that area around Kensington Oval in a manner which is in keeping with the stated policy objectives of the Government.

Mr. Speaker, what therefore should cause a Leader of the Opposition to stand up in here today and treat as unimportant the work done at Jubilee gardens. Is it contempt for the poor black people of Bridgetown? Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us understand it, let us not be mealy-mouthed about it. Jubilee Gardens, as it is today, is testimony to a Government understanding the need for there to be some social amelioration in and among the people of Bridgetown. Let us understand by extension that when we are talking about the urban transformation that is taking place, that we have to look at the development that took place across the road there in Independence Square, it had nothing to do exclusively with the Cricket World Cup, it is part and parcel of a Government understanding to an obligation to its people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would be a tragic breach of social duty and responsibility, if you have an opportunity to build out further capacity to further improve and enhance the urban surroundings, especially around Kensington Oval and especially when you know that in the past people from the international community has described it as a Mecca located within a slum area, not to take every opportunity to ensure that the folk immediately around Kensington Oval were given a brand new deal. What is wrong with that, Sir? What is the philosophical value that is being placed on this table in Parliament today from the Leader of the Opposition? Where does he stand on the matter? Sir, this country has come to a point in time where the mealy-mouthedness must end. The Leader of the Opposition must stand and be weighed in the balance for better or for worse.

House 123 Sequence 23

2.40 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to go further and speak to the issue of community upgrading because I had a very painful experience just now, while listening to the words of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, when he sought to locate, within the confines of Bridgetown, all that is being done for Barbados

and Barbadians, in terms of developments relating to this project.

Sir, this mere moment in time, this event has been accompanied by islandwide roadwork. It is legacy which endureth, so that if the Honourable Member chooses to leave this place tonight and drive towards the airport, he would be driving on a completely repaved Highway 1. Sir, instead of standing up in this Honourable House and making empty statements, which are designed only for political posturing purposes. If the Honourable Member for St. Lucy were prepared to drive over to Holders Hill tonight, he would see an entirely repaved area. If the Honourable Member were inclined to look to the communities across Barbados as a whole, in the context of sporting development, he would see countless playing fields, which have been refurbished by the National Sports Council.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my constituency at Bagatelle, one would see a fully-lit hardcourt and a fully-lit and redone playing field.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order, the Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression that the constituency called St. James Central, is a true representation of rural Barbados. Sir, it is clear to me that the Honourable Member has discovered that he wants his constituents to know that he is doing work, and that he has used the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to advertise himself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please proceed.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the contribution from the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was as I expected it to be, as empty as an echo. Sir, the fact of the matter is that we can point across this country to efforts of widened streets, repaved roads, refurbished playing fields. There has been a general effort to make sure that every community has felt the impact of the effort to build capacity across Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one such example can be that of the work of the Ministry of the Environment. The same example I just gave, if the Honourable Member chooses to drive towards the airport, there is a new expansion of the size of the Highway, coming from the airport to Bridgetown. Sir, it is unrecognisable today, compared to what it was three or four years ago. It is also lined by palm trees and coconut trees. The bush has been cut away for almost six feet on either side of the highway. Sir, that is the first thing people see on arrival of the island. That is the advertisement in which Barbados is engaged. When they

see it, they say: "O my God, this place is well-manicured", and that is the message they send back home. Sir, let us contrast that with that which would have been said, akin to that which the international journalist or commentator said.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to ask the question: What is the philosophical position of the Democratic Labour Party on this? Sir, it comes down to something as simple as basic commonsense. This is not something on which a Parliament should be delayed, in a serious debate, this is basic commonsense. If you are going to invite people at your home, would you not first clean up your house? Would you not want to make your home look a certain way, so that as humble as your home may be, those who are invited would say: "But this is a well-maintained place, such a nice experience I had?" Sir, it is an elementary duty of care.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is what a Democratic Labour Party, who, at one time, would have wanted to see the best for the small man in Barbados, who stood against the international world and rallied with one voice saying: "We are a proud and industrious people". But that Party is now reduced to making a mockery of the pride and industry, and they are contented with that. That is what both the Honourable Members for St. Philip West and the St. Lucy have signed on to.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Asides.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the point is that every sector of this country has been able to point to an area in which there is new capacity being built, not least of which is the whole introduction of the bed-and-breakfast facility in Barbados, which I want to spend some time discussing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. John talked about Silver Sands. If the Honourable Member were aware of what is happening on the south coast of Barbados, he would know that on both the south and west coasts of Barbados, including Fitts Village and Paynes Bay, there are people, who have taken the opportunity to

use Seed Funding, which has been allocated by the Government of Barbados, which was brought as a package to this Parliament two years ago by the Minister of Finance, to transform their homes in such a way that they would be in a position to do short-term rentals to people. They would also be able to put those properties in a pool, which would be managed by the Barbados Tourism Authority, so that, as individual homeowners, they can

become legitimate homeowners, playing a role in this country's tourism product, for the first time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I put it to you, there is no greater example of economic enfranchisement than placing a man in a position, where he can take part of his home, where he can transform it with Seed Funding, that has been provided by the Government, where he can play a role in the tourism sector and be marketing that property internationally, not only for this moment in time but when everything is said and done, he can continue so to do into eternity, if that is his objective.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport has to be understandably proud that today, across the south coast of Barbados, Pegwell, Silver Sands and Atlantic Shores, people are playing a role in this country's tourism product, for the first time. It is also being done on the west coast at Fitts Village, Paynes Bay, in my own constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say that when we hear people talk, we have to ask if they are realistic or not. Sir, what we are doing is giving an ordinary man or woman, who before would have been just a homeowner, the opportunity now to be a property owner, in a commercial sense. That person's right so to do does not terminate with Cricket World Cup, 2007, but continues as part of an enduring legacy for that individual and his or her family. It is a form of empowerment and enfranchisement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say to you, there is nothing for the Government to be apologetic about in that regard. Equally, I want to say to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, in particular, that the Barbados tourism product is not nascent. Therefore, if the Honourable Member does not understand it, I will explain it to him, that attractions will continue. The moment in time is that of the Cricket World Cup, 2007, and the attractions, many of them, have been in place long before the Cricket World Cup, 2007.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the considerations about Barbados becoming a destination to host the Finals, was the fact that we had such an abundance of attractions. There will be people who will be on this 166 square miles, not only for the purpose of seeing cricket but also to enjoy a game of golf at Sandy Lane. We are now looking to build out the capacity like others are doing, it was here before and will be here after. We are putting a country in a position to capitalise on the investments which have previously been made.

Sir, the figures show that if you go to Atlanta, you would find that Atlanta, which hosted the Olympic Games, is a source of tourism attraction long after the games because of the fact that people wanted to see where the games were once held.

2.50 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

(EDITED)

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: The same thing applies in World Cup Soccer; the same thing has applied in South Africa in the last World Cup and I put it to you, Sir, that it is only logical that it would happen here as well. Sir, what is this mumbo-jumbo about what happens after and whether or not it is sustainable. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the product is a mature and attractive product, we have brought the eyes of the entire world to rest upon the product, should they not want to enjoy it? Sir, what has been the negative fallout in terms of sustainability of hosting World Cup Golf last year. Sir, I cannot hear of any but all of a sudden, this country is to be plagued, and we do not seem to understand that little things that are being done now are critical to helping us make sure that we improve the quality of service that we have to offer to those who would be visiting our shores. When Government spends money in ensuring that the signage in this island is upgraded to international standards so that you no longer have a problem of a tourist getting lost in Bathsheba and hoping to find his or her way safely back to Bridgetown but that there are proper, adequate signs in place, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is an investment in the capacity of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you invest in ensuring that sidewalks are place where none existed before but you know that there is heavy traffic in the area. We did not prioritise it before but we are in a position, where we are expected to make the most of this moment in time so that there is an enduring legacy for the benefit of the people of Barbados. This is not only for those who are to come because it is not only the tourists who are going to walk on the sidewalks. Sir, when I am crying out for more sidewalks in Holetown or when they want more sidewalks in Bridgetown or on the south coast, it is for the benefit of Barbadians, the legacy is for Barbadians but an Opposition Party does not come here to engage in that. Sir, unfortunately, they come here to get on their soapbox about unethical practices and infelicities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to ask if this Parliament is not in danger of being abused when an issue as fundamental to governance; as fundamental to transparency in governance...

Asides.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I say transparent, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North gets agitated. As I start to talk about transparency in Government the Honourable Member for St. Philip North gets agitated.

Asides.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: You can talk about car loans and how you try to fire people from their jobs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reality is that at some stage, those who believe that they can hide and abuse their office and intimidate the small man in Barbados will have to answer to a higher calling and the Honourable Member for St. John can pick sense from that. Sir, the reality is that if you are going to talk about infelicities and irregularities, you have to stop postering and show the public that you are more than an empty suit, call the Public Accounts Committee to order, do some work, stop drawing money on false pretences, get up and do some work, do not be an empty suit. If you want to talk about red alert or amber alert because there is nothing to go red about, do not call in the Press to make it appears as though you have something and that you are threatening a public flogging. You can flog because nobody is afraid of the Honourable Member for St. John. The Honourable Member for St. John fought tooth and nail to get an office and caused people on the other side to become bad friends so that he could get the office he now holds and now he has the office, like the English colonial master, divides and rules, let the Honourable Member for St. John do some work, that is what he must do.

Asides.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: When you stop using your private company to sell people football boots, I will then sit down. Sir, I too am on alert.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time has expired.

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will stop only because my time has expired.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Philip West.

Dr.D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have two areas of concern with respect to these amendments to the various Bills brought to the House today. The first area of concern that I have a real problem with is that I would have thought that the Honourable Members on the other side, who are supposed to be legal luminaries, would have spent some time reading their own Bills before they are brought to this Honourable Chamber to be debated and made law. Sir, I refer specifically to Section 34 with the heading: Report Prior to Arrival.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to understand if we are saying that before a vessel arrives in Barbados, whether it happens to be a ship or whether it happens to be an aircraft, that there are certain requirements that need to be put in place and they outline a time framework within which these requirements must be put in place, before that vessel actually arrives in Barbados so that the Comptroller of Customs would have the necessary documentation of those persons on that particular vessel or the cargo or other goods on that particular vessel.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if that is the case - I do not see a problem with that - in Section 6, there is a provision, for the Comptroller of Customs under his own authority, by special allowance, to allow the report that should have been given before the vessel gets to Barbados to be given after the vessel comes to Barbados and after bulk is broken.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if that is the case, I would want Honourable Members on the other side to explain to me why is it then necessary if you are establishing by amendments to the law, provisions to establish as law that these reports must be in place and that the Comptroller of Customs can go around those reports and give special allowance, under his discretion, why would a Minister be given the right by special order to waive the entire section. Sir, it does not make sense to me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with all the mouthings, I would want to understand why you would give the Minister, by order, the right to waive the entire section that you would have just put in place and just brought to this Honourable House to be debated to become law in Barbados. I do not understand it. Why is it necessary?

Sir, with just a stroke of the pen, all of the provisions with respect to what time frame the aircraft should arrive in Barbados; or should it be coming from outside the domestic space 24 hours prior to arrival, that it must get information in Barbados; a ship arriving from a destination outside the domestic space no later than one hour, a report must be given prior to arrival; Sir, all these reports that must be given by law, the Minister can waive all of them in one stroke of a pen. Sir, that is what we should be debating in here.

H122/14:60

Sequence 25

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: I want the Honourable Members on the other side to explain to the people of Barbados why such powers would be given to the Minister to waive all the requirements that we are in here debating with respect to the arrival of aircraft and ships, to satisfy

the same Regional Security Network arrangement, that was discussed here.

Sir, suppose there happens to be some unnatural collusion between the Minister and a ship's captain or boat captain, and it happens to be some other illegal drug or some other substance on that vessel, do you want to tell me that we can waive all the provisions just as easy? That is what the law is telling me. That is what I want to debate in here.

Sir, I will not support this as it stands, because it opens up Barbados to a lot of things, as established, and I am done with that at this stage. I will get back to that.

Sir, let me go to the second point. This debate, with respect to whether a candidate of a political Party should be placed in an authoritative position to be responsible for any actions within his constituency, and the individual is already a ratified candidate of a political Party, must be debated in the context of democracy and the fundamental precepts of such. It must be debated under the context of the universal application of the event that everybody must be involved in a similar way, otherwise, it must be judged as immoral and unjust, based on the philosophical principles that the Honourable Member for St. James Central wants to talk about. The Honourable Member needs to understand what the universal application and the categorical imperative defined as an antithesis to the hypothetical imperative means. So, sit down, shut up and learn.

Sir, the reality of the position is, in democracy I want some of the bed and breakfast facilities in the St. Philip West too. I want some of the roads up there too. I want some of the debushing up there. I do not just want some marl being put in Fairview. I do not just want some marl being put in .

Hon. K.D. SYMMONDS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West is grossly misleading this House when he said that he wants bed and breakfast facilities in St. Philip West. The Honourable Member is implying that a bed and breakfast had something to do directly with the allocation by the Government. It was opened to every citizen of Barbados to access the seed funding provided by the Government. There was no political or geographical demarcation. The fact that the Honourable Member for St. Philip West can so grossly mislead the House, suggest that he is present but is mentally vacant and absent from what has been taking place.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Sir, the Honourable Member is obviously suffering from some hyperglycaemic event that has him so confused, that his capacity to understand what I am saying is somewhat left behind when he speaks. I have

no interest in debating an individual of that character today. I will deal with an individual with a sub-intellect at another point and time.

Sir, I will go back to the point. I want debushing in St. Philip west too. I want my roads clean. I want my wells clean. I want my palings repaired. I want the houses up there repaired too. Do not tell me that they are being repaired because of World Cup. Sir, St. Philip is part of Barbados too. We must get some of the legacy benefits too, not only urban Barbados. What are you telling me in here today? That is what this debate is about.

Sir, the Honourable Members on this side are trying to say to the Honourable Members on that side, that you are continuing to say that the World Cup is about urban and suburban Barbados, we are saying no. We are saying that you taking the taxpayers money, spending it only around Kensington Oval and in certain select areas, and we are saying you cannot do that. That is what the debate is about, democracy, fairness for all. We are saying to you to spread the wealth across Barbados.

Sir, let me return to the principle as defined in the tenets of democracy. Sir, the moral thermometer, defined by Jeremy Bentham, says that anything you are going to do in a democratic process, cannot be done for the unique and the minority. It must be done in such a way that the entire community benefits. I am saying for saying to the Honourable Member for St. James Central, 'Mr. Moutha'....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member you have to withdraw that.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Sir, I withdraw that, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, proceed.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Sir, he has a small mouth but a big voice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the point I am trying to make is, this debate really is about an affront to democratic process. It is an affront to democratic process for the Honourable Members on that side to come in here and argue that you would take a candidate, selected by the Barbados Labour Party, make that individual responsible for doing certain upgrading work within his constituency, and then can have the audacity to tell Barbadians that is right?. They cannot argue that is fair, just or equitable. Therefore, it is immoral, by my position.

Sir, I would defend my concept on the philosophical premiss that I started on. It is that philosophical premiss

that underscores democracy. Sir, that is why I said it is an affront to democracy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to return to a few comments made by the Honourable Member for St. James Central, and I hear it a lot of times, by Honourable Members, that we are small States and we are undertaking such a large and mammoth task. Who sent you all out there to bid for it? What is important here is that you chose to undertake a task, you sat down with poor evaluation and pre-analysis of the entire programme, because you have now found it difficult, because you did such poor analysis of what was required, you now want the Democratic Labour Party to be sympathetic to your difficulties and the problems that you have. We are not going to be part of that. We have a responsibility to Barbadians to say, hold on a minute. Do not mind all the promoters and talkers, there is evidence and direct empirical evidence to say, put up some red flags. These major events do not work the way they are telling you that they work.

Sir, I sat in this Chamber and lamented over and over the evidence to support what I am saying. I will not go over it again. I would want the Honourable Members to be honest with Barbadians. If you had done a pre-game analysis, so that you would have a good idea of the sort of gains you are talking about, whether they happen to be immediate gains or legacy gains, if you had done a pre World Cup analysis and you had this information broken down and structured, bring it to Parliament and tell Barbadians about it.

Sir, the reason I want to hold you to that is, when the games are concluded and there is going to be exposed analysis of the games, I want to be able to compare the two and let us see how far we are, one way or the other.

Sir, I would only want to caution Barbadians again, that the Democratic Labour Party is not arguing against World Cup, we are pointing out the areas of concern, we are pointing out areas, worldwide, where such has occurred, that the countries have not received what they expected to get, the countries were left in massive debt and many of them actually went into crisis and ended up in the International Monetary Fund hand thereafter.

Sir, we are simply saying, do not mind all of the fancy rhetoric and the fancy glitz and glamour being painted, that is a tenuous outcome, and one has to be very careful when you prognosticate down the line, that is the only outcome you expect. That is what we are trying to say to the Honourable Members on the other side.

15.10 p.m.

Sequence 26

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

House 123, Sequence 27, 3.10 p.m.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there seems to be this sense on the other side that the Democratic Labour Party must not speak on issues, where there is some unfairness going on. If there is supposed to be some fairness, I want Patrick Todd to be given a contract tomorrow, and be given an equal opportunity, with equal pay to do something in that constituency.

Asides.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Sir, this is the only time I would accept that there is any equity or fairness in the events, that would be democracy. I do not mind the fancy rhetoric, powerful talk and empty jargon.

I want the evidence of the democratic application that you are so boldly holding on to. Bring the evidence. The Democratic Labour Party would not sit idly by and allow this Cabinet to bastardise the democratic process in this country. We sat idly by in past, and allowed certain attempts, insidiously so, to undermine the equity of candidates' opportunities in constituencies before. It is not going to happen again and I have already spoken to comrade Leader, who has put in place ways to deal with this matter. We will not rest until this type of insidious attack on democracy in Barbados, is halted.

Asides.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: I have also looked, Sir, at the amendments to the Immigration Act and the Customs Act. When I analysed the amendments to the Immigration Act and the Customs Act, we do not have any major concerns apart from the ones that we have already raised. We understand the regional security components required. We understand the necessity to have common information shared, and to be able to follow and track personnel and cargo throughout the common space, but what saddens us is the fact that here you are saying by the amendment to the Immigration Act and the Customs Act, that we are going to put a new set of regulations in place.

While you come to Parliament and ask this Honourable Chamber to pass those regulations, at the same time, you are giving the Minister the right, by a stroke of a pen, to waive all of the same regulations. Sir, we have a problem with that because it does not make sense. It tells me that whoever is responsible for drafting these Bills, need to really read them and understand what they are doing and saying.

Sir, here in the opening statement of the Bill, this is what it says:

"This Bill would amend the Customs Act, Cap. 66 to make provision for the obtaining of passenger and cargo information in advance of the arrival in Barbados of ships and aircraft and on the departure of such ships and aircraft from Barbados."

Yet, within the document in section 34, you give the Minister the right to waive all those.

Chapter 34B. gives a penalty.

Asides.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Sir, I do not mind the talk. What is important is that the Honourable Members on that side will have enough time to explain it to the non-lawyers, and the people in Barbados.

Aside.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: I do not understand it, so I want you to explain it to me. I raise it so that the people in Barbados could understand it, too, so when you get the opportunity, explain it to the people on the ground.

Asides.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, my windup statement is that we on this side feel very strongly that political parties and Government have to be very careful when Governments utilise taxpayers monies, and create selective opportunities for their own political candidates, to do work in their own constituencies. This is setting a dangerous precedent in Barbados. It is an affront to any understanding of democracy, as applied across the board, and the Democratic Labour Party will speak against it. If we have to mobilise against it, we would do that, Sir.

I would want to see, as of tomorrow, the Democratic Labour Party candidate for the City, also given an \$8 000 contract or job monthly, so that he could compete and do work in the constituency for people as well, because they claim that poor people are supposed to benefit.

Aside.

Dr. D.C. ESTWICK: Sir, benefit is not the issue here. The means do not justify the end here. That is the point. The issue is not whether poor people benefit. The issue is whether you are going to utilise means that is undemocratic. As a result of that, Sir, we would stand firmly on that premise.

I thank you very much, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Clearly, this House is engaged in a debate that is really being seen as a precursor to an electoral season. Therefore, anyone who listens to this debate, would appropriately contextualise these matters. I have known the Democratic Labour Party and equally, the Barbados Labour Party to participate in practices that have seen candidates receive payment for jobs in this country.

Indeed, I think it is fair to say that my father once ran against a man called, Mr. Lisle Carmichael, who was an employee of the Parks and Beaches Commission. Equally, when I came back to this country, there was a man by the name of Mr. "Ginger" Bourne, who was employed at the ICB. It is also clear that the Member for St. Michael North West, who became a candidate then for St. James South in 1994, was also employed in the Ministry of Finance of a Democratic Labour Party Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I also say, that on this side, the Minister of Commerce was engaged on a contract, although I am told that she never actually was paid for the contract. Equally, there have been other persons here, Senator Grant, who has been engaged on a contract, prior to becoming a Parliamentary Secretary in this Government.

The simple point that I want to make, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that for decades, there have been persons who have been employed in substantive jobs, while being candidates. The reality is that in a small society such as ours, it is very difficult for you to avoid that occurrence along the way, simply because people become involved in activities.

House 123, Sequence 27, 15:20:14

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Bostic is not engaged to manage a project at Kensington Oval as you would be wont to believe, listening to the debate, but is engaged as a consultant within the World Cup Unit to help us to be able to get the country ready for the Cricket World Cup on a number of key issues. Lieutenant Colonel Bostic's primary concern and primary work have been in the area of helping with the security aspect and in helping with being able to liaise with the airlines in respect of the Advance Passenger Information System.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, last night when I left that office at 1.30 a.m., he left at the same time. One of the things that he has also been asked to do is to have oversight of the Kensington Project because the Cricket World Cup Unit is manned by only three or four persons. Mr. Deputy Speaker, those are the facts, so I want to state that for the record.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it does not surprise me in anyway that this House has been as energised and as engaged as it has been today because we are obviously behaving as if we are in the full throes of a political season. I therefore sympathise with those who have to hear the debate and believe that it is more than what it is.

Having put that aside, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to come to the issues that are directly before us today in relation to this debate. Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I go to the substantive debate, I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that the matters are illegal and unethical. Sir, there is nothing illegal about a contract with Lieutenant Colonel Bostic in the Cricket World Cup Unit with terms of reference to assist in helping the Cricket World Cup Unit prepare the country for cricket, so let us put that to bed once and for all. There is nothing equally unethical about it. If he was still holding a commission at the Barbados Defence Force...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I should say that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is misleading the House or whether the Honourable Member for St. James South has misled the House. My understanding is that there was an intervention in which it was indicated that Lieutenant Colonel Bostic work under the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, and now we are hearing something different from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. The Government must not be in here putting a spin on things. We understand clearly what Lieutenant Colonel Bostic is doing, however the Honourable Member designs it, we understand it fully.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not surprised that the Honourable Member felt constrained to get up on a point of order and to suggest that I might even be misleading this Honourable Chamber on the basis of hearsay because that is the basis upon which he is making his statements.

In respect to the comments of the Honourable Member for St. James South, the Ministry nor the Cricket World Cup Unit does not execute in and of itself, but is a coordinating agency for line ministries to execute. The executing ministry in respect to that component of the Cricket World Cup activities, is the Ministry of the Environment. The executing ministry in respect to the security issues is between the Office of the Attorney-General and the Prime Minister's Office in the Ministry of Defence and Security. Those things are well-known.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, nobody in this debate on this side has been talking about Lieutenant Colonel Bostic's relationship to the security issue. Both in today's Nation Newspaper as well as the comments that have been made in here today

indicate quite clearly that as a candidate for the Barbados Labour Party, Colonel Bostic has had a say in the allocation of resources in relation to the Kensington project and the rebuilding or the repair of houses. Lieutenant Colonel Bostic confirms it on the back page of today's Nation Newspaper, where he said that he did not only help the Barbados Labour Party people but he helped members of the Democratic Labour Party. We are not in any doubt about what he is doing. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not saying that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is misleading the House. She may be adding all the legal sophistry and architecture to it, but we know exactly what he is doing.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will not happen in here. The Honourable Member has to withdraw the phrase legal sophistry because the Honourable Member is engaged in an exercise that is a last minute and last ditch attempt to defend Patrick Todd having failed to walk with him, having failed to support him and wanted to remove him from the City. I am not going to agree, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that that phrase shall remain in the record, as he would not agree, if I accuse him of an exercise in political sophistry.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I will continue, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because the reality is that this exercise has degenerated purely...

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the facts are clear. The Leader of the Opposition indicated publicly and privately by his actions that he was not in support of the candidature of Patrick Todd.

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. First of all, the internal business of the Democratic Labour Party will not be discussed by me in here. Sir, there was never more than one contender for the City seat. Our full support was then and has always been behind Patrick Todd, who would be the next parliamentary representative for the City in this House of Assembly.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The fact is that the Leader of the Opposition has found it possible to canvass with other persons, but to this day has not publicly, in a mass canvass, gone with the candidate for the City of Bridgetown. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if he wants to defend himself by trying to draw attention to the fact that the Barbados Labour Party Government has engaged in an exercise...

Mr. D. J. H. THOMPSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because the Honourable Member full well knows that not only did I attend and participate in the football competition in New Orleans and, in addition to that, presented the prizes and walked with the candidate throughout the entire area but that I met Lieutenant Colonel Bostic, about whom the people said that the only colonel they knew was Colonel Saunders from Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, any attempt to refer to a football competition two weeks ago is further indication of the absence of the strong support of a leader for his candidate, and in circumstances where every household in the City of Bridgetown already knows that. Sir, no amount of protest in here now is going to convert a failing candidacy on the part of Patrick Todd and an absence of support on the part of the Leader of the Opposition, into a victory for Patrick Todd.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Bostic is engaged in activities that go wider than the management of the Kensington project. He is working across the Cricket World Cup Unit with other line ministries in order to be able to ready the Government for the hosting of the Cricket World Cup. Those are the facts. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not get tied up with all of the rhetoric that I have heard today because I know that this is meant to be able to draw a line on the eve of an election whenever that election is to be called. Suffice it to say that there is no way any Government with any sense of self-respect could expect to renew the surrounding of Kensington Oval and not deal with the people who live immediately around Kensington Oval who have to watch thousands of people go in and out on a daily basis.

House 123 Sequence 28

3.30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James Central has put it well, when he indicated that if you are going to be hosting the world in your backyard, you have a responsibility to make sure that the surroundings and the environs within which people would visit, are of a certain standard. Sir, this is no different from what individuals would do in their homes. This is no different in relation to what people would do, in hosting any other games or major cultural events.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I remind you of the activities which surrounded the hosting of the Small Island

States Forum, by the Democratic Labour Party, in 1994, lest we forget. May I also remind you of all the money and activities that surrounded the preparation for the hosting of that Small Island States Forum. Sir, any self-respecting set of human beings know that you have to treat people well when they come at your place. It is true that you have to treat yourself well too, and that is what we have been doing. That is why the Urban Development Commission has a budget of \$15 million and from the only urban constituency held by the Opposition Party, right across the constituencies on this side, persons have been the recipients of benefits under that program.

Mr. Speaker, if you would recall, the Honourable Member St. Michael South Central had persons, who were involved in a house fire. Those persons were assisted ably by my predecessor in the Urban Development Commission. Therefore, let us not give people in this country, the impression that we do not put their interest first. Sir, it is a fallacy to do that. Sir, we are doing ourselves a disservice, as a country and as a Government, in making people believe that the only thing that determines activity, is political partisanship. It is not true.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been present when the Honourable Member for St. Philip North has called for services and assistance, when I was in my previous Ministry, and we assisted. But let us understand that what this is about, is that you cannot go into a community and spend over \$100 million, when the people who look at that facility every day and every night continue to live in certain circumstances that are well below being acceptable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, furthermore, if we agree that the event is supposed to be a transformational event - and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West has put forward this thesis very well - that Cricket World Cup, 2007, has the capacity to transform significant aspects of our governance, our environment, our security arrangements and our roads, simply because we all know that when there is a defined outcome, to which we are working, that it is easier to motivate people to work towards that outcome.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to the Bill at hand, I want to say that the Bill is a very simple one, which seeks to expand on the substantive legislation that was brought here, some time in August last year. It is simply this: in August of last year, we imposed the obligation to provide the Passengers Manifest, on the part of airlines and vessels but we did not specify time lines within which periods it must be done. We had also asked for a wider set of data than we are currently asking for.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, over the course of the last few months, we have had the opportunity to meet with the carriers, in particular, out of the United Kingdom, Canada

and officials of the American Government, who are providing technical assistance. We have determined that it is in our interest to limit the data which we want, to that which is in the machine readable zone of the passport; in other words, the name, date of birth, nationality, passport number, country of issuance and gender of person. In those circumstances, it does not get confused with the wider privacy debate that is taking place, for example, in Europe, where what went to the European Court of Human Rights, was not data related to the machine readable zone data, but the wider category of data in relation to what is known as PNR, which is passenger information that goes to travel agent, in which we are not interested.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all we are interested in, is being able to take the name, the passport number and the passport issuing authority and scrub those names against a range of databases, whether those databases are the CARICOM Watch List, Interpol Watch List, the UN Watch List or, indeed, the many databases which the American have. Sir, we see the Advance Passenger Information System as a vital component in being able to provide pre-screening, such that we can first establish the Single Domestic Space, which would eventually see the removal of the passport checks from all of the borders of the 10 countries and because we are still working on aspects of the system, there is limited passport examination, but that will go within a few days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, secondly, we see that Advance Passenger Information System pre-screening as complementary to the work of the secure CARICOM visa. May I say that this is not the case of an old rubberstamp in a passport, as we would normally have seen, even in our own national arrangements for the issuance of visas, this is, indeed, a secure visa, where a person applies for the visa, their names are then vetted against a range of databases and their passports are also assessed in the normal way that they are for visas, and a determination is then made as to whether or not the visa would be given.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have spoken at length on this matter, over the course of the last month, throughout the entire region, but may I say that while we concede that we would have wished that we had time to implement it, the truth is that the visa system is working well. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West, this morning would have given yesterday's figures, and I believe that CBC misquoted him in their 1:00 p.m. news on the number of applications. Sir, CBC had him saying there were

18 000 applications, when the Honourable Member had actually said 8000. Sir, the figures for this afternoon, as of 3.00 p.m., - and remember we are talking about issuing sites from as far as Australia, to London, whose day has closed down, and on this part of the world - is that 8 855

visa applications have been received and 7 364 visas have been issued.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I remind you that all of this has taken place between January 1st and 6th February and effectively the 1st of January was a Bank Holiday, so it was from January 2nd to 6th February. Sir, in one month, we have been able to issue over 7 364 visas across the globe, in circumstances where there was a doubt being cast on the capacity of these countries in the region to do the same.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I promise, when I leave public life, to write a book on the sociology of visa issuance, and I will tell you why. Sir, our people are accustomed to having to go and apply for visas, and to stand in the sun or rain, to having to go beg for a letter to get a visa, or having to send passports from Caracas to Port-of-Spain, to Ottawa, to Miami, to Washington.

I know the tourism people would say that we are in a different position because we are asking people to come here but there must be something fundamentally wrong when countries could say to you, without care of the fact that they require the same of you and your citizens, that they have an objection to your putting a visa imposition on them and that they do not, in this day and age, understand the need for a basis for reciprocity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I listened to all of the lashes that we got in Australia, but I did not see anywhere in the Australian Press that Caribbean people have to send their passports to Ottawa and it does not diminish the number of Caribbean citizens going to the Olympics to play cricket, to swim, or to do anything else in Australia. Sir, I want to say that our visa form may be two pages but theirs is 22 pages and that it requests bank information, among a number of other things.

3.40 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

(EDITED)

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I say to you that we in the region have been subject to that for all the years but now that we seek to put a mechanism in place, not only to secure our own citizens but the people who are visiting from those countries, we are being pilloried in a way that does not in any way, in my view, allow for us to accept it without comment. I have said publicly before that I share my own perspective with the Minister of Foreign Affairs from Australia and that I did not believe it would lead to a diminution of numbers. Sir, out of Australia already, we have had 2 100 applications for visas and over 2 000 visas issued in Australia already.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are sensitive to the fact that because we are a tourism destination, we will turn it around quickly and we have put systems in place to be able to do so as quickly as we can.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have also established five satellite offices in Caracas; in Berlin; in Beijing; in Geneva and in Brussels, with different countries from the Caribbean managing those satellite offices through their embassies in those particular countries. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that once again, we would be able to manage our affairs in such a way that it would indeed bring credit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have heard the comments from the President of Jamaica Hotel and Tourism Association, Mr. Peterkin and will tell you what I told him in Aruba, that we look forward to the submission of hard data in relation to any losses that have been incurred but we are yet to see it. I have heard figures of US\$30 million losses for three or four months being bandied about. The advice rendered by our own Ministry of Tourism is that there has been no visible evidence of cancellations as a result of the visa, certainly in Barbados. I also know that in Tobago, up to the last few days, they have been taking full planes just as normal people coming with visas. Sir, I simply say that I find it curious that Mr. Peterkin's comments - I believe he is an employee of Sandals owned by Mr. Stuart - are being only carried with regularity in the Jamaica Observer paper, which is also owned by the owner of Sandals. Sir, I leave it at that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, today's Jamaica Gleaner has taken a completely different approach in its Editorial from the Observer newspaper. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also well understand well, as I do in this debate, that events on the eve of elections throw up different types of debates and I trust that we should contextualise that debate in Jamaica in the same way as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in respect of the real difficulties, we are appreciative of the fact that there might be some people, who by reason of their travel or their business are unable to send their passports immediately or at all and that is why we have set up mechanisms for pre-approval of visas, where persons would fill out the application form, get their photograph, pay their money and photocopy the data page of their passport, send it to the issuing site so that we can do the vetting and provide for pre-approval such that when they arrive at their destination, we are in a position to affix the visas in their passport. Sir, that they can travel ahead of time with a letter saying that their visas have been pre-approved. Sir, for that reason, we feel that we have a duty to reach out to people and be able to facilitate as much as possible. We have done quite a few hundred letters of pre-approval already in the system to accommodate persons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to the other specifics of this legislation, this legislation speaks to the fact of modification or waiver as raised by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. May I also ask you to read the context of the legislation. The legislation first and foremost does not allow a minister to write and waive or write and modify because, first and foremost, it must be done by Order, which means that it has to be laid in this Parliament, which means that it has to be gazetted and secondly, it is also subject to something called “negative resolution”. Therefore, this House retains the right to be able to determine the fate and future of any Order passed by any Minister in any Parliament, however so composed in the future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it needs to be recognised that you do not ascribe the capacity to vary legislation by way of a simple administrative act of writing but that it is subject to the agreement of Cabinet and subject to the approval of Parliament since it is required to be an Order that can be subject to negative resolution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Parliament may have a 24/6 majority but these are acceptable forms of parliamentary governance and I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Philip West stands to be advised by his colleague from St. Philip North on these matters. Since he is in the business of reading Bentham, he may perhaps want to read some matters on constitutional and parliamentary governance so as to further amplify his legal knowledge in these areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in relation to the Customs aspect of it, those amendments mirror what is being put in place for the Immigration Department with the exception that, as you know, the Comptroller of Customs has a power to be able to seize and does not necessarily have to go through the normal process of the court system in the way that the Chief Immigration Officer would have to do and, therefore, it varies in that respect. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it also requires information in relation to cargo, which obviously does not have to be submitted to the Chief Immigration Officer, who is only concerned with the passage of people through borders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in those circumstances, what we are, therefore, doing is some housekeeping work, in relation to further refining the Advance Passenger Information System. Barbados was the first to pass it in the region and, given the consultations and the sessions we have had over the course of the last nine months, we felt that it was in our interest to be able to make these refinements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I say that we will have to be back at this Bill again in May of this year, if the single domestic space ceases, because we then have to remove

those sections of the legislation that are before us today that speak to the time line for the submission of data on the part of vessels operating from one outside of the single domestic space and from within the single domestic space. I signal Parliament that there will have to be a further amendment on the conclusion of the single domestic space in relation to the Advanced Passenger Information System.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I remind this Honourable Chamber that the Centre, which in fact, tracks the movement of all of this data for all flights and vessels in the region is now has headquarters in Barbados and is commonly referred to as the Joint Regional Communications Centre or otherwise known as the JRCC. It is a subsidiary of IMPACS, which is the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, an agency, which the Heads of Governments agree to its establishment in July of 2005, at St. Lucia, in order to be able to manage the crime and security agenda of the regional Governments.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, in this country, we will be responsible for providing the accommodation for the JRCC but the regional Governments are responsible for the funding of the operation of the Centre and, indeed, between now and the end of May, for the secondment of persons, who are staffing the Centre on a 24/7 basis because of the volume of people and data.

H123/15:50

Sequence 30

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, just to share with you, yesterday, alone, we would have vetted over 13 000 names of persons entering and travelling within the region against the established databases. May I say without more, already the law enforcement community of the region is benefitting, because we have had a number of hits, especially in relation to the CARICOM Watch List, which allows the law enforcement personnel to track where persons are going, enhancing the collections and analysis of intelligence, to assist in the fight against crime, generally, in the region. It is a significant tool. It is a significant asset and it will not come to an end at the end of Cricket World Cup. Sir, it is these kinds of benefits and legacies, we believe will inure generally to the benefit of the citizens of the region and to the quality of governance we have.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that the Single Domestic Space, as we are piloting now, would become a platform that the Caribbean would want to see, as a permanent feature of our integration efforts.

Sir, for over thirty years you have heard Caribbean people make the comment, that Americans come into these countries on the basis of a driver's licence, but Caribbean people moving from one country to the next would have to be subjected to the most rigorous passport examination and border security. Sir, for the first time, we have been able to put in place arrangements that facilitate the ease of movement of our own people without compromising the security of the individual countries, that are participating in the exercise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I feel proud to be associated with it. I do not think that we quite understand the complex nature of what is involved. We have, in the last week, got ten countries with multiple agencies in each country, to work on a common platform to pass legislation that is harmonised, multiple pieces of legislation, may I add, to have their Immigration Departments, Custom Departments, airport security, police force, and where they exist, their military, operate on a common platform to create that which Caribbean people have been asking for over thirty years, the right to be able to move with ease from one island to another island without, as I said, compromising the inherent security of the particular country. I feel proud.

I feel proud. It, perhaps, can be said that we should have done it without World Cup, but the reality of our arrangements in the region, that it is usually large events that force us into a common platform of action. In this instance, it is Cricket World Cup.

Sir, a year-and-a-half ago, when we reached the point of signing off on the Single Market, it was the CARICOM Single Market, that saw over 400 pieces of legislation in the region and administrative practices being modified toward the attainment of a single objective. I believe that when we come to reflect on the benefits of Cricket World Cup, outside of the narrow partisan debate that is taking place in here today, we would understand that the things which we have invested in would benefit us for more than a generation. I speak specifically of the investments in roads, general environmental clean-up, the investment in the renewed security architecture. I have every confidence that the Attorney-General will speak to the improvement of the police, specifically, which have been significant in relation to training, assets and equipment, in a way that makes the Royal Barbados Police Force, as well equipped as any modern police, any part of the rest of the Western Hemisphere.

I speak equally of the fact, that we have had levels of inter-ministerial collaboration in order to deliver, and of the difficulties that we in the governance of this country, sometimes is the siloed approach that various ministries take towards the attainment of their own programmes and objectives.

Sir, World Cup has seen us establish an Inter-agency Governmental Committee, that has been Chaired by a Permanent Secretary, who reports to the Prime Minister, she heads the World Cup Unit and, and may I say, that the Permanent Secretary's work has been of such an exemplary nature, that she has received the praise of people up and down, the length and breadth of the Caribbean, simply because of the manner in which she has organised the affairs of Barbados, in relation to the preparations for Cricket World Cup. These are the facts.

Sir, today, I see the CEO of the ICC, Mr. Malcolm Speede, in the Advocate newspaper, speaking, and very often headlines do not relate to the content of the article, because the headline would have suggested to you, that his view as to what would have transpired are very negative, but when you read the body of the article, he reflects on the difficulties in the transportation arrangements of the region, intra-regionally, but goes on to make the point that he believes, that these countries in the region are extremely well-prepared, and have done a significant amount of work to host these games.

Sir, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Philip West ask who sent us to bid for the games, and that we are always talking about being the smallest. The fact that we are the smallest region in the world to host Cricket World Cup is a fact. It is not something that changes. Sir, when we recite it, it is not because we do not believe ourselves capable of doing so successfully, but it is simply that we want to remind persons, (1), our own people, that it requires a continued extraordinary effort on our part, and, (2), to remind the outside world that we are doing so in circumstances where the resources that others might have, may not be available to us, but we would do it in our own way and we will do it well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I say, it is a fact, and I am going to read it into the records of this Chamber, that in 1998, when the Heads of Government agreed to host Cricket, World Cup there was no 9/11, there was no war in Afghanistan nor any war in Iraq. The Heads generally thought they knew that it would be a major challenge, but they thought that they would be dealing with accommodation and crowd control issues, in the same way that we do for a carnival, Crop Over or a music festival, that we would be dealing with garbage and transportation issues, but what has transpired in the short period of time, between 1998 and 2007, has been a virtual upheaval in the global polity, such that issues pertaining to security and terrorism, account for a considerable amount of the focus in the conduct of countries' foreign policies and domestic policies today.

Sir, as fate would have it, the countries that play cricket well are the countries that are at the centre of the global war against terror, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India,

Australia, Bangladesh and the United Kingdom. Sir, while the Americans have not yet developed the prowess to get them in that league of cricketing countries, the facts are, the United States of America is responsible for the highest source of visitors to Cricket World Cup in this country.

16.00 p.m.

Sequence 31

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

House 123, Sequence 32, 4.00 p.m.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in those circumstances, the reality is that we have therefore accepted the reality that even though our foreign policy and our actions do not put us at the centre of that global debate against terror, the truth is that we do not have to be at the centre of it, for persons to want to use us as a backdrop for the carrying out of their agenda.

Barbadians know it well. It happened to us in 1976 with the bombing of Cubana. We had no part to pay in that quarrel but we were the environment against which persons chose to act out their wishes. In recent times, the Balinese know it well. They have been the victims of the unfortunate terrorist attack, two to three years ago and to this day, their economy is suffering as a result of that act.

The simple premise, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that we just simply do not have the margin for recovery. We do not have the size to be able to recover quickly, in the event of any incident. It does not have to be a terrorist incident in your classic violence mode, but it can be a public health outbreak. It can be other issues that can significantly affect economic life and activity in these countries.

Sir, what is clear is that even outside of the Caribbean, no single country in the world today, can afford to host global games, without soliciting international support. Sir, not even the United States of America.

What we did, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we took the model from the Greek Olympics, in relation to their security arrangements. We were fortunate to benefit from the secondment of two persons of the British Government, one from Scotland Yard and one from the Foreign and Commonwealth office. They have been working with us over the course of the last year, to coordinate all of the international support, which we have been requesting, to be able to deal with the security aspects of these games. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the volume of work has been substantial.

I do not normally talk about these things but this year when the year opened up, we lost two people out of the 20 that come to work every day, within the space of a

week. The first one, as soon as the year broke out, the head of the planning, retired on grounds of ill health. Sir, within five days, the person who was due to take on the responsibility of Chair of the Regional Intelligence Committee from Antigua, Mr. Alex Vanderpool, dropped dead with a massive heart attack in his mid-forties.

Sir, it has been even difficult to hold together an organisation that is already understaffed, but more so in circumstances where there have been traumatic events coming at them, in relation to what they are facing. Sir, that is why we have been making the point that our success is going to be determined, not by believing that Governments alone can do it, or police alone can do it, or the military alone can do it, but this is an exercise in which all Caribbean people are required to play their part.

There is no doubt that it is a significant historic event for us. There is no doubt that never in the history of the world, has a region as small as ours been the host of a major global sporting event such as this. There is no doubt that this is the first time, nine separate countries are hosting this kind of event, such that the complexity of the Governments' arrangements is added as an additional difficult factor.

Sir, what must also not be left in doubt, is the commitment and the willingness of all Caribbean people to play their role, as the host of this event. In some instances, I know it is difficult because a lot of the language that has surrounded World Cup, has been about what you cannot do, what you must not do, and what you should not do.

Sir, a large part of that has come from complex legal arrangements, set up from the ICC to the CWC, which is the regional body, and from the Cricket World Cup Regional Body to the local organising committees. In a sense, it has dulled the feeling of the Caribbean, in relation to the excitement that otherwise should be generated at this stage of the hosting of the events. Those are the facts. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is why we have insisted here in Barbados, on a number of other things that we were not prepared to do, because we felt that you cannot so sanitize the event that our own people are not prepared to be a part of it. But it has had its impact.

We want however, in spite of all of that, to recall that this is our event. It is nobody else's, and whether we fall or whether we rise, people are going to judge all of us together. We could as well therefore come together and pull as one, because the judgement and the eyes of the world are going to be reflected on the people of the Caribbean, not Barbados, not Jamaica, not St. Vincent, not Grenada, but the people of the Caribbean.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that if we could do so in our own true inimitable Caribbean style, without

requiring to do it like how the British did it in 1975 and 1979, without requiring to do it, like how the Australians did it, but we are required to do it in our own inimitable Caribbean style, and as we do it, make sure that there are significant benefits that would accrue to our people in the long run, to our communities and to our country, and all of the arrangements that govern how we relate to each another. I am satisfied, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that what as a Government we have tried to do, will bring about those benefits to us, in the short, medium and long term.

Indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, within the specific area of the security arrangements, I go further and say that much of what as a region, we could not accomplish for a decade in relation to security, we have been able to achieve in the last 18 months, because we have had a defined outcome across ten countries and multiple agencies to work towards. May I say that the work which has been done across the region, across all levels of agencies towards this end, has been work that has done us proud and, I hope, that would continue to do us proud, because there is no perfection until the 15th May.

Sir, until such time, we are under an obligation to work each and every day, to make this region as hospitable, as welcoming but equally, as secure as we can possibly do. I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we work together across countries, across parties, across all differences among us, we would go down in history as having achieved a significant milestone, not just in the hosting of these events, but as I said earlier, in the transformation of these countries.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. N.A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, clearly, the debate that would have started on the legislation before us, which is the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2007, has really ranged far and wide. Ultimately, it has turned into what has now become a Cricket World Cup 2007 debate, basically with everyone touching every aspect of that particular event and its hosting in the region: clearly, the issues related to the law, and how the legal aspects of the Bill were explained.

House 123, Sequence 32, 16:10:14

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I suspect that the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister would have given a tutorial to all those who are not legally-minded, like myself and all the Honourable Members of the Opposition, regarding the legal aspects of the Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there was a lot that was raised regarding this particular piece of legislation and how it is going to be applied at the national level that spoke to issues of tourism and the legacy of tourism coming out of this particular debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. John, although he was ultimately in agreement with the security and safety aspects that this Bill is intended to foster or the environment it is intended to create, spoke very fulsome on issues relating to booking and cancellations in hotels.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, whom I understand is the shadow minister of tourism, went on for a long time about cancellations and cruise ships and about how the tourism industry was not doing well, and how the tourism industry has done so well globally last year, but we continue to speak of issues of decline.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me clear the air on issues relating to the security aspects of this event and how it relates to the development of our tourism industry. Mr. Deputy Speaker, these global sporting events have always been used as catalysts for development within any country or any jurisdiction, which is a fact of life.

Sir, in Barbados, like anywhere else, we are looking to the legacy benefits that would come out of the Cricket World Cup 2007, that is why the Cricket World Cup Unit, under the Prime Minister's Office, was created as an inter-ministerial body to look at creating that legacy that we want, not only in preparing Barbados for the period of the cup but actually looking at the legacy benefits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there were some aspects of those tasks that fell to the Ministry of Tourism and its agencies. I will begin, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the issues that fell under the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated. Sir, those who would like to come here and tell people that Barbados is not being prepared in a positive manner, that the money has been going and the Colonel Bostic debate that waged on...

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we were charged, under the Barbados Tourism Investment Incorporated, to deliver certain aspects of this project. There is the redevelopment of Kensington Oval, which is virtually completed; the redevelopment of Jubilee Gardens, which is done; the restoration of the West Wing of Parliament, which is done; the rehabilitation of the inner and outer Careenage including the replacement of the Chamberlain Bridge and the redevelopment of parts of the Constitution River; the redevelopment of what used to be the Independence Square car park, which everybody went and saw, and the erection of the statue is done; the Boardwalk has been repaired; the

redevelopment of inner basin, has been done; and the Bridge has been replaced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the provision of bathroom facilities in Bridgetown is to be completed by March 2007. The landscaping and the beautification of the environs of Kensington Oval is ongoing. The construction of the multi-storey car park at Princess Alice Highway is going on. The construction of a beach facility at the Bath and Brandon beaches, in collaboration with the National Conservation Commission, are in progress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these were issues coming out of the planning for the Cricket World Cup 2007. However, it did not mean necessarily that all of the resources were going to be spent only in and around Bridgetown. Mr. Deputy Speaker, one should expect that if you are going to host an event at Kensington Oval, which is in Bridgetown, because it is not in St. Lucy, St. Peter nor St. Philip, that one would have to spruce up the major arteries leading into Bridgetown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I come to the Honourable Member for St. Philip West because I have to debunk the myth that goes on in this place from the unenlightened Honourable Members on that side who speak from both corners of their mouth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there were some other things that we were charged with, one of which was to implement, under the Ministry of Tourism, a Home Accommodation Programme. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as at December 31, 2006, FundAcess, which was the agency that was working with the Ministry of Tourism, had approved a total of 52 loans for \$2.473 million to provide 156 rooms under the Home Accommodation Programme. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the initial amount for the Home Accommodation Programme was \$5 million. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is even greater is that we have created another 156 home accommodation rooms in and above what has already existed in Barbados in terms of home accommodation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, part of the challenge we have in estimating how many rooms we have in the rental pool for tourism purposes in the home accommodation sector or private residences in Barbados is that most people will not register officially with the Barbados Tourism Authority because they are clearly concerned about issues of taxation and the like. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have estimated that we have a pool of about 500 rooms in the tourism industry participating at the home accommodation level.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is most interesting is that the distribution of the rooms by parish shows that 35 per cent of those rooms have been created in the parish of St. Philip.

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you can check that out with FundAcess. The Honourable Member said that the geographical distribution of the things we are doing is in town, in St. Michael, and the absolute imperative and the absolute this and that...

Mr. Deputy Speaker, 35 per cent of the 100 plus rooms that have been created under FundAcess, the programme for the Cricket World Cup, are located in the parish of St. Philip. It is a fact that St. Philip is the parish with the most home accommodation room coming out of the programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me go on. In addition to that, we were supposed to implement a Small Hotels Refurbishment Scheme and Programme for the Cricket World Cup, which is ongoing. Sir, the \$30 million Small Hotels Refurbishment Scheme has proven to be a resounding success. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the demand for the funds under the Small Hotels Refurbishment Scheme has outstripped the supply of available funds.

House 123 Sequence 33

4.20 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House by quoting from a newspaper.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Continuation of: Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, with regard to the Enterprise Growth Fund Limited, under that scheme, as at November 30th, 2006, the Small Hotels Refurbishment Scheme was working with 19 hotels, to refurbish 382 existing rooms and to create 202 new rooms, for a total of 584 predominately three-star hotel rooms, for a proposed total, an amount of \$39.8 million. Mr. Deputy Speaker, \$26.2 million, at November 30th, which is the last date I have figures from the Enterprise Growth Fund Limited, \$26.2 million was committed to 14 hotels, to refurbish 316 existing rooms and to create 151 new rooms, for a total of 467 new rooms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have already disbursed \$8.4 million to nine hotels, as of November 30th. There has been the refurbishment of 176 existing rooms and plans to create 104 new rooms, of a total of 180. It is projected that approximately 350 rooms, financed by the Small Hotel

Refurbishment Project, would be ready for occupancy by the start of Cricket World Cup, 2007. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we are saying is that the two issues with which we have been charged, that of the Small Hotels Refurbishment Scheme and that of the Home Improvement Programme, have met the targets we had put out to the public of Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going further. There were a number of other issues relating to the Grantley Adams International Airport and the Bridgetown Port, but I want to come back to other issues under the Ministry of Tourism and its performance. Sir, when you hear the Honourable Member for St. Lucy speak, one would believe that he is talking about the numbers, et cetera.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is only to show the kind of misleading information that comes out of this Honourable House, but you do not have to believe me. Sir, the Governor of the Central has just given her end of year report on the last quarter of the year, 2006. Sir, there were 563 024 long-stay visitors, who arrived at our shores last year. It is 3 per cent above what happened in 2005.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, who likes statistics, let me give some to him. Sir, not only is the estimated visitor expenditure up...

Asides.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, between the Statistical Department and the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, in terms of dollars spent, let me tell you the contribution. Sir, visitors expenditure, in 2003, was \$1.498 billion; in 2004, it was \$1.628 billion; in 2005, it was \$1.770 billion; and in 2006, it was \$1.886 billion. Sir, it means that we would have seen an increase of \$119.6 million, in terms of visitors spend over last year. Furthermore, the average daily spend for the year stood at \$158.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. Sir, growth in this country is normally measured by units and the Honourable Member has quoted dollars. When the Governor of the Central Bank speaks, she speaks in terms of unit growth and not dollar growth. Therefore, I want to know which statistic the Minister of Tourism and International Transport is using for tourism, whether those statistics are units or money value, and which one is consistent with how we measure growth in this country.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a very simple thing, I have given the Honourable Member the arrival figures and visitor expenditure. I can give the Honourable Member the contribution to Gross Domestic

Product for each of the years involved as well. Sir, in 2003, that contribution was \$512.4 million; in 2004, it was \$523 million; in 2005, it was \$569 million.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the point I am making is this, whatever unit one chooses to measure by....I did not say it, the Governor of the Central Bank said that in real terms, the tourism industry grew by 2.5 per cent last year.

Asides.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House by giving the impression that this debate is about past statistics. That is not true. This debate is about the number of cruise ships that will be in the Bridgetown Port for Cricket World Cup, 2007, as predicted previously and as now being stated.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I like to come to the juicy parts and before I get there, I want this House and all of Barbados to hear. Sir, in terms of speaking about absolute figure arrivals for long-stay passengers, Barbados has been accustomed to cycles of a two-years growth and then of a seven-year dip. Sir, in 2000, which was our highest peak up to that time, we had 544 696 visitors; in 2001, we had 507 078 visitors; in 2002, we had 497 899 visitors; in 2003, we had 531 211 visitors; in 2004, we had 551 502 visitors; in 2005, we had 547 501 visitors and in 2006, we had 563 024 visitors. It is the highest ever recorded amount of long-stay passengers that Barbados has ever had, and that is a fact of life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Philip West and with the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, when he was on the other side, that you cannot only measure the performance in terms of absolute figures but the issue is that this is the unit figure, upon which we have grown, and it keeps going north.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hear everybody talking about the cruise ship bookings - and I do not want the Honourable Member for St. Lucy to leave, I want him in his chair - Sir, during the period of Cricket World Cup, 2007, we never said anything about having 21 cruise ships. Sir, the Government of Barbados has always estimated that there will be 15 cruise ships, at maximum, that will be in the Bridgetown Port during Cricket World Cup, 2007. As a matter of fact, on Saturday 28th April, 2007, which is the day the Finals will be held in Barbados, there will be 14 cruise ships in the Bridgetown Port.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not going to waste my time, I am going to call the names of the ships, and Parliament can count with me: the Carnival Destiny, the Galaxy, the Pacific Explorer, the Royal Clipper, the Yorktown Clipper, the Legacy, the Masdam, the Mandalay, the Norwegian Crown, the Norwegian Dawn, the Pacific Explorer, the Polynesian, the Seawind II, Silver Wind and the Yankee Clipper. Sir, those are the ships that will be in the Port.

4.30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member has mislead the House. The Honourable Member has now demonstrated to the House that he is not interested in the number of people arriving on the cruise ships that he is interested in the number of empty ships that would be in the harbour.

Hon. N A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also have the daily cruise ship activity for the entire month of April and all the ships that will call at the Port. It begins on Sunday, April 1 and ends on Monday, April 2nd. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the day with the most ships is the day of the final but there are days when there will be three or two ships. There will be 124 vessels for a total count of 135 328 passengers.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by telling this House and big men and women that on the day of the finals that there would be 135 000 passengers in Barbados and I am saying that the Honourable Member does not know that as a fact and it cannot be recorded in Hansard Report. The Honourable Member did not say an estimated number. The Honourable Member said that 135 000 passengers will be in the Port.

Hon. N A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us bring some sanity back to the debate. I am saying that on the day of final, April 20th, there will be 14 cruise ships for a total of 10 198 passengers on that day.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member cannot give a specific figure. The Honourable Member would have to give an estimated figure because nobody in here knows how many people would be on that ship at that point in time.

Hon. N A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is estimated that on that day, we will have 10 198 passengers in the Port. Sir, what is the issue, no cruise ship is coming down here empty from anywhere in the world. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have had a cruise ship that has cancelled. The

reason it had been cancelled is because the packages were not selling but nobody is coming here with an empty ship.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also want to give an idea of the hotel bookings during the period. Sir, January has already passed but in January the number of bed nights sold finished at 75 per cent occupancy, taking into account all of the rooms in Barbados that would have responded and we tracked this on a daily basis. Sir, luxury properties responding 18; A-class properties responding 25; B-class properties responding 21. Sir, it is a good sample but out of this sample size we have 75 per cent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me tell you what are the projected number of bed nights under these headings, who responded on a daily basis to the survey that is carried out because the Honourable Member for St. Lucy talks a lot but he does not listen and the issues are these. Sir, the month of January is gone, February is not over but the bed nights sold for February are 74 per cent. Sir, for March, we are now at 56 per cent and for April, we are at 69 per cent. Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are things that are happening every day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will admit that March seems a bit soft at this period and there are multiple reasons for that. Sir, part of the challenge has to do with a number of tour operators believing that Barbados and the Caribbean was going to be overrun during the March period. We have to remember that lot of the figures we see in April are World Cup figures but clearly people tried to stay away in March from the jurisdiction because it is small during a period of a global event so we are seeing a March period that appears to be soft.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will admit to you that we are working to ensure that March does not continue soft and that March gives us the number of passengers that we need. Sir, there is one other legacy coming out of this. In 2005, we engaged the services of IMG, which is the leading sports and recreational management service in the world to prepare a planter design of sports active and lifestyle plan for Barbados including a five-year major event strategy. Mr. Deputy Speaker, IMG produced this report in 2005 and one of the objectives of this report was to enhance Kensington Oval, bringing life and business to the area, thus generating more income and decreasing the seasonality that Kensington Oval has been associated with. The characteristics of that particular plan speak to developing Kensington Oval surrounding some ingredients that historical bring life and economic value. At the time, we were only seeing an average of 40 to 50 persons visiting Kensington Oval. Kensington Oval should take advantage of the expanding cruise area, which is now being catered to handle as many as 700 000 passengers per year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, part of the problem is this. The coordination with the Barbados World Cup, the Barbados Port Inc. and other institutions would be key to develop an efficient and holistic project for Kensington Oval and its environs. Sir, there is a plan in an around Kensington Oval even after this event to build out the installation that is called Kensington Oval and its environs to create a holistic programme for lifestyle changes and for lifestyle activity in the area.

Asides.

Hon. N A. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy can say and think what he likes but there are people from all over the world who are interested in coming and seeing Kensington Oval. Sir, they are not interested in coming to any stadium in St. Lucy, they are interested in coming to Kensington Oval. They are not interested in coming to any airport in St. Lucy, they are interested in coming to Grantley Adams International Airport.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I live in rural Barbados and you cannot neglect rural Barbados from the rest of the country, we understand that. This is a particular event, in a particular geographic area that we need to develop now because that is where most of our people are going to be found. This Government has been following a specific plan for that area and is working on it. Sir, if you look at Bridgetown, if you look at the Kensington Oval area and see how it is being built out, I do not think there is any Barbadian except those with malice in their hearts - I know some of them - that could think that we are not doing the best job possible in developing Bridgetown, Kensington Oval and being prepared for this World Cup.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is interesting, is that it would have taken an event like to create a single domestic space and the legacy of it and, at the end of the day, we will have a platform for issues of securities and a platform for the opening up of a single domestic space. Sir, those are the legacies that would accrue out of World Cup, 2007. I do not think that this Government should have any apology to make to anybody for the way in which this thing has been put together.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the tourism benefits of this programme are going to be multiple for Barbados. I am going to continue working to ensure that we have the best World Cup ever.

Sir, I am obliged to you.

SUSPENSION

Hon. R. R. FARLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 5.00 p.m.

Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: I beg to second that.

The question that the House be suspended until 5.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker suspended the House accordingly H123/16: 40

Sequence 35

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

RESUMPTION

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is resumed.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the matter before the House, the amendments that are before us. I think that the point has been made already, and it is probably worth reiterating, that the Opposition support for the event in question, the Cricket World Cup, is very clear, and in both of our recent incarnations, we have expressly offered support to the World Cup event, so, I do not think that should really be in doubt. We have had some concerns and I think it is appropriate that we should allow those concerns to be heard, as far as the matters that we are dealing with here today, that relate to the creation of the single domestic space, Immigration and Customs matters.

Sir, I believe I have and said elsewhere, I think that it is a little unfortunate, that it should actually have taken a World Cup event for this to become a reality. These have been talked about for years, in terms of the whole integration movement. It is a little unfortunate that it took the staging of the someone else's event, because we are constantly told that it is not our event, it is the ICC World Cup, that we just have the privilege of hosting. I think that it is a little unfortunate, that it should have taken that event to have propelled us forward. I do hope that, as has been suggested, that even after May 15, 2007, we would see a continuation of this effort, and may be an expansion of it. Sir, as it stands now, there are only ten territories and there are other members of CARICOM that are to come on stream.

Sir, we speak about this integration issue, but sometimes when it comes to act on it, we sometimes fall short. If we could identify any meaningful legacy that this generation of Parliamentarians can really leave for Barbadians born and those yet to be born, it would be to generally move forward the integration process in a meaningful way.

Sir, there are some obvious concerns that we cannot get away from. There are some issues relating to security, and I understand that those challenges are occupying the minds of persons responsible for this. It is obviously not easy, we are talking about ten sovereign countries, however you look at it, and each with peculiar concerns, each with their own peculiar relationships, beyond the region, and that has naturally presented some challenges.

Sir, I do not think that we have heard enough of that in here today, because fundamentally that is really what these amendments are about, the creation and advancement of this single domestic space, clarifying Immigration and Customs matters. Sir, we have heard stories of certain countries in CARICOM, being mistreated in other countries, and we would like to think that all of this can lead to greater understanding, and can be actually a very tangible benefit from this whole Cricket World Cup.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that we cannot escape the reality, that too many Barbadians that I come into contact with, feel that there is precious little in this event, for the average Barbadian. We are in here debating work going on in the immediate environs of Kensington Oval. I have a vivid recollection of the debate we had about ambush marketing. A lot of concerns were expressed on both sides of the House, that people who traditionally benefitted from events at Kensington Oval, namely the food vendors, et cetera, would be prohibited from doing such during the World Cup, and no lesser a person than the Prime Minister, said not to worry about the immediate environs of Kensington Oval, do not get bog down with the issues of ambush marketing, and the fact that average Barbadians may not benefit, those who traditionally have benefitted, do not worry about that because it was a national event, and he would have expected community groups, in St. John, St. Lucy and St. Peter, they were supposed to be benefitting from this influx of visitors. Sir, that was the thinking that we understood at that point in time.

Sir, we are hearing something a little different today. The event is at Kensington Oval, it is a St. Michael event, therefore, those areas and the arteries leading to that area, are where we must concentrate the work. We must set up mechanisms to see that efforts are concentrated down there.

I had understood before, that it was supposed to be a national event, and really and truly, given the ambush marketing issue, and given the number of visitors that are anticipated to come into the island, because if Kensington Oval is supposed to have a seating capacity 28 000, and we are talking about visitors way in excess of that, just from the cruise alone, it is only obvious that the thinking must be that there is a benefit to be enjoyed, beyond the immediate environs of Kensington Oval. I think it is in that context that we have to understand, what we are really up against as an Opposition.

17.00 p.m.

Sequence 37

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

House 123, Sequence 38, 5.00 p.m.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: The point has been made that no one is unhappy about the fact that a few persons from the areas of Kensington New Road, the New Orleans, or Pickwick Gap would have their palings repaired and houses painted. Sir, repairs are good, and help is good. Why must it be done in this improper fashion?

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East who has responsibility for the Urban Development Commission, it is rather interesting that when she spoke about my constituency, St. Michael South Central that happens to be in the urban corridor, she had to reflect to when the Ministry was under a previous member, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, and a fire that occurred in June 2003, weeks after I was elected as a Member of Parliament.

We are now in 2007 and that in itself is maybe an indictment on the manner in which resources have been allocated through that particular agency. I find myself attracted to some of what the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is saying that even if we do not directly allocate by constituency, exactly what is happening at the beginning of the financial year, we must be a lot clearer, at least on a project basis or something, how these monies are being spent.

It is a little unusual that somebody, politically connected can be given a high paying job to repair areas that fall within the boundaries of the constituency that they plan to contest. A lot has been said about that and I think that is the point. It is not that people are being helped. It is not that you are against people being helped, but it is the choice of individuals.

Sir, one of the points that need to be made is that this is an ex-military officer. What qualifications does he have to execute this task? This Government takes a great deal of pride in talking about how many people it has put through the Community College system, where there is an OTD Programme in Civil and Building Works; and the extra places at the National Vocational Training Board. It talks about the extra places at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. It talks about the Youth Entrepreneurial Scheme. It talks about the development all of these young people to develop their management skills, and you are telling me that you have to take a military officer to head up a project. It is a slap in the face to all those young people,

who are capable and qualified of doing that job. Sir, it could have been done by them.

Asides.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: Sir, that is not the issue. People are qualified to do the job but they have to be passed over because of political considerations, and that is wrong, however you look at it. It is wrong. It is wrong. It is wrong. If the Government wants to suggest that it has good intentions with respect to this programme, it is very simple; remove Mr. Bostic from there and put someone who is qualified for the position to execute the task. It is as simple as that. We heard that they have civil servants, who are doing such a wonderful job, but you have to find someone who has to be politically connected to the area. They can get in here and heckle and talk all over their faces Sir, credit goes to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West because he is the only one that actually addressed the issue directly, fully frontal. Everyone else talked all around it. No one has directly confronted the reason why was the good Colonel was selected. What was the basis of choosing him? What particular qualifications does he bring to execute that task?

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West directly dealt with it. At least, he said it is because he is a good fellow and he went to Combermere and so on and so forth, but I understand that. You might not agree with it but, at least, he is dealing with it, and I give him his due, but the others cannot confront it. Apparently, an Opposition is supposed to sit, say nothing and ask nothing. It cannot work.

The larger point was addressed by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. I really do not see how you can restrict this effort, even within the context of urban renewal, to three constituencies. Why not come into Tweedside Road, the Ivy and the Pine? These are all parts of urban Barbados. I know that the Members of Parliament for those constituencies cannot be pleased, because they, like me, have to lobby and struggle hard to try to get assistance to poor people, too. The City of Bridgetown is not the only place in the world with poor people. There are other constituencies that have, and we struggle hard on behalf of them. Sir, nobody is coming with a \$10 000 job, and a \$1 million budget to do work in St. Michael South Central.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is conveying the impression that across the length and breadth of St. Michael North West, houses are being repaired, painted and debushed.

There is only one project associated with World Cup that is being conducted in the constituency of St. Michael

North West. It happens to be a project that is similar to what is taking place at Bath, St. John, the construction of a beach facility.

Sir, it is not the fault of the residents of Brandons, that the Spring Garden pasture has been selected as a park and ride facility. If they selected it because of the proximity to Kensington, what is the problem? There are projects all about Barbados. It so happens that the constituency is in the environs, and I thank the Lord for it, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you, Sir. You have made your point.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I want to be in a position to thank the Lord, too. I have needs, too. I do not understand the point. In fact, he has walked into making a case for me because, guess what. There is a park and ride facility by the Police Sports Club too, so I want a piece of the action. If you are getting a piece because of park and ride facility, come into Halls Road and Martindales Road, bring whomever. I want some of the action too. I cannot understand.

Asides.

Mr. R.L. SEALY: Sir, do you see the frivolity that they want to reduce it to? We are talking about repairs. They set the programme. I am saying there is a park and ride facility out there, and there is a park and ride facility up by me. Sir, you understand the folly of trying to restrict it to the environs. Barbados is 14 x 21 miles and you really are stretching it.

Sir, this is the same issue I had with this nonsense about special development areas. The whole island is special, and you look at issues on a project basis. You cannot geographically separate things, as they suit you. It connotes sinister behaviour. Even this issue of urban and rural in Barbados, just 14 x 21 miles, it does not make sense.

Sir, there are farmers in St. Michael, who raise livestock, and even grow certain types of kitchen crops. They have agricultural concerns in St. Michael and, likewise, infrastructural issues. Lighting is an issue in St. Lucy, as much as it is in Chapman Lane. I always had a difficulty with this separation. We are seeing it in here again, today.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West has said that he is just, by chance benefiting because of park and ride facility, and he is thanking the Lord. As I said, I would like to thank the Lord, too. I have a park and ride facility up by me, so I look forward to seeing Mr. Bostic or preferably his successor, in the areas of Tweedside Road, Hindsbury Road, Martindales Roads and

Halls Road, looking to improve that lot, because of the park and ride facility.

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of order, please.

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member again is misrepresenting what I said. Sir, I am not inferring that because there is a park and ride facility that you, by extension, expect houses to be repaired and refurbished in that area. I cannot decide where a park and ride facility should be located. It was decided by World Cup.

What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that I cannot decide where a beach would be located. It happens that Brandons is the first important and large beach to the north of Kensington. It is believed that it should have been developed as a place for cruise ship passengers for a long time.

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Hon. C. A. MASCOLL: I am happy, and I will repeat, that the opportunity has now come to develop the facility in such a way that it would give rise to opportunities for residents in the area. Mr. Speaker, there is no saying that houses are being repaired or anything is being debushed or there is any paling, that is happening within the immediate environs of Kensington.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, but I think, as I say, that it does not negate the point that it is a national event. As it is, there are too many Barbadians who do not feel as if they are part of the process.

Mr. Speaker, when we hear talk of a cleaning company from Australia coming to Barbados to do the cleaning, about a caterer being a large conglomerate and now the vendors have to apply to this large conglomerate in order to get the right to vend and when we hear stories of the logo being designed by an Australian - as it is, I guess, we have an Australian coach in the team - people start to wonder and ask question.

Mr. Speaker, much fuss was made of the home accommodation sector, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South revealed the figures. Sir, we are four weeks away from the start of this event. I believe that the warm-up matches in St. Vincent are scheduled for early March. Sir, we are hearing that there is an additional 157 rooms through the home accommodation sector.

Sir, generally speaking, Bajans, especially when they take out a large mortgage, would build a little apartment on

the side or underneath, so there are going to be developments like that in spite of the Cricket World Cup not because of the Cricket World Cup. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you take out that, you would have to say that the home accommodation trust has been by and large a total failure. We have only add a few extra rooms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as it is, there were no major developments in terms of the hotel sector. As far as I know, the only hotel doing anything significant is Accra. Mr. Speaker, I dare say that extension would have been occurring anyway. In fact, there are hotels, like Glitter Bay and Inn on the Beach that are coming out of short-stay and going into the condominium sector, so you would have less hotel rooms.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have a failing home accommodation sector and the Government of Barbados is about to spend \$15 million to rent the Carnival Destiny, the largest cruise liner in the world, so as to get additional rooms. Mr. Deputy Speaker, who benefits from that? It is issues like that cause people to ponder and reflect on who is really benefiting from the Cricket World Cup. It also says that maybe the Government did not or has not done enough with respect to explaining to Barbadians and preparing them for genuine involvement in the process.

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Government of Barbados is not renting anything. The Government of Barbados has not rented any cruise ship for the period of the Cricket World Cup. The Honourable Member is misleading the House and the people of Barbados.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, actually, the Honourable Member is right, they are providing a guarantee.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: The point I was making, Mr. Speaker, and I will say it again with the Minister of Tourism present because...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please conduct yourselves like gentlemen and just stay cool, please.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I will stay cool and say what I have to say very cool.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South has a habit, whenever he is discussing tourism and his performance as Minister of Tourism, to bring figures. Sir, when the figures were good, as apparently they were today, you have to restrain him, but this time last year when the figures were bad, he was a church mouse, he did not have anything to say.

The real issue, Mr. Speaker, is what he actually mentioned six months ago.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central were ordered expunged from the records by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: You were proceeding so well and you allowed the Honourable Member to take you off your track.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: No one took me off my track, Mr. Speaker. When we look at the issue of the home accommodation sector, that was specifically designed to provide an opportunity for ordinary Barbadians to benefit from this event, the fact that it has not lived up to expectations and the fact that we find it necessary to get involved in an arrangement, be it by Government guarantee of having...

Hon. N. A. LYNCH: On a point of order. The Honourable Member again is incorrect in his statements. The Home Accommodation Programme and the Small Hotels Programme have produced the number of rooms that were targeted. As a matter of fact, the resources that were made available in the first place for the programme have now been exceeded. The Honourable Member is so incorrect, he does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, am I to understand that an extra 150 rooms are what was expected for the home accommodation sector? Mr. Speaker, all along you are anticipating not having or not encouraging wider participation of ordinary Barbadians knowing full well that you are going to add to the black entry of the balance sheets of the largest cruise liner in the world. What am I to understand here? Who are we really in here serving? I thought that we were trying to serve the interest of Barbadians, those are whom I am serving, through the people of St. Michael South Central. Sir, I am flabbergasted. He said it unapologetically.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay, please.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, that is the plight that we are in, a lack of direction with respect to our tourism industry and our tourism product, but we

understand what the problem is. Ministers studying carnival and not studying the home accommodation sector for ordinary Barbadians. Mr. Speaker, it dovetails with the issue of Barbadians feeling as if they are part of this exercise. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government cannot claim that we have stood in their way in anyway. They constantly like to pretend as if we are against the hosting of the Cricket World Cup whenever legitimate questions are asked. Sir, it is the job of the Opposition to ask questions.

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: They would want to attack the Honourable Member for St. Lucy for making what was a good suggestion that we could have had a second cricket ground. Mr. Speaker, that issue relates to the Cricket World Cup issues. What is wrong with suggesting that. Sir, we are now at a disadvantage.

Asides.

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Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, we are not dealing with that, that is not relevant. We are dealing the issues relating to the ways in which we could have advanced the cause of the Cricket World Cup, 2007, in a manner that would have been more inclusive, one that would have enjoyed wider support.

Mr. Speaker, we do genuinely not only wish Barbados all the best, I want us, through you, to salute the volunteers who are going to be coming out, to ensure that we have a successful Cricket World Cup, 2007. Sir, in spite of all the money that is knocking around, there are still a lot of public-spirited Barbadians, who have volunteered their services, who will be coming out in their numbers, to help ensure that we have a successful Cricket World Cup, 2007.

We have to remember those people as well. We know that Government likes to take a lot of credit all the time, except when things go wrong but there are other public-spirited individuals, who are not only BLPs or DLPs, but who are just Bajans. I want to salute those volunteers and take this opportunity, as I believe it would be the last time we would be addressing this matter before the actual event...

Asides.

Mr. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I will take this opportunity to wish the West Indies Cricket team and hope that they could 'bring home the bacon' for the entire

region. We, therefore, wish the West Indies Cricket Team well and the people of the entire region well, as we look forward to putting on this wonderful event. Mr. Speaker, I am obliged.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Hon. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to join this debate. I unashamedly join it and start out from a parochial standpoint. There has been much ado and much has been made of efforts at beautifying Barbados, in preparation for Cricket World Cup, 2007. Sir, perhaps it is true to say that there are no constituencies that have been untouched.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to say that the people of the constituency of St. Joseph have also benefited from some of the beautification, and that work continues. We have seen some work happening in Bathsheba and I expect that, very shortly, additional works would take place on the roads leading into Bathsheba, so as to ensure that heavily-traffic area, not only by Barbadians but also heavily used by tourists, would not just be in a more appealing state but would also be a safer state.

We talked a lot about beautification and so on but one of the serious challenges in the constituency of St. Joseph, has to do with the undulating nature of the road, as slippage takes effect. In the area just to the north of St. Elizabeth School, the road is very bad, simply because of the slippage and any individual, who does not know that road, could find himself running off the road and causing a serious accident. Sir, we also expect to see road works in Tent Bay and in other areas of the constituency, so that not only would the people of St. Joseph be able to showcase the constituency that belongs to them but that visitors to Barbados would be also be able to traverse those areas in absolute safety.

Mr. Speaker, on the point of safety, I wish to indicate that Cricket World Cup, 2007, has caused the Office of the Attorney-General, and I will specifically speak to the Police Force and the Barbados Fire Service, to undertake significant new initiatives, so as to ensure that Barbados is ready for Cricket World Cup, 2007. Sir, I want, at the outset, to stress that the initiatives, while they might have been occasioned by Cricket World Cup, 2007, it bears repeating that these are some of the legacy benefits that will redound to all Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, I begin by mentioning the Police Force. Sir, notwithstanding the fact that the Royal Barbados Police Force is pressed into service, whenever there is a major event in this country, and certainly being pressed into service for large events such as cricket, especially if there is an English tour, this is not uncommon to them. Sir,

what is unusual in this case, is the fact, first of all, that we would be dealing with significantly larger crowds but also the fact that this kind of event will attract the attention, not just of cricket goers and fans of the game, but there is also the significant risk of it attracting the attention of persons who would wish to use the occasion of Cricket World Cup, 2007, to wreak havoc and rain destruction down on not just our small country but the other nations of the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, it was clear, obviously from the outset, that if any of the countries in the region were going to be able to effectively host a safe Cricket World Cup, 2007, we had to pay careful attention, not just to the possible elements from within but to the possible criminal elements from outside of the region.

Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, I would want to mention the innovation of the intelligence network that has been establishment in the Caribbean, and I am able to say to you, without fear of contradiction, that it is an intelligence network that has already begun to bear fruit. The Member States of CARICOM have established what is called the Intelligence Fusion Centre. This Fusion Centre is staffed by intelligence officers from Police Forces across all the Member States of CARICOM. Sir, immediately when Cricket World Cup, 2007 presented itself as an opportunity, we realised that it was an opportunity for us to start dealing with crime from a regional perspective, and to move away from the local emphasis that has always been attendant with the way we deal with crime and the criminal element.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to us that within the region, crime has taken on a regional aspect, where we now have criminal elements moving within the island chains of the Caribbean and conducting criminal activities in one jurisdiction and fleeing to another, or perhaps are conducting criminal activities in multiple jurisdictions, at the same time. We are seeing a regional approach to the various crime entities that would want to distribute drugs and firearms within the region.

Mr. Speaker, with this in mind, it became apparent that we had to pool our resources and establish a framework to deal with the collection of intelligence and also the dissemination of that intelligence. Sir, when I speak about intelligence, I think it is clear to all Honourable Members that we are not speaking about intellect but about information regarding criminal activity. It is not just about knowing about criminal activity after the fact but about putting ourselves in a position to know about things that are likely to take place and to put effective measures in place, so as to ensure that such criminal endeavours are headed off before the intent is carried out.

Mr. Speaker, this has already begun to bear fruit for the region. We are seeing a significant level of cooperation that we never had before. While it was always possible for Police Commissioners to speak and senior police officers to pick up the phone, for the first time we actually have a system in place for the systematic collection of intelligence gathering and then disseminating it for the regional forces.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, I want to stress that intelligence is only as good as what you do with it but perhaps more important intelligence at a regional level, could only be relied on, if the intelligence at the local or domestic level is reliable. Sir, certainly the Royal Barbados Police Force has been putting a lot of emphasis on its intelligence-gathering mechanism, certainly over the last two years, which has allowed us to make informed and accurate inputs into the regional approach at intelligence gathering.

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(EDITED)

Hon. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, we also have put in place, specifically for World Cup, 2007, what we call roving teams. These teams are made up principally of military personnel, who are going to be stationed at various venues, where the games are being played. I am happy to say that these roving teams are made up of about 400 specially trained military officers gathered from around CARICOM, and all 400 military officers will be stationed in Barbados on standby for the finals.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that some of the things we have done over the last few months would also be redounding to the benefit of the Police Force in the way in which they are better able to handle security issues surrounding Cricket World Cup. You would have noticed that many of the aging vehicles in the police fleet has been changed and the fleet of the Royal Barbados Police Force is now better equipped. We have put in place a proper system of maintenance to ensure that those vehicles are up most of the time, if not all of the time. In addition to that kind of initiative, we have also put a lot of effort and resources into technology in terms of computers and things of that sort. It would be difficulty for me to go into great detail in the kinds of initiatives that we have embraced but, suffice it to say, we will see significant improvements in the methods that the Royal Barbados Police Force would be employing surrounding World Cup, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I also need to say that in order to supplement the resources of the Royal Barbados Police Force that about 80 additional special constables would be recruited during this period. In addition to handling all of

the Cricket World Cup security issues, the Royal Barbados Police Force still has to deal with day-to-day Barbadian happenings. They still have to deal, in some instances, with the regulation of traffic, with responding to various disputes and incidents. They still have to deal with traffic accidents and there are a whole variety of things that they have to pay careful attention to and so, I am happy to say that we will have those additional 80 special constables to supplement the manpower needs of the Royal Barbados Police Force during the period.

Mr. Speaker, some mention has been made of the 70 specialised police officers that have been offered to the region by the Government of South Africa. Sir, various Governments have offered to assist the region in the hosting of the games by putting various personnel in place. Some Governments have offered medical teams, some Governments have offered sniffer dogs and other Governments have offered planning resources. In fact, we are benefitting from the offer of the UK Government to provide us with two specialists individuals, who worked with extensively with the Athens Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, the offer of the Government of South Africa is an especially attractive one because the offer is for the entire duration of the games and has nothing to do with whether or not the South African team is in it from the beginning to the end. These 70 officers are going to be trained in disarming explosives, dealing with nuclear and biological hazards and they will even be anti-terrorist teams. These police officers are not limited to Barbados but will be moving across the region and will be available for us to draw on. I will have to say to you, Sir, that because of the special nature of the police operating in another territory, we expect that we will have to come before Parliament, within the next few weeks, to bring legislation which would govern the functioning of those police officers within Barbados and this is going to replicate across the region. We currently have in Barbados what is called Visiting Forces legislation, which deals with how the military will function in a particular island State.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of the prison fire, you would recall that we had to bring in military personnel to supplement the resources within Barbados and that they came into Barbados and function under our Visiting Forces legislation. Sir, police are not military and we have to craft a piece of legislation to establish how they function within Barbados and what immunities they would benefit from and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the Royal Barbados Police Force has put a lot of effort into training. Our police officers are absolutely ready but it would give us additional room to have these 70 South African police officers on standby within the region.

Sir, in relation to the Barbados Fire Service, a significant addition of staff has also been made to that department, that department has recently recruited 27 additional fire officers. These 27 additional fire officers would be working in large measure at the airport, so that we maintain our IKO standards but also they would be available to function in the normal way. We are also adding a new rescue tender to the Barbados Fire Service, which would be state-of-the-art and will be available to us in case we have to deal with any such things like collapsing buildings, collapsing stands and things of that nature.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Fire Service is also implementing a brand new communication system, which will bring them on the same platform as the Royal Barbados Police Force. Sir, in these two critical areas, we hope never to have to implement any of the things that we are on guard for but, as I said, we have to guard against the criminal element, not just within Barbados but the criminal element from outside, the criminal element, those individuals who would see Barbados as a place that they could make an effective terrorist strike.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the public of Barbados that the Royal Barbados Police Force is ready. We have made the resources available to them, the level of training that they have benefited from over the last two years is training that would allow them not just to handle any Cricket World Cup issue but also to equip them to deal with the more complex and more frightening aspect of criminal behaviour in the post World Cup period.

Mr. Speaker, this has given us the opportunity to modernise the Police Force, in some way to modernise the Barbados Fire Service in a way that was desirable, but what cannot be ignored is the fact that these are Barbadian institutions, established for the protection of the life and limb of Barbadian people. Mr. Speaker, these are not assets that will dry up and wither away after Cricket World Cup.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the Immigration Bill and the Customs Bill, I just want to make the point on the matter of waiver. The fact is that while we expect everything to go as planned, there will always be the possibility of a circumstance arising where the relevant Minister has to make a decision of some kind, so as to determine whether or not a plane would be allowed to land in Barbados and so on. Sir, all that those provisions are enabling the Minister to do is, having weighed the fact and considering the circumstances, to waive or modify the requirements within his discretion as the circumstances require.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to stress that this is not something that is done by the stroke of the pen, as was suggested by the Honourable Member, who spoke previously on the other side. This has clear and definable

parliamentary oversight by way of the fact that any waiver or modification is required to be done by Order and is subject to negative resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I support both Bills. Sir, as we approach World Cup, 2007, I am sure there would be feelings of anxiety; we would be wondering if we are ready; we would be wondering what if this happens and what if that happens. Mr. Speaker, all that a good Government can do is to weigh all of the risks and put every measure in place that is humanly possible.

Sir, the resources of the Barbados Government are not limitless and, therefore, a coordinated approach to these kinds of issues across the region has allowed us to be able to count on resources, though not our own resources, that are from our brothers and sisters across the region.

H123/17:40

Sequence 41

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Hon. D.D. MARSHALL: I believe that we can go forward into the season of Cricket World Cup, with the comfort of knowing that the police, the fire service, and all the agencies that are charged with protecting life and limb in Barbados are on the job. We believe we have done everything that is humanly possible to ensure that not just Barbadians, but that all of the 30 000 plus people who visit our shores, would be as safe as is humanly possible, and as safe as our resources permit.

Mr. Speaker, with those words, I commend both Bills to the Honourable Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ East Central.

Mr. R.D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I join the debate on the amendments to the Immigration Act, Cap 190, and the Customs Act, Cap. 66, conscious that not only Barbados but other countries across the Caribbean are engaged in possibly, what one can call, one of the greatest sporting exercises they have ever engaged in. I am also conscious that with such an exercise will come numerous challenges, among which will be the whole issue of security. I am not sure, and I would hope, that the data provided by the Attorney-General, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, does not in any way compromise the efforts, which those who are charged with the responsibility for ensuring the safe passage of people to and from these islands and for ensuring the security within these islands. I am sincerely hoping, that is not the case.

Sir, I believe that at times like this, there are some things which should be kept within the bosoms of those who have to execute them. I hope that we would not be getting from the Honourable Member, who has spoken, that we would not be getting the full plans and details of how these various sites and people would be secured.

Sir, as I said, these are different times. These are not the times when we can relax with open doors within our homes. They are persons who lurk around our borders, who might even lurk within our shores, to seek to destabilise, the smooth passage of these various games. I would hope that whatever efforts, whatever gifts in either kind or person that have been offered to the various agencies, the Governments and those who have to execute safe conduct of the games, would be utilised for the full benefit and protection of all the citizens of the various countries and visitors, who would be coming to our various shores.

Sir, the issue of the Single Domestic Space, as stated by various Honourable Members on this side, but more particularly the Representative for St. Michael South Central, is an important element. We know that many things have come up at this time, contingent, of course, upon the execution of Cricket World Cup. Sometimes one might argue that some of these should have come before, but I believe that things might only arrive at the time they are due, maybe, such an entity, like the Single Domestic Space, was due at this time, when such a major event is in place. Sir, the Honourable Members of the Opposition are not opposed to instruments such as this, to protect the people of the area, and to ensure the smooth passage and movement throughout the ten countries, of people who are charged with bringing off some aspects of these games.

Mr. Speaker, this is where we will have to agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, for a long time, we as small countries, have had, when travelling beyond our shores, to secure visas, sometimes hundreds or thousands of miles away, in order to enter the countries of others. Sir, at time like this, when we are entering an exercise, that must be carefully planned and executed, as we try to show our best to the world, there is nothing wrong in also having those who must have a visa, to get those visas from wherever they can be secured. I am sure that the Democratic Labour Party will continue to support such efforts, as we have from the outset, supported the whole notion of the Barbados being part of the Cricket World Cup exercise, even though we are small countries, and some people will say that we do not have the resources or space to manage these things.

Sir, we in Barbados have been successful in the past of hosting smaller events. This is one of great and significant magnitude, but we have always risen as people, who have had the capacity to rise, beyond the various challenges, to execute well.

Mr. Speaker, I am in no doubt, that there would be significant and successful execution of Cricket World Cup, within this region. It is part of the excellence that we have always tried to achieve, within the Caribbean region, and the Democratic Labour Party has always been in the forefront of promoting the whole notion of excellence among the people of this region and the whole notion of excellence among the people of Barbados.

Sir, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central stated, the thousands of persons who have come forward, and I have been told, have gone through various exercises of training, protocol, knowledge of the systems of what has to happen here, they too are ambassadors of Barbados, and I am sure they will do an excellent job ensuring what we execute is noticeable. Those persons who come to our shores, and even our own people, will sing praises to the work which has been done.

Sir, there has been, what one can call, a bone of contention across the aisle today. I know that some persons sought to place this bone of contention within their given context, but one must, in fact, look at such instances in a very rational way. I must lend the full support to all the Honourable Members on this side, who have spoken, on this particular issue. I am sure that we are not saying that those persons who have been identified from Kensington New Road, Westbury Road or wherever they are, and are getting rehabilitation of their homes or gardens, that they should not have these things.

In fact, Barbados has built itself on seeking to look after the poor and the downtrodden, those who are in challenged circumstances, always to improve their lot. Sometimes, under different regimes, it has advanced more than other times. I believe that sometimes this might be due to the availability of resources within the country.

Sir, as I said, what we always have to guard against is what the Honourable Members on the side, the Opposition, has been speaking about, it must not appear in the kind of manner that it is now appearing, where an individual has been identified, I have no interest in under which ministry, department or agency he functions, but we must all recognise that the individual has been called to political service. That is what we must first recognise. Sir, just like all of us in here have been called to political service, that individual has been called to political service.

Sir, it has also been recognised, that because of the nature of our political system, we have to scrutinise every aspect. This is done by the Democratic Labour Party and Barbados Labour Party, in and out of power, as to what overt or covert help, is provided to the various candidates for supremacy, one over the other. This is what is done.

17.50 p.m.

Sequence 42

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House 123, Sequence 43, 5.50 p.m.

Mr. R.D. JONES: Sir, if it becomes so glaring, as in this case, where one individual has been given an authoritative role, in the analysis of signing off on the kinds of resources and the kind of help, which would be given to a substantial portion of the constituency, that individual is seeking to represent in the House of Assembly, then one must question, with some lucidity, the motive in recruiting that particular individual.

I would never accept, Mr. Speaker, that there are not hundreds of persons across the length and breadth of Barbados, who could just as well, if not better have conducted the kind of work that this particular individual is carrying out, within the environs of the new Kensington Oval.

There are hundreds of persons in this country, and within the civil service of Barbados who could have done that. One might argue that civil servants might be attached to the whole bureaucratic framework, and might sometimes be reticent in advancing certain instruments forward. Sir, looking at the kind of time and framework under which we now having to operate, there are not many days before the execution of the games here in Barbados and across the Caribbean but more particularly here in Barbados, that you might need someone who can cut through the tape and ensure that the work is done.

I am hoping that outside of the rhetoric, outside of the bluster, and outside of the defensive tones, which have been generated by Honourable Members on the other side, they would see the point that is being made on this side.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, and I want to agree with him, said that the politician is the supreme - I want to change the word, supreme and say the major - development agent, within the kind of construct we have here in Barbados. Sir, that elected representative must be able to carry forward the process within his or her constituency. I emphasise the point, the elected representative.

Sir, as an elected representative, I do not have a bowl, basin or even a pork bucket that I can go in the constituency of Christ Church East Central - and the resources do not have to be in my hands - and say, you know persons are going to be visiting this part of Christ Church East Central, so I need that paling painted, or I need new uprights at this house or that house. Nothing so has been made available to me, and I do know if any has been made available to the elected representative for the

constituency of St. Lucy, St. Philip West, St. Philip North, St. John, or St. Michael South Central.

Sir, if in fact the Honourable Members on the other side, those who control the purse strings of Barbados, the taxpayers' dollars are thinking of providing resources to the elected representative on this side, the elected representative on that side and even the Honourable Speaker of the House, who is also an elected representative, then, say now.

In fact, the list that I write up every day and send across to the various agencies of Government, I can hold strain on that for a while, knowing full well that there are going to be greater resources to be spent in the constituency of Christ Church East Central, by the elected representative for Christ Church East Central. Sir, that is where I draw the line.

I think that is where the line must be drawn, just as I would argue the identical way, in the halls of the Democratic Labour Party, on this particular point, because it is the elected representative, who must be given that impetus to satisfy the needs of the constituents of that particular area. I would not have a quarrel at all, none whatsoever.

In fact, I would not have spoken on this matter, if it was the elected representative for the City, just like I have no quarrel, relative to the elected representative for St. Michael West or the elected representative for St. Michael North West, because they are elected representatives of the people.

Sir, I would have a quarrel, as I have, in relation to a political aspirant, who is now struggling in order to gain a seat in the House of Assembly in Barbados, to represent the interest of the people of the City. The Democratic Labour Party has a candidate as well but you should not place the taxpayers' money under the management, authority, and supervision of the political aspirant, in order for that individual...and let us understand, Mr. Speaker, political reality in Barbados. He who, by necessity, pays the piper is able to call the tune, in many parts of this country. Unfortunately, this has become the case. It is not right. It is not good. It is not sensible for democracy, but we stand always believing that what we do in our own honour, will stand the test of time.

Aside.

Hon. R. D. JONES: No. They do not stand the test of time. What essentially they do, is that they corrode the foundational bedrock of our democracy, because we continue to put partisan politics, the whole notion of power, as utmost in our minds, and not the fundamental principles on which we should really be standing, as legislators.

If we say, Mr. Speaker, that we are purveyors of solid and strong democratic principles, included in those democratic principles, must always be fairness, must always be equity, must always be justice and you can continue right down the road.

Therefore, those who sit on the other side, as well as those who sit on this side, as well as you, Mr. Speaker, as well as the citizens of Barbados who might be considering the various issues across Barbados, must place a strong negative mark on what is taking place, relative to the individual, who is walking up and down the city, and I am not talking about a vagrant, Mr. Speaker, but the political aspirant of the Barbados Labour Party for the constituency of the City.

I am not here crying. I do not get my politics caught up with nonsense. I do not get my politics caught up with foolishness. We have to build foundations on which other generations must live. It is like the school principal, Mr. Speaker, who does not try to instill discipline within each and every child in that school, discipline relative to attitude, behaviour and learning, then, when that child did not learn these things, becomes a rascal and disobedient, whom do you blame. Maybe, the parents because they did not do the things that were right, but you also have to put some blame on the system and the leadership of the school.

In our context, as those who deal with policy, those who deal with legislation, those who deal with certain behavioural mannerisms, out in the wider society, we have to set standards. Even though we fight politics in a partisan way, partisan politics must still be undergirded by a certain level of commonsense, dignity and decency. I believe that at the end of the day, if we do those things, no one can hold us up to ridicule.

House 123, Sequence 43, 18:00:14

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Mr. R. D. JONES: In this country, Mr. Speaker, your constituents tell you in harsh but painful tones that politicians are no good. I am sure you have heard that when you went in the past, I believe you still do, from house to house or whatever mechanism you use as you serve your constituents. Therefore, it is a challenge to continue to give service in the presence of that kind of articulation by those we seek to serve. Mr. Speaker, whom do you consider to be guilty? Mr. Speaker, we have to consider ourselves to be guilty because we perpetuate that level of behaviour, that is why the citizens of the country could chastise us with those words.

I would hope that young persons or persons who want to enter the political sphere for the first time, would first consider the level of their own behaviour relative to

what they want to achieve as citizens living under God's hand. If they could be persuaded to reduce themselves into levels of dirt and muck, then they cannot emerge, regardless of if they are washed in water or whatever else they are washed in because that is only outward, as saying I now am in the House of Assembly, in the Senate or wherever I am where policies are made, and say I now represent your interest with clean hands. It cannot be, it stands in contradiction to the reality.

Therefore, let us again look at how we do these things, let us again try to pull ourselves up as Members of the House and as Members of political parties and seek to get the best for those who watch. They are persons who would like to pull down our democracy, if we encourage them to do so by what we do, we are contributing to the demise of the principles on which democracy is built.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Members on this side have been at pains to state that we can never ever be anti-cricket. When one studies the life blood of many of our people, when one studies the passion which that game ignites within our people, when one goes to maybe the cricket ground at Lodge Road, Briar Hall or at Fairy Valley and one listens to the history of cricket in this country from the oldsters, there is no manuscript or no written text, there is simply memory of the beauty of the game that is revealed by those who have been there from the beginning. Therefore, we understand the whole sociology and psychology of cricket within the Caribbean. That is why we have been supportive from day one of cricket and of the efforts of the various agencies involved with the execution of the Cricket World Cup.

Mr. Speaker, even though I have not gone to matches at Kensington Oval for a while, I still watch cricket within the community, I have to, because there is a joyousness to that and one does not feel encircled by stands and things like that. I would still hope that maybe the Honourable Member for St. Michael West would provide some tickets, if they are available, for those of us who have not been able, because of challenged financial circumstances to provide ourselves, for entry to the various activities. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that some of those tickets will be available.

Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding our debate across the aisle which must always point to one general conclusion, that as we speak, we speak for the betterment of our people, for the betterment of Barbados and for the betterment of the political culture in Barbados.

I thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker assumed the Chair.

Rev. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would endeavour to be very brief in my windup. We have had a fairly fulsome debate on this matter of the Cricket World Cup. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is not the first time we have come around some of these issues in this Chamber.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, though today the legislative amendments being proposed would have been the occasion of this debate, certainly the focus has gone fairly far and wide on matters relative to the Cricket World Cup and in some sense, substantially also, has focussed on the necessity of ensuring that the Cricket World Cup bring benefits to the Barbadian economy in its totality and to ensure that those who are perhaps part of the experience of the low echelon of the national economy, benefit immediately, directly and meaningfully from the events of the Cricket World Cup 2007.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there have been some attempts from the other side to suggest concerns about process and procedure. I am not too clear as to really what the position is as represented by the other side with respect to the matter of ensuring that those who fall immediately within the environs of the event itself - I am talking about the Kensington event now and not the Cricket World Cup event - are the beneficiaries of the goings on in that geographical space at this time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heard references to democracy being threatened, being eroded and a fear being associated with that. I am not too sure I am persuaded that is a genuine position being offered by the other side, but it is a concern that has been voiced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I tend to try as best as I can to analyse and assess what people are saying, not necessarily solely in the immediate instance, but I make reference to what they said previously and I sift all of that through the mental fabric of which I am possessed. What I heard very loudly echoed today in this Chamber is not necessarily what was uttered by those who spoke on the other side, but voices coming from them in the past.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not understand how the concept of equitable distribution, how the concept of democratic participation and sharing a slice of the cake et cetera, on a national basis square, with what I believe to be the embodiment in the voice of the Leader of the Opposition, when he speaks to the matter of slaughtering a fatted calf and sharing it with those who are their friends and those who have fought with them in the struggle.

House 123 Sequence 44

6.10 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems to me that if it is the position of the Opposition, as embodied in the views of the Leader of the Opposition, that should they be returned to the office of Government in this country, the fatted calf would be slaughtered and divided only among those who are our friends, who would have fought with us in the struggle, then it seems to me that position would be at odds with what I heard here today about equitable distribution and democratic participation, in the benefits to be derived from national events and national public expense.

Asides.

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that the attempts today to put up an Opposition's view have been incoherent. I have heard various positions, seemingly represented on the other side and not all necessarily in sync, but I guess that is part of the freedom that one enjoys in a democratic environment. In such an environment, one is free to say what one feels, what one thinks or what one knows, even if one would be at odds with his fellowmen, as has been the case today.

Asides.

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a matter of fact, one of the things which spoke very loudly to me today, is the obvious reality that neither the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, St. Philip West, St. Michael South Central, nor St. John, has made any plan at the level of the community, which that Honourable Member represents, to ensure that his people would benefit from the Cricket World Cup, 2007, experience. All I heard over there, that was said is that nothing is happening by me. How are my people going to benefit? Sir, nothing has been put forward by any of the representatives from the other side, to suggest that they have even conceived any plans, at the community level, to ensure that the benefits of Cricket World Cup, 2007, are brought to bear on their constituencies.

Asides.

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government is unapologetic in its stance that poor people in this country must benefit from the Cricket World Cup, 2007 event. The Government is resolved that this occasion must also be used to benefit poor people in this country as a whole, including those vendors at the corner of Westbury Road and Baxters Road. These vendors must find that this is an experience which benefits them economically. The shopkeepers and persons who operate nightlife entities in Baxters Road and Nelson Street, just as they do in Moon Town, must be beneficiaries of this

Cricket World Cup, 2007 event. Sir, the Government is unapologetic in its position on that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Opposition could raise all kinds of straw issues to cloak the fact that their interest with respect to this Cricket World Cup, 2007 event, is not necessarily reposed around the well-being of those, who are poor and need a helping hand but on their own political posturing, hopefully, for short-term political gains.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not only about urban Barbados. Already, it has been alluded to in this debate that there are facilities to be constructed at Hastings and some of these are ongoing at the moment. Examples of these can be found on the East Coast, at Barclays Park, St. Joseph and at Bath, St. John, with both the beach facility and road repairs leading to the bath facility. In addition, the Home Accommodation Programme is ongoing and as far as I am aware, 30 per cent of this type of economic activity relates to the St. Philip area, which certainly is not in urban Barbados.

Mr. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, somebody is misleading this Honourable House and somehow I do not believe it is the Honourable speaker. Sir, earlier today, I heard the number 35 being mentioned, now I am hearing the number 30. Earlier today I heard about 14 ships and later on, I am hearing the number of ships being seven. Sir, I have a problem with statistics and I want you to guide me with which figures I should use.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member.

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would suggest that if the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has heard figures of 14 ships and seven ships, that he should conclude there are about 21 ships and be done with that. Sir, 30 or 35 per cent of the economic activity related to home accommodation, is taking place in St. Philip, which, in fact, is allegedly represented by two Honourable Members, and not in the City of Bridgetown, St. Michael West nor St. Michael North West. I mean allegedly represented, not allegedly Honourable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Small Hotel Group Refurbishing Scheme is also ongoing. Sir, you would not find any small hotels in St. Michael West, I do not think you may find any small hotels in St. Michael North West. You may find one or two Guest Houses in St. Michael North West or in the City, but you would not find any in St. Michael West. This is essentially a non-St. Michael area of economic activity that we are talking about.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the inspection and licensing of small food handlers are ongoing, in connection with

preparation for Cricket World Cup, 2007. These are people whose livelihood and well-being depend on the small food service industry in Barbados. Therefore, there must be proper inspections, to make sure that all is in place and that we do all we can to provide the best quality product, as well as service. Sir, that is an ongoing national programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, nowhere in this debate have I heard anybody applaud the fact that of the 30 vending subcontracts awarded for Cricket World Cup, 2007 across the region, Barbados has been able to qualify for and to capture 25 of those subcontracts. That is not a solely urban-related activity. There is also an ongoing training programme for food handlers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the "Beautify Barbados" campaign is not restricted to urban Barbados nor in the immediate environs of Kensington, there have been beautification going on across and along the ABC Highway for some time. There is also beautification at Bath, St. John. There are also other areas in this country where this is ongoing. The fact that some work is being done along the President Kennedy Drive, to uplift what essentially without it, would remain a fairly drab area, is a thing to be applauded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not know how well you know President Kennedy Drive, much of it is occupied by a long grey-coloured wall, which is part of the cemetery environment. It presents a very sullen effect upon the aesthetics of the area. Therefore, to uplift this area by planting flowers and shrubs is a good thing. Therefore, a tremendously good job is being performed by those, who are charged with the responsibility under the mandate of the National Conservation Commission. I believe it should be maintained.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we hear vain-mouth soundings with reference to that, that it is window dressing and that it will not be maintained after Cricket World Cup, 2007. Sir, as a responsible political person, I would rather want to suggest, that not only would it be maintained after Cricket World Cup, 2007 but I would want to encourage the community to be responsible and not, in anyway, do anything to harm this project, which uplifts the area. I would want the community to be involved in practising exercises of self-maintenance of those beautiful gardens, which are beginning to dot the landscape along President Kennedy Drive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think representation is about being responsible and that people must be encouraged, as much as they can, to help themselves. I think too that persons should not take the derailing negative view that nothing good in Barbados is going to last. I think Barbadians are more matured than that.

Sir, the upgrading of roadways leading to Bath Beach is ongoing, and there are several initiatives in the area of agriculture. This has nothing to do with urban constituencies in Barbados. There are several initiatives, which have to do with agriculture, in relation to Cricket World Cup, 2007. One of the initiatives is that we are trying to ensure that much of Barbados' agricultural products will make it to the tables of many of those, who will visit our shores for Cricket World Cup, 2007.

6.20 p.m.

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

(EDITED)

Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: The economic activity around the building of the Kensington Oval project alone is significant and the spin-off from that project alone. If we were to host the World Cup and did not generate a cent in further revenue, the economic activity associated with preparation for the World Cup and the redevelopment of the Kensington Oval area and the project itself would be significant because there are people who have earned as a result of that project.

I can think of one small business out of my constituency, on Goodland Main Road, which would have been providing a food service for the project all of these months and would have benefitted tremendously because of that project. The economic activity associated with the project alone is significant because people have been employed and businesses have been allowed to provide services to the project. Sir, that alone speaks a loud message and beyond that there is the technological base attaching to immigration services, which we are improving. If World Cup did not generate a cent in revenue, the technological capacity and culture being developed around immigration, would be a significant benefit.

The increasing capacity and competency of our disciplined forces, if we did not generate a cent in revenue from World Cup, the fact that increased capacity in terms of resources and increased competency now being brought to our disciplined forces, that in itself would be a significant benefit. Sir, the network of road repairs, part of which is related to World Cup, part of which predates the World Cup event, that in itself would be significant. The strengthening of our emergency and response services, that in itself, if we could not generate a cent in revenue from World Cup, would be significant and important.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the protective fabric that we are establishing now around this island - and some elements of which we cannot speak to in public forum - if we did not generate a cent in positive revenue out of the World Cup event, that in itself would be of lasting significance. Sir,

some poor people's living circumstances in this country are being significantly improved.

Asides.

Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we could speculate as to whether the investment could be put to better alternative use but I am speaking to fact that if there were not generated a cent of positive revenue, this country and poor people in this country would have benefitted significantly, so Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are unapologetic.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to windup by making those points and encouraging all Honourable Members of the House to support the event fully and also to support the passage of the amendments to these two pieces of legislation through the Chamber today. Sir, in saying that, I would want to make reference to two amendments at Section 4. 34(a) 1(a) to delete the words "or modify" and to reinsert those words "or modify" in the same 34(a), 1(c) between the words "wave" and "any".

Mr. Speaker, the second amendment would be to delete the words "or modify" from 78(a), 1(a).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, this should be done when the Bill goes into Committee.

Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

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

On the motion of Hon. Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY, seconded by Hon. R.R. FARLEY, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. R. D. Marshall in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. R.D. MARSHALL: This House is in Committee.

Clause 1 - 4 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY, seconded by Hon. G.A. CLARKE, Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Rev. J.J.S. ATHERLEY, seconded by Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY, the Bill was read

a third time, passed and cited as the Immigration (Amendment) Act, 2007.

H122/18:30

Sequence 46

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

ORDER NO. 17

CUSTOMS (Amendment) Act, 2007

Rev.J.J.S. ATHERLEY: I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Rev.J.J.S. ATHERLEY, seconded by Hon. R.R. FARLEY, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. R.D. MARSHALL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 4 was called.

Rev.J.J.S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is a proposed amendment to Clause IV, Section 34A.(1)(a), deleting the words “or modify” and reinserting those same words at Section (c) “waive or modify any of the requirements of sub section IV of Section 34, with regard to the time required for submission of data.”

I beg to move that Clause 4 as amended stand part.

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

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

Clauses 5 to 7 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 8 was called.

Rev.J.J.S. ATHERLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is a proposed amendment for Clause 8, Section 78A(1) (a), where we are deleting the words “or modify”, reinserting those words at Section (c) “waive or modify the requirements for subsection 4 of subsection 78 with regard to the time required for submission of data.”

Sir, I beg to move that Clause 8 as amended stand part.

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

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

Clause 9 to 17 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of Rev.J.J.S. ATHERLEY, seconded by Hon. R.R. FARLEY, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee with amendments and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Rev.J.J.S. ATHERLEY, seconded by Hon. R.R. FARLEY, the Bill was read a second and third time and passed and cited as the Customs (Amendment) Act, 2007.

ORDER NO. 15

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$642 941 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND BE PLACE AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2006-2007 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES No., 2006-2007 WHICH FORMS THE SCHEDULE TO THIS RESOLUTION AND THAT THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO HEAD 14 BE AMENDED AS SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE 11 TO THIS RESOLUTION

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

18.40 p.m.

Sequence 47

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

House 123, Sequence 48, 6.40 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee of Supply. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West.

HEAD 14 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. C.A. MASCOLL: Mr. Chairman, I rise to present a requested Supplementary to be passed, in the sum

of \$632 941, for routine matters over the course of the fiscal year.

Sir, for the payment of staff, an officer was asked to act in a higher position and we had to find a substitute for that individual. The entire transaction would have cost \$47 390. Professional fees were estimated to the tune of \$55 800. Services have already been rendered by two consultants. We are now seeking the opportunity to pay for the Private/Public Sector Consultation held at Sherbourne to the tune of \$65 000. A 2 per cent cost of living adjustment is also being requested for an Officer, to the tune of \$6 332.

Sir, other minor adjustments are requests being asked for NIS, contributions of a magnitude of \$110.

Overall, Mr. Chairman, the major component of this Supplementary request is really for the Customs Department in the provision of plant, equipment and furniture, very much connected to the upgrading of the Customs Department, with respect to World Cup and beyond World Cup. This request is of the magnitude of \$300 000. Mr. Chairman, the total request is just a matter of housekeeping. Therefore, to that extent, I think that we are simply asking Parliament to pass this Supplementary request.

I beg to move that Head 14, stand part.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. R.R. FARLEY, seconded by Mr. C.A. MASCOLL, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour, the DEPUTY SPEAKER, the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. R.R. FARLEY, seconded by Mr. C.A. MASCOLL, the Resolution was read a first and second time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R.R. FARLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today's Sitting and I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

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

The question that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 10.00 a.m. was put and

resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

House 123, Sequence 48, 18:46:45

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

Prepared with the transcript; for checking against the recording and the Minutes.

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while preparing this report from the edited transcript. The text has not been altered except where stated.

Q1. Masthead. The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

Q2. Order No. 15, Supplementary Estimates. The Resolution's title gives the sum as '\$642 941', but Mr. C. A. Mascoll presented the Supplementary as 'in the sum of \$632 941'. The title also reads 'SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES No., 2006-2007' with no number. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 17, Customs (Amendment) Bill. The source heads the Order 'CUSTOMS (Amendment) Act. 2007', although it was still a Bill. The closing sentence says the Bill 'was read a second and third time', although the second reading had already been agreed before Committee. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 16, Hon. N. A. Lynch. After a point of order, the continuation of Hon. N. A. Lynch's speech ('Continuation of: Hon. N. A. LYNCH: ...', about 390 words on the Small Hotels Refurbishment Scheme and visitor arrivals) follows directly on Mr. Deputy Speaker's 'Proceed, Honourable Member.', so it prints under the Deputy Speaker's label. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 16, headings. The source has the word '(EDITED)' as a free-standing line at several points in the debate (in Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley's, Mr. D. J. H. Thompson's, Mr. D. St.E. Kellman's, Hon. K. D. Symmonds', Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley's and Hon. D. D. Marshall's speeches); it prints as a heading. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Suspension until 5.00 p.m.. A take-slip reference ('H123/16: 40') is run into the end of the procedural sentence on the suspension. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 16, second reading. The procedural sentence reads 'resolved in the affirmation without division', presumably 'affirmative'. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Prayers. The source reads 'Rev. Cannon Ivan Harewood', presumably 'Canon'. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 6th February, 2007 at 10.10 a.m., with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were led by Rev. Canon Ivan Harewood. The Minutes of 23rd January were confirmed and Mr. Speaker reported receipt of the Report of the Auditor-General for 2006. Hon. R. R. Farley laid the Annual Report of the Barbados Vocational Training Board for 2003-2004 and audited statements of the boards of management of several secondary schools, among them The Lodge School and Queen's College, and Mr. C. A. Mascoll laid the Annual Report of the Barbados National Bank, Inc. for 2006. The Income Tax (Amendment), Immigration (Amendment), Customs (Amendment), Catastrophe Fund and International Business Miscellaneous Provisions Bills, 2007 were read a first time, and Standing Orders were suspended.

Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley moved the second reading of the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (Order No. 16), taken in one debate with the Customs (Amendment) Bill, 2007. He explained that the amendments to the measures passed the previous August changed the advance passenger data that carriers must supply for Cricket World Cup 2007, set time frames for supplying it, and allowed the Minister to waive the requirement by order. He spoke of the single domestic space created for the event, of travelling criminals, and challenged anyone to say that small shopkeepers and poor householders around Kensington should not be helped.

Mr. D. J. H. Thompson called the presentation empty platitudes, said that what had not been done for urban renewal in 12 years was to be done in three months, and objected that the person appointed to the community work had no special qualifications. Mr. C. A. Mascoll defended the participation of communities around Kensington Oval. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman argued that Barbados had lost the chance of the development seen in Greece and Germany, and drew points of order from Hon. Miss H. E. Thompson on the role of a Board and its Permanent Secretary. Hon. K. D. Symmonds supported the programme of community upgrading. Dr. D. C. Estwick questioned why the Minister should have power to waive the data requirements; on a point of order from Hon. K. D. Symmonds he was directed to withdraw a remark, and did so.

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley said Lieutenant Colonel Bostic was engaged as a consultant within the World Cup Unit rather than to manage a project at Kensington Oval, amid points of order from Mr. D. J. H. Thompson, and reported that over 13 000 names had been vetted against regional databases the day before. Hon. N. A. Lynch said 19 hotels were being helped to refurbish 382 rooms and create 202 new ones, gave visitor expenditure rising from

\$1.498 billion in 2003 to \$1.886 billion in 2006, and estimated 10 198 cruise passengers in port on the day of the final, against repeated points of order from Mr. Kellman.

After the resumption, Mr. R. L. Sealy said the Opposition supported the World Cup but objected to how house repairs were being done; some of his remarks were ordered expunged by Mr. Speaker. Hon. D. D. Marshall described roving teams of about 400 specially trained CARICOM military officers, and Mr. R. D. Jones questioned the role given to one individual in his intended constituency. In reply, Rev. the Hon. J. J. S. Atherley said the Government was unapologetic that poor people must benefit from the event. The Immigration (Amendment) Bill

passed Committee, clauses 1 to 4, and was read a third time.

The Customs (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (Order No. 17) was read a second time without debate and passed with amendments to clauses 4 and 8 on the Minister's power to waive or modify the time for submitting data. In Committee of Supply on Order No. 15, Mr. C. A. Mascoll presented a Supplementary of \$632 941 for Head 14, Ministry of Finance, of which \$300 000 was for plant, equipment and furniture for the Customs Department, and the Resolution passed. On the motion of Hon. R. R. Farley, the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 13th February, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.