
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 2008 – 2013

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, August 8, 2008

Pursuant to the Adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.10 a.m.

PRESENT

HIS HONOUR K. St.C. BEST, LL.B.(Hons), L.E.C.
(Deputy Speaker)

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.)

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, LL.B. (Hons.) (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs, Labour, Civil Service and Energy)

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND, J.P., B.A. (Hons.) Dip. Ed., LL.B (Hons.)(Lond.), LL.M (Leic.)

Mr. G. A. CLARKE, J.P., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B.(Hons.) His Excellency D. St. E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B., (Leader of the Opposition)

Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.

Hon. R. D. JONES, J.P., M.A. Ed., B.A., (Hons.), (Minister of Education and Human Resource Development), (Leader of the House)

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, M.B.B.S., B.Sc. (Minister of Health, National Insurance and Social Security)

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.) (Minister of Housing and Lands)

Hon. R. L. SEALY, M.B.A., B.Sc. (Minister of Tourism)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, M.Sc., C.Eng. MRAC., (Minister of Transport, Works and International Transport)

Hon. E. G. HUTSON, F.C.C.A., C.A., (Minister of Trade Industry and Commerce)

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT, (Minister of Community Development and Culture)

Mr. J. D. PAUL, B.Sc.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, Ed.D., M.Ed., B.A., Dip. Theology, (Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Urban Development)

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE, LL.B(Hons.)

Mr. S. A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B.(Hons.),L.E.C. (Chairman of Committees)

Hon. P.M.T. TODD, B.Sc. (Minister of State, Ministry of Social Care, Constituency and Urban Development)

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER, M.Sc., B.A., (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and International Business).

Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, July 29, 2008, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

PAPERS

Hon. R.D. JONES: I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Parkinson Memorial Secondary School 2003 to 2007.
2. Queen's College 2004 to 2006.
3. Combermere School 2006 to 2007.
4. Deighton Griffith Secondary School 2006 to 2007.
5. St. James Secondary School 2006 to 2007.
6. St. Lucy Secondary School 2006 to 2007.
7. Springer Memorial Secondary School 2006 to 2007.
8. The Lodge School 2006 to 2007.

Hon. R.L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Annual Reports and Audited Financial Statements of the Barbados Conference Service Limited for the years ended March 11, 2006 and March 31, 2007.
2. Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. for the year 2007.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$33,569,474.00 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2008-2009 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 4, 2008-2009 which form the Schedule to the Resolution and that the Explanatory Notes to Head 52 be amended as set out in Schedule 11 to the Resolution.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to move the first reading of:

The Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the following Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5) 43 and 44 be suspended for the balance of today's sitting.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government Business is now the order of the day.

On the motion of Hon. R.D. JONES, seconded by Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. S.A. LASHLEY in the Chair,

10:20

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

ORDER NO. 6

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$33 569 474 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2008-2009 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES No. 4 2008-2009 WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION AND THAT THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO HEAD 52 BE AMENDED AS SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE 11 TO THE RESOLUTION.

HEAD 15- CABINET OFFICE \$51 958

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

Hon. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Head 15 relates to an additional provision to be made for utilities. If you will permit me, you will notice in this overall Resolution there is also a request for a Supplementary provision in respect of funds for the cost of installing a secure wireless access to the database of the Electoral Register, to facilitate the more speedy access to the official list provided by the Electoral and Boundaries Commission to the 30 Constituencies, both in and out of Election time

I want to move that Head 15 which relates to the provision in respect of utilities in the sum of \$51 958.00 stand part.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that

The question that Head 15 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 19 - TREASURY

\$2 500 000 000

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

Hon. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman there are various sums under this Head. The \$40 104 in an additional provision for the Electoral and Boundaries Commission, under the heading of Computer Software, which would conclude the sum necessary for the secure wireless access.

There is also the sum of \$877 292, which arises as a result of the October 2006 fire that completely destroyed the building at Summerville, which housed the female residence of the Government Industrial School. Therefore the former Barrows Childrens' Home is being renovated as the new accommodation for the residents. The amount in the Estimates of 2008-2009 was inadequate to complete the project. The project is underway, and therefore Supplementary funding is being requested to meet that expenditure to the end of the financial year.

There is also provision being made here for \$1 million with respect to the purchase of a hydraulic lift which was dealt with during the Financial Statement and Budgetary presentation. The purpose is to buy a piece of equipment that could be transported to different locations, particularly those that do not have an existing hydraulic facility.

I know that this is going to be controversial. There are some fish-landing sites that have very few boats, and sometimes it is easier to request them to go into other safe harbours. We know there is a demand for us in certain areas, in rural Barbados, particularly along the East Coast to provide such a facility. There is even fish-landing sites like Consett Bay, which has its own hydraulic facility or manual facility, but it does not have a tractor there permanently to facilitate it. It is clear we cannot accommodate all of the boats in any one safe harbour. Therefore, provision is being made to source and purchase a hydraulic lift for that purpose.

I believe that most of the other matters under Head 19 are minor matters which relate to the purchase of fixed assets by the Government.

I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, in addressing this issue I want to indicate that this is an urgent need, the question of

lifting boats out of the water for service, or as the Honourable Member for St. John indicated, in the event of threatening weather. At Oistins there is an increased cost to the fishing boat owners with respect to having their equipment on dry dock for repairs and outfitting, and then replacement back into the waters.

Sir, if it is possible, I hope that the Fisheries Division looks at it, if not on this occasion, certainly, in the near future with an all-composing solution, or a solution that helps to deal with all of these issues and, in particular, to alleviate the cost to the fishing boat owners in the different fishing ports in Barbados.

Sir, fishing, of course, is very important to our economy. It provides a very nutritious food and, at that same time, a hallmark of our economic activity in places like the East Coast, Tent Bay, Consett Bay, and on the West Coast and Six Mens. I am sure Honourable Members will speak to these particular areas.

Sir, Bridgetown, of course, is the central and main area in Barbados. In the case of Christ Church South, the very vibrant and lively Oistins, where, not only by way of fishing and equipment, plant and machinery, but indeed, we need also to work with the Fisheries Division in completing the entire project at Oistins. Sir, like so many other projects that the former Administration worked on, there is still a lot to be done to make Oistins a final and complete project. In this regard, special attention will have to be paid to the way the day boat fisherfolk are dealt with. There are still a number of day boat fishermen who are unable to bring their equipment on land effectively and safely.

Sir, the whole ocean front, below the old Geriatric Hospital in Oistins, and towards the fish market need urgent attention, both by way of rehabilitation of the breakwater, which is being undermined constantly, and the beautification of whatever boardwalks we are going to provide, the beautification of the beach area.

Sir, the rehabilitation and refurbishment of the landing area, which services the larger boats, which this particular piece of equipment would apply to, familiarly known in Oistins as the "Boat Yard", that "Boat Yard" requires the access which the fisher-folk use to take their boats down to the water. The sand needs to be rehabilitated. A number of boulders have fallen in the way, rendering the slip-way much too small.

10.30 a.m.

Then, of course, the surface of the Boat Yard needs to be attended to because, again, if we do not have the proper surface, we can get surprisingly a reflection of sufficient heat to cause damage to these boats while they

are out of the water, and to increase the occurrence of cracking.

This kind of work is extremely important and we support it wholeheartedly and look forward to the execution, as I said, Sir, the overall completion of the Oistins Project, which will be, of course, the subject of another discussion.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, even though I might support some aspects of this Supplementary, I must raise a concern here as it relates to this matter of bars in the parish of St. Lucy. As you know, Sir, when we had the problem with the Prison of Barbados, I said in this House that in less than 24 hours, it was relocated to St. Lucy without consultation with the Member of Parliament.

I am here today to raise the same concern that this relocation occurred without anybody consulting with me on this particular matter. It is a matter that was raised by my constituents. I said nothing about it, Sir, because as I usually say, it is the business of the Government to do what they felt like, at the point in time.

It is clear to me, Sir, that people have to understand that there is a protocol rule and just because people have authority, they cannot do things in a constituency as they would like. As you know, there are 30 Independent Constituencies in this House, and I would like the person who, as it was said here...and let me point out clearly that this decision was taken in October 2006, before one gets the impression that I am speaking about today.

I am saying, Sir, that a lot of these things can occur, if the right consultation occurs with the various Members of Parliament. There are people who believe that just because they have ministerial dictates, they can easily do these things without consulting.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like the Honourable Member to stand up on his feet and repeat what he said when he is going to speak on this matter, that I have asked him for two jobs on this site.

Sir, I could not ask for two jobs on this site when I was never consulted, and never knew what was going on, without being told by my constituents, so I do not know how I could ask anybody. Sir, I hope that this present

Government would not adopt the same attitude that has occurred previously.

I spoke in this House when the Prison had to be relocated in St. Lucy and I could understand why the procedure occurred the way it did. Sir, I do not see that this one had to be approached in the same manner.

I believe that there is something called decency and this is what I would expect in this House and from this House. All 30 Members of Parliament are equal, and they should be treated in a particular way in this House.

Mr. Chairman, I am calling on you, as the keeper of the House, to ensure that when matters like these have to come to the House, people are trained in the particular role that they are supposed to be trained, and they do things the correct way.

Sir, I now turn my attention to the fisher-folk of Barbados. I want to make the point that a lot of people in this country, if they ever had a negative opinion of fisher-folk in this country, would have to change that opinion. It is clear that this year, the fisher-folk of Barbados have demonstrated that there is a need for their profession. I am calling on all Barbadians to recognise that those persons who work in our fields and go to sea, have a significant role to play in this country, and in the development of the economy of Barbados.

Sir, too often, because they do not - want what we regard as - earn foreign exchange, we tend to ignore their contribution, without recognising that the earning of foreign exchange and the substitution of foreign exchange as it relates to import substitution can have the same effect. I might even go on to make the point that when you consider where these folk operate from, the multiplier effect of what they do is much greater than the people we clamour to, Sir.

Sir, when you look at it, they start the economy from the foundation. They do not start it at the top, so the multiplier effect is much greater. I am saying that any money spent on the farmers of Barbados and the fisherfolk of Barbados will be money well spent.

Sir, the Fishing Harbours of Barbados where they are used...you know, Mr. Chairman, I must say this. I have been in this House long enough to hear a parliamentary representative, who represented a parish in the east of Barbados, making the point in this House, that there are no fishing boats in a particular location, but yet still, we spent millions of dollars building fish markets and jetties for areas where there were no fishing boats. Yet, in areas where people were actively fishing, we did not spend the resources the same way. I am saying, Sir, that I hope we will change this.

Sir, I must admit that we have to recognise that the fishing industry is not something that occurred in our lifetime. It has been with us from the time of Jesus Christ. I have always made the point in this House that the fisher-folk in Barbados and the workers in the fields of Barbados should be given greater significance.

Any country that cannot recognise its fisher-folk, and any country that cannot recognise its workers in the fields, is a country that will never progress. I am saying that do not care what is happening in the world now, if we do not recognise that the fisher-folk of Barbados and the farmers of Barbados are significant, it means that we will never be able to push our economy forward.

We have first to learn to feed ourselves because if we do not feed ourselves, then we cannot use our brains, and that is a fact. I am saying today, that this money that has been spent will be money well spent, and it needs to go further.

Sir, we also have a significant problem and it is not only lifting the boats out of the water, but it is also a problem where we need to have equipment so that the boat owners can take the boats wherever they want, because there is a lack of space by the shores of Barbados for people to haul up their boats.

I am saying that we need to have equipment like trailers, which have the capacity to lift the boat on to the trailer and then that trailer can take the boat to the person's house and offload it, so that you would not have to worry that some boats are out of the water and some are still in the water.

I know that there are some persons who are so removed from the fisher-folk of Barbados that they would not understand what it speaks of, because I am not speaking about a yacht.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying today that this Government will have to use the Treasury of Barbados to ensure that the fisher-folk and the farmers of Barbados are able to build that impetus for the economy. As I said before, the multiplier effect of what they do, is much greater than all-inclusive tourism, or anything else in Barbados, because it generates the economy where it matters.

Sir, we have to understand that we, as a country, especially at a time when we are about to sign off on some international connections that, at the end of the day, we have to be very careful how we allow outsiders to dominate our shores, not recognising that in order for us to invite

outsiders to come to our shores, we first must be able to satisfy our people living within our shores.

10:40.am

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, that is why I would always be supportive of the vendors, the fisher-folks and the farmers of Barbados. Sir, if we do not support them by allowing them to employ themselves, one must ask oneself whether we would have enough money in the Treasury to offer them welfare grants. Mr. Chairman, no good Government would want to offer welfare grants instead of employing people. Mr. Chairman, this Government is prepared to accommodate persons to help themselves instead of having them depending on the Treasury for welfare grants.

Mr. Chairman, every person working in this country is important to the economy. Sir, some people would not want to see people vending, they would not want to be around the fisher-folks and they would not want to recognise the farmers of Barbados, but once I am in here, there would be a voice on their behalf because I understand the significance...

Sir, they have now replaced the sugar cane workers in the crop season. Mr. Chairman, those of us who had country life would be able to speak of what used to happen during the crop season when people used to cut, tie and load canes. The fisher-folks of Barbados are now creating that atmosphere for country life because they allow the normal man to feel the benefits of their spending.

Mr. Chairman, that is why I keep saying to people that we have to be very careful how we treat certain people in this country because it is how we treat people that they would be able to judge us, and how we would know where the economy is going in this country.

I thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Peter.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, this Supplementary before the House is an important matter because through it the Government is seeking to give effect to a number of the measures that constituted the Budgetary Proposals that were recently presented to the House.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to detain the House, but I really would have to comment upon the extraordinarily brilliant speech that has just been delivered by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. I said extraordinarily brilliant because it is the closest thing that I think we would ever hear in this House that approaches the peace of God, and may it surpasseth all understanding.

Mr. Chairman, I have already made it very clear that I would accept responsibility for things that happened under the Administration that I led. Once again, the previous Administration...

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression that this is the first time that this has occurred to him. I want to remind the Honourable Member that this also occurred when I spoke on the VAT. I was also in this House to hear the Honourable Member for St. Peter telling the Honourable Member for St. John the virtues of using VAT as a taxation measure.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, as I said, I yielded to the extraordinarily brilliance of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy on each and every occasion whenever that brilliance shone through. However, I do not want to detain the House because, as I said, this is an important matter where the Government is attempting to give effect to its Budgetary measures.

Mr. Chairman, my former Administration has been pilloried on the Floor of this House, and in this instance, for an error of omission. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy has said that we ignored him in our consultative process when, at a moment's notice, we had to build a new prison to replace Glendairy Prison which, unfortunately, had been burnt.

Mr. Chairman, I want to apologise to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. I know he is a man gifted in many respects. He is gifted in conceiving of airports and things of that character for St. Lucy. Mr. Chairman, had I known that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was a specialist and had special expertise in issues in respect of the construction of prisons, and had I known that was a natural bent of his, then he...

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The reason I would get up and speak on this matter is because the Honourable Member happens to be the most senior person in the House and one would expect to have guidance from the Honourable Member for St. Peter. Sir, no one would expect the Honourable Member for St. Peter to put words into Hansard that have never been entered into Hansard. Mr. Chairman, I never indicated to this House that I wanted to be consulted on the building of any prison. All I complained about is the relocation of a prison to St. Lucy without consulting me and now with the relocation of Summervale to...

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would forgive the Honourable Member for St. Joseph

because there are certain things that the Honourable Member would still have to learn even though...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not be distracted, just state the point of order.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am not being distracted, Sir. You know it is not easy to do that. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is well-known...

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member cannot get up on a point of order on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can only hear one point of order at a time. I am listening to your point of order.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition needs to learn the Rules of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not be distracted.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: That is the same thing that I was complaining about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not be distracted. Please be precise and state your point of order.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: The point is that the Honourable Member for St. Peter is in good form today. He is very jovial. I am happy to see him in this mood again, but he must not mislead the House by putting words into Hansard that were never entered into Hansard.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The Honourable Member for St. Peter, please continue.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I was just simply saying that the building of a prison to replace Glendairy Prison was an emergency matter. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say for the record that had I known, and I am very serious about this, that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy had a special capacity that would have helped us to address that emergency at the moment it had to be addressed, I would have been certain to have given him the benefit of consultation.

He has, however, established an important principle that even in relation to when matters are national that everybody has a duty to be consulted. Sir, I hope now that he has said and put that duty on this Government that there would be full consultation on every matter concerning everybody's constituency.

Mr. Chairman, as I said before, this Resolution before the House is important because the Government is seeking to give effect to its policies. The Opposition is not going to oppose these measures that are Government policies.

Mr. Chairman, since the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has spoken on the matter of fisheries, I was wondering if he was going to give the House an update of the status of the CARICOM fisheries mechanism that has been an outstanding matter for some considerable time. I make that point, Sir, because...

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: I am being very serious about the matter. There is going to be a matter before the House today dealing with mutual assistance in security. I just want to say for the record that was a matter that arose when I was a member of a government. I believe that all Regional issues are tied together. It was a position that I held then and it is a position that I hold now, that we should settle all the outstanding Regional matters together. There are outstanding regional matters that go back to 1979. There are fishery Agreements that have been in draft for some considerable time and if we are going to move on mutual assistance in security, we have to move also with the same alacrity in fisheries. The Agreement on fisheries was in draft and I would like to be assured that we are moving on that.

Mr. Chairman, a few years ago, the Government of Barbados laid before the Region a Regional fishery mechanism. The creation of a single Caribbean economic space is not only a space for manufacturers and tourism. The Caribbean sea must become an essential part of the economic space available to the people of the Region.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Barbados laid and has sought to have a regional fishery mechanism adopted by the Region. It has been the subject of meetings up to December 2007, and I was wondering whether the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, who is also the Ambassador for CARICOM, and who has assumed this responsibility for Regional fishery issues could give us an update on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, I deeply apologise to him for the fact that I did not think that he had it in him to give a Government advice about the construction of a prison.

10.50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would just want to say to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that he could be assured if another prison is to be built in Barbados, that there is no way anybody could build another prison in Barbados,

without him being directly involved, without his giving serious input. Sir, I do feel that his expertise is one that could only be drawn from a deep well of intelligence.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, the matter before this Honourable House brings into sharp focus the plight of fisher-folk and the state of our fishing industry. Mr. Chairman, more than 20 years ago, a review was undertaken in respect of the fisheries sector and arising out of that review, two principal projects were conceptualised and introduced. Sir, I am speaking of the Oistins Fisheries Complex and the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex.

Mr. Chairman, if you would go to the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex, you would be bound to note the number of craft coming into harbour is now so high that there is definitely need for more room.

Sir, if you take it that at 4.30 p.m. on any given day, where the average day boat which goes out and comes back to harbour in the same day, as against a boat that goes out for a few days, where the catch is refrigerated, you would be appalled at the cramped conditions and the opportunities for stress and strain, which could affect those people who are seeking to offload their catches. Therefore, the time has come when that complex has to be looked at very carefully.

Mr. Chairman, in addition, the Oistins Fisheries Complex could also do with further modernisation. The Oistins Fisheries' Complex has begun to look so well that it has started up secondary industries in the area. These industries are run by small business people. Sir, that is commendable.

Mr. Chairman, for some time now, the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development would have been running courses in navigation and courses relevant to helping fishermen to improve their skills and to improve safety in particular. Sir, generally speaking, the response and the effect of that response has been good and well-taken, but fishermen are still nervous about a number of other things. For example, if there is bad weather, most fishermen would be very concerned about the absence of proper equipment that would permit them to be able to haul up their boats.

Mr. Chairman, there was a time when Government declined to own a tractor, and would instead rent one. This tractor would have been so overworked, that in bad weather, when there were warnings for fishermen to get their boats out of the sea and on to dry land, that single tractor would have had to serve the whole island. Sir, that

cannot continue, as it represents a very powerful disincentive to fishermen. Sir, even in the short-run, the fact that they fish, which is by nature a very risky and dangerous thing, the fact that problems exist with that single tractor, would add to the frustration facing fishermen. Mr. Chairman, I would want all fishermen to avail themselves of the training facilities which the Fisheries Department has been staging, from time to time.

Mr. Chairman, the fishermen at Skeete's Bay, St. Philip, have been expressing some concern about the jetty. Sir, apparently the jetty is somewhat short. They have been short-changed on the jetty. Sir, it is nothing short of scandalous that in bringing in their catch, those fishermen have to hook a crocus bag full of fish on to their shoulders and swim to shore. Sir, that has to end.

Asides.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, that is what is happening right now. Mr. Chairman, if you survey fishing in St. Michael, not only would you come across the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex and the Sand Pit, which is close to where the "Harbour Master" docks, you would also come across a place named Pile Bay. Sir, Pile Bay is known to be rich in a fishing history and in a fishing culture, and the time has now come for facilities at Pile Bay to be modernised.

Mr. Chairman, I would also want this Honourable House, in its deliberations on this matter, to consider the situation where, if there is bad weather at night, especially if it comes on you suddenly, what we could do realistically to prevent loss to fishermen, including not just loss of craft and loss of catch but loss of life. We have to be careful to ensure that we plan for disasters generally, but that in relation to the fishing industry, that we are always in a position to be able to respond to any emergency that could negatively impact on fishing.

Mr. Chairman, the last Administration which demitted office on January 15, was contemplating modern fisheries facilities. The area of Six Men's, St. Peter, has more than once been voted as the area with the biggest catches per annum. Sir, even though there was a fish market in Speightstown, the truth is that statistics coming from Government sources have shown that Six Men's, located a mile away from Speightstown, often sees more catches than Speightstown, yet there are no facilities at Six Men's.

Sir, I would like to know from Government what is the status of the Six Men's Project. In fact, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, by being naturally inquisitive, meaning naturally given to asking questions, and being naturally ubiquitous, meaning having a propensity to be

everywhere at the same time, has an interest in this particular problem.

Mr. Chairman, in recent times, apart from the concerns that have been raised in relation to congestion at the Bridgetown Port, among other concerns, the fishermen believe they were given a very hard blow some months ago, when it came to the cost of diesel. They are now craving an audience with Government on this question of diesel.

Sir, the last Administration, when confronted by international price increases, would have adjusted all excise taxes, such as to minimise the effect of increases in fuel products. Therefore, for example, if gasoline prices were to move from \$1.00 to \$1.50, we would have so manipulated the excise tax as to keep it at \$1.00, while we would have been taking in less in excise as we would have done before, and managing the situation in relation to the cost of fuel. Sir, the fishermen still feel there is room for talk with Government on this business of the cost of fuel, especially the cost of diesel.

Mr. Chairman, as we consider the matter before this Honourable Committee, I would want to end by saying that there is a future in fishing. I would also end by saying that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was correct, when the Honourable Member said that fishing could be an honourable career like any other. I would want the Honourable Member for St. Philip North to give us some assistance by letting us know what is the status of matters at Skeete's Bay and the effect of fishing at Skeete's Bay nationally because there are lots of times when the fishermen from Skeetes Bay go into Bridgetown.

11.00 a.m.

Sir, there are times when the Skeete's Bay people have to go down town, obviously because of conditions at Skeete's Bay.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks and as the Honourable Member for St. Peter said, we do not have any difficulty with this particular matter and we trust that all can be improved in the name of improvement of fishing in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to enter this debate. The Honourable Member for St. James North raised some matters and I want to state to this Honourable Chamber that a week ago, I journeyed to Skeete's Bay with the Minister responsible for Fisheries and we did receive some complaints from the workers at that complex.

I must say that I have a strong connection to the area of Skeete's Bay, St. Philip. It is in my Constituency and my relatives, the Masons, come from that immediate area and we call it Mason Town. In fact, the Honourable Member for St. James South was also raised in that area and at one stage, his Dad had a fishing boat, and my Dad had a fishing boat and we know Skeete's Bay well, so the Honourable Member for St. Lucy cannot boast that he is the only one in here with fishing connections.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that when the jetty was being built, the older fishermen there expressed some concerns. In fact, they had local knowledge of the area and they expressed concerns about where and how the jetty was built. Sir, you could go tonight and you would recognise that it is being used as a fishing rock. You can find the good and very popular calypsonian, Plastic Bag, down there on the fishing rock, on the jetty at nights, with other from the area utilising it as a fishing rock.

Mr. Chairman, what has happened is that a lot of the boats have gone to Bridgetown, as the Honourable Member for St. James North said and so, I do not know if at this stage it can be rectified. Sir, that is not the only problem. When we went to the area, they were glad that it was the first time they recognised that a Minister of Agriculture visited Skeete's Bay because, for the last 14 years, apart from the Honourable Member for St. James North, they did not recognise any other Minister visiting the area.

Mr. Chairman, what is happening now at Skeete's Bay is that the whole roof needs to be replaced. Sir, workers complain that they get soaked when it rains, and that there is no drink machine in the area. Sir, all those matters we have to look at and address them. I would hope that we address those matters urgently.

I would also like the Minister of Tourism to also visit the area because it has some potential for assisting the tourism product of this Government. I would further want to see Skeete's Bay developed like Oistins, as it has great potential. We could put stalls and some booths. In fact, there is enough land that a restaurant could be accommodated and, as my friend from St. Lucy said, there could be community tourism.

Mr. Chairman, I have a strong connection to Skeete's Bay, not only as a parliamentary representative, and I know that the Honourable Member for St. James South would also get involved in this debate. Sir, he was not a fisherman. He would visit his family in the area but I know he would engage in this debate.

Mr. Chairman, the problem is that the local fishermen, with an abundance of local knowledge of the area, were not properly consulted and, I believe, that when we are developing areas, we should actually rely on

persons who have local knowledge of the area so that they could assist in the proper development and the proper infrastructure that we put in the area.

Mr. Chairman, I want to see Skeete's Bay developed and I have full confidence in the Minister responsible that he would ensure that Skeete's Bay develop to the level, even of Oistins. There will be economic benefits for the villages around and the fact too that we have some hotels in St. Philip, we can have that spill-off. There is a neighbouring East Point lighthouse that is very close and we could have some spill-offs into the Skeete's Bay area.

Mr. Chairman, with those few words, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, first let me apologise for my voice as I seem to be suffering from the flu like a number of other people in Barbados, but this matter is so important that I would wish to have my voice reflected in this debate. I do not represent a constituency that has any maritime boundaries and, to that extent therefore, it is not simply a constituency interest, but a national interest of mine that I have developed.

Sir, over the course of the last seven years, I have become very close with members of the fishing community. I would have had to deal with them in the context of the preparation for the negotiations for Barbados' maritime boundaries and, even after the result came in, as Minister responsible for manufacturing, I would have met with BARNUFO, through its principal representatives, to try to put in place for them, the transition to a form of processing that would allow them to benefit from value added to the fishing industry.

Therefore, this morning, I simply want to ask the Government, or to highlight, if they were not aware of, plans that were left there to give BARNUFO one of the facilities at the BIDC for cold storage. In fact, Mr. Chairman, I trust that both the Member for St. Lucy and the Minister of Agriculture in the Other Place, would follow-up on it because I really do feel that they need access to that kind of cold storage facility to ensure that they are not subject to the vagaries of supply and demand such that when the fish is in abundance, they have to sell cheaply, and when it is scarce, they only then benefit. If they have the cold storage facility, they would then have the capacity of regulating the supply of fish into the market, and we would have been working with BARNUFO.

I believe they were trying to get a business plan completed and there were some difficulties there, which is

why they have not yet been allocated the space but we had identified a space at Newton, I believe, in your Constituency, Mr. Chairman, where they would be able to have access to this facility.

Mr. Chairman, they were looking at not only storing the fish, but they were also looking at other value-added activities such as fish oil, fish tea and other byproducts of fish such that there would be a greater return to the fishermen, who now have only one outlet, either the vendors in the market, or the established food processors.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know whether the Government is continuing with that arrangement, and how soon do they anticipate that they would be able to allocate that space to BARUFUO, such that they could move on to the next stage of value-added in their business.

Sir, in addition, I think it is fair to say that we support the acquisition of the hydraulic lift. It certainly would have been something that we would have put in the Estimates for this year. I believe there is a valid case for it for all the reasons that Honourable Members have already spoken to and, therefore, I would not delay the House anymore on that matter.

11:10

Suffice it to say, however, that one of the things that came up very clearly last year in our discussions with the fishermen, was the need to include into our capital projects an expansion of the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour, because, as you know, this was completed 20 years ago, for all kinds of reasons, including too, just adverted to by the Honourable Member for St. James North and the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, in terms of the diversion of boats from Skeete's Bay. There is tremendous pressure on the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour. To that extent, it is not capable of meeting the capacity for the expansion of the fishing industries in the country.

We, therefore, would have considered the expansion of that Harbour as part of the capital projects and would like to have seen it coming up in these next five years. We want to know, therefore, the Government's position in relation to the expansion of the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour, so as to ensure that the existing fishermen are not continuing to suffer any debilitation, but equally, there is a platform for expansion because of the available facilities there.

In addition, the former Minister of Agriculture had set in train a plan for the upgrade of the fish markets to allow us to meet the standards of the European Union to facilitate the export of fish. I ask simply of the Government, what is the status of those plans for the upgrading of the markets and the legislation such that we

can be in a position to facilitate the export of fish to the European Union? It is not something that could have been done overnight. We accept that, but we put in place those plans, and we hope that, certainly, by the end of this year, or early next year, that Barbadian fishermen and fish processors would be in a position to export fish to the European Union.

Sir, I do believe, as I have said in this Honourable Chamber on many occasions, I think there is tremendous opportunity for expansion of the fishing sector in this country, and tremendous opportunity for people, particularly young people who do not like working for other people, but who like being in charge of their own destiny, to be able to engage in the fishing industry. Barbados has already led the way in the Region by having a higher degree of technology at every decade, than our counterparts in the Region.

Sir, when we moved from sails to engines in the 1950s and 1960s, we were ahead of the others in the Region. When we moved to long-lined boats in the 1970s and 1980s, we were ahead of others in the Region. When we move now, and there are only a few boats unfortunately using it, but the very complex technology for sonar detection and all kinds of things that allow us to better detect where the fish can be found, we have been ahead of the others in the Region, but we need to see, now, a proliferation of this across the sector. It therefore will require both an injection of capital as well as the provision of training in the various technological issues.

Sir, I do not think this is an issue that ought to be divisive, but I do see it as an issue where we can work together as a country to move fishing from the contribution of 2 per cent of GDP to, at least, tripling that over the next 20 years. I believe it would also allow us to solve some of the social problems, simply because it is a profession, as I said, that allows most young people to feel as though they are in charge of their own destiny, and that it is a better mix than some of the other professions and jobs they may otherwise be diverted to.

Sir, like the former Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Peter, we will like to know the status of the CARICOM Regional Fisheries Mechanism. This is separate for the benefit of those who seemed to have gotten confused. I am not talking about the Barbados/Trinidad Fishing Agreement. I appreciate that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy now understands that this is a far more complex matter than he originally contemplated, because he gave the country the assurance that it would be signed by July, but we know...

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I will find the newspaper clipping.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, he did not say which year, that is true.

Sir, The point is this. I emphasise with him because what is outstanding with him is what was outstanding with us.

His Excellency D.St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. As usual the Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member knows that it is impossible to conclude a fishing agreement in July, when the fish stock assessment is supposed to be done in July, and that was left by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

The Honourable Member cannot come in this Honourable House and make the point that I said - The only reference to July I would have made is the fishing stock assessment that has to be done in July. The Honourable Member knows that the technocrats have been working on it, and nothing can be done until that has been completed. Sir, the Honourable Member knows not to come in this Honourable House and try something like this with the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, when we all arrived in this House at the same time.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I cannot hold myself responsible for the amnesia of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, but I would refresh his mind.

His Excellency D.St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House and associating that comment with me. The Honourable Member is speaking about herself, because when one listens to the facts, one will recognise it cannot be me that is suffering from amnesia, but it would have to be the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have grown accustomed to the fact that the Honourable Member is perhaps in love with his own voice more than anything else in the world.

His Excellency D.St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading the Honourable House again. The Honourable Member is trying to give the House the impression that I am in love with my voice. It is the other way around. The people of Barbados told me that sometimes they get mixed up with the two voices.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I said, again, I will produce for the public, since this House is likely to rise today, the statement by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that spoke to July. That is not the issue.

The issue is this. The Honourable Member knows - and I am sorry that the Minister of Foreign Affairs is not here either. He knows that he told the country that he would have it by July. We warned privately that the fish stock assessment would not be available until later this year, that Tobago was to hold the meeting to analyse the fish stock numbers, and therefore it was an ambitious target to set July. I simply make the point that the completion of a fishing agreement is not an overnight exercise.

Sir, the point I really wanted to make...

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I cannot hear myself. My ears are blocked from the flu.

Sir, the point I really want to make is, the CARICOM Regional Fisheries Mechanism, and perhaps if the Honourable Member would focus on that a little more, it would help our cause as a nation. What is more important, it gave expression to the fact that the whole Caribbean Sea should be seen as a single economic space for fishing for fishermen from whichever territory within CARICOM that they came. Sir, while we accept the importance of the Barbados/Trinidad Fishing Agreement because of the immediacy of the interest of fishermen, currently, we recognise that in the medium to long-term, the ability for our fishermen to go even farther, as well as fishermen from the norther Caribbean to come down here, is really what ought to be obtaining.

I believe it was Norman Manley who first gave expression to the fact that there should be full patrimony to the Caribbean sea for all Caribbean people. We, therefore, would like to know whether the Government, through its Ambassador, is continuing the work towards the establishment of the Regional Fisheries Mechanism, because its benefits to the fishermen of Barbados will be far greater than even the Fishing Agreement with Trinidad and Tobago.

Sir, we accept the need for the Agreement with Trinidad and Tobago because of the immediate fishing interest of the fishermen but in the medium to long-term, there ought to be a view that they can go as far afield as possible, and be able to deal with it.

Sir, there are sea-eggs on the North Coast of Jamaica in abundance. Jamaicans do not eat sea-eggs. I have been trying to urge the fishermen here, under the context of the

CARICOM Single Market Mechanism now to establish an enterprise in Jamaica to reap the sea-eggs and export them to Barbados.

11.20 a.m.

There is one concern as it relates to the mercury in the waters in the northern Caribbean but once we can satisfy ourselves it is not an issue with the sea- eggs, then we will not have to rely on Grenada and other islands in the eastern Caribbean, for the supply of this delicacy to Barbadians, the price which now fetches more than, I think, any other meat or fish product in this country, per ounce, therefore, there are opportunities.

Sir, I trust and hope that we can work with the fishing community to give expression to it, because the reality is that I really do feel that it can account for more than 2 per cent, as well as the employment of 6 000 people in this country. I think that those of us who understand that fishing was one of the key areas of employment in the post emancipation period, where people who did not want to subject themselves to the dictates of plantations could get into, because Barbados just did not have the land.

Whereas other countries were able to develop a peasantry because of the large abundance of land, we in Barbados would have seen the growth of a fishing class, in terms of those free men who did not want to subject themselves to the dictates of overseers and plantation owners. Sir, there is a historical grounding in it but, more importantly, there is an economic benefit.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the tuna that we export now fetches very high prices per pound in North America. The issue is, can we encourage more Barbadian fishermen, rather than having the Japanese, Koreans and the others come down here?

Equally, Sir, the integrated radar that the Government now has, I believe that most of it is in place, there is a need for some legislative amendments.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two more minutes to wind up.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir.

Sir, if we put the amendments which would allow for serious penalties and fines for people fishing in Barbados' waters, it would more than bring in money to the Treasury, largely because we know that the Koreans, Japanese and others have been fishing in our wider waters.

Quite frankly, the radar will now give us the ability for the first time to be able to track where they are fishing. If we can track where they are fishing, the increased assets

of the Coast Guard, which I believe the Prime Minister would have toured earlier this year, would be in a position to help us to stop it and, equally, to bring them before our Courts so that we can recoup some of the money that we have spent to put in the radar and, indeed, some of the money that we need to develop the fishing industry.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has been briefed by the fisher-folk of Barbados. It is clear to me, after being briefed by the fisher-folk of Barbados, the Honourable Member has not recognised that one must start from the foundation, before one proceeds to deliberate on matters, and that is, Sir, one of the first things I did was to ensure that I went around to the fish landing sites of Barbados and consulted with the fisher-folk of Barbados.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, not only did I discuss the fishing arrangements, I understood the local problems of the fisher-folk. I discussed issues like the possibility of solving the problem of hauling up their boats and the possibilities of easing that problem. I also discussed with them, Sir, the security risks that can be created when fishing is done, without the necessary discussions taking place between various countries.

Sir, people have to understand that the Caribbean territories are surrounded by the second largest landmass of water. People also have to understand, which I said in this House already, that even though we have a problem as it relates to landmass when it comes to sea mass, we are very rich in it. Previously, people concentrated and believed that once you had land, it was important. Sir, people now recognise that the greatest wealth can be found in the sea, so you cannot just discuss fishing without recognising that you also have to look at the security aspect.

When one looks also at what has been happening on those waters, one has to recognise that security must play a major role and that the Government of Barbados and the various Governments within CARICOM, must first sort out the security problem, before we can allow our fisherfolk of Barbados and the Caribbean to go all over the world, because we must protect the fisherfolk of Barbados.

Sir, those of us who are concerned about what happens on the high seas would understand, but those of us who do not understand, or who do not want to appreciate this point, will not take this matter as a serious point, that

is, we must protect the fishermen. There are those countries that believe they can allow certain constituents of theirs to abuse our fishermen, and we must ensure that we do everything within our power to protect our fisher-folk.

Sir, we too, cannot build a large prison for our fisher-folk, when there is no reason we should be building such a large prison for them, when they went to fish and not do other things. Sir, this is a very complex matter.

Sir, we also have to recognise that if we are going into someone's territorial waters, or their economic zones that the country has a right, and people must know who are on their property.

The former Government would give the impression, as was said in this House, that you can just pick up your boats and go into somebody else's territorial waters or their economic zones, but it cannot happen like that, Sir. We have to learn to respect the rights of others. This is exactly how we have been educating our fisher-folk. We have also been ensuring that we have been showing them the economic value of doing certain things.

Sir, as it stands right now, our fisher-folk might not be operating in the most effective way. For example, they might be travelling too heavy when they are leaving our shores. We need to ensure that we reduce the cost to them before they get where they are going. All those things have been discussed with the fisher-folk.

Sir, it is all right to say that you want the fishermen, and all of a sudden you have woken up one morning and understood the important things about the fisher-folk, after you have heard that the fisher-folk are now being treated as real business people in this country.

We did not ask them to come to us. We went to them because we understood what they did, and we treated them. We did not call them in one room and ask all the fisherfolk to come to one place. What happened is that we went across the country to fisherfolk and treated them with the respect that was due to them.

This is why the Other Side would now behave as if they knew the importance of the fishing industry because if they did, they never treated the fishermen as if they were anybody, different to the Honourable Member for St. James North. Sir, you can understand that because he has the right upbringing.

He might have been a wayward son and did not listen to his father on one point, but otherwise, Sir, he listened to him well, because he came from the right stock. This is why sometimes when you hear his speeches in here, you could identify with his political allegiance, based on his father, but not necessarily on himself.

Sir, I want to say that all of a sudden, we are hearing about storage space at the BIDC. This is because somebody has recognised that the old Abattoir at the Harbour Road, will now be utilised on behalf of BARNUFO. Now, all of a sudden, there is back-raising going on because somebody had an idea and now they are seeing action.

It is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that if we are going to be part of the CSME, it cannot be the CSME for certain things, but it must be the CSME for all. Sir, a Regional fishing plan is imperative. One of the things we must recognise is that there are some countries in the Caribbean that must recognise that the same rights and privileges that they give to outsiders, they have to give to their own.

The Koreans and Japanese come to our territorial waters and rape our seas but nobody complains. Yet, we get petty, when it comes to our own and I am saying, Sir, that it must stop.

11:30:14

Mr. Chairman, we need to see the CARICOM desk at a different role. Mr. Chairman, we as a people have to understand that if we are to go forward, it is not the European Partnership Agreement or anything that would take us forward, but the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, so we must protect the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and ensure that it works for us before we could invite outsiders.

Mr. Chairman, too often in this country, we have allowed globalisation to take over from localisation before we capitalise localisation. I have been saying this in this House now for 14 years. Sir, we have to understand that if we want to be able to compete, that we must first be able to master our local and regional markets before we could tackle our extra-regional market.

Sir, one cannot play test cricket - you would find this in Hansard, Sir - before one knows how to play BCA cricket, Shell Shield cricket, 20-20 cricket and all those types of cricket. You must have a base which must be good.

Mr. Chairman, the problem with us, as I have said in this House already, is that we get too caught up in going to meetings and signing on the dotted line without understanding what we have signed. Sir, that is what is causing the problems within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy because we, as a people, seem to appreciate outsiders more than we appreciate ourselves. Sir, in order for us to appreciate the Japanese, the Koreans and all others, we must appreciate our local fisher-folks.

Mr. Chairman, it cannot only be Oistins or the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex. We must also find a

suitable location in the North of Barbados for the fisher-folks, because fishing is an industry. Sir, not only should we do that, but we must recognise that the fishing industry cannot be seen as a six-month industry, because when you multiply the stock and you put a value to it, it is significant.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying to those fibreglass, long liners, flying fish boat owners that they have the capacity to go and be involved in inter-Regional trade after the fishing season ends.

Sir, I have been on the ground long enough. I have seen boats in Six Mens leaving to go to Martinique to bring fish to Barbados. I am saying that they could be bringing in ground provisions, vegetables and many other things to Barbados.

Sir, we have to understand that we have to look at the opportunity cost of what we are doing. I keep saying this to this House all the time. The problem is that we do not ever look at the opportunity cost. The biggest problem in Barbados is something called "jealousy" because there is a lot of work that the fish boat owners could be doing with their boats that people would prefer to give to other people because of cliques.

Mr. Chairman, what is going to kill Barbados is something called "cliques". Mr. Chairman, we as a Government would have to move swiftly to rectify the problem at the Speightstown jetty. It is clear that the person who built that jetty did not understand that the construction was not the right thing. Sir, it needs an L shape and there is also a need to go further out and build a breakwater to dampen the waves. Sir, to use that jetty as it stands right now, you would more damage the boats than do any good for the boats.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central understands the point that there is a marriage between the fisher-folks and tourism. Sir, there is a marriage between the fisher-folks, community tourism and the development of Barbados.

Sir, Barbados can only be developed from the base. For too long this country has been trying to be developed at the top not realising that if you want to create the right climate in this country, you have to be all-inclusive, not the all-inclusive type that you find in the tourism industry, but the all-inclusive type that you find in the sugar industry.

Sir, if you involved people in sucking cane they would cut the canes but the day you stop the people from breaking the canes, they would not want to cut the canes. This might sound farfetched as some persons would say, but you cannot tell a man that he cannot have something and then expect him to come and work with it.

Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons community tourism would always come off my tongue is because I understood that if you did not find something for the masses of people in Barbados to get involved in after all-inclusive tourism was brought in Barbados, that we would have a serious social problem. Community tourism is what would help the fishing industry in a big way, because of the consumption and it would also solve our problem as it relates to the social problems, crime, et cetera.

Sir, that is why you would find now that the hostility that you use to see in Barbados has now dampened the anti different colours. That is why there are certain educated people in Barbados who would never understand that we cannot continue to have the black and white talk in Barbados, that we must understand our history and that we have to understand that for Barbados to go forward that we all must go forward as a people. Mr. Chairman, we cannot continue to look back three years ago. We have to understand that we have to talk about where we are today, but without forgetting where we were before. That is the problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should wind up.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is a "too-few" in this country who believe they must remain in a little small grouping telling the masses of people in Barbados what they should and should not do, but whenever you meet them the same things that they tell the masses that they should and should not do, they are doing.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I want very briefly to comment on the industrial school relocation to Barrows. I believe that in a democracy, and in our representative system, that time should be taken to speak, regardless of whether you are Government or Opposition, to the representative of a constituency if there is going to be major works in the Constituency based on information, not necessarily based on issues of denial. Therefore, I support the Honourable Member for St. Lucy in relation to that.

In fact, I did not recognise that the young ladies would be placed at Barrows. I know the facility because it used to be a home when I used to be a member of a youth group. I can no longer claim to be a youth.

As a youth, in the heydays of real youth development in this country, we used to drive from Christ

Church to St. Lucy around Christmas time with gift baskets. Of course, we took care of Christ Church first and then we would venture to St. Lucy. We had very good friends in the northern cultural society who used to meet at Half Moon Fort Primary School in Clinketts. We used to carry some of the good fares from Christ Church down to St. Lucy.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to provide good conditions for our young offenders, persons we could save. I visited Summervale some years ago before its departure by fire and realised that there were some cramped spaces in that traditional facility.

Therefore, the utilisation of Barrows and its extension is useful for the young people of Barbados, those we still have to embrace or re-embrace, because many of them have fallen off because we have not embraced them enough, and have not worked on their minds to show them that there is a different method.

Mr. Chairman, there is no difficulty at all for the utilisation of existing space, or existing property properly refurbished and properly enhanced to facilitate the development of our young people. By extension, the same kinds of conditions and the same kinds of contact should be reinforced at the reformatory school at Dodds for our young men. Mr. Chairman, there is general support from me, as Minister of Education and Human Resources, in relation to that activity.

11.40 a.m.

It is known that we in the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development are looking at creating institutions which would help the school system before they reach the stage of going to the reformatory-type institutions. Sir, this is not an original idea on the part of this Administration, but we are looking to carry it forward. I believe these kinds of agendas should be carried forward to meet some kind of fruition to satisfy the real needs of the people of this country.

Mr. Chairman, on the issue of fishing, I am not known to be an individual who goes on the sea rocks. I am not going to utilise the jetty to fish, regardless of how badly it was placed. As a youngster, I believe, about 12 years old, I went fishing at Long Beach with a very good uncle of mine. I baited my hook and cast it off and the only thing I caught was a bullhead. I was shocked at having caught that bullhead, but my uncle then used it as bait and caught cavallies. Sir, that was the first and only time I ever went on the sea rocks.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make the point that I have always not lived too far from a fishing area. As a youngster, at one time I lived in Wilcox. We used to go to

Long Beach, where people would catch a number of fish, either by graining or by net. We would always have a chance to purchase those catches afterwards. I also used to ride down Wilcox Hill to go to Silver Sands. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew did not even know that Silver Sands existed then. The Honourable Member now knows that.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, Oistins has always been the major hub for fishing in Christ Church. To some extent, outside the development of the Oistins Fishing Complex, it was the major hub for fishing in Barbados. Sir, there was one person who stood out, who shouted loudly, who encouraged and motivated others. This was a woman of bright, humble origins, who had an entrepreneurial ability, so that she did not have one or two boats, she had many and, therefore, allowed persons to go out and fish. She, in turn, developed her craft on land, as she was able to sell these catches.

Mr. Chairman, there was a great motivation in fishing in what we called traditional Oistins because of a lady named Berlinda Cox. This lady is still alive and now lives in Welches, Christ Church. Therefore, I am going to ask those who are responsible for the Bay Gardens in Oistins, to have that place renamed the "Baby Dookes" Bay Garden.

Sir, I do not think anybody could quarrel about that. She was the live wire of Oistins, so let us give her her due before she passes on to her Maker in Heaven, because that is where she will go. She was a classical fisher-woman and the language of fishing was imbedded in her soul. Therefore, if you wanted to feel that cultural framework of those persons who fish, "Baby Dookes", along with others, epitomised fishing.

Mr. Chairman, there are persons across the length and breadth of Barbados who epitomise fishing but because my navel string is buried and will remain buried in Christ Church, I believe it is only fair and just that I speak to that parish.

Mr. Chairman, "Baby Dukes" and Oistins are one and the same and therefore, though that name change would come, persons would be able to relate very strongly to the fare that takes place along that major Highway on Friday and Saturday nights, where there is such a hive of activity.

Sir, one saw the growth of that area from the mid-1990s to what it is now, where persons still flock to Oistins, not only to eat food, but to interact with all cultures. Sir, Oistins is now like a melting pot of

“Barbadiana” and, therefore, one needs to add that cultural ingredient in the name of that person to Oistins.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I feel somewhat compelled to make a contribution to this debate because I have the honour of representing the Constituency of Christ Church East, where many of the residents of the Silver Sands community are persons who have plied the fishing trade for many years.

I would also want to suggest to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central that I grew up in St. Andrew and that the East Coast is not known for a lot of fishing. Sir, certainly, I would have spent many hours on the rocks and rigours of the East Coast, while fishing and diving in that area.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that as we reflect on this particular Head, we remind ourselves that this Government has made a very serious commitment to the development of the agricultural sector, and that the fishing industry, being a sub-sector of that sector, becomes critically important in assisting the Government to achieve its mandate.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to go further and suggest that we have every confidence in our CARICOM Ambassador, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, to assist us in delivering the kind of broad fishing industry plan that would take this country's fishing industry way into the future, on a very good footing.

Sir, we are not persuaded by the comments of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, when the Honourable Member seeks to suggest that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is not delivering on his mandate. Mr. Chairman, we know that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is doing a tremendous amount of work in bringing a pledge that was made by the previous Government to fruition, where the previous Government had worked feverishly, but has delivered nothing on the fishing industry.

Mr. Chairman, as a matter of fact, I would want to suggest that a lot of the work now to be done by this Government is work that should have been done when this country was benefitting from tremendous returns in VAT and when this Government had significant sums of money at its disposal. Sir, with those things, yet the past Government was unable to deliver the kind of work that would have been necessary during those 14 years of extreme hardship for fisher-folk in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make the point, and I wholeheartedly agree with the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, when the Honourable Member talked about that down period. Sir, there should not be a down period in the industry. Sir, I have a tremendous amount of fisher-folk in the Silver Sands area. Of course, we border with Christ Church South, where there are a number of fisher-folk spanning that area. Sir, many of these individuals do experience significant hardship during the down period in the fishing season. Sir, I believe it is absolutely necessary that as we go forward in fully developing our fishing industry plan, that we take into consideration those persons who, after the hype of the fishing season, must then scramble around to feed their families, who then suffer the kind of hardship they do suffer.

Sir, I know we on This Side will do everything necessary, not only to revitalise the industry but to ensure that those important planks are put in place, to enable our fisherfolk to be able to enjoy a complete year of good returns, however we choose to guide them in that regard.

11.50 a.m.

This injection of funds, Mr. Chairman, also seeks to enhance the efficiency of the industry and it also seeks to enable those persons who derive their livelihood from the industry. Sir, I know there are many persons in my constituency who, day in and day out, particular in the Silver Sands area, and it should be noted that Silver Sands, before the flight of the fisher-folk to Oistins and Bridgetown, that Silver Sands used to be a thriving fishing village where a lot of fishing related industries happened. I want to work closely with my colleague in Christ Church South to ensure that there is some sharing of resources in terms of development and, of course, my colleague in St. Lucy that however we move forward in terms of community tourism, however we move forward in terms of the development of the fishing industry that this particular fishing village is revitalised.

Mr. Chairman, I know there are many persons who are involved in the cleaning of fish and the preparation of fish for market, who have to sit in the sun and in odd places and use their own water to make sure they are able to ply their trade and I believe that part of the vision of this Government is to ensure that all Barbadians who are involved in any industry in this country has the opportunity to reach maximum returns from those industries.

Therefore, I believe that it is important that we continue to look at how we can revive the fishing industry in Silver Sands and take note, Mr. Chairman, that in Silver Sands, we are nestled among some great resort properties.

We have the Silver Sands Hotel and we have other properties up around the coast and, therefore, the Silver

Sands District has now become a major attraction, particularly for picnickers and persons who move around the country to enjoy the beauty and the scenery of Barbados. I would invite the Honourable Members of this House that any time they are on a picnic that they should pass through Silver Sands and see what we have to offer.

Mr. Chairman, there is more development that needs to occur and my concern is that there are a number of fisher-folk, who control other people's vessels and park those vessels, but they do not have their own. I would like to see some programme created and implemented, where these hardworking fishermen are enabled so that they are able to own a piece of the industry themselves.

Sir, I thought it was important for me to make that kind of contribution because, certainly, I would want my voice to be reflected in the record of this Honourable Chamber that we believe that the Constituency of Christ Church East has a lot to offer to this very valuable industry.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central used the term "rehabilitation" more than twice during his contribution and he clearly contemplated a situation where, in this community, there often arises the need to put people in particular institutions either for the benefit of society, or for their own good.

Mr. Chairman, there are two broad approaches how to treat offenders. The old-fashioned approach is based on something called "retribution"; an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. If a person does something that offends society, then society should reflect its revenge on that person by inflicting the maximum possible sentence on that particular person. Sir, that is called the retributive approach to punishment but then, Sir, the most modern approach is the question of rehabilitation and reform. I believe that is exactly what the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central meant when he was speaking about rehabilitation.

Mr. Chairman, one of the curiosities of this debate is that we are looking at a number of matters, including fishing. We have mentioned rehabilitation and I have personally now come to this particular position. The elders of Barbados, with whom I interact, keep lamenting the fact that once you go to prison, society writes you off.

When I asked the older heads, what then happens to a young man, who is jailed at age 19 and who comes out at age 22 and never gets into trouble again, the old fellows tell

me the problem now is that the people who go to prison and cannot find their place in society when they come out of prison, have to find ways and means to survive usually through self-employment or by starting a business.

Mr. Chairman, we are coming to the question of self-employment that was so adequately dealt with by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy. Sir, with self-employment, a number of factors and variables have to be taken into consideration. First of all, the person has to have the initiative and the will to want to get involved. Secondly, capital must be made available to that person and other factor inputs would be necessary as well.

Mr. Chairman, the principal point I am making is that if a fellow goes to prison, spends three years or four years, comes out, is refused work in Government, is refused work by the private sector, and is stigmatised by the society, then what society has done is wronged this person by not incorporating and embracing such a person.

Mr. Chairman, my recommendation, based on the interaction I have had with other people is that in instances where people find it hard to access conventional employment, they should consider self-employment, and they can consider opening a business. They do not have to have millions upon millions to open a business.

They do not have to start either at medium-size or large-scale to be able to run a business. The position that the Honourable Committee, of which you are Chairman, should take, is that in line with modern-day thinking. Parliament like the Executive, should encourage youth to be interested in business.

Mr. Chairman, 50 years ago the youth was interested in conventional employment but, nowadays, there is a splurge of enterprises in the air. There is a splurge of entrepreneurship. There are institutions that have been established that facilitate entrepreneurship and, I believe, the prison itself has already made a start. You must know,

Sir, based on your profession and your experience that people do CXC's in prison, but we now have to ask ourselves this question. If I go to prison, write four or five CXC's and pass, which benefits me more, the four or five CXC's or the stigma that infects me by having gone there and having come out to run the risk of being called a jail bird. Sir, in Barbados, people have been called jail birds after just one incarceration.

Mr. Chairman, society has to be more humane. The Criminal Records Rehabilitation of Offenders Act has already passed this Honourable House and we, therefore, have to encourage more people who qualify to get rehabilitated. We should use the prison to spread more

skills because, gone are the days where we teach a prisoner to bake, to cook, or to do tailoring.

First of all, we need to teach them a tremendous amount of self-esteem. We need to teach them to be law-abiding, and we need to impart many skills to them so as to make them as marketable as they could be. They should not give up when once they try and do not succeed; when twice they try and do not succeed.

Mr. Chairman, a lady was telling me in recent times that some of the best fine art you can find, you can find in prison, that a lot of prisoners tend to be very good artists - that is a remarkable coincident - and that a lot of good paintings and such like are available, having been made by prisoners.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the prison has a system of allowing prisoners to earn limited amounts of income while being incarcerated.

12:00 noon

The question always is - what are we going to do with that individual, who having served his or her time in prison comes back out into the community? I am calling for the community to be more humane without being over indulgent.

There are those who go to prison, who are repeated offenders. I am not talking about that category of habitual criminal for whom little or nothing can be done. There is a category of people called criminally insane or so obsessed with crime that they cannot get out.

Sir, I once asked a fellow who has 30 convictions why he had so many convictions. He told me that he thought he was Robin Hood. He said that when he robbed, he would rob the rich and give to the poor. That was his facetious comment in response to a serious question as to why he was getting in trouble with the Law. He, in his imagination, was robbing the rich and giving to the poor. I cannot think of any poor people anywhere in Barbados, who would have benefitted from his largesse, and certainly poor people in Barbados are sufficiently sensible enough to know when not to handle or receive when you suspect or believe that something has been stolen.

Sir, where are we now? We are at a stage where the Honourable Member for St. John has raised the question of the financing of this particular matter. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy has made some interesting contributions, including a very wise call for a facility for the North.

We have also heard of problems of poaching by the Koreans and Japanese. We have heard about security issues

that confront fisherman, where innocent fisherman out fishing are up against the threat by people on the high seas in activities other than fishing. We have travelled a fair amount of ground in terms of the potential of this particular Resolution to invite debate.

I want to conclude by saying that whatever we do, let us resolve to empower our people more. Let us resolve to get rid of the obstacles and difficulties which keep our people back, and let us ensure that after today we send a signal that we are interested in things like self employment for people. We are interested in things like more entrepreneurship. We are interested in things like a fuller mode of rehabilitation than we have at the moment. We are interested in every Barbadian being able to fulfill his or her potential.

Sir, with those few remarks, I am deeply obliged to you.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

His Excellency D.St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, I want to make the point that we have to recognise that fishing is an industry that has been looked down on. We need to add things to that industry to ensure that a lot of the young persons, which the Honourable Member for St. James North spoke about, would want to gravitate to and to benefit from.

There is no doubt that the contribution of the fishing industry to the economy of Barbados has been great, more so this year than ever. Sir, at a time when the cost of living is high, we were able to get a protein at a price that is very reasonable. At the same time, we have to recognise that even though that protein was put on the table of Barbadians at a reasonable price, there might have been a cost to other persons.

Sir, people talked about subsidising fuel, but they have to recognise that we live in a real world, where the cost of fuel is not only going up in Barbados, but it is going up across the world. We must come up with meaningful ways of solving the problems, instead of creating long-term problems for the country.

Sir, I would suggest that the problem with the fishing industry is its marketing. It does not make sense in this day and age for persons having to travel to the fish markets to source that protein. We need to empower Barbadians to recognise that selling fish is a profession also. Now that people such as Ena Blackman, 'Baby Doots', the lady from Six Mens, and those older folks who have vans to take fish across Barbados, now that they have passed away, I am not

seeing a gravitation similar or the same way as it used to be. Once before I could have identified about 12 vendors in Half Moon Fort that had the capacity to move fish across the Constituency, and even farther afield. In this day and age it is not there anymore.

Sir, we need to recognise that there is a relationship, and this is something I have been saying to this Honourable House for a while. There is a relationship between the farmers of Barbados and the vending of their produce. Also, the vending of the catches in the evening.

Sir, one needs to recognise that vending on behalf of the farmers of Barbados can be done during the morning, and vending on behalf of the fisherfolk can be done in the evening. This means that you now have the capacity where someone - you need to do a costing and to realise the opportunities that are available, because at the end of the day, it is not the profession a person is in. Sir, when one looks at what is happening in the world, it is not the profession. It is the amount of disposable income that person has to buy the products and still have a lifestyle.

Sir, I am saying, when one looks at what occurred earlier this year, it is clear to me that smart persons will move towards selling local produce and also fish. If they sell it, they will accumulate disposable income.

Sir, as I went around Barbados, every fisherman complained about the hawkers. They told you how much money they were making, and we saw it as a negative. Instead of seeing vending as a negative, we now need to show people how much money they can make from vending.

If people believe that the money is in vending, then it is obvious we have to create an atmosphere for more people to become involved in vending. As it was said, the money is in that profession. That is why I will make the call that the farmer needs to remain in the field, the fisherfolk need to remain at sea, and we need to provide the tools and involve more persons.

Sir, there will come a time that the same call I have been making, along with the Honourable Member for St. John, for a long time to empower the vendors of Barbados, that time is now right for us to proceed. It is not only empowering poor people, but it is ensuring that the foreign exchange of Barbados is healthy, especially at a time where the world sharks are now looking to dump everything on Barbados.

It is imperative we understand the importance of imports substitution. If we fail to do that, we will see our import bill reducing every cent of foreign exchange that is earned and not earned. Then the Minister of Finance will

have headaches finding foreign exchange to keep this country running.

Sir, I am saying the time is right to focus on agriculture and the fishing industry. Those are the industries that will do Barbados well, along with manufacturing. I am appealing to Barbadians to respect the fisher-folk, respect the farmers and respect the vendors.

We need to realise that if we are to seriously tackle the unemployment problem in Barbados, the easiest way to tackle it is through vending, farming and fishing. We have to put some respectability in the eyes of persons who do not understand the importance of these industries.

Sir, I need not to be converted. I understand it very well. From my early years as a school boy, I understood the importance of fishing, because I was there and I understood. Sir, in Barbados a lot of people want to eat fish. They want to eat provisions, but they do not want to dirty their hands. Yet those persons who make the sacrifice, they want to look down on.

I am saying that every profession must now be measured using a different basis because, at the end of the day, you can laugh at a man, but if that man can buy you a beer and you cannot buy that man a beer, that man is better off than you. I am telling you that the fisher-folk in Barbados, at times, have that disposable income.

12.10 p.m.

Sir, sometimes you have to wait once a month to see a cheque but, sometimes, they see a cheque 31 days in a month, whenever there is that 31. People have to understand that you may even impact on the economy one day a month but farmers, fisher-folk and the vendors, impact on the economy every single day, once there is a catch.

Sir, people who should know better need to understand that is a sector, those persons who would now run in here today and want to make believe that they have finally recognised the importance of fisher-folk, when they had 14 years to do it. The fisher-folk do not want to hear them because they understand where their bread will be buttered.

This Government will ensure that they look after the interest of the masses of the people in Barbados, because they understand that in order to build, you must have a foundation. This is exactly what we are doing. We are building a foundation for our economy because we understand that in order to push Barbados forward, we must have workers and we must have mass participation in the economy by the masses of people in Barbados and not only be interested in those "too fews" who could fly in here

in jets with a suitcase. Sir, when they are ready, the same way they fly in, the same way they will fly out also, but the masses of people in Barbados have to remain.

Mr. Chairman, a lot of us should learn what happened in this country in the early 1990s. I have not forgotten. It was those same persons, the farmers, the fisher-folk and the workers of Barbados who kept their hands to the plough and ensured that this country Barbados was brought back, after we borrowed bad loans and destroyed all the foreign reserves of the country. They remained. They could not fly anywhere, and that is why it is important for us to understand that they are those persons who built this economy. Mr. Chairman, 14 years of growth, and they saw no benefits of it. Sir, I am saying the time is right.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this matter and just to add my two cents worth in terms of the issue of the fishing industry.

Mr. Chairman, you may be surprised to know that even within the City of Bridgetown, we have a long tradition of fishing. I heard Honourable Members on the Other Side talking about their interest in the fishing industry. I know that it was the Barbados Labour Party Government that closed down the fishing centre at Bay Street.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: The former Prime Minister was more interested in fetching the highest economic value of all the beachfront lands, so the public library in Speightstown had to go, so the Bay Street Fishing Centre opposite the Catholic Church had to go, you understand, the District Hospitals and so on.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, I am very familiar with that Bridgetown Fishing Centre at Bay Street, because as a lad, I would walk there - I am a Catholic - and go to the Cathedral, and on my way back from church, I would be sent to buy some flying fish heads, and I grew up on fish head soup.

Asides.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Sir, that is why I am so strong and fit. I could walk up and down Bridgetown because I was grounded with that fish head soup and congers. Yes. I know about skinning the congos and slashing them up in slabs and frying it, and drying the skin to make purses and

so on. As well as pot fish. I know about this, Mr. Chairman. The fisher-folk from the Bay Land, Bay Street and the New Orleans would be there operating at Bay Street, the Shallow Draft or the Inner Basin of the Careenage.

These people in St. Michael are accustomed to fishing but they did not get enough support from the Barbados Labour Party Administration. They were more interested in building marinas for the rich and famous, than to provide proper facilities for the small fisher-folk of our country, who earn and save tremendous foreign exchange, in terms of providing this fresh, holistic, very nutritious fish as a source of protein for our people. The doctors say we should eat fish several times a week. It does not have the fat that would cause health problems, as you would have in other meats, red meats and so on. Therefore, the fishing industry must be promoted.

I remember going to the Agricultural Exhibition in the Park, under the previous Administration and seeing the BARNUFO persons their showing that they want to market their fish, presenting it in a professional way, several cuts and so on, but they do not get sufficient support from the Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Mr. Chairman, you and I would remember that under the last 14 years of the Barbados Labour Party Government, the fisher-folk from Oistins and Bridgetown complained about the lack of ice, so they would catch the fish, which would spoil because the Government did not care about replacing the faulty equipment in terms of cold storage for the fisher-folk. Sir, this fish is fresh and if ice is not provided, then you are compromising the viability of the fishing industry. We in the Democratic Labour Party are aware of these issues and we will do all in our power to address these one by one, so that the fishing industry would be given the necessary support.

I remember that the fisher-folk from back in the late 1990s were complaining that the Barbados Labour Party Government did not provide enough tractors to haul up the fishing boats in the hurricane season from Tent Bay right down. Therefore, many boats were damaged and destroyed because the Barbados Labour Party Government did not provide the necessary quantity of tractors and deploy them throughout the country, so that boats could be hauled to shore to safety in the event of pending bad weather.

These are basic issues that a caring Government would address but I said, "caring". The Barbados Labour Party Government failed the fisherfolk, failed the country, but the Democratic Labour Party is here to rescue this very important industry.

I thank you, Sir.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you now report progress to His Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER, and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour, the DEPUTY SPEAKER accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

12.19 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply, to that it will now revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (RESUMED)

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

HEAD 55 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM \$10 000 000

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Chairman, this particular Supplementary relates to the figure of \$10 million to supplement the efforts of the Barbados Tourism Authority as it markets Barbados in some extremely difficult times.

You would recall, Sir, that last month during the Budget presentation, the Honourable Member for St. John indicated that an additional \$10 million would be made available to the Barbados Tourism Authority to execute various tasks. The budget of \$80 million was provided for in the Estimates for 2008-2009, so this \$10 million is in addition to those existing resources.

At the time, the Honourable Member for St. John referred to marketing efforts as well as the protection of

airlifts. Mr. Chairman, before I go into some of the specifics, I think it would be useful to have an understanding of the backdrop against which we are operating in these times as we try to market Barbados as a tourism destination.

Mr. Chairman, we all know of the situation with respect to the price of crude oil. Sir, even though there has been some encouragement insofar as the price dropping, it is still predicted that the high prices would remain in the all influential oil future's market.

1.40 p.m.

Therefore, we have to operate on the basis of where our major markets are under pressure, not only from these high oil prices but also from some other dampening of consumer activities because of an overall economic slowdown. We know of the crisis in the Financial Services Sector such as prime mortgage interests, et cetera.

Sir, it is not surprising to hear that the International Association of Travel Agents (IATA) is forecasting significant losses for airlines, between \$2.3 and \$6.1 billion, depending on where this oil price eventually settles. Therefore, we are, in fact, dealing in some fairly harsh circumstances internationally.

Mr. Chairman, it is against that backdrop that we must realise the prediction is that the number of persons looking for budget holidays are already predicted to slow significantly. Therefore, we are dealing with a situation where consumer confidence at the low end of the market is really taking a battering because of the situation with respect to the world economy.

Mr. Chairman, in spite of those circumstances, I think we could still be encouraged by the fact - and I have made this point in a previous debate - that our performance to date this year is quite encouraging. Sir, in spite of us not having a Cricket World Cup this year, we are just about equalled last year's performance.

There is less than 0.5 percentage point decline, January to June, 2008, against January to June, 2007. Sir, in my view, that is an accomplishment. It says that we cannot underscore the strength of the Barbados brand and what it means to have a vacation in Barbados. It also shows what we have to do in these trying times to ensure that brand remains.

Mr. Chairman, it is against that backdrop that the Honourable Member for St. John had indicated that we have to look at the segment of the market that tends to be a little more resilient, one that is not as sensitive to economic situations. Sir, we have always attracted the upper end of the market to Barbados. We have to continue to focus on

the end that is not so sensitive to the challenges of the world's economy. Sir, I would say that is being looked at in the context of a variety of marketing initiatives. Sir, I am going specifically now into how exactly we plan to deal with that \$10 million and how it would be deployed.

Mr. Chairman, airlift, of course, remains the most critical variable in the success or failure of our tourism. That is simply because just about all of our long-stay tourists come via air and, therefore, airlift is extremely important.

The Barbados Tourism Act expressly gives responsibility to the Barbados Tourism Authority to ensure that adequate passenger airlift is provided into Barbados. Sir, it is well within the boundaries of logic that there is a correlation between having adequate airlift and the number of arrivals we see into Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, therefore, we are going to protect our airlift as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, in the United Kingdom, which is our number one market, there is going to be a termination of two charter services, ExCel Airways and First Choice Airways. We will not see them as at the end of October and, therefore, we are currently negotiating with our existing scheduled carriers, to see how we could boost the number of seats coming out of the United Kingdom. This initiative is extremely possible. We are, in fact, talking with all three carriers, Virgin Airlines, British Airways and BMI Airways.

Mr. Chairman, to make a negative into a positive, those seats that we are losing, we are likely to gain at Heathrow. Therefore, we are going to lose seats from Gatwick, but we are going to gain a number of seats from Heathrow. That is very encouraging because Heathrow is a better airport as far as connection is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, we want to get both the European business and the Irish business but it is extremely difficult to get new airlift out of Heathrow. If you are familiar, it is actually a very small airport, as busy as it is, with only two runway strips. There has also been this huge debate for many years, in trying to expand that airport, but the residents in the area are resisting that move, therefore, the slots are very tight.

It is very tight to get airlift out of Heathrow, but we are quite fortunate that we are going to be getting some. Therefore, these additional resources that we have, would be used to negotiate establishing this airlift.

Mr. Chairman, I must say this, and I might even run the risk of repeating it. We do not want to go too much the route of seat subsidies. We are looking more for a joint

marketing arrangement with the carriers, which I think is better. That, for example, is the model we are using with Westjet out of Canada. Sir, I think we are in a number of discussions and that it looks extremely positive.

Mr. Chairman, in speaking of Canada, I can confirm that starting in November, we will have four rotations per week of the WestJet service that I have already spoken about. Sir, when I came to office, there was a proposal that there may have been three rotations. We were able to confirm those three, but we have now added a fourth. Therefore, we are looking to get more business out of Canada.

Sir, with the competition between Air Canada and WestJet, the fares coming out of Canada are actually going to be falling. Sir, at a time when airfares are rising, we are having competitive airfares out of what was once our best markets, and this is a very exciting point for the Barbados Tourism Authority's office in Canada.

Sir, for that very reason, we would also see to it that some of the resources of the \$10 million we are getting, would be spent in strengthening that Canadian office, so that we could strengthen our presence, not only in Ontario, through the Toronto office, but out West. We want to get something going in Calgary as well. We want to strengthen the work going on in Montreal. There is a single officer working there, but we think we could definitely drive more business from Canada.

Sir, we have to do it because there is no point we are going to get these additional flights on Westjet and all the people from Air Canada would go over to Westjet. Mr. Chairman, we want incremental business, therefore, we need these resources in order to get the Canadian Office up to scratch, so that we could deal with the capacity that we would have. Mr. Chairman, it would be a very good opportunity for us to get more business out of Canada.

Mr. Chairman, if I could turn to the Caribbean, particularly Latin America, it is a fact that our traffic out of the Region, especially Trinidad and Tobago, has taken a hit because of the airfares. It is unfortunate because that market has been proving to be quite rewarding for Barbados in recent years. It is now our third largest market, and one that we would like to see developed. Therefore, the Barbados Tourism Authority is continuing to work closely with LIAT and with Caribbean Airlines to see if we could get more business out of the Caribbean. In 2007, business out of the Caribbean fell by 15 per cent.

Asides.

1.40 p.m.

Hon. R.L. SEALY: Mr. Chairman, in 2007, that was the year of the ICC World Cup but we appreciate the challenge with the flights and the cost of travel within the Region. Sir, we are looking at that and we are also exploring Latin America.

Sir, while those discussions are exploratory at this stage, there are some serious discussions going on with both Argentina and Brazil at possibly getting a flight coming out of Latin America making two stops. This is something that has happened before and we all know that these ventures have often fallen down because we have not pursued them correctly.

Mr. Chairman, I can assure this House and, by extension the country, that any time we are embarking on these new services that the adequate marketing support has to be put in place. It is no point having a lovely plane flying here and nobody in the destination knows about it.

We have a long track record, as a country, of attracting airlift and not being able to sustain it. I do not plan to go down that road, and this is why I have insisted on certain things with the WestJet service and that is why if the Latin American plan is ever to become a reality, there is a significant amount of homework that we would have to do.

Mr. Chairman, if I could turn quickly to some of the marketing initiatives that we are planning to do as we talk about this Supplementary and the additional \$10 million that we are using, I would just like to share with the House that Barbados has an excellent name and that the United Kingdom is viewed as an iconic destination and very aspirational. Even though it might not be priced at the point where some of the mass-based destinations are, the British has always seen Barbados as a very special place to visit and it is currently our No. 1 market.

Mr. Chairman, that is why we want to underpin the value of the Barbados brand and we are going to be taking on some television sponsorship of some major television programmes in the United Kingdom. There is a programme on Skype News called Sports Line, which is broadcast seven days a week; three times a day and just after Skype News, Monday to Friday; two 30 minute reports as well. Sir, seven days a week, 10 minute reports, Monday to Friday and 30-minute reports on Saturday and Sunday. It is a heavily watched sports programme and we reckon that our joint sponsorship of that event would serve us well.

There is also another Skype programme called "At the Movies", which is also shown once weekly at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, and is repeated Wednesdays at 9:00 o'clock.

Sir, with this opportunity to sponsor Sport Line for 12 months and "At the Movies" for four months, we think that we can get a television presence that would be useful; would enhance the destination and, at the same time will not break the bank because television advertising in the North Atlantic countries can be frightfully expensive but we have worked out a situation where we can target both male and female and really boost the coverage of the destination.

Mr. Chairman, I might add because of its runnings, in the case of Sports Line, for a 12-month period, it will help us not only for the soft months coming up now, the September/October period, but it would help underscore our efforts going into winter. I have already mentioned that with the cricket, our arrivals should be strong out of the United Kingdom come February and March, but we still have to make sure that with all the challenges, we are not taking anything for granted, but that we still continue to be strong in marketing ourself.

Mr. Chairman, we have to remember that the tickets are surcharged with British Airways and Virgin Airlines, that they are £200, in that vicinity, and we have to continue to push that No. 1 market. It is very unfortunate what happened with the Mulanies in Antigua, but that affects us also because when we think of the Caribbean, we cannot sit back and say that we will get Antigua's business. Sir, that is not how it works because we see the Caribbean as one.

Sir, if you see those stories in the tabloids and the other newspapers, they talk about the Caribbean. They are looking at what happened with the Mulanies and comparing it to what is going on in Trinidad, Jamaica and Barbados. We are in that mix so we cannot take anything for granted as far as our marketing, as far as the brand is concerned, and even though the numbers due to cricket look encouraging, we are still going to take advantage of this sponsorship opportunity that we have to carry us through the soft periods in the Fall, September and October, to take us right through the winter and right into next year to the other period.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is quite a useful thing we are doing. We plan to have a proper jingle that will be created to be used on both the television and the radio and create some sort of sonic recognition of Barbados. There will be a call to action that will require a visit to the Barbados Tourism Authority website, and we are ongoing as well in upgrading the e-commerce platform that we spoke about in the Manifesto, and the work that needs to be done in that regard is also included in our efforts and these much needed funds will go in that direction.

Mr. Chairman, if anyone is curious, the joint sponsorship on Skype is actually going to run just over

£600 000, which is BDS\$2.5 million. Sir, that is what we are doing in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, as far as Canada is concerned, I mentioned already that there is a joint programme that we are looking at along with WestJet, that the programme will cost CAN\$769 000, which is BDS\$1.5 million and that we are responsible for half and they are paid half.

This is joint marketing and it is a way to get the airlines full as opposed to the traditional seat subsidy arrangement, which we need to move away from. Sir, we will be doing that, along with some other improved activity in the Canadian market like advertising on the radio, et cetera, to try to get that market going and to drive more business here on the new service and also on the traditional one with Air Canada, the charters and so on that would be coming in here.

Mr. Chairman, as far as the United States of America is concerned, traditionally, we would have always boosted our radio and television exposure just for the eight-week period relating to the Best of Barbados Programme. Sir, what we, as a Government, have concluded is that it leaves the rest of the year without adequate coverage and that does not make sense.

Sir, even though we have done a split of Best of Barbados where we have had it both in the May/June period as well the September/October period, I would like to see, and the Board knows my views, that we can move away from having to rely so heavily on these discount programmes.

The Best of Barbados, you may be aware, had its genesis coming out of 9/11, and there was a concern that we would need to discount to try to drive more business into Barbados. Sir, 9/11 was seven years ago and we are still using this special discount programme, and I look forward to the day when it is phased out all together, frankly, and if we do decide to use discount, that it is used sparingly and maybe around select activities and so on, but not that the second largest market is relying on a single discount programme for a particular period of the year. We are, in fact, going to continue to provide some enhanced television coverage from the September 2008 to March 2009 period, in the United States of America.

1:50

We are hoping that US\$1 million (BDS\$2 million) will be spent to effect - and that would help us at a time when the US is, of course, feeling the effects of a serious recession, and we need to get our strategies going very strong.

I want to say, however, as we talk about moving away from the heavy discounting and so on, and pushing the brand Barbados, the other thing we have to push, and something that we, again, as a Government are focussing on is the importance of special events and the capacity that special events have to drive business to Barbados, particularly during the slow periods.

We will continue to encourage the local and Regional sporting bodies to work with the Barbados Tourism Authority for sports tourism initiatives, especially in those periods. We all know the slogans. I think I need to enumerate them here, hockey, cricket, motor sports, horse racing and so on, but we must continue to develop stronger synergies and so on, that we can again drive some business. Even beyond that, we have to see to it that the BHTA's initiative that started last year October with the Food Festival, is ranked to a world-class Epicurus festival.

Asides.

Hon. R.L. SEALY: The Honourable Member for St. James North would approve of that. We need to see to it we can properly exploit the fact we are the only Zagat rated country in the world, Zagat rates cities. Barbados as a nation State is rated by Tim and Nina Zagat. That speaks volumes.

We are going into our second edition of a Zagat guide. Nowhere else in the Caribbean can say that. That gives us a significant comparative advantage, when you can offer world-class dining on top of your world-class product. It can definitely drive business to the country.

We think that having that special event, a food festival, you can even add rum, the local spirit - We are a top-class rum-producing country. The Honourable Member for St. James North is no longer supposed to be interested in those kinds of things, but I suppose he would still come and support it. He could get animated.

I also will say the use of music. We all know what Crop Over has done for tourism, especially Regional business and VFR (visiting friends and relatives) business, Barbadians living overseas. We need to look at alternative music festivals while working with the private promoters.

We can also get some more business going here. Let me just say, from my point of view, we are concerned about getting our numbers up. I think that it is a good thing that so many Barbadians, young driven entrepreneurs, are prepared to go into the business of promoting music events, and we should embrace them.

The Barbados Tourism Authority is prepared to embrace them, if it is in the interest of getting our numbers up. I would like to see that we can have some more of these

types of events. I would have attended one or two of them over this period and there are very well produced. We see world-class productions that local promoters are doing.

We even have a few promoters who go beyond Barbados to do events because they are just good at what they do, people providing the logistics and so on. Therefore, I think we should have something in that September/October period, the post Crop Over period. We should have a major event that can drive some more visitors here during that shoulder period.

I will also say that the meetings and incentives market - somehow we were caught sleeping and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago country, not known for tourism necessarily, has been able to construct a wonderful facility in Port-of-Spain, and they are now getting a lot of that business, meetings, incentives, conventions and groups.

I salute them for having the foresight but, at the same time, under my watch, I am not going to allow that to just continue. We are going to look and see what we can do with the Hilton. The Prime Minister has already gone on record, so far as the completion of the Sherbourne Conference Centre and its renaming, et cetera. We think we can get far more of that business and for it to fit right into what we are talking about.

In the meantime, the Barbados Tourism Authority is looking at bringing on a consultant, who will work with a lot of the international business companies, the IDCs. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, as well as the Honourable Member for St. James South, will be very happy to hear this.

The Barbados Tourism Authority is going to approach the IDCs, and encourage them to have more of their Annual General Meetings and Special Meetings here, and we will drive that from here in Barbados. You do not need to relocate an officer to some faraway place.

You have IDCs here that are connected to Fortune 500 Companies and we need to get some more tourism going at that level. We are not just talking about it, we are doing it and putting it in place and approaching them. That again would be another one of those new initiatives to try to get some more business.

Mr. Chairman, I could not possibly take my seat without speaking about the determination of the Honourable Member for St. John to use the Barbadian diaspora in a more meaningful way to develop local life. For too long they have been left out on the fringe lingering.

I remember when I sat over there and shadowed the area for which the Honourable Member for St. Philip West

is now responsible, I was flabbergasted by the ease with which we could pay top dollar to bring in health professionals from Nigeria and the Philippines and all over. Do you remember that?

We have Barbadians persons of Barbadian extract right there, three hours flight away in Miami, New York and these places, and we made no effort at trying to get them to come back and help us. Therefore, I think it is good that we as a Government - of course all of that is going to change now under the Honourable Member for St. Philip West and the wonderful work he is doing to develop health care in this country. I am saying the idea of seeing the Diaspora as a tremendous recourse, and as our kith and kin, is extremely important, and not making them feel they are unwanted or they are nuisances and so on.

We all know the stories about when they used to go to the Facilitation Unit, but bringing that to a screeching halt and saying, not only are we trying to facilitate you moving back home, but you are a resource that can help us even while you are out there.

To that extent, only today at the Collaborative Conference at Sherbourne Conference Centre, NABO, which is the body from the US, along with the parent body from Canada and the United Kingdom, they are having a big Collaborative Conference, as we speak right now, at Sherbourne. This morning the Barbados Tourism Authority unveiled a plan to have them function in essence, as an extended sales force for Barbados' tourism, and it was well received.

Sir, I will get my complete report in due course, but via the telephone it was extremely well received. It is a proposal and it needs to be tweaked and so on, but we have been able to get a buzz and to create some excitement in the Diaspora. They have been for too long a feeling of being just out there, and no one caring or asking them to help, but they now have a real opportunity not only to help Barbados, but because it is an incentive programme, they can help themselves also.

I think it is a wonderful thing. What better person to sell Barbados than a Barbadian? Think about it. So I am very glad that we have got this programme going. It is something the Prime Minister spoke about. It is something I spoke about, and I think it is very important that we make it happen. I hope that, certainly, by the end of the year, we would have had all the necessary exchanges and sometime during the course of January, 2009, we should be able to roll out that new programme.

2.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have just about covered the areas where the \$10 million will be used to generate some

new business. Hopefully, we can inspire some confidence in these very troubling times, to ensure that we can continue to see that we have our arrivals sustained from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. We can grow them out of Canada, do some repair work in CARICOM, and continue to see that tourism remains strong in these very trying times.

I beg to move that Head 55 stand part.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is refreshing, Sir, after being in the wilderness for such a long time and being on the burning deck to hear a Minister of Tourism speak in this way. It is for years that we have been trying to impress on the Other Side, the importance of involving your own.

It is no doubt, Sir, that since 1999, this type of suggestion has been made, especially to those persons living in New York, when they have their cocktail sips. It is no doubt that there is wealth stored overseas and we, in this Parliament, would have heard complaints about Bajans overseas having land, not clearing the land, the Government should sell it, and all that foolishness.

I remember telling this House that instead of adopting that approach, it would have been better to encourage or excite those Barbadians to put a property on the land and use their contacts overseas to market that property and to build the community tourism of which we speak. While listening to the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, one could easily understand his focus, and one can only compliment him for following the right direction and about to deliver the goods.

Sir, the Honourable Member said that he is not here about flying planes for the sake of flying planes, a good comment again, because when we were on the Other Side, we knew that all that was important was airlift, but not necessarily passengers coming to Barbados.

Sir, we are not here about statistics, and people have to understand that you do not run a tourism industry by telling people the number of people we expect to come to a country, or the number of seats we expect to have, but we would run the country by the numbers of people arriving in the country and the amount of money they are spending in the country.

Sir, I am saying that we also have to understand that because the English market is good and our figures are up,

we do not ignore our North American market. Sir, for years we have been asking the previous Government to recognise that there is a longstanding relationship between the Canadians and Barbadians.

Sir, for some reason, just because in the 1970s, people could not appreciate the white and black mix and we lost that market, people have ignored that market. Sir, for years we have been asking the various Ministers of Tourism to recognise that there is now a stronger relationship between the Canadians and Barbadians, because those of us who understood the Canadian market knew that a lot of Barbadian men left the island and went to live in Canada, which meant that there was even a wider market for us to source and a better understanding of the Barbadian market.

Sir, just because we are caught up in the “too fews” of Barbados and we do not want to offend the “too fews”, we refuse to target the Canadian market. I am happy to hear that the Canadian market is now being targeted again. It has always served Barbados well.

Sunset Crest was built off the Canadian market. Yet, we allowed that market to be destroyed. The same thing, we in Barbados because of our newness for things being done by other people, gravitated towards the all-inclusive market and gave away our traditional market, without recognising that we could have incorporated the all-inclusive market, along with our traditional market, without interfering with our traditional market.

What we did, Sir, we allowed persons who were well placed for the traditional market to destroy the traditional market, get involved in the all-inclusive concept and we gave them the same concessions and incentives, without recognising that they were not creating any new markets. What should have occurred, Sir, persons building in areas that were not developed by the taxpayers of Barbados, should have been encouraged to go into all-inclusive tourism.

Sir, persons who were involved in an area where the all-inclusive market is coming, when you have the traditional market and all the subsidies provided, they should not have been given the incentives as a new person going out there and building a new hotel. Barbados was big enough for the all-inclusive concept, but the location of the all-inclusive concept was wrong.

There is no way that a place like Sunset Crest or Speightstown should have been encouraged to get involved in the all-inclusive concept, because the services were there already for the traditional style of tourism but, in those areas, Sir, where you wanted to develop those particular areas, and the infrastructure was not there where the hotels could then go and put the infrastructure to suit what they

were marketing, there was nothing wrong in allowing a new player to introduce that concept.

Sir, what we did, we created a social problem within the country and an anti this and anti that. There was no need for it, Sir. There is nothing wrong with the all-inclusive concept but it has to do with its location, and people have to understand that, Sir.

Another point that we must recognise, Sir, is that because the English market is good, we cannot ignore the American market. We seem not to learn from history. It seems to me that we are so new fashioned and everything, that we ignore the history of our country.

Sir, when the Naval Base was here in the 1960s and 1970s, the American market was a good market. It is because there was a relationship between the Naval Base and the American tourists. Sir, as soon as the Other Side closed down the American Base, that market went soft and we did nothing to get that relationship back again.

Sir, I am saying now that we are once again in a good position to rekindle that relationship with that market with the project at Harrisons Point. Sir, in doing that project, we must recognise that there is a history to that location, that there are many servicemen who have lived, worked and played. We must attract those persons back to our shores. I can tell you that there are some of them who still come every year on cruise-liners to visit the old Naval Base and there was a direct relationship between the old Naval Base and North Point. Do not let us forget these things.

We have to understand that tourism cannot be a piecemeal approach. We must have a holistic view on it and I am happy today of what I heard from the Minister of Tourism. Sir, as long as he does not copy the previous "too few" style that was left for him, I am sure that tourism could be up and running again.

I am not one for statistics. This belongs to the economists. I believe in actuals. I have said that in this House over and over again. Do not give me projections. I want to see what is happening. I want to feel what is happening. I do not want to hear what could happen. I want the action, Sir, because it is from the action that you can make your judgment.

Sir, it is no doubt that in the Caribbean we are fortunate because of our location and infrastructure. Sir, we have not to make the same mistake again. If we use our immigration policy correctly, Barbados can once again be the hub of tourism in the Caribbean. Sir, you know that the same thing that we did with the traditional tourists, we did with the Caribbean tourists.

2.10 p.m.

We stopped people who had a love for Barbados from visiting and encouraged them to live by introducing condos and so on. We stopped people who visited Barbados, and converted them into workers, and then we had no more tourists. We had an increase in population.

Mr. Chairman, people seem not to understand these things. We glamour and gloat over things not realising that a man who owns a condo is like a Barbadian, but a man who visits for six months and returns to his country can be regarded as a visitor. Mr. Chairman, we know how to convert and how to do all these fancy things but, at the end of the day, the country Barbados is worse off.

Mr. Chairman, let us stop, clean the slate and start again. We have to understand that we are only 166 square miles and there is a limitation. Mr. Chairman, if we have to be productive, we can only be productive by ensuring that we have the capacity coming in that would generate the foreign exchange to help build this country. Sir, if we oversupply the country with people and we have no capacity for people who we offer as a service, then we would be in no way...

Sir, Barbados is a small country and people must appreciate that. Sir, with the right mix where we allow our Caribbean brothers and sisters to come here freely as tourists, we would have no problem. Sir, when we allow tourists to come freely, we would have no problem, but as soon as we seek to convert them to Barbadian citizens that is where we will decrease our tourist market.

Mr. Chairman, we have a big decision to make. Are we going to continue and do it like the Other Side, or are we going to understand and appreciate the contributions of tourists as opposed to those whom we convert to citizens of Barbados?

Mr. Chairman, we also have to understand that we have to keep a good social climate in this country. This country is not for a "too-few". There are some people in Barbados who believe that when you spend money on certain groups of people that there is nothing wrong with that. However, if you go to Oistins, or any other areas and spend money, people want to question that without recognising that when you spend money in Oistins, the multiplier effect is much greater and the contribution to the country is much greater.

Sir, we have to understand that community tourism will be that tourism that will put Barbados' tourism back where it was before. I remember that in the 1960s and 1970s Barbadians did everything in their power to see a tourist, and they saw the tourist as somebody important.

We need to bring back that tourism concept because if tourism is our business, then everybody in Barbados must believe that it has something to do with them. Mr. Chairman, as long as you take tourism and allow a “too-few” to believe that they are in command of that, we would be in trouble.

Mr. Chairman, I want to see the fishermen understanding the importance of tourism. Sir, nobody could tell me they do not understand the importance of tourism. You only have to go to Moon Town, Six Men’s and Oistins - and soon to be Skeete’s Bay, Consett Bay, Speightstown and all of those areas - and you would see exactly what we are speaking of.

Mr. Chairman, people have to understand that it is about people. Sir, when you seek to ignore people, you would always get yourself in trouble. That is why this Government cannot ignore people. This Government has to understand that it is the masses of people of Barbados that will create the necessary infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot ignore investments as well, but the investors must understand that when they come to Barbados they are coming for what we have offered our people. Too often we offer things to outsiders and hide them from our own people. Mr. Chairman, that is wrong. You have to offer them to your own people and then let the people come and share in what you are offering your people so that you do not have a situation where it looks like you are looking after the “too-few” and ignoring the people who have built this country.

Mr. Chairman, this country was built by the masses of people in Barbados and we have done well. It was when we sought to ignore them and include the “too-few” that we slipped because whenever we get a crisis, they slip out but the masses are still here to save the country.

Sir, I welcome the tourism plan that I heard of today. Sir, even though it is the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the difference is the Central. I would not expect only pretty talk because I heard a lot of that for the last 14 years and I have no intention to live with it again. Sir, the Honourable Member would understand it is not about pretty talk. It is about delivery. Sir, I know he loves to deliver.

Mr. Chairman, I support this tourism plan. I like the move where we are now focussing our marketing skills in the right direction and involving our own people. Sir, I was in here when the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown brought this new group, and when we enquired who were the ones to be involved, they were people who could not even identify Barbados. Sir, we are going to the Diaspora. We are going to people who understand what

they are talking about and people who understand that there is nothing wrong to lime on a bridge.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: For many years our tourism... This is something the Minister of Tourism cannot directly control.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two more minutes.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am hearing an aside that I sell food by the pound. Sir, that means that I am a very fair man, that I rob nobody. It is the weight of the scale. It is what you have in your plate.

Mr. Chairman, what I would like to deal with is this thing called “clique”. There is a little clique operating the tourism of Barbados. If you talk plane, the clique is there. If you talk ship, the clique is there. If you talk swimming to Barbados, the clique is there. Mr. Chairman, in the year 2008 tourism in Barbados cannot be about a clique. Tourism in Barbados has to be all-embracing. Those people who believe that tourism is only for a “too-few” do not understand what they are doing to the tourism industry in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I say to Barbadians living overseas and in Barbados that have money that the concept to buy into is community tourism because it will allow the masses of Barbados to earn and gain something from the tourism industry. They cannot buy into the “too-few”. At least with community tourism, and the use of modern technology which allows you now to use the Internet, you would be able to market your properties without having to use the “too-few” who know how to direct business only to a particular group.

Sir, this Government must help empower those persons to ensure that the masses of people in Barbados are all on board and that they are sharing in the pie. If you alienate those groups, you might only create social unrest and social problems in this country. Mr. Chairman, this Government is not for that. We are a Government to correct that.

I thank you.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to be very long, so I would quickly say what I have to say and allow the Honourable Member for St. James

Central to make his contribution, since he seems pretty eager to chip in.

Mr. Chairman, it would be remiss of me if I did not, at least, say a few words in relation to this. I want to begin by congratulating the Honourable Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, for really grabbing this portfolio by the scruff of the neck and intervening in a way that has proven to be ultimately constructive.

2.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is unfortunate that only one Honourable Member of the Opposition is here, while the others, who are absent, would have missed the better part of the contribution by the Honourable Minister of Tourism. Sir, nonetheless, given the fact this debate did not seem to attract their attention in terms of its importance....

Sir, we understand the importance of tourism to the Barbadian economy. We understand what the industry is going through, and will go through some difficult times, contingent on the decline in the global economy and particularly in some of our major markets.

I think the focus which the Honourable Minister has put, particularly on the British market, is important because not only are we experiencing problems in the United States of America with the credit crunch, with oil prices and with inflation but we note, with some weariness, the decline in the British economy in the last two quarters, at least.

Sir, this is a matter of some sensitivity for us, obviously because of the strength of the pound sterling and the spending power with which British tourists, particularly European tourists generally, have in our domestic market. This is a matter to which we have to pay very close attention. Mr. Chairman, I think the focus of the Ministry of Tourism, the Barbados Tourism Authority and the Ministries associated with this effort is going to be critical for us to remain viable in the marketplace.

Sir, with regard to the efforts out of Canada, to which the Honourable Minister has just pointed out, I would want to say that I have only recently met with some Barbadian professionals from Canada in the Committee Room. They were indicating that fares are, in fact, falling in the Canadian market, for people coming into the Caribbean because of the introduction of WestJet and other airlines into our market.

Sir, I think the effort of the Ministry, under the leadership of the Honourable Minister, is pointing us in the right direction, and we would all want to support the matter before us, to ensure they have the resources so to do.

Mr. Chairman, there are a few points I would wish to make, the first one being a general point. I think we have to realise we are facing ever stiffer competition in the tourism market and that marketing Barbados only for sand, sea and sun - and some naughty element might say sex as well - as a traditional destination, would not differentiate us in any significant way from the others, because most of the other countries have sea, sun and sand.

There are countries in the Mediterranean that are putting extreme pressure on our ability to attract tourists, particularly those coming out of Europe, as it is shorter and certainly cheaper. Sir, in some of the rates I have seen being offered in England, it is cheaper to go into those markets and to spend. Therefore, we have to find innovative ways in order to continue to attract the quality of tourists that we have been attracting over the years.

Sir, the efforts of the Minister and his Ministry to do a restructuring of our essential organs that have the responsibility for the marketing and promotion of Barbados for the handling of tourists, in terms of our tourism plant, is very important. I think it would say to us that one of the things they would need to do - and I am sure the Minister would have given instructions in this particular regard - is to pay very close attention to the very wise words of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Sir, this relates to differentiating our community tourism product as part of the overall plant for our country and to getting more Barbadians involved. When we speak of community tourism, we mean community tourism across the board. I do not mean only the domestic Barbadian community but how our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora could help promote Barbados.

Sir, I will demonstrate to you some of the linkages that we could have. You would have heard the Honourable Prime Minister, in his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals' presentation it speaks about the efforts of the Government to create a genuine Barbados networkers' initiative, to have people promote Barbados as a place for investment, a place to live, a place for leisure and so forth. Therefore, we need to get to that stage.

Mr. Chairman, the point I want to make in relation to community tourism is one that has been knocking around a while, but I am not satisfied it has gotten the type of attention it needs to get from our tourism planners. They have been talking about it but I have seen it being done in other countries. Sir, this relates to the linkages between tourism and the other economic sectors in Barbados, particularly agriculture.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I do not necessarily want to interrupt you in your stride, but in relation to this particular matter in Committee, we have

five minutes more. I know you did say you wanted to have your Honourable colleague to contribute, and so you might want to consider that.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out the linkages between agriculture and tourism. Sir, in this society, we have to begin to work towards creating real and demonstrable linkages between what our agriculturists produce and what is consumed in our hotels in Barbados.

We need a genuine agriculture/tourism project, one that is operated jointly by the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, to ensure that what is served in our hotel plants could reflect, at least, 50 per cent or more of what is produced in Barbados.

Sir, that means bringing everybody on board. For example, the chefs would have to be conditioned and trained in terms of local produce. Our Food and Beverage Managers, a lot of whom, unfortunately, are coming from other islands, would have to be trained in terms of using our local produce.

Mr. Chairman, we are seeing advertisements in the newspapers where hotels cannot seem to find local Food and Beverage Managers. Sir, I have my suspicions about that but those who come in, need to be reoriented into what is Barbadian. They need to offer our cultural and culinary fare to tourists. Our agriculturists too have to be prepared.

The infrastructure and plant have to be prepared and given to them, so that they could begin to grow according to the habits of the industry, in terms of supply. They should also have adequate sourcing.

Mr. Chairman, I think you would have seen in the presentation of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, that the Prime Minister was hinting at providing incentives to ensure that we could get that.

Sir, that is the point I want to make. I want to implore this on the Honourable Minister that we should immediately begin to look at the question of the agriculture/tourism linkages, in order to create, expand, diversify and differentiate our community tourism project, the one which the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was pointing out, to which he was so ably speaking.

Sir, I would hope that in the future we could get a chance to explore these questions more fully. Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James Central, you have five minutes.

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Mr. Chairman, I believe five minutes should be enough, as most of the points I wanted to make have been covered by the last speaker. Sir, I want to add my short contribution because, as you know, St. James Central is a fundamental part of the development of our coastline, and the tourism industry provides substantial jobs for the constituents of St. James Central.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make the point that I was glad to see the Minister of Tourism and International Transport placed some emphasis on the development of the marketing thrust in Canada, because as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy has pointed out, Sunset Crest, including areas along the West Coast, have been developed substantially by many of the tourists from Canada during the 1960s and 1970s.

Sir, I want to draw to the Minister's attention that in supporting our marketing thrust, we also need to make sure that the infrastructure is here in Barbados and that it is well-provided.

2.30 p.m.

Sir, I speak to the need for adequate beach facilities in the Holetown area and in the area of Paynes Bay which is within the whole centre of the development of the West Coast. I want to encourage him to ensure that those facilities are put in for the people that are finding employment along the beaches on the West Coast.

Mr. Chairman, as Minister for Trade and Industry, I must add, and I must support the comments made by the last speaker in terms of the linkages between our tourism product and our manufacturers whether it be in the area of agro processing and the development of our agricultural industry but, Sir, much representation has been made to me by members of the manufacturing fraternity in Barbados in terms of the need for us, as we develop our tourism product, to ensure that the hoteliers seek first to purchase products in terms of furniture, and so on, from the local manufacturing source. Sir, as I have said, we need to get this whole tourism product spread over many of the different sectors of the economy as is possible.

Mr. Chairman, we have major development along the West Coast in Four Seasons and, certainly, the local furniture manufacturers should, at this early stage, be speaking with the developers of that facility in terms of the planning of their production schedule so that at the time that the construction of the hotel facility is completed, the local manufacturers of furniture and other items needed by the hotel would have their products stocked so that they can supply. They need to, certainly, be looking at entering into arrangements with the developers of that property at this early planning stage.

Mr. Chairman, one of the problems we have in Barbados among manufacturers, whether manufacturers of condiments and other items for our local and international markets is the whole question of capacity. Sir, in many instances, the manufacturers are not able to readily supply the demands of the restaurateurs and hoteliers in terms of the volume of product and, in some cases, the actual quality of the product, and this is an area we need to look at.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to join with my comrade from St. Michael North West in supporting the need for those very necessary linkages between our tourism product and the development of our agricultural sub-sector and the manufacturers.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

I beg to move that Head 25 stand part.

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 25 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 52 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY - \$500,000.00

Hon. E.G. HUTSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 52 stand part.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 52 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to move that the Explanatory Notes in Head 52 as amended stand part.

Hon. E.G. HUTSON: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Explanatory Notes, as amended, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 53 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, NATIONAL INSURANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY - \$400,000.00

Dr. the Hon. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 53 stand part.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 53 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 54 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT - \$800,000.00

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 54 stand part

Dr. the Hon. D.C. ESTWICK: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 54 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 56 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE - \$1,551,293.00

Hon. S.D. BLACKETT: I beg to move that Head 56 stand part.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 56 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 58 - MINISTRY OF FAMILY, YOUTH SPORTS AND ENVIRONMENT - \$3,951,200.00

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 58 stand part.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 58 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 60 - MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CARE, CONSTITUENCY EMPOWERMENT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT - \$1,600,000.00

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: I beg to move that Head 60 stand part.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 60 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

2.40 p.m.

HEAD 19 (Recommitted)

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 19 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 2 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CHAPTER 228, THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF A PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE AT CONSTANT, IN THE PARISH OF SAINT GEORGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Resolution before this Honourable House is to seek permission to compulsorily acquire 2.76 hectares of land, the property of Constant Estates Limited for housing development. The Honourable Member for St. George North will be happy about this acquisition. In fact, on June 25, 1999, the present Honourable Member for St. George North toured and assessed the area with the Chief Town Planner. He piloted the acquisition which is set out in two phases. Sir, the Honourable Member piloted Phase 1 and for some reason Phase 2 was left lying around. Sir, we recognise that Phase 11 has 70 lots available.

Sir, I will give a history of what took place at Constant. An application was submitted on March 24, 2003 to subdivide 7.2 acres of land into lots for residential purposes. The proposal at the time was reached and agreed to provide 65 lots of average size of 3 000 square feet which, when completed, will be a total of 105 lots. In Phase 1, 40 lots were approved under reference, that is, by the Town and Country Planning Department, then an application for Phase 2 was approved on March 9, 2004.

Sir, we must also note that Phase 1 was sold under the Sites and Services Programme. The National Housing Corporation has provided and completed all of the planning for the development, and also awarded the contract for Phase 2, but it was suddenly put on hold pending the vesting of the land.

We must also note that the planning permission would lapse by March 9, 2009, so it is imperative that the development commence before that date.

Sir, as I said before, a contract to carry out the road works was previously awarded. In that area we also have Greens, St. George, that is, St. George South. From my understanding Constant is abutting and abounding the two Constituencies, St. George North and St. George South.

Sir, I do not want to detain the Honourable House any further, but hope that we get going on this land as soon

as possible, given the demand for house lots and housing in this nation.

Sir, the Resolution for the acquisition was certified by the Honourable Attorney-General as being an Order for consideration by this Honourable House. It also states that the relevant Survey Plan, which was prepared by Harold Gaskin, Land Surveyor, was certified on July 16, 2001, and recorded in the Lands and Surveys Department on October 5, 2001. I also state, respectfully, that the Surveyed Plan is available for inspection by Honourable Members.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with these remarks I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George North.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I beg to second that.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all I want to commend the Government for completing this housing acquisition. I want to specially thank the Minister of Housing, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, who from the outset toured the St. George area with me, where a number of developments were left by the Barbados Labour Party Government, and he has continued with them. I have made the point to Honourable Members that all politics are local and, as the former Minister of Lands, I would have acquired a number of parcels, not only in St. George North, but also St. George South.

We have land in St. George and I have urged the Honourable Member for St. Philip North to do likewise. He must acquire land in St. Philip because the Crown still owns a lot of land in St. Philip, in St. Philip West, North and South. The Minister of Lands would have recognised that we would have acquired a lot of land, in our time, during periods of our Administration a number of parcels of land throughout Barbados for the provision of housing. This particular development is important.

In fact, the Physical Development Plan recognises the Glebe and other settlements across Barbados, Belleplaine, Six Roads, Redman's Village, a number of sites in Christ Church and Crab Hill, St. Lucy, as special sites for rural development. I would want to urge the Minister to continue these very important acquisitions.

In fact, when I look at the last Budget presentation by the Honourable Member for St. John, one of the provisions was to allocate a sector on the ABC Highway, the northern section of the Highway, where the Government would be looking at a Rainbow Development within that corridor. I want the Government to continue in their programme of land acquisition. It is only by land

acquisition that we can acquire land for a number of houses.

I heard the Honourable Minister speak ...

Asides.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Of course, I am congratulating the Government.

2.50 p.m.

I have made the point that the Minister spoke about high-rise. I noticed that he continued a programme which was started in my time, but lapsed in the dying days of the last Administration. I am very happy that the Minister has commenced the programme of the high-rise at Country Park Towers. I want to say to him that if we want to have settlement, especially in urban areas, we need to build upwards.

We need to look carefully at the Condominium Act as a means of helping Barbadians to understand that everyone will not necessarily get a piece of natural soil, but they will inherit part of the legal arrangement in order to have settlement.

I also want, briefly, to touch on the demand for housing, which is still very elastic in Barbados. Over the past year, we have seen the cost of building material increased. This is not a fault of the Government. I have made this point over and over again. It is not the fault of the previous Administration. I have said before, that the cost of living is a worldwide phenomenon and it will continue to increase as time goes on. We have no command over it, Sir.

Sir, since January, one has seen the cost of building material increased by as much as 20 to 25 per cent. The cost of cement, sand and steel have increased, and this will impact heavily on low-income housing.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: This is one of the reasons the Minister of Public Works will have to bring Supplementaries in here, in order to not only increase or help with the cost of the ABC Highway, but also a number of roundabouts that were approved in our time.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: For example, on Highway 5, there are several roundabouts that need to be constructed. I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Philip South must speak on these various roundabouts that will impact on his people travelling out of St. Philip and create some

safety. I am speaking specifically about the roundabout at District "B", Boarded Hall and Windsor. All of these are things that the cost of material would have impacted on.

Another thing is the cost of land. I noticed the Minister said that the Government intends to sell these lots at \$5 per square foot. I am happy that he has committed the Government to sell the land at \$5 per square foot. The Government's record in their Manifesto, pledged to keep the cost of land at the \$5 per square foot. I hope that the cost of land at Constant will remain at \$5 per square foot.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because I have been in here and I have not heard \$5 per square foot until the Honourable Member for St. George North, who is not known for selling cheap land to poor people, introduced the \$5.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is not a contentious issue but I am saying that the Minister has pledged to keep the cost of land low for poor people. The Government has pledged \$2.50 per square foot in the private tenancies. They have pledged \$5 per square foot and the Government is in the mood of giving away things.

Therefore, I would urge the Government to continue to ensure that the cost of land to low income earners remain at \$5. For example, at Rices in St. Philip and Church Village in St. Philip, lots were sold at 10 cents per square foot, for example, the Carpenter's Trust. There is land adjoining that tenantry that can be sold very cheaply to poor people.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member, who has been the Minister of Housing for a long time, should know that there is a law governing plantation tenantry land and the price at which it can be sold.

Sir, to come in here and refer to a private development and try to connect the same terms and conditions on this land, is to mislead the public of Barbados. He is giving the public of Barbados the impression that this land is now tenantry land, and it should be sold at 10 cents per square foot. The Minister knows well that he was in charge of many pieces of land acquired under the same conditions, and some of that was sold at more than \$10 per square foot. Sir, he knows that this is not plantation tenantry land.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not saying that the Government should sell plantation tenantry land at \$10 per square foot. I am saying that there are lands, and I used the example of the Carpenter's Trust at St.

Philip, which were inherited through a Trust arrangement and were sold at 10 cents a square foot.

The point that needs to be made is that it is a Manifesto pledge of the Democratic Labour Party on page 9, to provide 500 lots at \$5 per square foot, so there is nothing new.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House again by giving the impression that after you pass 500 lots that all other land must be sold under the same condition. The Honourable Member has the Manifesto in front of him, and he will know that it speaks to 500 lots and not 501. Sir, it says up to 500 lots.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is not what it says. On page 9, it says "...provide 500 lots." But 500 lots are just used but it means that you are providing lots at \$5 per square foot for low income earners, and it is based on income. Sir, these are not plantation lots.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make this point. I support the Minister in trying to provide lots for Barbadians at \$5 per square foot. I am saying that this developed land should be subsidised by the Government. There is nothing wrong, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in subsidizing the lots. The lots will be sold after the development at \$5 per square foot. I am urging the Government to continue the programme of selling these lots at Constant at \$5 per square foot, and the lots also in other development areas across Barbados for low income earners. Sir, this is all I am saying.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member is giving the public the impression that the 500 lots, were his idea and he is now asking the Government to continue his idea and go beyond the 500 lots.

If the Honourable Member wants to endorse the Democratic Labour Party's policy, he should freely state that and if he wants more than 500 lots, he should tell the House that 500 are not enough, and he never agreed with his Government on their housing policy, and he is now agreeing with this Government.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to move on. Finally, on this matter, I want to urge the Government to sell the lots at Greens, Constant, and Hamelin at \$5 per square foot as the Government has pledged in their Manifesto.

Another issue that needs to be raised at this time, which I know of and I heard the Minister speak of on several occasions, has to do with housing financing. Mr. Deputy Speaker, housing financing is still one of the big problems in Barbados.

There are many institutions such as banks, credit unions, insurance companies, and other mortgage lenders, who have been providing loans for low income housing for a long time. There is the question of the commitment fees that are still asked for by banks.

3.00 p.m.

The commitment fee that is still asked for by the banks and other institutions is a very onerous fee. I think that the Government needs to put an end to this. I think the Government needs to speak to the various institutions and see how we could get around this commitment fee which is causing tremendous hardship to a number of people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is also the question of the interest charges. Some banks are now asking many low income earners to pay as much as 8 per cent interest. I am sure that the Minister has been addressing this matter when he went to the Exhibition at Kensington. It is a serious matter and we need to address it as a Parliament.

Sir, housing financing is very important to a person who wants to build, to extend a house, or to renovate. The banks especially are sending a signal in this country that you have to pay not only legal fees but valuation fees as well. Sometimes a person acquiring a mortgage must pay three lawyers. The lawyers are the ones who are doing well on this matter.

I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Philip South would agree with me that something needs to be done. You have to pay the legal fee for the lawyers for the banks, and the legal fees for the valuation. It is a serious thing. If you are committed to low income earners in this country, something has to be done.

Mr. Chairman, in 1985, the Housing Credit Fund, which is now under the Central Bank of Barbados, was created in this country with US\$10 million. That Fund which was created in this country with a US\$10 million revolving fund has now multiplied itself to the tune where its assets are now over US\$250 million.

Many people are not aware of it, but it is now attached to the Central Bank of Barbados, which on-lends to low income earners. We need to create more of these initiatives in order to provide a mechanism for people to lend.

I also feel that more needs to be done to the General Workers' Loan Fund which is a good opportunity for persons who want to expand and renovate their homes. We have helped to encourage people to borrow their mortgage at six per cent interest rate but more has to be done in this regard in order to help the small man.

If the Government's programme is to be truly financed - because I think the opportunity where the Government, based on my knowledge on what is happening in the Ministry of Housing and Lands, is supposed to come through within the next five years - the Government would need a lot of money in order to get their programme going. Financing for the 2 000 houses is very important.

Therefore, a secondary mortgage market in this country, not the same type as the Housing Credit Fund, but one in which the market would provide long-term financing for those companies that are now lending so that more funds would become available in the market for persons who want to build their homes is essential.

As I said before, it is important for us to look at the secondary mortgage market. It is important for us to look at a new invention similar to the HCF which is at the Central Bank of Barbados now in order for us to move forward the housing sector in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I want to encourage the Government to continue the programme of Rainbow Development. I think that is the way to go, where infrastructure is already in place.

This acquisition should signal the beginning of new acquisitions across the country in order to have small developments taking place in the countryside. I only hope that the Minister of Housing would be fair and ensure that persons living in St. George, particularly in St. George North, would be the beneficiaries of this housing initiative.

There are 65 lots in this development. I am sure based on an arrangement that we would have done... For example, when we did the development at Gall Hill, St. John, the Honourable Member for St. John got 65 per cent of those housing lots for the people of St. John. Sir, I hope that this arrangement that was put in place would continue for the people of St. George and the people in Barbados in particular.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North would not want to lose his supporters in St. Philip by sending them to St. George North. Of course, I would be happy to receive them because there is good representation in St. George North. I would be willing to welcome them as well from St. George South, the constituencies of Christ Church and all around. I

am sure they would get good representation in St. George North.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the Minister and to say how pleased we are in St. George for the Government to finally bring this Resolution before the House. This Hamblin Land programme was acquired since 2002. The Town Planner has approved other developments around Hamblin Land, so I see no reason why this should not be approved. It has been around for some time. It has gone through Parliament. This would help the Ministry of Housing and Lands to get their housing programme good. It is right in the heart of the Market Hill area.

With those remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for bringing this particular Resolution to the House. I support it wholeheartedly.

I thank you.

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

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I sat and listened to the congratulatory speech from the Honourable Member for St. George North, and what is crystal clear to me is that obviously this new Government, in the space of seven months, has been able to achieve more in respect of housing development and making a dent in the demand for housing and lands in this country than the Honourable Member for St. George North and his Party did in the 14 years they held office.

As a matter of fact, his kudos send a clear message that we are certainly doing more in St. George North for the residents of St. George North than he was able to do during his tenure as Minister of Housing and Lands for the entire Barbadian community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is pellucidly clear from the debates that have been emanating from That Side in recent times is that when they are in Opposition, they are in a better position to find all the solutions than, clearly, they could find when they are in Government. That is why I am sure they would remain there for quite an extended period of time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reality about it is that the Democratic Labour Party has always posited its policies around providing affordable housing for Barbadians. We have recognised that apart from education and health care, that housing remains and has always been one of the most important planks for self-development and for national development in Barbados. That is why, from in the 1960s, we have always put this at the forefront.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government is responsible for creating many housing developments, not just low income housing development. In my own Constituency, there is West Terrace Gardens, Wanstead and Husbands, which are all housing developments that have been piloted and pushed by the Democratic Labour Party Government over the years. Sir, our track record in respect to housing is one that is the envy, perhaps, of many of those on the Other Side.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is rather sad that after 14 years of managing the affairs of this country there is a situation where the Barbados Labour Party Government, led by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, who, as usual, is not in his seat today, who had over \$400 million in VAT, who borrowed \$300 million for a rainy day....Sir, we never had that much money as Government to play around with.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we came to office on January 15th, to find a waiting list at the National Housing Corporation of about 25 000 persons. Sir, every one of us, as Parliamentarians, can attest to the fact that housing is perhaps the greatest demand placed on all of us by constituents, whether they are low- income or middle-income.

Sir, I commend the Minister of Housing and Lands for what he has been able to achieve so far, in respect of identifying at least 500 house spots. Sir, beyond that, we have begun to look at how we could reduce the cost of housing in this country. Certainly, as a Government, in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, the Honourable Member for St. John identified that we will remove VAT off the first \$150 000 of input cost towards low-income housing. These are all exciting programmes and policies that work, and that will deliver many of the housing solutions that have been brought to bear in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe the Honourable Member for St. George North is very sincere in his commendations to those Honourable Members on This Side in respect of what we have been doing for housing over the last number of years. Sir, perhaps, the Honourable Member would be reprimanded later on by his Leader.

Sir, I do not intend to spend too much time on this issue because the Honourable Member for St. Philip North has had a lot to say with respect to it. Sir, the reality about this matter is that the Democratic Labour Party, particularly the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, has been doing wonderful work with respect to bringing housing solutions, and more would come to bear.

I certainly look forward to the time when we could reduce the waiting period for approvals from the Town Planning Department. I look forward to the day - and we are certainly working studiously on it - in respect to the Barbados Water Authority and their works, in terms of speeding up housing development in this country. Sir, I look forward, certainly in respect to the housing financing mechanism and what needs to be done.

Sir, really and truly, Government cannot do it all. Government would, certainly, set the stage and lead by example, but the financial institutions in Barbados need to do a lot more in respect of playing a role in providing housing solutions to all Barbadians.

Sir, for example, the 1 per cent commitment fees individuals have to pay to get money from a bank. Further, with respect to valuation fees - prospective homeowners have to pay the bank's valuer, as well as theirs. The same thing applies to the bank's attorney's legal fees. Sir, the reality about this is that the banking sector in Barbados needs to have a better conscience in respect to providing affordable housing solutions to Barbadians.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with respect to the cost of housing, I have heard the Honourable Member for St. George North lament the fact - all of a sudden - that the cost of living is beyond the control of this Government. I did not hear the Honourable Member saying that when he was in Government.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is totally misleading this Honourable House. Sir, the record of this Honourable House would show that when I was over there, in that exact seat in which the Honourable Member is now sitting, I made the point that the cost of living was nothing that Government has done to impact on the people of Barbados. I made the point that it was something which we had inherited, that it was imported inflation.

Sir, I want to make the point that the cost of steel and building material will constantly go up and therefore there was not anything that my Government could have done.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reality is that this Government will do all it can to curb the cost of living that lies within its domain. Sir, with respect to housing, this Government would be interfering in the land market, by bringing more Government-owned properties on to the market. This, certainly, could influence the cost of land at the developed end.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with respect to housing, we would have to find new and novel ways of constructing houses in Barbados. I, certainly, support the idea of going high-rise, as opposed to just one family on one plot of land but, of course, we have to ensure that we have the requisite community development and recreational facilities that could service a community.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to give my full support to this and to commend the Honourable Member for St. Philip North for the wonderful work he has been doing with respect to housing development in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Mr. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in my intervention in this debate, I would want first to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, the Minister of Housing and Lands, for his determined focus on providing housing solutions and for meeting the mammoth task that has been left by the Barbados Labour Party, as it relates to the provision of housing in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe this issue is, perhaps, the most profound of all the issues confronting Barbadians, particularly persons who are active in their constituencies. I believe the clamour for housing is one that resonates with us during our weekly clinics. I believe that 90 per cent of persons who come through my clinic in Christ Church West Central are particularly concerned about housing.

I certainly hope that after hearing the Honourable Member for St. George North, that we would reject the Honourable Member's approach to housing in Barbados. I know the Honourable Member for St. Philip North would not be trivialising housing development and that, in relation to housing solutions, our approach would be based on a rather democratic and equilibrium approach.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member for St. George North speaking about the politics of all-locals. Sir, it should not be that because one lives in St. George North, that you are a Minister of Housing, that all the persons who would get housing should be from that Constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that particular approach would not be the approach the Honourable Member for St. Philip North would take. I know that for a fact. I know that will not be the approach we would pursue in relation to providing affordable housing solutions for Barbadians.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. Sir, when I made the point about all being local, I did not say that people from across Barbados are not supposed to get housing. Sir, I am saying, if you have a development within a particular location, then the people in that location should be serviced first.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is one of the reasons I made the point that the Minister of Housing and Lands is looking at lands across Barbados. Of course, I know the Minister is now looking at lands in the area of Silver Hill. Is the Minister now saying that his people in Silver Hill should not be the first persons to acquire the 15 acres, which I know have been approved for such development?

Is the Honourable Member saying that the people of Christ Church East Central are not supposed to get housing first? Is the Honourable Member saying that we could bring people from St. George and St. Philip and give them housing solutions first? Sir, all I am saying is that the people of Christ Church should be the first persons to get that land and housing.

Mr. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe the point I made is very clear. I am saying that because you are a Minister of Housing, and because you have a constituency, that you would ensure that only the people from your Constituency are the ones who would get housing in that particular area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, under the last Administration, we have had a lopsided approach to the provision of housing solutions and that is why we have the crisis we have today. Therefore, we are moving towards a policy that is going to provide housing for everyone and not only some people in Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am happy to say that already in Christ Church West Central, we have gone on a tour with the Minister of Housing and Lands and have identified quite a number of areas for which I am hoping we would move very quickly towards providing housing solutions. I believe the approach going forward, particularly in view of the mammoth task facing us in housing, must be one in which we have to adopt new approaches.

I have already spoken about the need to look at the existing housing lots in Silver Hill and Gall Hill, and looking to see to what extent we could add on to those blocks as a very rapid solution to providing housing. Therefore, I am one for moving toward innovative approaches.

3.20 p.m.

I believe what we have to do is to strip housing of the mystery that has dogged it for so many years and that housing development is seen as a means, not only to move ahead in terms of one's life, but we need to have a fair policy in relation to housing development in Barbados, and I hope we will move in that direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe the way in which we acquire properties for housing that we need to become more systematic and I hope the Minister will look at a more systematic approach in relation to acquisitions so that, perhaps, we can come to the house in blocks, having looked at the areas across Barbados, that we are going to move towards housing and bring acquisition Resolutions to the House in blocks so that we can move quickly and rapidly toward providing housing solutions to Barbadians.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very anxious because this is an area that is very dear to most Barbadians and, in particular, the constituents of Christ Church West Central. I hope we will soon see those developments in Christ Church West Central moving along to provide the housing solutions that have been neglected for so long over the past 14 years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am obliged to you.

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I too rise to speak on this land acquisition and to make the point that something seems to be wrong with what I have been told for many years. Sir, everybody in Barbados knows that the agricultural and sugar belt of Barbados is in St. George.

I have heard the Honourable Member for St. George North in this House today talking about the number of pieces of land in St. George that the Honourable Member was able to get the Town Planner to approve for him, but yet the Honourable Member did a tour with me in St. Lucy since 1999, and every time I ask the Honourable Member about rab land to be turned into lots, the Honourable Member told me that the Town Planner is not approving land, but yet still I could sit in here and hear the Honourable Member telling me that the Town Planner has agreed, without challenge, to approve good agricultural land in St. George for house lots.

Sir, everybody knows that there are two parishes in Barbados that could provide good house lots, St. Philip and St. Lucy. Sir, for nine years after touring with the Minister, I have not been able to get one house lot at Cottage or to get the Minister to get approval for land that was left...

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George North had it on his file. There were 14 locations in St. Lucy that would not have interfered with one cane hole of agricultural land, and yet we could not get one house spot in St. Lucy, and the excuse that was used was the Town Planner.

Sir, yet I can hear that in Constant, you get Phase 1 and Phase 2 and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know that once you get Phase 1 and Phase 2 that you will get Phase 3 and Phase 4 and the next thing you will hear is that Constant is like Warrens. Sir, I hope you understand what I am saying.

The Honourable Member for St. George North worked out a scheme how to take good agricultural land out of production and turn it into housing. Sir, he came to this House for Phase 1, then he came for Phase 2 and he is now encouraging the Minister to go for Phase 3.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I only hope that....

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. We have never spoken about Phase 3 in this House. There is a Phase 1 and Phase 2 and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy knows that because he spoke on the Phase 1 Resolution in which he objected to the land at Constant because he talked about the St. George Valley but,

Sir, I have assured him that this is not in the St. George Valley. I have told him that because it is Constant Estate, it does not mean it is in the St. George Valley. It is land immediately opposite the St. George Secondary School and I have talked about the potential growth the Town Planner has cited in the Physical Development Plan all across Barbados in which land can be developed for housing and settlements.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. George North would know that I know you start with Phase 1, and then you get an excuse to get Phase 2 that the canes are too close to the houses. Then the next thing you know, Phase 2 puts you into the cane fields and the next thing, the cane fields would have to go to protect the houses.

Sir, a good example of that is at Warrens and Clermont, so the Honourable Member cannot teach me anything on this. I understood his plan from early and I warned the House about the Honourable Member, and what he was attempting to do to agriculture. Sir, when you see agriculture destroyed in this House, I do not want to hear anybody say the Democratic Labour Party. I want to hear that it was the Honourable Member for St. George North, who did not take advice because, as I have said already, we have enough land in St. Philip and St. Lucy, if we wanted

house lots and other places like St. Andrew and some in St. Joseph where you could find land that is level.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one has to be very careful because a country that does not appreciate its agriculture, is a country that cannot develop. If one looks at the Guyana scenario, one would recognise that had Guyana not listen to the good advice and kept their rice farmers in production, they would not be in the good position they are in today. Sir, rice has now tripled, so the revenue in Guyana from rice alone has tripled.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a good time now for us to have a proper land use policy. We need housing and we have to satisfy the needs of those who need housing but, at the same time, Sir, we cannot allow the policy that was left by the Honourable Member for St. George North to continue. We have to be sure that we know where all the rab land is in Barbados, and utilise those rab lands first. We have to know where the marginal lands are also, and utilise them because we have to feed ourselves. It is not only oil. It is the cost of food that is increasing and Barbados is in a good position to reduce its outflow by ensuring that we focus on the agricultural industry and do the right thing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate the Minister of Housing for his approach to housing, and I know that he would read the files well. He would recognise what was left there for him and he would not follow blindly to destroy the agricultural belt of Barbados. Sir, we know the Opposition, and we know the plan, because we have been in here long enough. Sir, when we cut up land and give poor people the right to own land, we were criticised, but we have seen where the Barbados Labour Party has been able to destroy many plantations, but they still blame the Democratic Labour Party.

I have been in here long enough to see them do things and then blame us for it, so let the record show that we are aware of the plan that was left, and the destruction to the agricultural industry, and that we know Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3 and, later on, nothing to phase.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to give critical support to this Resolution. Sir, one of the things we should appreciate is the fact that, again, we are being left a legacy by the previous Government, and we must be careful that we do not seek to carry on a legacy which seeks to speak to certain special interests in this country. 3.30 p.m.

The consequence of speaking to those special interests is that the vast majority of Barbadians are not well served by their Government. Sir, one of the things we will observe around Barbados is the wholesale alienation of agricultural land is something the last Administration gave impetus to. One of the points we need to recognise, we saw persons who had the ability to walk into banks and immediately get loans for the acquisition of large agricultural plots. Then, through a process of time, they were able to get change of use.

One of the points I noticed in the presentation of the Honourable Member for St. George North, I believe, is when he spoke about the whole question of the Physical Development Plan. Sir, I think we need to come to a situation in this country where we take physical development planning more seriously, because physical development planning should not be driven by special interests. Physical development planning should not be based on the fact that we are going to try to serve one section of the Barbadian population to the disadvantage of the others.

Sir, another point we need to recognise, when it compromises food production at the same time, is that we need to review the way in which we conduct planning.

Sir, another point is, when we compromise prime agricultural land, the most fertile agricultural land in this country, this is an issue which we need to take into consideration. When you look across Barbados, you have seen over a process of time large portions of very good agricultural land are being alienated, and the only persons who have benefitted from this alienation are landowners who seemed to be strategically placed. On the other hand ...

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is misleading the Honourable House when he speaks about special interest. The Government said, and it is a fact, there are more than 25 000 people at National Housing Corporation waiting for housing lots. These are the special interest we must satisfy. You cannot say on the one hand that there is a demand for housing, while taking acres of land, over 100 acres, to satisfy one individual as opposed to 25 000 people.

I am saying if this approach was not followed by both Administrations, over time, a number of Barbadians would not have had provision for ownership of a single lot in this country, so we must continue to acquire plantation land in this country in order to make Barbadians landowners.

Mr. J.D. PAUL: Sir, what the Honourable Member for St. George North did not say is, that at the same time you have developments being undertaken in this country, in

which the only persons who are able to afford to own them are rich foreigners. I am going to go through them - Warrens. Go into St. Peter. There are some recent ones. When you listen to the accents of the persons who are actually occupying those places, they do not sound Barbadian. We, therefore, have failed to develop a housing policy in which we insist that real estate developers in this country speak to the need of ordinary Barbadians to be able to own their homes. As a result of that, a tremendous amount of pressure has been placed upon Government to do something which the private sector in itself should be doing.

Sir, when I hear the Honourable Member for St. George North speak, I am wondering which part of Barbados he is actually a part of, because it does not speak to the fact that a lot of the private developments we have do not cater to those in the lower income. That is the point I am making.

Sir, we have a situation in this country where you have developments, in some cases a house is on one acre. I want to ask, is that the best use of the limited land resource? Sir, we are not dealing with a country that is very large, 166 square miles.

In that regard, when we approve housing development, it should be one that recognises that we have a limited land space, and one that does not permit wholesale housing developments that in truth and in fact, first, the locals cannot afford the houses that are being built. What you are doing is making the housing situation worse. If the very people who need those houses cannot get access to them, it represents a problem.

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: On a point of order. I hate to break the Honourable Member's stride, but I do think it is important to remind him...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On what point do you rise?

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member has suggested that the previous Administration did not take into account the special needs of poor Barbadians, as he puts it, in relation to housing development.

One of the last things this Barbados Labour Party Administration did was to pass a law in this Chamber to require, it came as a result of an Economic Statement, developers to enter special arrangements setting aside portions of lands they were going to develop at their expense, to provide low income housing for Barbadians. It is in the Laws of Barbados and part of the record of this Parliament.

The Honourable Member was not here then, as I know he was not, that it may be, but he ought to be, at least, fair to Members and recite a factual circumstance.

Mr. J.D. PAUL: Sir, first of all, when that piece of legislation, I think it was some time last year, it was after the damage had already been done and it was only after tremendous pressure. Of course, there was a general election looming. At least you failed to impress the Barbadian public that you were serious at the time about making sure the land resources of Barbados would be made available to the people who most needed it in this country.

Sir, I also want to add something else. In terms of going forward, we need to be more frugal in how we utilise Barbados' land resources in a manner that ensures that we protect the future food security of this country, by preventing the alienation of good agricultural land by some of the things we do.

Sir, even in terms of the acquisition, the past Government does not have a good record. There is a situation in St. Michael West Central where plots of land have been acquired from land owners and, to this day, some of them have not received adequate compensation for those plots of land that have been acquired. Sir, that is a ridiculous position.

I am sure that in many cases, if Government in the past had been more timely, in terms of paying people for plots they acquired, we would see private land owners being more cooperative with Government in terms of making lands that are more suitable for housing available to Government. Sir, because of the history of land acquisition in this country, a lot of private land owners are going to be hesitant to do that.

3.40 p.m.

Sir, you would not have a situation where Government, in its haste to acquire land in anticipation of a general election, and then make the wrong selections of lands, where you take up land that is not appropriate to put into housing, when there are other lands available that are much more suitable for the purpose, and they fail to be able to identify them.

Sir, I believe that we also need to recognise that in terms of making the best use of the space available to us, we might need to review whether or not it is possible for each Barbadian, as the Honourable Member for St. George North said, to own a piece of this earth because it is limited.

I would want to encourage the Government to look actively at the whole question of high-rises in areas where it can be done, because it makes the best possible use of

the land that it is available to you. Sir, not only that, you are able to ensure that more Barbadians are able to be housed in the limited land space that is available.

Sir, again, I would really like to offer critical support to the motion and say that in moving forward, we need to address some of the deficiencies that we saw in the last Administration.

Asides.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: We also need to ensure that we bring landowners into the process. I also need to add that in talking about a new physical development plan, I do not think we should be rushed to remove areas that are legitimate agricultural areas that would, to my mind, form an important land bank for the production of agricultural products in this country.

We do not need to remove those people when there are people that own lands in this country and even today we have them developing houses in areas where I am sure, they are earning three and four times the normal rates that Barbadians are able to pay. They should be asked to bear much more responsibility in trying to ensure that Barbadians have access to affordable housing. Sir, not only houses being built in this country in which it is not targeted to the locals but, basically, when you look at it, it is targeted at being able to recolonise Barbados in some form or fashion.

Sir, I thank you very much.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to thank all Honourable Members for their support to this Resolution, particularly the Honourable Members on This Side, and the Honourable Member for St. George North, who provided support to this Resolution. I have noted all the concerns of Honourable Members.

I believe that the fact they have spoken about high-rise buildings, that is basically what this Administration will be looking at very seriously. The fact is that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy mentioned that in his Constituency there are lands that can solve the Government's housing problem. In fact, I did a tour with the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and we came across lots of lands, some of which are Crown Lands, which will be made available to support the Government's housing programme.

The Prime Minister in his Budgetary Proposals also mentioned that a special unit will be established to deliver the Government's housing programme. I want to state to

this Honourable House that very soon that Special Unit will be established to push the Government's housing programme.

Sir, in fact, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central mentioned, we have to look at really and truly in-filling in terms of existing housing estates. I also want to mention that even within the Vineyard tenancies, we did a tour and recognised that there are about 10 vacant lots which can be transferred immediately to persons.

I also noted the remarks made by the Honourable Member from This Side who provided critical support. Obviously, there would have to be a balance between the agricultural use and the land that we use for housing development.

Therefore, with the 70 lots that will be available at Constant in St. George, very soon we will be putting that into our programme so that we can add some further solutions to the programme. We will also be looking at the financing aspect of our housing programme.

Indeed, even in Vineyard, there are other rab lands that the town planners recognised could be utilised for housing and would also provide some other lots. And so, with the lands also in St. Lucy and St. Philip, we will be moving forward with our housing programme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with these remarks I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 5 – THE ARTS AND SPORTS PROMOTION FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

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

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Amendment relates to the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund and by this Amendment, this is pursuant to a decision of the Cabinet:

1. The Permanent Secretary responsible for Sports in whatever Ministry it is designated, be included as a Member of the Committee in the Arts Promotion Fund.
2. References to the Accountant General be replaced by the Chairman of the Committee in regulations to: (i) change the administrative process for application to the Fund, and that will follow by

way of the regulations. 3. Statutory Corporations involved in the development of arts and sports be eligible to apply to the Fund for funding. 4. Section 5.A (1) of the Act be amended to reflect that an Arts and Sport Promotion Fund Committee be an advisory Committee to the Minister of Finance, and that the final decision for the allocation of resources of the Fund be that of the Minister of Finance.

Therefore, this Bill would amend the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund accordingly to make that in respect of Section 4, the Minister shall determine the allocation of the resources of the Fund.

In respect of Section 5, to introduce a new section that the Committee will advise the Minister, in respect of matters relating to the eligibility and selection of candidates to receive financing for programmes and activities related to the development of the Fund.

Also, that the Schedule be amended so that the Committee, which would now advise the Minister, would comprise the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance; the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture; the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for Sports; a representative of the National Cultural Foundation; a representative of the National Sports Council; a person engaged in the Arts in Barbados and a person engaged in Sports.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

3.50 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. S. A. LASHLEY in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 4, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (Amendment) Act, 2008.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (RECOMMITTED)

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$5,698,586.00 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2008-2009 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, No. 5, 2008-2009 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (RESUMED)

ORDER NO. 3 – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

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

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is an amendment to the Financial Management and Audit Act which was recently passed by this House in the year 2007. We are seeking to amend this Act to make specific provision for the monthly reporting of accounting operations in relation to public monies received by the Accountant-General and to clarify some other provisions of the Act.

When Section 18 of the repealed Financial Administration and Audit Act, which outlines the duties of the Accountant-General was passed, excluded from it were certain very important provisions. Under the amended Section 9, the Accountant-General is charged with the general management and supervision of the cash transactions and accounting operations of the Crown, and is accountable for all public monies received.

In addition, the Accountant-General is also required, inter alia, to prepare monthly statements of accounts of the Crown's revenue and expenditure, loans outstanding, cash flows, special funds and accounting policies for laying in the House.

There are also further amendments to the legislation to clarify the definition of generally accepted accounting principles and making provisions for adherence to standards and guidelines of certain international standards setting bodies and also to define the office of Parliament and then to align the Act to Section 109 of the Constitution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not necessarily think that this Amendment does enough. The error was not made by this Government, but we agree to correct it. Mr. Deputy

Speaker, I want to make the point that when I was Leader of the Opposition, I was extremely concerned about the way in which the legislation was drafted, and about the impact of the legislation on the work of the Public Accounts Committee, which now became a statutory committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members would remember that this very House came to an abrupt halt because of a matter that related to the inability of the Public Accounts Committee, in my view, to investigate the activities of a company that was wholly-owned by Government, but that Parliament was never ever told was owned by Government. Therefore, there are very important further amendments that need to be made to the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

There is also a provision in the Rules, which was a lot of grand-standing, in which it says that Ministers would be personally liable for certain things. Sir, that was only grand-standing because they never clarified what Ministers would be personally liable for and the public was led to believe that it introduced some element of liability to Ministers when there is no such liability. Therefore, the legislation needs to be clarified to remove the fluff and the superfluity that was part of the grand-standing of that era.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, financial Administration and management is a serious business. It should not pander to the wants of an Opposition which might be over-zealous, and rightly so, and it should not pander to the smokescreens of the Government. We have some serious business to do to ensure the full independence of the Auditor General to enhance the status of the Public Accounts Committee, and to ensure that the legislation is in compliance with the existing provisions of the Constitution and, also, that the Regulations, or the Financial Rules are in compliance with the amended Act, as now amended, and the new legislation that was passed last year.

4.00 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all of that needs to be done but it speaks to the hurried way in which legislation was passed. Sir, in hurrying to bring new legislation, we do not even have the facilities. The Auditor General in Barbados does not have an effective budget to order independent audits by accounting firms, but the legislation allows for it. They were not ready to introduce the legislation, yet it was introduced, as I said, as part of a package of presenting a smokescreen, to give the impression that there was a breath of fresh air in financial management in this country.

Sir, we discovered, on coming to office, that the very Government that was in here every week defending the Financial Administration and Audit Act, and using it as a sword against the then Opposition, against the then Public

Accounts Committee, against all kinds of individuals in this country, was, in fact, contemplating amending the legislation in a substantive way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us look at what we have before us today. In January and December, we were told the Law was good, that it was perfect, that it did not present any problems to anybody, that it was fully constitutional, et cetera. Sir, we are amending Section 2. We are amending Part III. We are amending Section 5. We are amending Sections 7, 8, and 9.

Sir, I hope the former Attorney-General is making a note of this, because the Honourable Member got up a few weeks ago and said how they like to take credit for these numbers of new legislation. The Honourable Member did not know about these Amendments last December. The Honourable Member never lifted his voice in this Honourable Chamber, nor did any of the other Members of Cabinet who were here heckling people from their seats, who were here fulminating and puffing themselves up in feigned anger. Sir, meanwhile, they were sitting down quietly amending it.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I am not finished, I am at Section 9. We are repealing Section 17, amending Section 20, amending Sections 21, 22, 29, and 35. Sir, we have 13 Sections of a piece of legislation that is being amended, of a legislation which was defended to the hilt by the then Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in this Honourable Chamber. Sir, week after week, we were told that the Law was good, that there were no impediments and that it was perfect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker we, the then Opposition, got up in here on several occasions and said that the Law was deficient, and that the Public Accounts Committee itself had identified certain deficiencies. As I said, we would not have known that in the dark of night, when the debates were over, that there were people who were quietly setting about the task of substantially amending their brand new Financial Management and Audit Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will tell you. Sometimes when people have big questions to ask about the conduct of politicians, these questions are oftentimes justified. Sir, I could not believe it myself when I saw this coming before me as the Minister of Finance in this country. I think too that the Acting Attorney-General was appalled. The substantive Attorney-General, who is indisposed today, must have been appalled to think that such significant amendments could have taken place in one piece of legislation. Furthermore, when it came to Cabinet, as they say in "Yes, Mr. Minister", we were further appalled to think that this smokescreen was going on in here and that

the people of Barbados were being taken for a total ride, while, as I said, quietly and in the dark of night, there were those seeking to make amendments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the death of the last Parliament, no concessions were ever made that there was any need for any amendments to the Financial Management and Audit Act. I think it is a disgrace to the political history of this country, and that it has to go down as one of those odious moments in our history, at a very dark time in our history, that our Parliament came to an end on that kind of note on which it came, when, in fact, behind the scenes, significant attempts were being made to amend an Act, which the then Opposition said was totally deficient.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are the Amendments before you and I beg to move that this amended Bill be read a second time.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee. Mr. S. A. LASHLEY in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 13, inclusive, were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

4.10 p.m.

Tuesday, August 08, 2008

On the separate motions of Hon. D.J.H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Management and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2008.

ORDER NO. 4 – PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRAFT CARIBBEAN TREATY ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN SERIOUS CRIMINAL MATTERS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on June 20, 2005, the then Cabinet agreed that the Draft Caribbean Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Serious Criminal Matters should be adopted by Barbados. The draft Treaty was intended to assist Member States in addressing the escalation of serious crimes, including transnational organised crimes.

Further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometime in July 2005, the Draft Caribbean Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Serious Criminal Matters was signed by the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, Cap. 148A, currently provides for two schemes of co-operation in relation to mutual assistance. The first scheme is the scheme relating to mutual assistance to criminal matters within the Commonwealth which was adopted by the Commonwealth Law Ministers at a meeting in July - August 1986, and was then endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Vancouver, Canada in October 1987.

Parts II and III of the Act governs the grant of mutual assistance in criminal matters between Barbados and Commonwealth countries under the said scheme.

Further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the second scheme of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, provides for assistance to be granted in instances where requests are made between Barbados and countries, which are not members of the Commonwealth.

Part IV of the Act makes provisions for the grants of assistance between Barbados and countries which are not Commonwealth countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the purpose and scope of the treaty is to increase cooperation and mutual legal assistance among Caribbean countries in respect of serious criminal matters and to combat criminal activities. State parties shall afford each other to the extent possible under the Laws, the widest measure of mutual legal assistance at any stage of investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in relation to serious crimes.

The scope of the Treaty speaks to the fact that mutual legal assistance includes the following:

- "Identifying and locating persons and objects.
- taking evidence or statements from persons and locating persons and objects.
- taking evidence or statements for persons.

- obtaining the production of judicial or other documents.
- serving judicial documents.
- examining objects, sites and premises.
- providing any available information and relevant exhibits.
- providing originals or certified copies of any documents and records.
- facilitating the personal appearances of witnesses.
- affecting and temporary transfer of persons in custody to appear as witnesses.
- executing searches and seizures.
- tracing, seizing, freezing and confiscating the proceeds or instrumentalities of crime.
- providing other assistance consistent with the objects of this Treaty as agreed to by the State parties.”

Sir, that basically is the scope and purpose of the Treaty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the objective of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2008, is to amend the Act to make provision for the implementation of the Caribbean Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Serious Criminal Matters. Sir, the proposed amendments are summarised as follows:

“A new Part IV(A) has been inserted, which speaks to application of the Treaty. This amendment also introduces a third scheme, which focuses on assistance being given in relation to countries, which are parties to the Treaty and it now makes legislative provision for three schemes or cooperation relating to assistance in criminal matters.”

Clause 2 of the Bill amends the long title of the Act, in order to incorporate the reference to the third scheme, which speaks to assistance being given in relation to countries which are part of the Treaty.

Clause 3 of the Bill amends Section 4 of the Act. This Amendment to ensure that the provisions of Section 3, Subsection 2 do not apply to duly introduced Part IV(A) of the Act.

Clause 4 provides for the introduction of Part 4(a), which would address the application of the Treaty to Barbados.

Part IV(A) provides as follows:

“Clause 29(b) states that the Treaty should have the force of law in Barbados. Section 29(b) speaks to the fact that the Attorney-General is the central authority for Barbados. It designates the Attorney-General as the central authority for Barbados. Further, Sir, Clause 29(b) speaks broadly about the application of the Treaty.”

Sir, Clause 5 of the Bill amends the Act by designating the Schedule to the Act as the First Schedule and inserting a new Schedule as the Second Schedule.

The Second Schedule contains the text of Caribbean Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Serious Criminal Matters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, countries which are part of the Treaty, can be Commonwealth countries, or non-Commonwealth countries and so those countries which are part of the Treaty may apply for assistance under Part II, Part III and Part IV of the Act.

The proposed Clause 29(d), Subsection 1 of the Bill states that the Treaty shall apply to countries which are part of the Treaty regardless of the existence of Part II, Part III and Part IV of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Act. Further thus, with the operation of the Clause 29(d) Subsection 1, countries which are seeking assistance under the Treaty should make application for such assistance under the new Part IV, and where assistance cannot be facilitated under the Treaty, Clause 29(d), Subsection 2 makes it clear that countries, which are part of the said Treaty, may seek assistance under Part II, Part III and Part IV of the Act, where appropriate.

4.20 p.m.

This provision is critical because there will be instances in which a country that is part of the Treaty cannot be facilitated under the Treaty, and as such that country should not be barred from seeking assistance under another scheme provided for under this Act.

Sir, with those words, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this matter raises no point of contention between the Opposition and the Government. In fact, we support the Amendment. The history of the file, and I believe the history as recounted by the Honourable Member, the Acting

Honourable Attorney-General, will demonstrate that this is a process which will lead to deepened and enhanced cooperation within the Region in the area of Criminal Law. Perhaps, we can summarise the purpose of this Bill by simply saying that it serves to bring into the Law of Barbados the Treaty signed by former Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Peter in 2005.

Sir, even though this is now going to become the force of Law, the fact is, CARICOM and CARICOM Member States have been working with a serious determination to deepen the level of co-operation between the various law enforcement authorities across the Region. Sir, there was a time, not very long ago, when we needed expertise we had to look far afield, places such as the Scotland Yard in England. When I say “we”, I meant the Region, not Barbados.

There are some countries within the Region who still have recourse to the Scotland Yard and the Canadian Mounted Police Force. The fact is, even Barbados now is being drawn on to render significant law enforcement assistance to the smaller members within the CARICOM Region.

I can think of one instance in relation to St. Vincent, when I was serving as Honourable Attorney-General, the Royal Barbados Police Force was asked to render to them investigative assistance, because they recognised that we had the necessary level of expertise. Perhaps, the most telling indication of this enhanced level of co-operation would have been seen with the events surrounding the Cricket World Cup.

Sir, equally, in addition to the manpower needs, we are also seeing in the area of mutual assistance to try to curb the rise of criminality within the Region, a reliance of other countries’ technical assets. Barbados has been the host of the RSS and, in fact, the two RSS jets are now the property of Barbados, and those two RSS jets were used across the Region for the purpose of aerial surveillance to help fight the scourge of the trade in illegal drugs. Sir, with all this, we cannot fail to look inward.

Sir, the bald facts are, in the last few months of the year the crime statistics in Barbados have been on the rise. In fact, the “jump up” to about May of this year has been quite startling. The months of June and July have been a challenge as well. These are facts shown in the Report from the Commissioner of Police of what the statistics are. I believe the Acting Honourable Attorney General would have access to those statistics.

Certainly the Opposition Office, we have them. Therefore, we have to ensure that we not only use the mutual assistance machinery but also redouble our efforts

to ensure that as we strive towards making the Region safe, we also focus on ensuring the safety of all Barbadians.

Sir, the Opposition supports this. As I said, it is perhaps the end of the administrative procedures that are required in this progression. It is something I believe that is going to allow us to reap significant rewards in terms of our ability to fight crime. We are seeing that crime is not now limited to things in Barbados.

I believe the Acting Honourable Attorney-General may have seen or received reports where people are entering Barbados as part of a Regional criminal arrangement. As startling as it might seem, it is a fact, to perpetrate criminal acts in Barbados and then to slip back out. Therefore, we have to be able to reach the tentacles of Barbadian law enforcement into places like Jamaica, St. Vincent, Trinidad and other places.

The only way we can do so is with a framework which, (a) relies on us recognising that the Caribbean area is now a single area, with easy communications from State to State (b) recognising that we are truly within the Region our brother’s keeper, (c) recognising that we need to have comity and reciprocity in the area of law enforcement across the Region.

Sir, there is an unfinished agenda, too, in relation to Civil Law and other matters, but those would not attract the attention of the House on this occasion. So I end by also commending this particular piece of legislation, and to reiterate the Opposition’s support for it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Mr. S.A. LASHLEY: Sir, in rising to support this amendment to the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, I am particularly pleased to see another initiative in relation to legislation being brought to Parliament in a rather swift manner by this Government.

Indeed, I believe such an important piece of legislation which, as the Honourable Member from the Other Side readily admit, perhaps, has been on somebody’s desk for far too long, in relation to such a critical area of ensuring the integrity of the Regional integration movement, and particularly over the last 10 years where we have seen the trend in relation to the rapid movement of criminal activity across the Caribbean.

I believe that such an important piece of legislation, certainly, ought to have been rapidly brought before this Honourable House, even before now.

I certainly have to commend the Government for having the foresight of ensuring that we can move very

quickly within a period of only months of bringing this legislation before Parliament.

Sir, indeed, the legislation which encompasses and embodies the Treaty in relation to the mutual assistance in criminal matters, I think the focal point must be emphasised that we are dealing with serious crime across the Caribbean. It is only fitting that, in view of the amendments to the Treaty of Chaguaramas, and our commitment to the free movement of persons across the Caribbean, we should have a legal regime that encompasses a deterrent to criminals.

Sir, I believe that we have already seen this problem in Barbados arising in relation to persons who enter Barbados solely for the purpose of committing criminal acts. If it is one particular concern that I usually have, particularly as it relates to the implementation of Treaties, I hope that after we have passed this Amendment this evening, indeed the Government will focus its efforts, on ensuring that we have an implementation strategy that is sufficiently tight to enforce this particular legislation and it has the kind of personnel, the kind of resources available in Barbados, to ensure that we can really give life and meaning to the components of the Treaty.

I believe that when you go through the provisions of the Treaty, it is clear that it has to be backed up by the appropriate resources, particularly where States will be relying on a rather quick turnaround, once it has made a request of a State.

Sir, the Honourable Attorney-General is the main focus in relation to where requests are made.

4.30 p.m.

Certainly, the Attorney-General's Office and, by extension, the Police Force, wherever necessary need, in my view, to have the relevant backup support to ensure that once we have the occurrence of serious crime, we can actually have a response within a designated time to ensure that we can have the kinds of responses that are necessary.

We are seeing, for example, issues arising in the Caribbean, in relation to the persecution of witnesses to serious crime, particularly in relation to murder. Although this has not been a feature in Barbados, once we are moved into the arena of the CSME, I believe that this kind of legislation will have to be a serious deterrent to the occurrence of persecution of witnesses. The question of harassment of witnesses as well, is something, I believe, that we must have the kind of deterrent as well.

There is particularly one issue that has been raised. I think the Honourable Member for St. Joseph touched on it very quickly in his wind-up, and it relates to the whole

question of his view that the crime statistics have taken an increase over the past couple of months. I do not know where that information has come from, but certainly, in listening to the reports from the Commissioner of Police, that has not been borne out by the Acting Commissioner of Police in his recent utterances.

I am amazed that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would believe that there is some kind of crime spike in Barbados. Indeed, over the Crop Over Festivities, I recall that the Acting Commissioner of Police made the point that we had a relatively crime free Crop Over.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend the officers of the Royal Barbados Police Force who were backed up by the officers of the Defence Force for being so effective, in relation to having a relatively crime free Crop Over.

Sir, by extension, I wish also to commend the general public, the persons who were involved in bands and the masqueraders, for ensuring that we could have mass-based festivities with relatively little or no crime.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not intend to detain the Chamber, but I wish to voice my support for this Amendment and to underpin the fact that we are dealing with an environment of criminal activity that has been unprecedented to date. The movement of criminal activity across the Caribbean, not talking about Barbados, but the impact of serious criminal activity flowing into Barbados, and so far we have escaped it.

My submission to this Chamber is that we have, through this legislation, a means by which we can maintain Barbados, within a CSME environment, as a relatively crime-free destination. I want it to remain that way. I believe though that to ensure that this continues to be that way, we need to back up the provision of this legislation, by proper implementation strategies and resources to ensure that we can respond rapidly in the event of the occurrence of serious crime impacting on our shores from outside of Barbados.

With those brief remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak to this Bill and to make the point, Sir, that this Bill is very important, when one considers that if we are totally to follow the Treaty of Chaguaramas, one must recognise that we must have a common understanding within the various territories and have one legal space.

Sir, before I get to my major point, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph said that there is a crime spike. The Honourable Member knows well of what he speaks, because the Honourable Member will know that this Government has taken office and reporting of crime will not be muzzled, and crime will not be selected to be reported, but crime will be reported as stated and as known.

If the Honourable Member is saying that it has gone up, it has gone up because it is not now hidden by this present Government, as occurred previously.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member knows quite well what I spoke of, and what I am speaking of, because there was a time in this country when people were directed not to record certain crimes in the country, because it was said that it would make the country Barbados to look badly. There were various police stations in the country where people were under pressure not to report certain crimes.

Therefore, I could understand why the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would make that particular point, because the Honourable Member is quite aware of what he speaks and would give the impression that things are now worse than before, because one is actual and one was estimated. Sir, we deal with the actual here and not the estimates, or the hidden facts.

We have to recognise, Sir, that in light of what has been seen earlier, if the Caribbean as a Region is seen as one space, it is going to be very important for all the Governments, all the Brigadiers, all the Commissioners of Police to be able to handle crime and to deal with crime fairly. We have to be very careful how we put all the pressure on the Attorney-General, when we have Commissioners of Police, who also have to deal with these issues.

Sir, we are aware that there is a possibility that there might be some persons who are not prepared to deal with certain problems, and we have to be very careful that when we focus only on the Auditor General. We should also broaden the scope and include the Commissioner of Police and the Head of the Defence Force or Brigadier - whatever you want to say.

Then, Sir, with the passing of this Bill, one will recognise that the scope and the opportunities offered to the security of the Caribbean will be such that it will now be one common space, and what I am worrying about, we might not need to worry about, because there is one common ground that might allow persons to be able to traverse the Caribbean Sea, as one place. Whereas, previously, someone might be protected because of

territory, now there would not be that territory to protect oneself.

Sir, I hope that this is given full co-operation and that all persons within the Member States understand the seriousness of this and understand what we are about. If that does not occur, we could pass all the Laws and make all the amendments, but we would not achieve what we want to achieve.

Sir, what is needed here is full co-operation for all those in charge, to ensure that we make it a safe place for one and all. When one considers, specially not only for our people, but foremost for our people, but we also have to recognise that we are now very much involved in services as it relates to our economy, and what occurs in one country might affect all of us, even though I do not support that view.

I think it depends on where the people are coming from. For example, I do not believe that anybody living in England believes that Barbados is Jamaica. This might go for other countries. The connection between Barbados and England is so close that I do not buy into that one, but there is a possibility that there might be other countries that do not understand the difference.

At the end of the day, if we are going to make an error, let us ensure that we are doing what is needed to protect our people and also to ensure that the economies of these countries are all protected.

4.40 p.m.

As I said earlier, Sir, without reflecting, we cannot go and sign on the dotted line before we ensure that the security aspect of it is protected. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would understand what I was speaking about earlier when I said that we could not rush off and go and put things in place without putting in the groundwork. Sir, this is part of the groundwork that has to be in place.

Sir, it is one thing to get an agreement, but the other thing is to ensure that when you allow persons to have a right that you also ensure that you protect those persons when they go on the high seas.

Sir, as you and all of us would know, the high sea is not what it used to be. The high sea is now a very dangerous place. Therefore, our fishermen cannot just be seen as people going out on a fishing boat to fish. We have to recognise that there are certain dangers. Sir, that is exactly what we said before, and that is exactly what we agree.

With those few words, I give my support to this Bill based on what I have said.

Sir, one also has to be very careful that this Bill is not misused or abused by certain Governments within the Region, but that it sets about to do exactly what we expect of it.

I thank you.

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

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would not delay the House very long on this matter. I think we all agree on the importance of MLATS as they are called. However, I would like to use this opportunity to raise a couple of issues of concern to myself as it relates to the international business sector.

Sir, in all of our tax treaties, there is an exchange of information provision. One of the fundamental requirements for all of our treaties is that we would agree with our partner, whether it be Mexico or otherwise, that there be an exchange of information.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the areas that MLATS deals with is taxation. One of my concerns is that we, in Barbados, need to ensure that we have the correct mechanisms in place to protect ourselves.

Sir, I therefore want the Government to be satisfied that in the matter of the Financial Intelligence Unit that we have indeed more than adequate resources. I am sometimes of the opinion that is not the case. I would urge the acting Attorney-General and the Attorney-General when he resumes office, to take the time over the summer to ensure that we look at our resources in that Department and, if there are any shortages that they are addressed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would also urge my colleague and my good friend from St. James South to ensure that, as soon as possible, we bring this Draft Service Providers legislation to this House so that we can review it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, another area of weakness that I see in this jurisdiction is that we have service providers who are not regulated, so therefore, we cannot testify to the quality of the business, not only that they bring but the business that they manage, so we need to satisfy ourselves because we need to protect the jurisdiction.

The sector is probably the third plank of our economy, so we, as a country, need to satisfy ourselves and the international community that we have everything in place to protect Barbados and also to ensure the integrity of our financial system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to see this draft legislation brought before this Honourable House as soon as possible, hopefully before the end of the year. Mr. Deputy Speaker, no doubt the Minister responsible over the next couple of weeks during the summer recess would not go on recess but will, however, look at this to ensure that the legislation comes before us, so that we can have it to review.

Sir, in that regard, my last comment would be with respect to our anti-money laundering situation. Sir, it is incumbent upon us as a jurisdiction not only to satisfy ourselves that we have adequate regulations, but to satisfy ourselves that we have adequate regulators, and that the persons involved in the industry are well trained. This is another area I believe that, as a Government, we need to pay close attention to.

In summary, Sir, what I am saying is that it is well enough for us to have MLATS in place, but that we need to ensure, as a jurisdiction, that they are not used. In other words, we need to ensure that our ship is so tightly run with respect to our financial services industry that there be few requests for assistance from Barbados because we have service providers who are well trained. We have legislation in place, and we have regulators who are well trained and who are, indeed, doing their jobs.

With those few remarks, Sir, I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate all Honourable Members who contributed and made valuable contributions to this debate. It basically was a very simple matter. It was basically to incorporate into domestic Law, the Treaty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, from my perusal of the Treaty, it will enhance the Administration of justice in this country, and impact on our criminal justice system, more particularly the rule of Law. Throughout the Treaty, there are protections granted for persons who fall under the scope of this Treaty in relation even to witnesses and the taking of evidence or statements from persons, so we need not fear.

With those few words, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Mr. S. A. LASHLEY in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 - 5, inclusive, were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

4.50 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

On the motion of Hon. R.D. JONES, seconded by Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. S.A. LASHLEY in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

ORDER NO. 7

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$5 698 586 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND.

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to detain this Honourable House too long over this matter but there is a level of interest and excitement about this Supplementary sum of \$5 698 586, which requires some elucidation.

Mr. Chairman, this Government has committed itself to making sure that any opportunity we have to right the wrongs, to correct the ineffectiveness, to change the bad management practices of the last Administration, that we would do so.

Sir, as we peruse the programmes of the Ministry of Transport, Works and International Transport, we have come across a number of areas where, we believe that, with the input of more funds, with the input of a few more staff,

with a little ingenuity of management, with the application of modern technology, we could bring about better results.

Mr. Chairman, such is the case with the establishment of what we have named the National Environmental Enhancement Programme (NEEP). This programme seeks to augment the work of the Ministry of Transport, Works and International Transport, and what is familiarly referred to as the work of the Drainage Unit. Sir, it also seeks to utilise the resources of the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Urban Development in providing a database from which we could gather suitable persons to operate in the programme and to assist in a very significant way in taking able-bodied persons off welfare and bringing them into meaningful work.

Mr. Chairman, the management of the Drainage Unit - and we have specialists in this area - these include inspectors, technical officers and full-degree engineering supervision. These persons are perfectly capable of managing an operation such as this. As a matter of fact, they often indicate to me the need for staffing and resources, in order to carry out a more effective programme of managing our drainage system.

Sir, if we look at the whole drainage programme, one would see that it interlocks. It starts with gutters in our villages and in our homes. These gutters run, because of design and not by happenstance, to drains, then to super drains and/or wells. Sir, during the wet season especially, it comes to light how ineffective or how deficient is the programme of the management of our drainage.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it might be too late for this year but by implementing the programme now, I believe we would have a team who could provide significantly better information for the Drainage Unit's management team, to be able then to make effective decisions during the dry season.

Sir, accessing our waterways or accessing our effective drainage, especially in our country areas, also serves to continually augment our ground water supply. Sir, that is critical in a nation where we often hear that we are a water-scarce country.

Mr. Chairman, this programme has clear connections to the preservation and sustainability of our environment. It has clear connections to the maintenance of our infrastructure, and it has clear connection to the provision of opportunities for able-bodied persons to get effective employment in the drainage clearing and effecting programmes.

5.00 p.m.

Sir, we contemplate as many as five persons added to the staff of the 13 depots around the country, who would be able to work with the existing team and, as I have said before, the existing management to make this programme more meaningful to satisfy a crying need of the residents of Barbados because this is where our programmes are informed. Sir, it will agitate the Honourable Members on That Side because they like fancy programmes with great buildings and creating large multi-million dollar statues, grandiose monuments and mega- millions, as they say. Sir, they went through all that from 1994 until January 15, 2008, thank God, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, we know that these small programmes, if well managed, they can bring about the greatest satisfaction to the people of Barbados, and will impact on people's lives in their Constituency.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas looks puzzled but in her Constituency, this is a programme which is going to be especially applicable because our ground water supply originates, in large measure, in St. Thomas, in our highland areas and effective capture at that point; effective containment and allowing it to then trickle through the coral, porous, inner bosom of the Barbados soil structure evolves a ground water supply of which we have been traditionally proud, and which we intend to maintain.

Mr. Chairman, it is not only talking about putting staff. We are talking about equipment, Sir. The Resolution speaks very clearly to some \$3 million in equipment. This equipment would have a life of about 10 years, if well maintained. We are talking about the provision of a bobcat and a dumper truck, with staff to drive them, which would then allow the effective collection of the debris. Mr. Chairman, as you know, and the Members on This Side know, a bobcat can also achieve great works in clearing drains itself without the application of any heavy equipment.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that we are on a very strong footing with this programme. We have got the support of the Minister of International Transport. We have the support of the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Urban Development. We have the support of the Members of Parliament on This Side who have all indicated their willingness to take part in this programme and to bring relief. Sir, I took a recent tour with His Honour the Speaker in the Constituency of St. Michael West and I could not believe in 2008, the level of disgust which the people in the area of Headley's Land could be asked to live in even today. Sir, it is unacceptable. It is unconscionable that after 14 years of so-called structural redevelopment, infrastructural development and tourism development works all over Barbados, you have people in the back of the Empire Cricket grounds coming right down to the area by the Globe Theatre, Downey Land, who are

basically living in a situation where their drains effectively run into the road.

Sir, it cannot continue in this Administration and under this Minister of Transport and Works. Sir, it has to be repaired and we will bring, if necessary, Supplementary after Supplementary to this House to make sure that programmes are put in place for these people and for so many other members of the society, of this Barbadian society, who have been effectively left behind by the Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Mr. Chairman, there are all out of here now because the grand-standing, as far as they are concerned, is over. The Honourable Member for St. Peter is especially guilty. He comes in and says to the House, I take the blame for everything and walks outside, so all that they have not done, the people of Barbados are supposed to forgive on the shoulders of the Honourable Member for St. Peter, and we know that all of them over there to a woman, were collectively responsible for the direction, or lack of direction, which the Barbados Labour Party Administration clearly took.

Mr. Chairman, these kinds of projects must be supported in here and the money we are talking about is minuscule compared to the large projects which they glorify but, in truth, the effect of this work, when properly managed by members of the Civil Service, who are eager to perform, but have been largely neutered by the Barbados Labour Party Administration. Sir, that is how the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is characterised. Mr. Chairman, I have said in here already that her footprints, her paws are in every project in this country. They are stamped indelibly on the pages on almost every significant project over the last 10 years in this country and, she can deny that if she wants, under the guise of PPC but more will come out as we continue to deal with the issues confronting Barbados and the completion of the mega projects that have been left with us. Sir, more will come out and the footprints will truly be revealed, and the fingerprints will identify the carrier.

Mr. Chairman, it is our intention to put the officers of the Ministry - highly qualified men and women in large measure and highly experienced persons - back to meaningful and effective work so that when they walk through the Constituencies of Barbados, they too can be identified with meaningful projects and do not always have to suffer the indignity, concern, abuse and, in many cases, justifiable, of the residents of our villages, heights and terraces and so that Barbadians can enjoy a truly healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Chairman, we do not have to dress up for the tourists, if we are dressed all the time. Sir, that is the programme. We do not have to put on any clothes when a

jetliner arrives at Grantley Adams International Airport because we are already dressed. Sir, that is the mark we want to make.

5.10 p.m.

Sir, this is an exciting programme which we have the honour of managing. We are looking forward to working with the Ministry of Social Care in identifying the kind of savings. Already we are working with numbers. Our welfare bill is there for all to scrutinise in our Estimates of Expenditure. In 2006-2007, approximately \$13 million was spent; in 2008, another \$13 million was spent. If we can turn some of this spending into earnings for able-bodied persons, Sir, tell me if we are not on to a winning effective programme, for the people of Barbados? The people are willing to work. I do not know whom they see. I do not get the impression they see anyone. That is the truth.

Sir, the people I see want to work. The people I see want the country clean and tidy. The people I see want fresh water. I do not know, as I said, whom they see. Those are the kinds of people we want to serve in this Democratic Labour Party management period. Sir, we know this will help to build that community spirit, villages where persons have spent thousands of dollars.

Earlier the Honourable Member for St. George North was grandstanding about how expensive land is and how much land he was able to identify, although not classified or allocated, throughout his tenure. The point is, when we spend that kind of money as a citizen to build our homes and to create our own piece of the rock, as they say, then it is incumbent of Government to do their part and to provide the social service to effectively maintain that area in an approved manner.

We intend, by this programme and others, by tying this into the main work of the depots of the Ministry of Transport Works and International Transport, by the provision of the equipment and drivers, by the provision of the effective management and supervision and, indeed, by the persons who will carry out the menial tasks associated with the kind of work, to see that this programme enhances our ground water supply. We can see it providing relief from floods. We can see it providing a better and healthier Barbados to live in for us Barbadians and, by extension, when we entertain our visitors, we believe that Barbados will be truly visitor ready.

Sir, with those few words I commend this Supplementary to this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I have to say that I am a little bit bewildered. I cannot believe that the Honourable Member wants to convince us that a programme costs three million plus dollars, where the only equipment we will see is a single bobcat and a single truck is going to make a significant impact on the drainage situation in Barbados. Sir, that is all, just a smokescreen.

I will venture that when we look at it, all we really see is an opportunity for the Other Side to create a few jobs. Just come and say so. Say, we promised some people a few things. We promised them jobs and we have to find a way, and this is the way.

Sir, under the Drainage Unit - We have just finished the Estimates for this country. I invite the Honourable Member to look under Head 57, Subprogramme 511, under Drainage Services, Estimates passed in this Honourable House three months ago, for \$7 511 469. This is the money that this Administration said to the country they have budgetted for drainage services, but now three or four months later, they have hatched this plan to completely revamp the drainage problems in this country at a cost of \$3 million. You did not know about it before March 31, Sir? It was not in the minds of the Drainage Unit? The Drainage Unit has plans and programmes.

This particular Minister has come in to try to find some jobs, and this is a solution. Say so, but do not try to fool the Honourable Members on This Side that \$3 million, is a Supplementary under this Head four months after. I wonder how much of this money has been spent already?

Sir, the Honourable Member is using the welfare role as a smokescreen. I want the Honourable Member to tell this Honourable House how many people this programme is going to employ, \$3 068 000. I do not know the price of a bobcat. I do not know the cost of a truck, but they will not cost \$3 million.

I want the Honourable Member to say to the Members of this House how much the truck and the bobcat cost, so that we can work out, with our feeble minds, how much is being apportioned for wages. I want him to tell us how many people this programme is going to employ, but he has skirted around it. The Honourable Member said one truck and one bobcat. Sir, the Honourable Member said, "We are hiring five additional people and a few drivers."

Sir, let us not fool ourselves. The Honourable Member is trying to suggest that they are going to cull out of the welfare roll large numbers of people and provide them with employment. Let us work through it. If you say that there are 13 trucks and 13 Depots, tell us how much of the money will be left? That is a fair question. How much will be left to employ these large numbers of welfare roll people?

I want the Honourable Member to commit to providing employment of these people on a year round basis. I want the Honourable Member to commit to employing only people on the welfare roll. I want him to say this in this Chamber, because he has prayed in aid of the Ministry of Social Care and Community Empowerment.

He has prayed for that Ministry and aid, and he has talked about the welfare cost. Well, commit to the welfare people from the Floor of this Parliament that the only people to be employed under this programme will be people who are currently receiving welfare, and then it will get my support.

Sir, I have my conscience and I am sure the Honourable Member has his, and I no more recommend to him whom he should vote for, or what he should vote for, than he should seek to recommend to me. I am simply asking for an explanation to this Chamber, because in my respectful submission, his presentation has been full of sound and fury signifying absolutely nothing.

Sir, I want the Honourable Member to explain how three months after we passed Estimates, he now comes into this Chamber seeking a Supplementary for \$3 million? I wonder how much of the \$7 million has been spent so far, and we are in the very hurricane season that the Honourable Member seems to be so concerned about.

Mr. Chairman, it suits the Honourable Member to call the Honourable Member for St. Peter and talk about who is here in the Chamber, and who is not in the Chamber, and who it is says they are taking responsibility, and who is not taking responsibility. Sir, that argument will only take him so far, but it is characteristic of the Honourable Member, because his entire presentation was filled with argumentum ad hominem. Tell the people what it is you are proposing to do.

I believe that the Honourable Member should just come out, sprawl out, as we say, and tell us, "We promised a few jobs, so we want to give them to the people and this is the way we are going to do it. Fine.

5.20 p.m.

You are the Government. Feel free to do it, but do not try to fool the people that this is some grand drainage. You do not think that the Drainage Unit knew that they needed 13 bobcats and 13 trucks when they were doing the Estimates? They must have known. If they did not know, Sir, then it must mean that the Drainage Unit has not been forward-thinking but, perhaps, it takes this Minister to tell the Drainage Unit what it is that they should think. I wait for the answers to the questions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, being in the House for 14 years, I must admit that I am disappointed, after hearing the contribution from the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. Sir, when one considers that St. Joseph is a very hilly parish and if you do not clean the drains in St. Joseph, the back-up of the water runs into St. Andrew and it will destroy all the roads leading to St. Andrew, and will also create slippage in St. Andrew.

I am surprised that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would come in here and tell this House that he does not want to see the drainage coming from St. Joseph leading into St. Andrew to be cleared so that there could be a backup of water, then to flood out the whole of St. Andrew. I never thought I would have heard an argument presented by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph in this House about drainage.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. While it may be for him to interpret what I have said, and offer his spin on it, Sir, it cannot be under the Rules of this House that he is entitled to say that I said something that I did not say.

If the Honourable Member for St. Lucy wants to say that he interprets what I say to be one thing, fine; but nowhere in the records taken by the Hansard Reporters will it be seen, Sir, that I said what the Honourable Member just attributed to me. I am asking him to withdraw those comments.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member for St. Joseph has interpreted what I said to be that, I withdraw it.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I am waiting for a ruling.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, please continue.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Thank you, Sir.

Sir, what I would say is that, based on the argument by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, if we do not clean the drainage in St. Joseph - and I am told that it is for all 13 depots which means that we will ensure that the drainage in St. Joseph will be cleared so that we would not get a backup of water like what happened at Royal

Westmoreland, and what created the problem by the Fire Station, under their rule, and we are aware of what happened to the Mighty Carew. This is why we are in here today ensuring that we have 13 backhoes and trucks to move all the garbage from out of the gullies and the drains, so that we would not destroy St. Andrew.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I never thought that I would hear an argument like this during the Hurricane Season from the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party on the Floor of this House. Sir, I thought the Honourable Member would have been saying that instead of having one backhoe and one truck per depot, that he wanted to see more, considering that work which should have been done for the last 14 years, has not been done.

I am begging the Minister of Public Works, Sir, to save the people of St. Andrew by giving the Honourable Member for St. Joseph two backhoes and two trucks to ensure that what he asked for, by implication, would not occur.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: You do not know, but I have always supported the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. I always thought that might have been a safe place for him, considering how he was running in St. Joseph that he could easily slip with the tide and go into St. Andrew and have a safe seat.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: : I never thought that he would want to see St. Andrew off the map of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, what I would say, Sir, is that even though the Honourable Member is saying that this is welfare, and he does not want welfare - and the Honourable Member would understand what is welfare - this is why we are in here doing something that is productive and will help the country.

The Honourable Member is so caught up in welfarism, that the Honourable Member cannot appreciate anything that would develop Barbados and would enhance the safety of the persons in Barbados. The Honourable Member could only see things through his "welfare" eyes.

I want the Honourable Member to understand that this is a change of Government. Previously, we have been asking for a long time for a bobcat to clear the gutters and drains of St. Lucy and a truck to remove the garbage, so

that when we listen to the people on the Call-in programme, they would not be able to say that the wells were cleared and the gutters were cleared and material was left alongside the road to be washed back in again. Sir, we listen to the people of Barbados and we are here responding.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Then, again, Sir, the Honourable Member is removed from the Call-in programmes. He has no time for the Call-in programmes, so he would not understand that we are responding to the people on the Call-in programmes. They understand what is needed, especially at a time like now.

I know that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is not going to object against this, because the Honourable Member has always requested the proper equipment, and the Honourable Member has also stated in this House that she has the right man for the job. I know that the Honourable Member will be out there in her boots, ensuring that the gutters and the drains are cleaned.

Mr. Chairman, for years, I have complained about the drains. I have written about the drains in St. Clements. I have written about the one in Well Road. I have written about the one in Hope Road. Sir, previously for many years, we knew about someone coming to clear them, but recently, it never occurred. Now, Sir, there is some action. We do not want to see the flooding.

Sir, there is talk about bad drainage. I would like to invite the Honourable Member for St. Joseph to come on a trip with me on a public road called, Husbands Long Road, leading from Colleton to Crab Hill, because then, the Honourable Member would understand why drainage is important.

Every day, Sir, I am nearly harassed by persons who have to traverse that road. It is now so ridiculous that it is easier to drive through the cart line by the old Naval Base to get to Crab Hill, than to drive on a Highway. Sir, this was left to the people of St. Lucy by the Other Side.

Sir, if the bobcat is here, at least we could level the bumps and humps and we could have, at least, the uses of the bobcat so that we could better traverse that road. At the same time, I will also tell the Minister of Public Works that if Husbands is bad, there is no logical reason why Friendship Road leading from Nesfield to the Police Station is bad too.

I hope the Minister of Public Works would recognise that he needs to pave that road, so that the people in Crab Hill and those surrounding areas, would not have to traverse on two bad roads.

The Honourable Member for St. George North knows of what I speak. Sir, you would not believe what is the hold-up for the Nesfield to Crab Hill Road being fixed. It is the wording. A simple matter. They call it the Trench Road, so somebody argued that the road had to stop by the four-cross, when it was explained to them that it cannot be the Trench Road, it had to be from the Nesfield to Crab Hill junction.

Sir, you will believe that so bad are the conditions that they have a new looking police station, which I will not discuss in here anymore, and they cannot open it because there are no roads to get to the police station.

I have said already in this House without reflecting, Sir, that if you had a problem and you open the police station...

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, you would have heard me say that the new cars they budgeted for -and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is the one who budgeted new cars for the police to drive on bad roads and mash them up in less than one month. Now, we are seeking to clear the drainage, so that at least the water would be able to run in the drains and not mash up the roads anymore, and protect the investment left by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Sir, we never called that anything like welfarism. We understood that the policemen were deserving of getting new vehicles, in the same way as MTW. The Honourable Member for St. George North should be happy to hear that we are getting new bobcats because in this House, we spent \$10 million on new equipment that cannot be found and never worked.

5.30 p.m.

The Honourable Member for St. George North knows that we came in here and voted \$10 million to equip the Depots. The spraying machines sprayed for one day and then they stopped working. The equipment looked new but when you tested them, they were not new to Barbados. I hope these bobcats are not new to Barbados, but they are actually new bobcats, and they are not like the buses at the Barbados Transport Board. We got new buses with old tyres on them.

Mr. Chairman, I have been in here long enough to know that when I hear things that are not right I could speak about them. Sir, I know that when the Honourable Member for St. Joseph sleeps tonight and he wakes tomorrow in a sober mind, he would reflect on what was said today, and would disassociate himself from himself for

making a statement like that. I know that, Sir, because sometimes you can carry a political point too far.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph knows that what he said in here today that 10 years from now when he reads Hansard, he would tell his children that was not him, it was his clone.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would wish to make an intervention to indicate that I know that the then Ministry of Social Transformation performed the role of training Barbadians who were on welfare in a programme called "Welfare-to-Work" where they were able to acquire skills to help them to be able to function in the marketplace.

Mr. Chairman, I would wish to find out if that programme is still going because I believe that people need training, if you are talking about human resource development, to be able to help them to perform their tasks more efficiently.

Mr. Chairman, I want to know from the Honourable Member if the Rural Development Commission has been included in this whole process because I am hearing a lot about the Urban Development Commission and the Ministry of Social Care and Constituency Empowerment. Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Urban Development Commission should be included, acknowledging that the Urban Development Commission's budget was cut in the Estimates for this year by at least \$4 million.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the situation in the rural communities is more adverse because the majority of them are in heavy rainfall areas and, therefore, the growth of shrubs, trees and all that seriously impact on the drainage. Therefore, I would wish that the indications expressed by the Honourable Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, would intimately and intricately include those persons living in rural communities.

Mr. Chairman, I would wish to find out if this is a crash programme. I know that every year there is a group of persons, all unemployed, particularly single women with families and of course some males as well, who I believe when the work is no longer available would have to go back on to welfare.

Sir, every year, at least for three months of the year, the debushing programme is put in place, and as soon as the rainy season goes, then those persons are off. Is this a crash programme? Are these persons who would be employed be permanent staff in the Ministry of Transport, Works and International Transport?

Are these persons going to be persons chosen from the constituencies where they live, or are they going to be persons imported from other constituencies to come and work? Mr. Chairman, I would not support people coming from anywhere else in Barbados to work at the Depot at Bagatelle. I really would not.

Mr. Chairman, I have some other issues which I would wish to raise. I heard the Honourable Minister speak about staff, technology and equipment. I know of the \$10 million amount that was put in some time in 2005/2006 for each of the depots to be given that equipment to work exclusively in those depots. Unfortunately, the equipment that was at the Bagatelle Depot in St. Thomas was taken away for central headquarters nearly every time and therefore inhibited the staff there from carrying out their duties as effectively as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I really do not want this to happen in this Administration as well. I believe that St. Thomas, being one of the heaviest rainfall parishes, merits that kind of special allocation, and for that equipment to remain there at the beck and call of the various emergencies that would take place in the parish.

Mr. Chairman, the question of drainage is very pertinent at this time in the parish. Persons from all over this country - and I am going to repeat it specifically. Persons from all over Barbados take their garbage and dump it illegally in St. Thomas. They do it in other parishes too, but I am speaking for my people today because I see it every day.

Mr. Chairman, rather than take their garbage to the Mangrove Landfill that is specifically designated for that purpose, or to the Bagatelle Depot, meaning the metal dump that is in the Bagatelle area, they dump it in the Vaucluse cart road at Hangman's Hill, Lion's Castle, Dunscombe and many other communities. People just take their garbage and deposit it in the parish which impacts heavily on what happens downstream.

Mr. Chairman, I heard the Honourable Member speak about Headley's Land in the area of the Globe Cinema and Hall's Road and so on, but that is where the water that leaves St. Thomas comes. When we talk about the flooding that took place in 1995 in the western area of St. James where there was terrible devastation and loss of lives, a lot of that water came down from St. Thomas.

Sir, we have a heavy rainfall, and I have a tremendous difficulty where people continue to dispose of their garbage illegally in places like Jack-in-the-Box Gully that is an extension of Harrison's Cave and Harris Gully. Therefore, I would support measures that would clean up and minimise the impact that the illegal dumping would have on those various communities in St. Thomas and, of course, the deleterious impact on all of the other communities downstream from St. Thomas. Mr. Chairman, this also happened to the people of St. Joseph and St. Andrew when the water runs from St. Thomas in the other direction.

Mr. Chairman, the clearing of the gutters has to be not a one-off, as is the case indicated by the Honourable Minister. It has to be a sustained effort on behalf of the Ministry of Transport, Works and International Transport so that all year round the gutters are cleared so as to minimise the flooding that takes place.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that you have seen some of your constituents, sometimes even your immediate family, who suffer as a result of flooding. Flooding can really create a lot of hysteria. It can traumatise families because sometimes all your special savings, your photographs, your furniture, things that your parents would have left in the Will for you get destroyed as a result of flooding. Therefore, I am anticipating that the bobcat, the truck and the other equipment that would be given to the Depot at Bagatelle would come sooner, rather than later, to be able to eliminate some of those challenges.

It gives me the privilege, Mr. Chairman, to really thank the staff at the Bagatelle Depot for their untiring efforts in ensuring that some of the drains are cleared. They cannot do it all. They need the support from the Drainage Unit in the Pine. Of course, the ongoing aspect of it is taking place. I want to thank them for helping to save the pedestrians and the motorists in the parish from meeting any injury or any loss of property, not only vehicles, but sometimes animals and, indeed, human beings become displaced as a result.

5.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, as I speak to you, I wish to indicate that I visited the area of Welchman Hall yesterday. Sir, Welchman Hall is only one-way. The trees are very tall. If you passed through Porey's Spring, Spring Farm or Lion's Castle by way of Stoney Gully, there are trees that are hanging over the road. People have trees in their backyards that they are unable to have removed because of such prohibitive costs to individuals.

Sir, I am hoping that the equipment that would be offered to the Depots would include tree-trimming devices, because poor people cannot afford to pay \$1 000 to have a

tree cut down. As the Honourable Member has said, some of these persons are already on welfare, while others are relying only on a small pension, or on donations from members of the community.

Mr. Chairman, in the well-digging programme - and that is why I mentioned the Rural Development Commission - they would be drilling wells for private homes, while the Ministry of Public Works would be drilling wells for the public good, that is, the drainage of water off the roads, et cetera. Sir, I trust that I would soon get some action. I know that the formal requests have been made, and that the Depot Supervisor has made numerous visits to places such as Padmore Village, which is on that street that takes people to Automotive Art, and to Edgehill Terrace, where the water impacts, in a tremendous way, on the lives of people there. There are other communities too numerous to mention but, I believe, that once well-digging programmes and the maintenance of those wells are maintained, that it would make a tremendous difference.

Mr. Chairman, there is the issue of land slippage. Sir, you are aware that there are a number of communities in the parish, some adjoin St. Andrew and St. Joseph, where land slippage is causing a serious impact on the lives of those residents living in those affected areas. Sir, the problem of land slippage is not caused by rain only, but from the domestic water which runs from people's homes and washing machines, et cetera. Therefore, because of the slippery nature of the soil, many people are suffering.

Mr. Chairman, within the last five years, I have had a number of serious problems in Carrington's Village, in the area near to CBC's antennae. Sir, somebody went in with a bulldozer and now during the rainy season, all the rain water just washes away people's bathrooms. Sir, the same thing happens in Chapman's Village, in Airy Cot and in other communities. It is as a result of the drainage coming from up the hill, near to CBC's antennae. This causes the water to wash away the soil, which in turn destroys poor people's properties.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Sir, I am speaking for those persons. Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South cannot tell me what to say. His voice is big, but it does not frighten me. I might be like Little Red Riding Hood and he might be like the other character but it does not frighten me. Therefore, I will speak from my heart for the people whom I represent.

Mr. Chairman, the folks in Airy Cot have suffered a similar fate and, therefore, I believe the measures this Government has indicated that it is willing to continue with, I would want that they be continued. As the Honourable Member said earlier, \$10 million was put into a

budget that facilitated the ordering and purchase of equipment. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the members of staff in the Ministry of Transport, Works and International Transport, to be accountable for Government's funds and for Government's equipment. Therefore, no Minister should be held responsible.

Mr. Chairman, when money is allocated, the Permanent Secretary has his or her role to play, and members of staff have their role to play. They must also produce inventories. If you are talking about management, accountability and transparency, they have a responsibility. Sir, no Member of Parliament should be blamed for what goes wrong. Sir, we would praise them for doing the right things.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Public Works has to be accountable for all such equipment. Further, it must trickle down to the benefit of the people who live in communities. Sir, it is not only what I might call the ordinary villages that experience problems. I also had a problem in Cane Garden Park. Sir, private contractors who develop communities sometimes do not put in the adequate drainage. They might dig a 12-foot well, when they know they should have dug a 50-foot well to take water off. Sir, those private contractors sometimes then back off and the Government, through the Ministry of Public Works and the other agencies, would be the persons who have to extend those wells, or who would have to put in the necessary infrastructure in order to minimise or to eliminate such flooding.

Mr. Chairman, I would want the Honourable Minister to explain to me this issue of employment how these people would be selected. I would want to know whether or not this work would be on a permanent or temporary basis. I would also want to know the kind of equipment that would be used.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not have a problem with the selection. The point is, there are persons out there who were part of the debushing team, who are expecting to be employed. These are Barbadians and when they are employed, they are paying taxes into Government's coffers. Therefore, I am not too concerned about who they are, or from which parish they would have come, I am concerned only about strangers coming in to carry out the duties in the Constituency where we live.

Sir, I would want the Honourable Member to give me a response, so that I could respond to my people. Sir, I am not the kind of individual who would go pointing out whether people are Barbados Labour Party or Democratic Labour Party supporters, but day after day I am seeing it happening in this country, where people are being singled

out and ostracised because of whom people assumed they would have voted for.

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House when the Honourable Member tries to indicate that it has not been the practice in Barbados to employ persons from various parishes or constituencies, or from other countries in the Caribbean, in depots around this country. I think that is a nonsense there and the Honourable Member should be made to withdraw those statements.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I speak for myself. I have made the point and will make a final comment, then I would take my seat. I did not interrupt the Honourable Member or anyone today, for when I wished to speak to the issue of the summer camps, I was told to sit, that the time for speaking to the summer camps had gone. Sir, nobody in here is going to shut me up when I have a point to make, one that concerns not only the people of St. Thomas but one that impacts on my own life.

Sir, I would wish to indicate that it does not matter to me which political persuasion the individuals who would be hired would be coming. I understand there may be 200 persons. Sir, as long as they are Barbadians who are given the opportunity to work and to earn some money to get their children back into school, to pay for their health care and to do the necessary things that working people do, I do not have a problem with that.

It minimises Government's expenditure. It gives people a sense of pride knowing that they would be gainfully employed in helping to build the country in which they live. It would also give them a sense of pride knowing that they are able to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Mr. Chairman, as long as those answers are given responses, I am sure the people of St. Thomas would be happy to know that five young men and women would get a chance for employment, to be able to help them buy their children's school clothes, their textbooks or pay their road tax, et cetera. Furthermore, that the people of St. Thomas would have better roads on which to drive or walk and that their properties, not only their houses but vehicles as well as their livestock, would be safer and not threatened.

Mr. Chairman, with those remarks, I wish to thank you.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of joining this debate, certainly not for the reasons

that have been identified by certain Opposition Members who have spoken. I believe one should be fair in one's assessment in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, at least for the first 45 minutes of her presentation, for taking the high road in speaking about these issues. I believe the Honourable Member tried her level best to be non-partisan and to speak to some very important issues as they related to the issue of drainage and flooding in Barbados. Therefore, I think the Honourable Member ought to be congratulated.

5.50 p.m.

Sir, towards the end, it deteriorated a little bit, when the Honourable Member said that on a daily basis she was aware of people being not being employed, as the case may be, based on their political persuasion. Sir, that part I found to be absolutely amazing.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I have paid the Honourable Member a compliment; she gave an excellent presentation, but I want to make the point to this Honourable House that those who come in here from the Barbados Labour Party with this washed in the blood of the Lamb attitude to give the impression that only now - I do not know that it is happening with this Administration - that people are getting jobs based on political persuasion, to give the impression to the people of Barbados, who are entirely not fooled by any of it, that we have used politicalisation in employment in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the thing which got me about this matter is that we have had Governments doing debushing programmes for years and I do not know why we have to occupy so much time in this Honourable House with this kind of thing. I do not want to call it foolishness but to occupy the time of the House in relation to debushing, because we have hired people to do debushing throughout the country.

Sir, it is true that some people debush, weed the road and leave the debris there. We used to have an old fellow with a donkey cart, who used to collect it and that fellow passed on. Sir, it used to seem to me to be more efficient with the donkey cart collecting the grass than it is now with all this fancy equipment. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy mentioned the \$10 million in brand new reconditioned equipment that people could not find or cannot account for but, Sir, it is a serious issue.

Mr. Chairman, I know the Honourable Member for St. George North has a bobcat. The Honourable Member

for St. Thomas said she does not know, but he does have one park right outside the office in St. George.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Are you saying it is not yours, that it belongs to the Depot? Sir, these are serious issues but it is not something that should detain our time.

Sir, we have an issue with drainage and only on Emancipation Day, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Trade and myself, when we were walking back to our cars, we walked over a drain, full to the brim with stuff, plastic bags, dirt and all kinds of debris right outside Bay Street. Sir, you could imagine with the kind of water coming into Bridgetown what you would have? Sir, I am sure that is not the only one but this one happened to catch our eyes because it was right in front of us.

Mr. Chairman, we have a serious issue and I think that the Minister deserves the support of this Honourable House for coming at this stage, and not just at this stage because we have identified it in the Estimates, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph made that point and we are building on that.

Sir, now that we have done thorough assessments, we have seen there is an additional need, and rather than say that it was in the Estimates, that it should be left until next year, which would be irresponsible, the Minister is taking the responsibility to come to the House, having now identified it.

Mr. Chairman, they seem not to want to admit the point that we came into office on January 15, 2008. We had to come here almost immediately with Estimates and, Therefore, in many instances, we had to be taking Estimates that were already, in large measure, prepared. Sir, you may make changes here and changes there on your programme that you are elected on, but it is only some months after your full assessment that you have now had to come back and if there is any responsibility for failure, in that particular regard, the Barbados Labour Party has to take a significant part of the blame.

Mr. Chairman, they should not come here to try to berate my Minister of International Transport who is trying his very best, in very difficult circumstances, to find resources to put at the disposal and use of the country and the various departments to ensure that we have dealt with these matters as expeditiously as possible, given the fact that the rainy season is relatively upon us. Sir, we have a responsibility as a government, and we are taking that responsibility seriously. Mr. Chairman, on the issue of unemployment, I have never heard any such thing.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas made the point that we have to adopt a welfare to work stance. Sir, that has to be the modern, social development policy of any advancing country. If the Minister, working in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Care, has identified an innovative way of getting some of those persons transitioned from welfare to work, is this something that we should come in here haranguing and harassing about?

Sir, it is unbelievable and sometimes I wonder whether we should not re-look the articles of faith of engagement of the public of Barbados about what we are doing as parliamentarians, and what we are about. Let us deal with these serious issues as expeditiously as possible and manage them properly.

Mr. Chairman, we have this Drainage Unit and if there is one thing that we complain about, they have complained about the Drainage Unit. Sir, I do not want to get down on the people in the Drainage Unit because some people do not have the resources. They do not have the equipment and it is difficult to manage a country like Barbados, particularly when you have a lot of dirty people in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I was driving behind a fellow a few days ago and he threw no fewer than three plastic bags through the window. Sir, they floated away and I said "Look at this foolishness for me." Sir, in fact, I remember a former Minister of Health, who is now the President of the Other Place, just before we demitted office was seriously considering bringing a Bill in Barbados to make it against the Law for people in the Transport Board buses and public service vehicles to be throwing things through the window like snow cone cups and that kind of thing.

We need to start looking at these things seriously because there are people in Barbados, who do not understand that their actions today will affect even them tomorrow. Sir, we have to look at it very seriously in terms of our legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to come down on the people in the Drainage Unit because we all admit that the Drainage Unit has had its challenges so let us work together in a bipartisan way to ensure that we address these issues. Sir, I want to see the day when we can have electronically recorded all of those persons that have persistent difficulty with drainage like Headley's Land. We have to seriously look at what we are doing at Headley's Land because it is clear that nobody around here is getting it right.

I cannot say that the last Government has not tried because they have tried. They have done all kinds of things; changed the canal at the Globe but from the time I was a boy running around in that area, Headley's Land has

been flooding. We have to sit down, get serious about it and get expertise, if we do not have it locally, to deal with that issue.

Mr. Chairman, just as I am going to say to the Honourable Minister because I am the Member of Parliament for St. Michael North West, it is my remit to speak and I am happy that the Minister of Housing is here because I am going to speak about another issue too besides drainage.

Sir, I have had some drainage problems in my Constituency. I am only six months in, but I know from my history with that Constituency that we have drainage problems that have been recurring, and that some of it can be solved. We have problems in Goodland and in Free Hill right in front where Inspector Reid lives. He already has that problem and I have photographs to show that the water goes right into his living room and we need to deal with this problem.

Mr. Chairman, part of it is that we allowed a lot of development around the watercourse by the Royal Bank of Canada. I understand that a number of wells were to be sunk there and that we do not have sufficient wells.

6.00 p.m.

I would like the Ministry, and I am asking the Honourable Minister to ensure that his people go up there and have a look.

Sir, there is some land, just to the East of it, which is owned by NHC. It is reserved land left over. There is a whole set of bush and I cannot get people to look at it. I have complained about it when I was not a Member of Parliament, and now I am a Member of Parliament I want it cleared, because that entire area is a watercourse to flow through and down Paradise and out into the sea, and we need to get it cleared.

Sir, by the Brighton Road that leads on to the Spring Garden Highway, by Workbench Furniture, just below the Farm, whenever it rains, you get flooding there all the time, and that needs to be dealt with. It is an area that leads into a major residential area. It leads on to a major highway but there are business interest there also.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes to wind up.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: The final point in relation to this is, I do not know if the Honourable Minister is aware - I believe I might have mentioned this to him. There are Ministry of Transport and Works trucks dumping stuff, from where, I do not know, out on the back part of the pasture down Spring Garden, on lands owned by the

National Housing Corporation, by the hard courts in Deacons. I am going to write a letter to the Ministry of Transport and Works.

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: I will speak to him personally, but as the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said, I am not blaming him for that, because he does not know anything about that. I am going to write a letter to them and I am saying publicly to stop dumping that stuff there. It is causing health problems for the residents of that area and I am not tolerating it. If they feel that I am the Minister of Foreign Affairs and I have to get on a plane, so I am going to forget, I am not going to forget, because I am going down there this weekend and I am going to deal with that matter.

I am very serious about it this indiscriminate dumping. I am speaking globally as the Government, not just a Member of the Cabinet, but globally as the Government of Barbados, not the Democratic Labour Party Administration.

The Government cannot approbate and reprobate. If we are going to tell people not to dump, we also have to accept the responsibility of not indiscriminately dumping in Barbados. I am going to be dealing with that because it has been brought to my attention. I saw it. I thought it was a one-off thing, but it has continued and it has to be dealt with.

I am sure that the Honourable Minister is going to give me his assurance that he is going to look into that matter as quickly as possible, because it is unacceptable, and I am not accepting that in my Constituency. Find somewhere else. Do not go to St. Thomas to confuse the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. Find the appropriate place where it is to be dumped and carry it there. I am going to protect her.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On that note the Honourable Member should wind up.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Sir, I just want to give the Honourable Member, congratulations for bringing this legislation at this time, and hope that he and his officials can get this programme on the way, as soon as possible, so that we can ensure we have a safe as possible hurricane season.

I am obliged to you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: I suppose that since the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Urban Development are partners in this effort, it would only be reasonable and fitting for me to join in this debate at this time.

Sir, sometimes you stand amazed when you hear how people reason their thoughts, and you ask yourself what really is the greater good of Government. Is it simply to pretend that it has a mandate and a cause, or is really to impact and effect significant and sustainable change, in the lives of citizens?

The programme, as conceived by the Ministry of Transport and Works, is simply seeking to do two things. I shall take my time in trying to outline them by adding to what the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works so ably put out and then buttressed by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs. I must also admit that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas made a very impassioned and authentic presentation on this particular Resolution before us.

Sir, I believe that is so, because the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, as well as the Honourable Members on This Side, understand the perils that so many citizens endure during the rainy season in this country. This is not a crash programme, and this is not a programme intended simply to put people to work. We are putting people to work with a purpose, and people to work in a way that would help to relieve the stresses that so many citizens endure.

Sir, the former Government promised that flooding would be a thing of the past during their time, and they had 14 years and they were unable to achieve it. All of a sudden, the Democratic Labour Party Government has decided to put a programme in place, which reflects a partnership between to Ministries, and we are being criticised.

Sir, a man judges another by his own standards. That man can only see through his own prism. We do not see governing that way. We see it as a mechanism, that is designed to perpetuate a kind of activity in a society that gives people the opportunity to enjoy the best possible quality of life.

I am not going to spend a lot of time going over the drainage issue. That has been catalogued already. Everywhere you go in this country, residents of the depressed communities, middle-class communities and super-class communities, are complaining about the bush in their area that has given rise to rats and all kinds of vermin in peoples communities, mosquitoes.

As a matter of fact, in my community a gentleman had to pay just over \$3 000 in a full-page advertisement, to bring attention to resolving a drainage problem in his community, a community called Clover Court, Chancery Lane. A citizen had to do that. When I went there to talk to the people, the people at the Drainage Unit complained about a lack of resources, at the time, to resolve the problem.

This Government is not simply about fanfare and smokescreens. This Government is about solving people's problems. That is at the heart of why we are in Government, and we are not going to be bamboozled by anybody's assessment of what should or should not be. We take our mandate from the people of Barbados, and we have an obligation to ensure that when we leave office, we leave this country a better place than we found it. That is our mandate.

Sir, we put a programme together. We are saying that we are addressing the issue of flooding. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas talked about a sustainable effort, and I agree with her. It is a sustainable programme. It is not for one year, two years or three years.

At the end of the first period we will assess the programme and once the programme is delivering, we will continue this programme, and if it is not, we will make adjustments wherever, and we will move ahead. That is the commitment of the Government. Therefore, we will not be restricted or constricted, by anything said by those who would want to suggest that we are unaware of where we are going.

We came into office prepared to govern. Our being here is not an accident of a flood.

6.10 p.m.

We have been elected by the people. We presented ourselves as prepared and ready to lead and we will do that, Mr. Chairman, because it is critically important that some of the niggling things that humbug people day in and day out, are righted in this society. It angers me that anyone could trivialise the approach of this Government.

Sir, let us talk about the welfare. Mr. Chairman, 2006-2007, the Government paid \$13 million in welfare benefits. Sir, 2007-2008, the Government paid \$13 900 million. To date, it is estimated that this year's allocation would be \$26 million. On the welfare role, by our statistics, there are 179 able-bodied persons.

Sir, an able-bodied person is a person who does not have a disability but because of hardships find themselves the recipient of State benefits. We intend to make sure that this number is reduced consistently, because we will not be

part of creating a culture of dependency in this society. We know that from time to time, people would find themselves in places where they need help. They need to be supported.

We understand that and it is not the position of this Government that we should just dump people from the safety net, but it is the position of this Government, as part of its social development programme, that wherever enablement can be introduced, and people can become empowered to live on their own, we are going to promote that kind of programme.

Therefore, we see this programme, Mr. Chairman, as an important bridging programme that could help people get across from the welfare role into a productive life. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas said something significant when she talked about the level of self pride that people feel when they can earn on their own.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Self-worth, a rise in people's self-esteem, a sense of self-determination. How could anyone, a policymaker in this country, make sport at a programme that is designed to give people an opportunity to raise themselves from that state of dependency through a programme such as this. Therefore, we believe that while an able-bodied person gets \$33 a week in benefits that this programme can accord them with a good functional salary.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: This is all we are trying to do. We want to say: "Look, we want to make our society a productive society." We want our people, wherever possible to have the opportunities. Everybody would not be doctors or Lawyers, but wherever they can be gainfully employed in this society, it is the duty of Government to ensure that the opportunities are created.

Mr. Chairman, what is wrong if, based on the proposed programme, we are able to save the Government in seven months, \$786 240? What is so untoward, based on the specifics of this programme, if in 12 months we can save this Government more than \$1 347 million?

Should we devalue the worth of our human capital in this society and keep them in a state of dependency, when they have all of the powers to be able to earn their way? No. We must elevate people's hope in those societies and this programme is intended to be rolled out, not only to affect change in the environment, but to effect positive change in the lives of those persons who are waiting for that change.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: I am sure that all of my colleagues here, perhaps, on Both Sides of this aisle, as we sit in our offices - I sit at least two a week - and I listen to people, some of whom are on the same welfare role, but they cannot make it. All they say is that they just need a job. I ask: "What are you looking for really?" I am told: "Anything that earns me my way, I am looking for."

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: We have a breakdown of where these 179 people are, Sir, and I can tell you this. They are in St. Michael North, St. George, St. Andrew - 12 persons, St. Thomas - 21 persons; St. Lucy, Christ Church, St. John, St. Michael West and all over the place. They are scattered throughout this country.

I am saying that we may not be able to get 179 able-bodied persons off welfare in the first year of this programme, but it is our intention to continue to work the programme until we are able to achieve that piece of social development.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Sir, for a long time we talked about social transformation. Sir, for some people social transformation was simply about giving people things. Our view of social transformation is where the real/real lives in real/real times are affected significantly by social policy initiatives that allow us to engage in sustainable programme development that enrich people's lives, because there is a vicious cycle of dependency in this society that has to be broken. There are generations of persons who have been locked into that dependency syndrome that we have to stop.

Therefore, while on the one hand we are seeking to clear our drains, remove bush and make our societies more beautifully physically, Mr. Chairman, perhaps most important. We are trying to beautify the lives of those persons who deserve an opportunity to be the masters of their own destiny.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two more minutes.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Thank you, Sir.

I am confident that the Minister and Honourable Member for Christ Church South and his entire team will work hand in hand to ensure that this programme nets us, not only the environmental impact we are searching for but, also, that critical social developmental impact on our people.

Sir, there is the notion of people being selected because of political persuasion and that sort of thing. This is the bottom-line. This is one Barbados, and we have an obligation to represent the people of Barbados. I make this point all the time, and this is my personal view that as long as people do not seek to obstruct the Government's ability to deliver the mandate to the people, they should always be a part of the Government's programme. Sir, it is as simple as that.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Therefore, I am grateful to be part of this programme through our Ministry. I am sure that the Minister of State and I will work closely with the Ministry of Public Works, to ensure that this programme works, and we will keep the public informed as to the impact of this programme.

I do believe that not only will we beautify our neighbourhoods, and clean our streets but, most importantly, we will beautify the lives of those persons who sometimes are left to think that they must be beggars in our society and no such thing will happen under this Government.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you so much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: I rise to support this Resolution because of the fact that I believe it would make a significant contribution to resolving some of the difficult drainage issues that we are facing in communities. Most especially, Sir, I want to refer to the community of St. Michael West Central.

Sir, persons might not be aware but there is a water course that runs through that particular area in St. Stephen's that has caused tremendous problems from time to time to residents living there. Sir, not only that. If we go out in the area of Marshall Parkinson Road in the community, there is another area down there in which the existing drainage is in serious need of repair.

6.20 p.m.

As a matter of fact, it is causing the road out there that was built not too long ago to actually break apart. The current channel is in need of repairs. Sir, when I see the efforts on the part of the Government to address some of these basic issues in the community, I think we all have to support it.

Sir, what is also important is that you have people within the community who, to my mind, feel powerless in

order to address that particular situation. I would agree, Sir, with the Minister of Transport, Works and International Transport that we need also to find means of empowering people in the community to actually take action that would help to resolve the very difficult issues that they face.

Sir, if in a sense, within the communities around Barbados we could take those individuals who are experiencing a sense of powerlessness in their lives, who basically then have to rely on welfare in order to live, and make them part of the solution to resolving some of these difficult circumstances, I think that the Government has to be given a hand in that because what you are doing is empowering people.

Sir, I also want to bring the Government's attention to something that they also need to address while carrying out the programme. I refer to the whole scourge of the Giant African Snail which has been afflicting urban communities. Sir, in the same area of St. Stephen's and also in some of these areas in St. Michael West Central, we have the scourge of the Giant African Snails which have been causing havoc in these areas.

Sir, in terms of the movement of earth from these areas, I think it might be wise for the Ministry, in terms of carrying out the programme, to ensure that any debris or material that is removed from these areas be treated before being transported. Sir, one of the things that we have noticed is that when debris is moved from one part of Barbados into another section of Barbados that previously did not have the snails, it has now become susceptible to the snails.

Sir, I really believe that it is time that we start to put in place some kind of restrictions and some kind of procedures for the movement of soil around Barbados if we are to effectively tackle the problem of the Giant African Snail. Sir, it is not wishful thinking that the Giant African Snail can be eliminated from Barbados. Sir, it was found in parts of the State of Florida and through an effective programme, it was eliminated.

Sir, I really believe that maybe we might need to draw into use the resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development who already have a snails programme to be part of the effort in these communities to try to address the whole question of how do we move the stuff that is actually taken up and carried to another area. Sir, we need to treat the area properly.

Sir, on the whole issue of debushing, in the Constituency of St. Michael West Central, there are areas where residents live in fear because there is bush coming so close to their homes. Sir, it is alarming because, under the last Administration, we have seen some bush growing up in some urban districts, and you have to ask yourself, what

has the Government been doing all along in addressing this problem?

Sir, you have a situation in some parts where the bush actually comes right up to the palings and you have situations where robberies occur in some areas. As a matter of fact, last year we had a situation where robberies were occurring and some young ladies were being assaulted in St. Michael West Central.

Mr. Chairman, when you sit and listen to the contribution of some Honourable Members of the House, I am sure even from the Other Side... They have to support a measure on the part of this Government that seeks to do two things;

1. To address the existing urban decay that we are seeing in some parts of urban St. Michael; and

Sir, I want to support it wholeheartedly.

2. To address the issue of jobs.

Sir, we seem to have become comfortable in this country to encourage people to stay on welfare. Sir, I really believe that this programme in itself offers a person an opportunity to move off welfare.

Sir, let us not cloud our thinking by what happened in the past. Sir, we know it was part of the practice of the previous Government to drive people into that dependency syndrome. That is why you would find today that people in communities cannot take concerted action to address the difficulties they face.

Sir, before, we had communities that took responsibility for what was around them and would try to address issues before running to the Government. Today, we have a situation where people sit and wait until the Government comes to them to do things.

Sir, through the use of this programme, we are going to address critical issues that we face in communities to transform the lives of those persons who, first of all, find it difficult to get jobs and who have a lack of self-worth, as was pointed out.

Sir, with those few words, I support the Resolution. I am sure that the objectives as outlined by the Minister of Transport, Works and International Transport would be achieved under a programme such as this.

I thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable member for St. George North.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I rise in this debate to make a very small contribution as far as this situation is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, when the Minister introduced this Head today, he made the point that it was a simple Resolution and that he did not see any contentious issues in this thing. Mr. Chairman, the way in which it was presented by the Honourable Minister is what has caused the problem. There was too much ado about nothing.

Mr. Chairman, I have noticed a way in which some of the Government Ministers present their case in this House. There are too much ad hoc, ad hominem attacks on Honourable Members of this House.

Mr. Chairman, I think that the Officers of this House must stop Honourable Members of this House when there are too much ad hoc, ad hominem attacks. For example, the Honourable Member for St. Peter is being bombarded for everything that is done. If a rat is found in the City, he is attacked. If an Honourable Member is not in the Chair, he is attacked for this. Why should the Honourable Member for St. Peter come in here to listen to this type of debate anyway?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope the Honourable Member is not reflecting on the Chair. As it relates to the conduct of business.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I am not reflecting on the Chair, I am saying I am seeing too much ad hoc, ad hominem attacks. For example, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East spoke just now. I listened carefully to his debate. His presentation was one that we could follow. It was not an attack on Honourable Members.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East made the point, which we agree to, that we need to have a system in this country where there is work, welfare to work, so that those persons who are on welfare can be removed from the list. This is a good point.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot have a situation where there always appear to be partisan divide, based on a simple drainage matter. We have always had drainage matters in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I want to give Honourable Members a scenario. Two weeks ago I left this country to go to London for my son's graduation and just before I left I cut my Lawn and when I came back the Lawn was full of grass again.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central made the point that flooding occurred two or three weeks ago, and it would always happen. You would always

have flooding in this country. You would not be able to totally alleviate flooding anywhere. You cut the grass today and by the next three weeks, it grows up again. That is why you have the Drainage Unit.

A full Drainage Unit, with drainage studies, hydrologists, engineers and senior technicians was conceptualised in this country in 1996 at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at what they have done over the years. Sir, the truth must be told that since 1966 the Drainage Unit has literally stopped or brought flooding to be almost non-existent in Speightstown, which used to flood all the time, as well as in Gill's Road.

6.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, in Goodland, Christ Church, where the Minister now represents, we have dug almost 30 wells. We started Phase One at Headley's Land, with Phase Two about to be started. Mr. Chairman, we have to understand there will always be drainage problems in this country.

Mr. Chairman, we have a Drainage Unit that is already staffed, but I see nothing wrong in acquiring more staff or more equipment. Sir, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy made the point, a number of years ago we came to this Honourable House with a Supplementary to buy \$10 million worth of equipment. Sir, if you would look at the Ministry of Transport and Works, you would see that half of that equipment bought for the Ministry of Health and for other Ministries, is still lying idle.

Mr. Chairman, I believe Government must find a way to encourage the private sector. Sir, it is not always possible for Government to take control of everything. Therefore, I am saying there are private concessionaires who have bobcats and trucks who could be employed.

Mr. Chairman, a number of weeks ago, we talked about the guy with the donkey cart - and I was told by an Honourable Member that in those days they used to employ the donkey itself and not the driver or the cart.

Sir, in those days there were persons taking up garbage from along the wayside. This was a very effective way of having this waste removed. Sir, the question must be asked, how do we encourage this type of entrepreneurship in this country? Are we encouraging it, or are we saying that Government could do everything?

Mr. Chairman, I support the fact that Government must have an effective Drainage Unit, because we all know that flooding occurs all across Barbados. Therefore, we could have a Drainage Unit, with any number of persons being employed, and there is no supervision nor proper

drainage programme, there would still be problems. Sir, nobody could prevent an emergency from occurring and therefore flooding happens all over the world.

Mr. Chairman, two years ago, we were able to change all the pumps that were in the pump house since 1958, yet I am hearing we have not done anything. Sir, every year, I would think for the last 30 years on an average, we have been spending more than \$5 or \$6 million in order to alleviate the problem of drainage.

Sir, persons must understand that when one looks at Porey's Spring, at the Holetown Lagoon, at those areas in the western steps of St. James and St. Thomas, that we have spent large sums of money to alleviate flooding. We have opened up culverts or have built dams. Sir, we have done a number of other measures within that St. James/St. Thomas area, in order to alleviate flooding in Holetown.

Mr. Chairman, the private sector has also helped. We have worked with the Limegrove Development and are happy to report that today we have larger culverts in that area of Holetown. Sir, I took a team from the Ministry of Public Works to Washington where we looked at a system called "a wider calf mouth" where the drainage system could now accommodate more water. Sir, this system now exists across Barbados. Sir, there was once flooding in the Pine, by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, by the Bussa Statue, across Highway 7, along Maxwell.

Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central would tell you, that a number of years ago, nobody could have passed Highway 7 because the rain water could not run off into the sea. Highway 7 used to be flooded like a canal, with banks on both sides. Mr. Chairman, regardless of whatever we did, that Highway used to flood. For example, we would have done work today and by next week we would have had to do it all over again.

Sir, all Governments have spent money on drainage. From the time there was a government in this country, that Government would have spent money on drainage problems. Sir, every Government has a programme which it thinks is unique, but then another Government would come to office and say that previous Government would have done nothing. It is not that the previous Government would not have done anything, it would have done a number of things at the time it was the Government.

Mr. Chairman, by saying that, if ever there were an epidemic tonight, this present Government would have to deal with it and the Opposition would stand ready to support those measures. Sir, we stand ready to support this programme called NEEP. Sir, the problem is, would this programme be extended to those able-bodied guys on the "blocks" who also needs assistance?

Sir, I think the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has explained the programme where he is bringing 179 able-bodied persons from the welfare system, who now only get \$33 per week, to help in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, I believe too there must be a role for the private sector. I have not heard the Minister of Transport, Works and International Transport, nor the Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Urban Development, speaking about the educational aspect of this programme they are trying to introduce. Sir, people must be made to understand what they are doing. Therefore, there must be an educational programme, in order to allow people of the country to buy into it.

Sir, Government cannot do everything, Government must encourage persons in the communities across Barbados to assist in this programme. At this time, we are entering into the hurricane season, from May to November. Therefore, Government must continue to clean the drainage. If the drains are clean today, it does not mean that they should not be cleaned for the next two weeks. There must be a sustainable educational programme, in order to get this working.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen the problems that could occur as a result of flooding. We have seen what happened in Weston, St. James. We have seen the problem with soil slippage in the St. Andrew/St. Joseph areas. Sir, a lot of money has been spent, in order to eliminate some of these problems. Sir, we will continue to do it.

Mr. Chairman, all we are saying is that Government needs to explain what it is doing. Sir, the Opposition stands ready to support them. We do not think that the ad hominem approach is the right approach to be used. We are willing to support them, but I think when Honourable Members are attacked, then difficulties would arise as a consequence of those attacks.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for the City.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Supplementary before this Honourable House and to say at the outset that I am a little shocked to hear the Honourable Member for St. George North, in his presentation, to say on at least two occasions there would always be flooding in our country. Mr. Chairman, I think this is a fundamental philosophical divide between the approaches of the two Parties. Sir, here is it, we have the immediate past Minister of Public Works, within whose responsibility the Drainage Unit would have lied. Sir, the Honourable Member is openly giving up...

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. Sir, I have made the point that in any country, from time to time, there is going to be flooding and that regardless of whatever one does, one cannot eradicate flooding totally from any country.

6.40 p.m.

Sir, regardless of whatever you do, you have a good programme. You must do things which we have done and every Government, since you have had a government in this country has spent money to prevent matters, but you will not totally eradicate flooding in any country.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I went to Lodge School in St. John and our motto is "They can because they think they can" and Sir, I am saying that this should be the approach of a responsible government to have the mindset that, yes, it can eradicate flooding within our country. Sir, this is what the people of Barbados have elected a government for; to govern and solve these issues.

Mr. Chairman, I am the Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown and no wonder, Sir, we have had to suffer for 14 years under the Barbados Labour Party with serious flooding threatening the lives of residents in areas such as Murphy's Pasture, Reid Street and Mason Hall Street. There is such flooding in Emmerton and O'Neal's Land that we would have to borrow a dingy from the yacht of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph to rescue old people from their homes on Murphy's and Emmerton.

Sir, these are serious issues. It is no frivolous matter because we are talking about the safety of citizens in our country and this is why I am saying that it is a serious indictment on the last regime to talk about there will always be flooding in this country. Sir, that is not the perspective of this Government and certainly, this Representative of the City of Barbados.

There are serious flooding issues in Bridgetown as, indeed, throughout coastal Barbados, which is very low lying. I am saying that the last Government stands condemned for this laissez-faire approach where they actually did not believe they could solve those problems of drainage down there. Therefore, I congratulate this Government for taking this bold initiative to seriously address these issues.

Mr. Chairman, over the years, I have been complaining and liaising with the Drainage Unit and, as Honourable Members on This Side have mentioned, they have openly admitted to a lack of resources, human, technical and mechanical resources provided by the last Government, so I know they would welcome this

interjection of personnel and equipment to help them address seriously these important issues of drainage.

Mr. Chairman, just to elucidate further. Sir, questions were asked about the number of people to be employed and, as I understand it, and as the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, persons would be deployed in each of the 13 Depots of the Ministry of International Transport and Works throughout the country.

Sir, in each team deployed to each depot, you would have 10 general workers, two supervisors, one bobcat driver and one truck driver; 14 persons in each Depot multiplied by 13 gives you 182 persons to be employed in this programme for seven continuous months from September 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Sir, as we have said, this would be sustainable and that this is not a one-off situation.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East mentioned that people judge others by their standards. So what is the track record of the Barbados Labour Party Government? I know very well in the City that we had this anomaly where a ratified candidate of the Barbados Labour Party, who is not in this House of Assembly or in the Other Place but just a candidate was given access to millions of taxpayers money, where he could hire and fire as he liked and there was no oversight by Parliament in that regard.

Sir, no wonder the Honourable Members on the Other Side are nervous and wondering who would be employed and how they would be employed but, Sir, they do not have to judge us by their standards because we have transparency, and these persons to be employed would have to be under the purview of the Ministry of the Civil Service, where temporary posts would be created officially in the normal way of doing business. Mr. Chairman, the Democratic Labour Party Government is returning high standards of accountability and good governance to this country, and gone are the days of giving largesse.

Mr. Chairman, we had debushing in preparation for World Cup, where carrying members of the Barbados Labour Party City Branch were prominent supervisors, contractors and so forth in that programme, excluding other citizens in that country from those job opportunities but, Sir, we will not be going along that line because that is 'pork barrel' politics.

Mr. Chairman, as other Honourable Members on This Side have mentioned, this is consistent with our seamless approach to governance, where we are looking to empower people to be self-sufficient and independent. Sir, the Barbados Labour Party is the conservative party. They are about giving out largesse and creating a mendicant society, where people have to line up and go back to the

days of the Mayor of Bridgetown, when people had to line up for 0.25 cents handouts at the Old Town Hall, that Mottley situation, and you had to line up to get soup and stuff in the Park.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party has never had that approach. You have had access to fully taxpayers, fully funded education from primary to tertiary level to teach a man to fish rather than just giving him a fish, where he would be dependent perpetually on those handouts of the State.

Therefore, you remember the Honourable Member for St. John, the Minister of Finance, in his Budgetary presentation on Monday, July 7, mentioned that when we have increased the welfare grants to those persons who need welfare, in the category of able-bodied adults, he made the point that the increase would have been marginal from \$28 a week to \$33 to make sure that able-bodied adults would not become dependant on State resources and, therefore, discourage them from meaningful employment and, Sir, our proposals, this evening, are consistent with those Budgetary Proposals.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard about the Welfare-to-Work Programme that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said their Government introduced but this Government came into office and we found a welfare-to-work programme, which was woefully inadequate with one officer in the Welfare Department volunteering her services, and without the necessary emoluments, with her full case load of normal welfare recipients to see and, due to her love and dedication for this job, she was able to drive that programme but she needs help and,

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party Government will help her and the Welfare Department to have a holistic welfare-to-work programme, which would involve extensive training of these persons so that they move from dependency to independence.

Mr. Chairman, we are not just about talk. We are about very tangible solutions to these problems. Sir, you and I know that many of our constituents present themselves to us and although they may be in a position where they may definitely need some welfare assistance, they are very reluctant to go to the Welfare Department because Barbadians are proud people.

I know that those people out there do not genuinely want to be dependent perpetually on the State for welfare assistance. They want work. They want gainful employment, or an opportunity to develop an entrepreneurship programme where they can earn a decent living through legitimate means, so it is the responsibility of the State and the country, as a whole, to provide the environment, which would facilitate such development of

these persons' ability to fend for themselves and their families. Mr. Chairman, again I congratulate the Government for this wonderful initiative, bringing together two Ministries of the Government to work hand in hand to uplift the vulnerable people within our community.

Mr. Chairman, let me say in terms of the debushing programme, as exists within this programme that we are addressing the issue of clearing the drainage wells of debris and bush that can seriously cause flooding during this hurricane season.

I would encourage the Ministry of International Transport and Works to address the problems we have inherited where the integrity of many of the sidewalks has been compromised due to lack of proper maintenance and repair in terms of providing the necessary concrete and mortar in the holes and cracks that develop throughout the various streets that would give rise to the growth of bush and debris that would block the free passage of runoff water during heavy rain.

Mr. Chairman, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West mentioned, I join with him to encourage members of the public to desist from littering.

6.50 p.m.

It is not just working-class people who may take public transport. You have people in their expensive cars, in the Heights and Terraces, who in the dead of the night take their garbage along the streets or in the gullies of our country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two more minutes.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: I am urging those persons to be responsible, and have a conscience because that flooding could have an effect on life and limb throughout various communities in our country.

Mr. Chairman, I am very happy with this exciting programme. It really lifts us all up that this Government, within seven months, could come with such creative ingenuity to put nearly 200 people to work in the short-term. I encourage each and every Barbadian who is interested in this programme, and let your Representative know that you are interested, because the Democratic Labour Party Government cares about you, the poor people of Barbados who have been neglected for 14 years of the conservative Barbados Labour Party Government.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Sir, I rise to speak again on the matter, and more particularly on drainage. The Honourable Members on the Other Side want us to believe that it is an ambitious programme of some kind. The fact of the matter is, it pays no attention to the situation.

We would be fooling ourselves if we felt, or the Honourable Minister would be fooling himself if he genuinely felt that the challenges in relation to the drainage in the Scotland District could be remedied by what would be the equivalent of a mess of pottage, a bobcat, a truck and whatever else he is throwing their way. Sir, drainage in the Scotland District is of such serious importance that the Administration that I was a part of, committed \$35 million to ensuring that the Scotland District would not slip away almost into the sea.

Sir, we had situations where parts of Chapman Village have been lost, where Park's Road is constantly under threat, Richmond is constantly under threat, the Flower Forest - the entire area of the Scotland District that is made up of what is called the Joes River mud is in a precarious state. What is required is not this kind of solution. This Administration is presenting a \$3 million option for all of Barbados, when we felt it required a \$35 million solution for the Scotland District alone.

We are not going to be able to clear a few drains that may work for one or two places in the Scotland District, Chimborazo or one or two areas where the slope begins to head back west. The vast amount of my Constituency, and a significant amount of the Honourable Member's for St. Thomas, St. Andrew's Constituencies, as well as some parts of St. John, St. Lucy and St. Peter, are areas that require a significant amount of retention work through gabions and other solutions.

Therefore, I want to say that this proposal can only resonate in the hearts and minds of the people in my Constituency if they could see a meaningful injection into the equipment and materials that are provided to the Depots, so that they can put in the necessary gabions to ensure...

Mr. J.D. PAUL: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is seeking to mislead the House. Sir, I really do not think the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would seriously suggest that what is being proposed in this programme can meet the special needs of St. Joseph, or the Scotland District, as he correctly pointed out. There must be a special programme to address the needs of St. Joseph which cannot be addressed by this programme. We need to be fair in this particular instance.

Thank you.

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, there is, in fact, no special programme for the Scotland District in the Estimates, which were just passed by this Parliament. All I am pointing out to the Honourable Minister, whether he wishes to accept it or not is, this little solution that he is proffering to the people of Barbados, with all kinds of creativity and all kinds of add-on and spill-off benefits, will be of no help to the people of the Scotland District, because it does not stand a chance of meaningfully addressing the precarious state of much of the Scotland District, because of the drainage issues. It is as simple as that.

If the Honourable Member does not wish to take it on board, he does not have to, but I refer to the Estimates for the Scotland District. On Page 229, you can look at it and see what is on it. Let me tell you what is on Page 229 - "\$2.827 million for the Scotland District", and the Honourable Member wants to say this is a special programme in there. The whole of this Supplementary is more than the entire vote for the Scotland District programme for the year.

Sir, I will end on that point.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, it is truly amazing that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would want to seek to introduce in this debate, an element that surely was not there. We all understand the special peculiarities of the Scotland District. Therefore, we would know that it would take a lot more, and it has taken a lot more over time than what is proposed here. This has been stated by all of the Honourable Members on This Side who have spoken thus far, that this special programme is so designed - I am pleased.

I know that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is not a trained sociologist. He is not a trained social worker. He is an engineer by training but, somehow, his talent has come to the fore, and he has linked serious social engineering with beautification and the enhancement of Barbados. This is the kind of thing that makes sense in any society.

Sir, do not let us go and magnify the thing beyond what it is set out to achieve. to score cheap political points by persons who are essentially losers, because they have no conception of the kind of reality that exists in Barbados. These are persons who floundered for 14 years without any sensible solutions to the problems of Barbados.

Now that persons, politicians, Ministers and Members of Parliament on This Side link into a sensible civil service to bring these kinds of realities to Barbados, there we have the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, with

his kerchief in his hands, suspenders pulling off his chest, crying like some little lamb. It is unfortunate.

One would expect persons like the Honourable Member for St. Joseph who rides the West Coast in his dingy, rides his horses or mules, maybe, or what he has across the various landscapes of Barbados, would seek to understand that what we are doing here, today, is but a step in trying to transform that social aspect of Barbados.

Sir, we have been going well all day. I saw from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas speaking on this matter.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: No. I was transfixed in her elucidation of the issues affecting the Constituency she represents. We are being kind today. We are not being kind to you.

7.00 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: We are not being kind to you, wolves in sheep clothing.

Anyhow, she pointed to those issues which impacted on her Constituency. She had only one major concern in that a programme like this was not a pork barrel issue, and as can be seen, this is not a pork barrel issue.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: The \$900 million wasted in Barbados was a pork barrel issue, not the \$5 million that we are here talking about, \$3 million of which is equipping those Depots.

The Honourable Member for St. George North spoke before to all of us about the lack of equipment. The Honourable Minister has gone a step further, and used the opportunity to bring some of the equipment to the Depots.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Therefore, above and beyond the issue of bringing those persons to work, the Honourable Minister has said that we will put some equipment, so that you could also carry on other work beyond this programme. Sir, there will be more equipment. Equipment does not last forever, so one has to replenish the stock from time to time. Sir, \$300 million of this will be to replenish that stock.

I am sure that as time progresses, more and more equipment will be placed at those depots to do the work that they must do, to help with the drainage issues. There are drainage issues in Christ Church East Central too. I have taken persons, in the last Government and of this Government, throughout the Constituency of Christ Church East Central and pointed out the areas that flood. Sir, in Wotton which has been historically flooded, there has been work of repair and it does not flood as bad as it used to, but I need it completely corrected.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: It can be done. Stanford in Lodge Road and one or two parts of Kingsland are areas that flood, maybe not as bad as some of the other areas of Barbados, but when places flood and stagnant pools of water occur, health issues arise. It is our job and our responsibility, on behalf of ourselves and the people of Barbados, to ensure that there is an elimination of these kinds of issues which confront our people.

Therefore, do not let us, as some people would say, dog dance, on these things. They do not make any sense in the reality of Barbados in 2008. Let us fight politically every five years, which is the nature of the dynamics of politics. When it comes to governance and dealing with the issues of people, we have to put away our red rags. The red rags are no longer important in this reality. Let us go for more dulcet tones of blue and gold.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: This is what we have to go for and put away the red rags and focus.

The people of Barbados truly understand, beyond our own conception of how they should. We want to force things down into their minds, but they understand, analyse, synthesize and decipher. They say that you know something, as they are saying now having listened to this debate, that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South are on a good thing and many of them are saying that they want to be a part of it.

Sir, even though the programme is structured to deal with many of those persons on the welfare list, which is an important instrument of social upliftment, of giving a man the ability to earn his dollar by the sweat of his brow, there are other persons - and I want to make this point - in our constituencies who are not on the welfare list because of simple mere pride. They simply survive off the gifts of their families. They too, must be considered.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I am not saying that in Christ Church East Central I want 35, because that level of greed has never been manifested. Sir, one or two are enough to help those persons while we also deal on that very rigid welfare suggestion.

Sir, there are other things that we go about doing in our Constituencies to make the lives better. This is our task, not necessarily sitting down in here and just passing Laws, and sounding pretty and pulling out ties, and suspenders, and hitting on to our chests and then walking like we are something special.

This is not what we are here for. It is not about us at all. We go as servants to the people of Barbados and, therefore, that is why, "Mr. Minister of Public Works" and "Mr. Minister of Social Care", I want to compliment you all. When I saw this, I said there is great thought attached to this kind of thing.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South is the principal harbinger of this particular idea - I used the word "harbinger", Sir, if you understand it, because I do not like this word, "architect" - and of this kind of programme, and should be complimented.

Sir, I know the Honourable Member has not made the call, but some years ago we had the private sector involved - I do not know what it is called - in a van and a truck in helping to remove some of the debris, as persons littered, from across our beautiful landscape. They too, can add to this programme, by their contributions. The more beautiful Barbados is, the better for all of us. We must remove the litter from our streets, because of carelessness.

Sir, it is almost like a cultural norm now that we must litter, because somebody must clean behind us. This is a deeply imbedded cultural norm that needs to change. We need to really go into the separation of our garbage, in our paper, plastics, and whatever else we have.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: There are opportunities. Let us continue the clean-up. We started with those who wasted \$900 million in this country. We cleaned them up.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Therefore, now we go into the wider Barbadian environment, where there are bush and shrubs that are dangerous to life because of issues of security. We go into the cleaning of our drains, so that water can reach into our aquifers in the kinds of ways and manners that they should. Sir, all of these are things that we are doing throughout Barbados and the clean-up continues.

Sir, we invite Barbados, the private sector and the citizens to be part of this process.

Sir, it is just a simple appeal, so do not let us grandstand. Do not let those of us who are grained beyond our own senses - we are grained all around our edges - believe that somehow by getting into this Parliament and talking about the Scotland District, and that money is not enough for the Scotland District and things like that, as though they are somehow the greatest persons, maybe the architects of everything that surround us and pulling names. Anybody can pull names to make people feel they know anything about the communities in which people live.

Therefore, you can pull a name like Cattlewash and you do not understand the history of the pain and suffering of the people of Cattlewash. Sir, you never will, because that is not the origin of the individual; that is not the genealogy of the individual; that is not the individual who looks down his nose at the working class people of Barbados that are found scattered across the length and breadth of this country.

Sir, the hypocrisies must be removed. There is no connection, but pretense. This is what connects and people see through it, the shadows, the mirage and that is why you have not stopped it. I am really saddened that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would want to posture in this House today. Shame! Shame!

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, we are not going to detain the Honourable House much longer with this debate. I think that it is not often that persons speak twice in Committee like this, but the Honourable Member for St. Joseph had no choice because his first intervention was so horrific in his own estimation that he had to come back and try to make a kind of cultured presentation, and try to seek some sort of political redemption.

Sir, he normally speaks with, probably a chapter of the Laws of Barbados in one hand and the appropriate Bill that we are dealing with in the other hand. I believe he should find a place for a conscience detector to place somewhere in his environs and it would beep when he is speaking against his own conscience, and he would change his directions and come back to the path of sensible contributions.

7.10 p.m.

His own members spoke to his contribution and indicated how horrified they were by it.

Mr. Chairman, no one on This Side spoke about replacing any Drainage Unit. No one on This Side spoke of doing the work of the Scotland District. We never spoke of those things.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas was commended. Sir, although she does not take praises too kindly from us on This Side, I want to join with those Honourable Members who commended her. She demonstrated an acute knowledge of her Constituency. However, she went a little bit off target when she indicated she was not sure she was going to be appreciative of persons from other Constituencies working in her area, but I know that may have been a moment of indiscretion which she now also regrets.

Mr. Chairman, we are going to look after all the constituencies of Barbados in this programme. Mr. Chairman, even as the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown outlined the workforce, I was speaking to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and we talked about the supervisors, and even as we sit and contemplate unfolding this programme, we talked about opportunities for those who may not be totally able-bodied to supervise projects like this and record essential data to be provided, and to be used in decision-making in the future.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East just spoke about the opportunity to make equipment available to the Depots because, in truth and in fact, the work that this Unit is going to do is not necessarily going to occupy the equipment for the entire day, and so the Depots can look forward to be augmented by one bobcat, one dump truck and one trailer to the tune of \$3 million.

That disturbs the Honourable Member for St. George North because he cannot account for \$10 million of equipment. He believes that it has been taken away, that is what he said, from the Depots and he does not know where it is, and he was in charge.

Mr. Chairman, he figures that maybe the \$3 million is nothing at all to take away, so they are going to disappear too, but he is not in charge. Sir, we are going to guard our equipment at these Depots carefully and we are going to make sure they are available during their life time for the useful application of this programme.

Mr. Chairman, indeed, we talked about some useless equipment at the Depots. I have already given instructions that this derelict equipment should be boarded. The procedures which are normally followed in disposing of Government assets will be followed, and the Depots and,

indeed, the workshop at the Ministry of Transport, Works and International Transport would be clear.

Mr. Chairman, the workshop has been so mandated to provide a timely repair of equipment that I know from reports coming to this office that equipment has been much more available to Depots over the tenure of this Democratic Labour Party Administration than has been the case in the recent past under the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Chairman, we have no problem about this programme. As we have said from these Benches in Opposition, social transformation must not be seen as a ministry alone, social transformation must be a philosophy. Mr. Chairman, we must give the Honourable Member for St. Lucy credit because he has always made that point.

Mr. Chairman, we think that there would be opportunities for other ministries to take this kind of approach to their problem-solving and to include those on the fringes of society most in need of them.

Sir, what we are faced with now is the challenge of putting this programme to work effectively in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, let me use the times that we are in. The Beijing Olympics were officially opened this morning, and I would like to adopt the slogan for our meek programme "Going for Gold in Drainage Enhancement in Barbados". That is what I commit to this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 19 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division

HEAD 57

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WORKS AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT \$2 630 586

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, we essentially dealt with this Head in the debate, and therefore I also beg to move that Head 57 stand part.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 57 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE seconded by Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, 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. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. R. D. JONES, the Money Resolution was read a first, second and third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to move the adjournment of the House. As I do so, I want as usual to thank all those persons who would have contributed to our work over the several months that we have been in here, the Clerk, the Deputy Clerks, all those persons who are connected on the Other Side, some of whom we do not see because they are busy involved in the work of the Parliament, involved in ensuring that our comfort is secured and involved in ensuring that whatever we need, that we can be satisfied with what they produced.

I want to thank those persons who operate whatever electronic equipment that is present within this Parliament, those persons from the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, the radio stations across Barbados and the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force who must stay here with us to ensure that our security is ensured.

I also want to thank the Marshal of Parliament and his Deputy who I believe during the course of a day might travel many miles as they go about their work on our behalf.

I also want to express our sincere thanks to all of those persons who work with us to ensure that our task in this Parliament is a lot easier than it otherwise would have been, or could have been.

With those words, I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, October 07, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: I beg to second that.

7.20 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Opposition wishes to lend its support to the comments of the Leader of Government Business. Sir, the Staff of Parliament are the unsung heroes and without them we could not get any of our business done. We also have to thank the public who tune into these debates as often as we meet, who participate from their own homes, or from their vehicles as they go about their business. I believe this continues to be important for the public life of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition and the other Members of the Opposition, we wish all Members of Government an enjoyable holiday. I do not know if it would be restful but we all, both Staff and Parliamentarians, look forward to be coming back

refreshed in October for a renewed Sitting of this Honourable Chamber. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I want to thank Honourable Members of this Chamber. I think the level of debate today is the type of debate that the very young children in the society would be proud of because the standard today was extremely high. Therefore, I would want to see that standard continued throughout this Honourable House. The young people are listening and they comment on our behaviour. Therefore, I want to let today be the shining light as to the standard we expect to see in this Honourable House.

I want to thank you all for the support you have given to the Speaker, who is out of the jurisdiction, and to the Deputy Speaker. I would wish the Speaker, the Clerk, and the other Honourable Members of the Opposition, a safe return to Barbados.

I also want to wish you all goodly persons, ladies and gentlemen, a Happy Holiday. I hope when we all come back that we would come back to do the work of the business of the people of Barbados, who have worked so hard to place us here. I want you all to enjoy your holiday.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable House be now adjourned until Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House be now adjourned until Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.22 p.m.

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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. Committee of Supply, Order No. 6, Ministry of Tourism. The Head is introduced as ‘HEAD 55 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM \$10 000 000’, but the question put at the end of the debate is ‘that Head 25 stand part’. Printed as in the source.

Q2. Committee of Supply, Order No. 6, Head 19. The question on Head 19 is not recorded at the end of the morning debate; the Head is later taken as ‘HEAD 19 (Recommitted)’, with the mover addressing ‘Mr. Deputy Speaker’ while the House is in Committee. The source also does not record the Chairman reporting the \$33 569 474 Resolution or its passage in the House before Order No. 2 is called. Printed as in the source; please confirm.

Q3. Order No. 3, third reading. The Bill is cited as ‘the Management and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2008’; the heading and debate give ‘Financial Management and Audit (Amendment) Bill, 2008’. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 4, heading and third reading. The heading reads ‘PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRAFT CRIBBEAN TREATY ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN SERIOUS CRIMINAL MATTERS’, with ‘Cribbean’ and no Bill title; at third reading the measure is ‘cited as the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Amendment) Bill, 2008’ rather than as an Act. Printed as in the source.

Q5. PRESENT list. Hon. D. O’N. Inniss speaks on Order No. 2 but is not in the PRESENT list, and the list runs ‘Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN, LL.B.(Hons.) His Excellency D. St. E. KELLMAN’ together on one line. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Take-slips. One take-slip is followed by the line ‘Tuesday, August 08, 2008’; the sitting was on Friday, 8th August, 2008. ‘1.40 p.m.’ appears twice, and several time stamps appear in the text as ordinary paragraphs. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 7, speaker label. One speech heading reads ‘His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMANI’. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Friday, 8th August, 2008 at 10.10 a.m., with His Honour K. St.C. Best, the Deputy Speaker, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood. Hon. R. D. Jones laid reports for 2003 to 2007 on eight secondary schools, among them Queen’s College, Combermere School and The Lodge School, and Hon. R. L. Sealy laid reports of the Barbados Conference Service Limited and the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. The Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was read a first time and Standing Orders were suspended for the day.

In Committee of Supply, with Mr. S. A. Lashley in the Chair, Hon. D. J. H. Thompson moved the Resolution for \$33 569 474 under Supplementary Estimates No. 4, 2008-2009. Under Head 19 he explained \$40 104 for secure wireless access to the Electoral Register, \$877 292 to renovate the former Barrows Children’s Home for the female residents of the Government Industrial School after the October 2006 fire at Summerville, and \$1 million for a mobile hydraulic boat lift. His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman objected that the Industrial School and the prison had been moved to St. Lucy without consulting him, and the debate turned to fishing: Rt. Hon. O. S. Arthur urged that fisheries agreements move as quickly as the security treaty, Mr. R. C. Eastmond described conditions at the Oistins and Bridgetown complexes, and Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley asked about cold storage for BARNUFO, the expansion of the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour and the CARICOM Regional Fisheries Mechanism, drawing points of order from His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman on the Trinidad and Tobago agreement. Hon. M. A. Lashley, Hon. R. D. Jones, Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe and Hon. P. M. T. Todd also spoke.

After a suspension until 1.30 p.m., Hon. R. L. Sealy, Minister of Tourism, explained that \$10 million was being added to the Barbados Tourism Authority’s \$80 million budget for marketing and the protection of airlift. Hon. C. P. Sinckler, Hon. E. G. Hutson and others spoke on linking tourism with agriculture and local manufacturers. The tourism Head and Heads 52, 53, 54, 56, 58 and 60 were agreed, and Head 19 was taken again and agreed.

Hon. M. A. Lashley, Minister of Housing and Lands, moved the Resolution approving the compulsory acquisition of 2.76 hectares at Constant, St. George, the property of Constant Estates Limited, for housing. Mr. G. A. Clarke, Member for St. George North, supported it and urged that lots be sold at \$5 per square foot as pledged, drawing repeated points of order from His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman; Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, Mr. S. A. Lashley and Mr. J. D. Paul also spoke, Mr. D. D. Marshall raising a point of order, and the Resolution was agreed.

Hon. D. J. H. Thompson then piloted the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which adds the Permanent Secretary responsible for Sports to the Committee and lets statutory corporations apply to the Fund, and the Financial Management and Audit (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which provides for monthly reporting by the Accountant-General; both passed without debate. Hon. M. A. Lashley moved the Bill to implement the Caribbean Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Serious Criminal Matters, signed in July 2005; Mr. D. D. Marshall gave Opposition support, and it passed after further speeches.

Notice having been given, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce moved in Committee of Supply a Resolution for \$5 698

586 for the National Environmental Enhancement Programme, adding staff to the Ministry of Transport and Works' 13 depots to clear drains, with some \$3 million for equipment. Mr. Marshall called it a means of creating jobs, arguing that one bobcat and one truck would make little difference to drainage; Miss C. Y. Forde recalled the earlier Welfare-to-Work programme; after further speeches Heads 19 and 57 were agreed and the Money Resolution passed.

On the adjournment Mr. Jones thanked the staff, seconded by Mr. Marshall, and the Deputy Speaker commended the standard of the day's debate. The House was adjourned at about 7.20 p.m. until Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.