
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 2008 – 2013

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, December 19, 2008

Pursuant to the Adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Friday, on December 19, 2008.

PRESENT

His Honour M. A. CARRINGTON, B.A., LL.B.
(Speaker)

His Honour K. St.C. BEST, LL.B.(Hons.), L.E.C.
(Deputy Speaker)

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

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

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)

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

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

Hon. F. J. STUART, Q.C., B.A., LL.M., (Attorney-
General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, B.C.H., 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 Empowerment, and
Urban Development)

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS, M.B.A., B.Sc.,(Minister of
State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and
International Business)

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

*Prayers were led by Reverend Canon Ivan
Harewood.*

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday, 16, December 2008.

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

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

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

PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ
Church East Central, Leader of the House.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, before I beg to lay
this particular Paper, I just want to make a brief comment.

The Cabinet at its meeting on December 13, 2007 approved the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Gymnasium Ltd.) Order, then cited 2007, and agreed to it being laid in Parliament upon the signature of the Minister of Finance.

The then Minister of Finance subsequently signed the Order on January 2, 2008. That Order cited 2007 was laid in Parliament on April 22, 2008 but was never Gazetted. It should be noted that instruments should reflect the year in which they are signed. Therefore, a new Order was prepared by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and signed by the present Minister of Finance on June 1, 2008. That Order was Gazetted on September 25, 2008, in keeping with legislation governing these instruments.

Therefore, Mr. President, in laying the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Gymnasium Ltd.) Order now correctly cited, 2008, this morning, one is merely seeking to perfect the process, as it relates to instruments that are subject to negative Resolution. Therefore, with that explanation I now lay the following:

Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Gymnasium Ltd.) Order, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I am further commanded to lay the following:

2. Report of the Supervisor of Insurance for the year ended December 31, 2005.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, some time ago, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central at the time, Mr. Duncan Carter, passed away and this House has not yet paid tribute to his sojourn in the political arena first, and then his sojourn in the House of Assembly. Therefore, this morning, we wish to pay tribute to Mr. Duncan Carter.

The history of politics in Barbados, of course, is quite an interesting one. I remember some time in 1997, as a member of the Democratic Labour Party, seeking to contest the seat of Christ Church East Central against Duncan Carter. At that time, of course, fortunes being in the political arena did not allow such to happen in 1999, and some people may consider it fortuitous at the time, bearing in mind what happened in the Election of 1999 that I did not run.

In 2003, of course, I ran and was successful. Mr. Duncan Carter at that time was not returned to contest the seat. Therefore, I did not have to run against him. It would

have been interesting because some persons might not have realised that Mr. Duncan Carter's nephew - I tell you the politics of Barbados is quite interesting - had married to my first cousin.

I remember having contemplated entering. I had a chat with my cousin's husband, which would have been Mr. Carter's nephew and I told him that I was contemplating contesting the seat, and I just wanted to draw it to his attention so that the families really would not be torn asunder because we were on different sides of the political fence. I thought at that time that was the decent thing to do, of course, knowing that I had visited his sister's home, and having broken bread there on so many of those occasions, and being greeted warmly within that family, I did not want difficulties to ensue.

We all know that Mr. Duncan Carter entered the House of Assembly on October 5, 1994 being successful in the Constituency of Christ Church East Central, and serving the good people of Christ Church East Central in the various communities that comprised Christ Church East Central then. At that time YB5 boxes, which comprised such areas as Church Hill, Cane Vale, Cane Vale Crescent, Gall Hill and Gall Hill Development were all part of Christ Church East Central, and he represented those as well.

The major parts of Christ Church East Central remained intact until the Election of 2003, when there were shifts in the boundaries at that time. When he retired in 2003, he was serving that Constituency even then, so he had approximately nine good years of representing the people of Christ Church East Central.

Mr. Speaker, when he retired, he was the Chairman of the National Sports Council, having previously played cricket, I am told, as an outstanding fast bowler. As a policeman, who eventually migrated to England, he continued to practise his craft as a cricketer, and then returned to Barbados to work among the various communities in Christ Church East Central.

Mr. Speaker, as the current Representative of Christ Church East Central, I would therefore wish to commend him and his family. Of course, in politics, your family must give you up to serve the wider community. Therefore, we would wish to commend his family, as well, for Mr. Duncan Carter's service, not only to Christ Church East Central, and the sporting fraternity of Barbados, but also to the people of Barbados. Sometimes, politics can be a bit of a thankless task, even though it is a selfless task, but we are there to be servants of the people and I think that Mr. Carter equipped himself well, in being a servant to the people.

In the House of Assembly, he was the Chairman of Committees over the period, a task which is now

undertaken by my colleague from Christ Church West Central.

10.30 a.m.

Each individual has his or her own particular strengths and talents and they do the best they can with the talents which they possess.

Mr. Speaker, I, during that period of following the House of Assembly... Anyone who presides over this House can sometimes have a tumultuous time bearing in mind the essence, I would want to call it, of the debate, but I am sure that Mr. Carter equipped himself well, therefore this morning, this House pays tribute to Mr. Duncan Carter for his selfless giving, for his work and for his dedication and commitment on behalf of the people of Barbados but, more particularly, on behalf of the people of Christ Church East Central.

I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, I would have become aware of the presence of Mr. Duncan Carter on this earthly plain in the 1960s. I vividly recall that at that time, he was playing cricket for Police. He played alongside persons like Oliver Bromes, Jerry Harding, a fellow called Bradshaw and others, and off and on when Garfield St. Auburn Sobers was available to play for the Police, he played alongside him as well.

Mr. Speaker, he, to his credit, gave his utmost to the game of cricket and developed a very keen knowledge of the intricacies of the game. It is on record that even when he was not bowling on the field, his counsel and advice to fellow teammates was extremely strong and assisted their cause.

I learnt also in the 1960s and 1970s that he won a contract to play cricket in England where he went and spent many a day. It also seems clear that while in England he did some humanitarian work in the interest of helping poor people. On his return to Barbados, his cricketing days continued at the Central Cricket Club in St. Thomas. I recall that on one occasion a group of youngsters from St. James and St. Thomas formed a team to take part in a St. Thomas Independence Cricket Competition and it was my experience to face him.

Mr. Speaker, although he had long past his prime, he bowled some fairly interesting in-swingers and when he pitched on off stump, there was no guarantee that your leg stump would be intact, and the odd delivery came through extremely fast.

Mr. Speaker, the thing about it is that today's cricketers, as fast bowlers, try to bowl every ball fast, but more gifted and more thoughtful cricketers in the mould of the late Malcolm Marshall and Lance Gibbs had notions of varying the deliveries, of not bowling the same thing the same way each time. He, therefore, was a type of bowler who mixed up his deliveries. One delivery would pitch on leg stump and come through straight, another one would hit outside off stump and come through at the batsman as an in-swinger and...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I hesitate to interrupt you at this time but, I am seeing some rather blank stares on the faces of some the Honourable Members. I wonder whether your references to these cricketing terms are giving them trouble. Maybe you ought to elucidate them some more.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Speaker, if I get trouble with cricketing terms, it is because of the cruelty of history which has now transcended me to being a spectator.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not your trouble. I am talking about other Honourable Members' trouble who may not be familiar with the intricacies of the game.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Oh I see. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to reflect on the Chair, but I do not think that you should be so unduly harsh on Honourable Members who sit opposite because a lot of these Honourable Members have a basic idea of the game, a lot of them are very good spectators and some of them actually played cricket. Suffice it to say that he joined the Central Cricket Club and as far as I am aware, that is the last cricket team he played for. Central Cricket Club has never played first division cricket, but he was a member of the Club and gave it his best.

Sir, his absolute humility stood out. Duncan Carter was an extremely humble person. By the time he first ventured into electoral politics in 1991, he had already done some service to Barbados. He had already distinguished himself in sports and was prepared to work with the people of Christ Church East Central in the interest of uplifting them. As fate would have it, he did not win the riding in 1991, but in 1994, he was elected to this Honourable House as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central in a situation where there was something of a fight for the Constituency.

It was not the type of Constituency that was initially pure Barbados Labour Party, so he had to work extremely hard to be able to win and to get into this Honourable House.

On being elected to this Honourable House, the Election would have been in September 1994. The official

opening would have been October 5, 1994. He served as Chairman of Committees and did so ably. From time to time sitting on the Back Bench, when not in the Chair, he would always raise matters that affected Christ Church East Central.

He was often joined by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central. In fact, the two men were extremely close. I am speaking of Mr. Joseph Edghill who served as the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

The National Sports Council also benefitted from his advice and wise counsel for he played a signal role in the continuing development of that particular institution. He served for two terms. We regretted that he had to leave politics.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party had a Conference at Combermere some time ago and I saw him there and immediately around 4:00 o'clock I saw how his appearance changed. I called for Mr. Joseph Edghill to come to my assistance but Duncan was so sure that nothing was wrong that he did not take the advice that Joe Edghill and myself gave him there and then at Combermere School, but sought medical attention after that.

Mr. Speaker, one thing about him is that every morning he exercised and went to the beach. Mr. Speaker, if you could get more Barbadians doing that, then what the old time people of Barbados believe in, may very well work for those who exercise and go to the beach.

10.40 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, the old people who go to the beach on mornings, who are 75 years plus, say that they owe it to the special therapeutic value which comes from the exposure to our seas. Duncan did not miss out on going to the beach. He was always interested in cricket and people such as Owen Estwick, who has made a tremendous contribution to cricket in Barbados.

Persons like Seymour Nurse, Rawle Brancker, "Prof" Edwards, were all contemporaries of Duncan in cricket on the field, and in great measure in administration. Duncan had to cut short his political career and it is one of the curiosities of fate that he was nominated to run in 2003, and that within two or three weeks, he withdrew from running on the grounds of failing health.

I want to add my voice to the tribute paid by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central who, in many respects, is the successor of a great man and who I trust will walk humbly in the shoes of Mr. Duncan Carter. As I close, I will mention this for the benefit of Hansard and those Honourable Members, who were not here in

2003. Sir, one of the things about the 2003 Election is that the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados, at this time, convened Parliament under the Speaker and during the Parliamentary Session said that he had given instructions that later in the day, at 5.00 p.m., the Governor-General would issue writs to announce an Election. That happened in 2003 on the Floor of this Honourable House, where the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados literally announced the Election on the Floor of this Honourable House.

Sir, I can remember Sir Harold Bernard St. John, making his farewell speech and indicating that there were times when he had to be disciplined by his own constituents in Christ Church South. This was in obvious reference to the two defeats that he met, while running in that area.

I recall Sir Henry Forde also speaking in that debate, but what caught me was when Duncan Carter rose to do his swan song. I remember on that fateful day, in 2003, when Parliament was being dissolved and prorogued, Duncan Carter said to this Parliament: "I came in here as a gentleman and I am going to leave as a gentleman." Those were his parting words to this Parliament and that was the end of his career in elective politics.

Mr. Speaker, to those who suffer in sorrow in consequence of his death, may they take comfort in the very wonderful example he set. May they be assured by the spirituality demonstrated and may those of us who had the good fortune to sit in this Honourable House do our utmost to emulate him, especially when it comes to his commitment to service and his demonstration of humility and modesty.

Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, I am obliged to you.

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, it would be remiss of me if I did not join this debate, at this point in time, and paid tribute to a man I knew personally. Mr. Speaker, I am not one to normally get up and speak about a person, unless I really know that person or have had some kind of relation with that person. The deceased, Mr. Duncan Carter, when I was a Member of the Barbados Labour Party, I have always found him to be a very humble being. I cannot ever remember on the Floor of Parliament when he was ever contentious in his debate, neither can I ever remember seeing him in a heated argument, or speaking ill of anyone inside or outside of this Honourable Chamber.

Sir, you would want to know how I could speak about Mr. Duncan Carter in this way. Sir, the present Representative for St. Michael East Central would tell you that I was always living in St. Michael East Central for a very long time, despite many persons felt I was living in St. Michael South East, and so I had a further relation with him.

I also had a further relationship with him through his son, who was born and raised in Birch Path, Regent Hill, Pinelands, St. Michael. His son was one of the fastest bowlers that Parkinson Secondary School ever produced. I am saying that simply to say that it was because of the genes from his father.

I also remember seeing Duncan playing for Police Sports Club in those days against Spartan Sports Club and Empire Sports Club, when Spartan and Empire Sports Clubs would have had epic clashes in Queen's Park over in Bank Hall. We must also remember that he was what we would consider today a fitness freak. He always paid special emphasis on his fitness.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes politics could be a very brutal thing. I am saying that before Duncan died, his life was virtually a very lonely one. I remember living in Kingsland, where he would pass on mornings and we would have a brief chat. Then in his later days I would see him in a car with his friends and we would stop and chat. He was a man, although he knew he was very ill, he was trying all the time to cope with the hardships that had befallen him at this time.

I would also want to say that I have seen too many politicians who have come to this Honourable Chamber and would have represented the interest of this country and their constituents. Sir, I see them almost every day being left along the wayside. They seem like if their lives never existed, yet, in my view, these persons sometimes have been called upon to be counsellors, community practitioners or social workers. A politician in every sense of the word has to be an all-rounder who knows everything. He must also be able to satisfy his constituents at all times, and this sometimes could become a great difficulty.

Mr. Speaker, I am making this call simply to say that I believe this Honourable Chamber has to do a lot more to maintain and also to create the necessary facility, even if we have to create a Hall of Fame within the communities, to recognise the worth and contributions of these persons who have been in this Honourable Chamber, who sometimes we often forget.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to the major point I want to make. I believe that in order for us to honour Duncan Carter seriously for his contributions, his worth and work in Christ Church East Central, and also to the wider

Barbados, that the Vauxhall Senior Citizens' Home, which is currently in the Constituency of Christ Church East Central, should be named after him. It is something I would like the Cabinet of Barbados to consider, but there is no reason, as he was the former Representative...

Sir, I would want to recommend that serious consideration be given to renaming the Vauxhall Senior Citizens Home after Duncan Carter. Mr. Speaker, I am saying that against the background that the Vauxhall Senior Citizens' Home is one of the most picturesque and beautiful landscape facilities one could see in Barbados, as it relates to the care of the elderly, we must be able to find ways to honour those who have made outstanding contributions to this society.

Sir, I am sure that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central will support me on this, because these are issues that we take a bipartisan approach on and that we honour those persons who should really be honoured.

10.50 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, I also believe that the Police Sports Club, that he played for most of his life, should also find a unique way to recognise him by having him placed among their cricketing heroes. Sir, the Police Sports Club produced the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers but Duncan, himself played a lot of his cricket in the communities. Therefore, in making this call, I would hope that we find a fitting way to pay tribute to this humble man, who sat in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I want to say that we should find a way that all of us, who come into this Honourable Chamber, who sacrifice and go beyond the call of duty to make that contribution, that we do not forget those persons and that we find a way, outside of the monetary contributions, because it is a lot more of that, and that we find a fitting way in terms of immortalising their contribution to Barbados. Sir, hence the creation of the necessary Halls of Fame and Walls of Fame in communities, and in this Parliament should be one fitting way.

Mr. Speaker, as I take my seat, I ask again that the Vauxhall Senior Citizens' Home be renamed after this great gentleman, the late Duncan Carter.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is not an easy thing to pay tribute in this Chamber on the passing of any person, but it is considerably more difficult when you knew that person well and worked closely with that person.

In 1991, I entered political life representational politics for the first time and so did Duncan Carter; so did Joe Edghill; so did the Honourable Member for St. George North and a number of us. Sir, the four of us, Duncan Carter, Joe Edghill, Gline Clarke and myself, all lost our seats by just under 200 votes, and it really constituted the difference between Opposition and Government at that time because there were 10 seats that the Barbados Labour Party won on that occasion. Sir, in a very funny way, it created a bond, particularly post January 1991, between the four of us because we recognised that each of us had suffered the same fate, in terms of newness and in terms of the unfamiliarity with the field of politics.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of the years, I would have had occasion, as General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party, to work with Duncan closely and, of course, in this Chamber specifically and he would have, on all occasions, displayed nothing but absolute courtesy, commitment and loyalty to the cause.

Sir, it is an amazing thing because the average perception of a politician is someone who is garrulous, or who is capable of raising their voice often and who is known to be out there and Duncan was really the opposite. Duncan was a quiet, dignified man, who went about his business in a very dedicated way; in a very effective manner, but he was not one to push himself up to the front in the faces of people. Sir, in a sense, he really is the epitome of a community man, wanting to serve and serve in his area.

Mr. Speaker, in his case, however, his contribution was not limited to any one geographical area and it is of note that his years in the United Kingdom would have caused him to believe that he was one who would have been prepared to go out of his way to do anything in order to promote those things with which he was associated.

Sir, in this particular case, cricket was his life. Cricket was his passion. He was able to replicate that on his return to Barbados in his work with the various community groups like the Police Sports Club and his work across the parish of Christ Church.

Mr. Speaker, it is significant that Duncan was successful in a Constituency that neither Party; I speak both for the benefit of the current Member of Christ Church East Central as well, could claim to have an absolute stronghold although it had always tended a little more to the Democratic Labour Party.

Sir, with the kind of personality he had, that he could win it in 1994 and 1991 and, as I have said, in 1991, he came within 200 votes of winning it, speaks to the kind of respect that people had for him and saw him as a person who was worthy of representing them, even though, as I

have said, the Party politics would not necessarily have given him a considerable boost in that Constituency.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that also impressed me was that Duncan Carter was a team player and we were able, in the parish of Christ Church, to effect a level of seamless representation and he would have been an integral ingredient in our ability to be able to do that as a Party.

Mr. Speaker, he spoke passionately, not just, as I have said, about cricket, which was his first love, there is no doubt about that, but about other issues, and while he did not intervene in any debate, when he spoke in here, he reflected a form of commonsense and wisdom that sometimes is too often lost in the national debates in this country.

Mr. Speaker, his contribution was such that he also recognised that sometimes you have to know when to demit office. It would have been quite easy for him to have run again in 2003. Sir, I say to the current holder of the office that had he done that, circumstances might have been different. Sir, very often people continue in their boots, even though they are ill and prefer to die standing with their boots on, rather than recognising that the passage of time and the frailty of body can sometimes overtake, and that it is sometimes better to retreat than to allow others to come forward.

Sir, in the circumstances, we believe that it is unfortunate that he has passed from this earth. I would have had an opportunity to pay tribute to him at the time of his passing and to speak to his wife and children. I think he took great pride in the achievements of his children. Indeed, his son has done exceptionally well, having had a strong and distinguished career in the Police Force and is now building a distinguished career at the Bar of Barbados.

His wife was always loyal to him and, to the extent that we recall him, it is impossible to do so, without recalling also his commitment to family, to his wife, to his children and, indeed, to the support they gave him. Sir, on every occasion that I would have had cause to either interact with his father, or go to his house, there was a sense that this was a happy household and that this was a man, who literally believed in the importance of family and would do anything to encourage and uplift his children.

Mr. Speaker, those are the values that are essentially Barbadian. Those are the values that mean something to this country and have allowed us to be as resilient a people, as we have been.

Mr. Speaker, I want, therefore, formally, for the purpose of the records of this Chamber, to publicly yet again recognise the contribution of Duncan Carter and to say that his was a life well lived. His service across the

community; his service to the sport of cricket, his service to the people of Christ Church East Central; his service to the Parliament of this country in the capacities in which he would have served has been well recognised.

11.00 a.m.

We are grateful of the fact that he was here with us. As I said, it is difficult to speak when anyone passes, but it is moreso when it is someone with whom you would have had interaction at a close level for over 20 years.

I would formally, therefore, like on behalf of the Barbados Labour Party to salute Duncan Carter and to say that we are grateful for the service that he gave, not just to the Barbados Labour Party, but to the people of Christ Church East Central, and the Parliament of Barbados, and by extension to the nation of Barbados.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: Mr. Speaker, I would want to add my voice to the comments made this morning, particularly since I was not in the country at the time of his funeral and, therefore, on that occasion paid my last respects.

I knew Duncan Carter before he went into politics. I think, perhaps, that I am the only one here who can say that I was actually with him in the days when he played for Central Cricket Club, since I too played for that Club. In fact, I would say that he was a very fine bowler who was perhaps the only bowler I faced who picked up the one flaw I had as a batsman. He fully exploited that, but nonetheless, he would always come to me after we had our practise sessions and pointed out to me what I needed to remedy that problem.

Sir, I realised that from his general demeanor and the kind-heartedness of Duncan Carter, that this was a gentleman who was destined for public service. Therefore, I was not surprised when subsequently in the 1986 Election we found ourselves both working in the Christ Church area and trying our best to do what turned out to be the impossible in 1986, as you well know that the Barbados Labour Party suffered a very crushing defeat.

Those years, like this year where strange things happened and, in fact, we found that the Barbados Labour Party suffered a very bruising defeat on that occasion. Sir, that did not daunt Duncan Carter's spirit. In fact, that made him more determined that he had to play a more high profile role in the area of public service, and the quality of Duncan Carter came through.

Sir, I remember, having worked with him in that same area. We were both interested at the time, or consideration was being given to the Christ Church East Central seat at the time, and Duncan said to me, if you are interested in going forward, I would step back. Such was the nature of the man, very non confrontational and willing, as was said just now, to be a team player and functioned in the best interest of the team that he believed in. As you know, I did not contest that seat. I went elsewhere.

Asides.

Mr. R.St.C. TOPPIN: Sir, Duncan went on to win that seat and to serve, in my view, with distinction for a period of two terms. In fact, I would say that the current Representative of the area must know that he has a very tough act to follow and, in my view, has to render about 15 to 20 years' service to equal what Duncan Carter did in two terms.

I had the honour to be a constituent of Duncan Carter and, in the same way I have to say that I have the honour of now being a constituent of the current Honourable Member for the area, but there is a difference in the level of representation we now receive.

Sir, we will miss Duncan Carter and people like Duncan Carter in public life. There are some people who come to public life and profess to be interested in helping people. Sometimes they run from pillow to post professing to be interested in people. Duncan Carter made no such boast publicly, but by his actions he demonstrated that his reason for going into public life was to serve.

Mr. Speaker, as was said, no one can point a finger at Duncan Carter, and say anything negative about him or his service to this country. He was truly a decent man. In his life he has left a son who is a fine attorney, and a daughter who is a fine fitness instructor at the gym which I attend. She tried her best to knock me into shape, physically, with some degree of success. He has left a fine legacy of which he can be proud.

Sir, as I said, I was not able to attend his funeral to pay my respects, but his family and my family have had a certain connection which has been broken.

Sir, we miss his presence in the area of Vauxhall where he set up a cricketing net, the half wicket concrete net, and readily invited all and sundry, everyone from the area to come and practise in the net freely. He invited everyone from the community to participate. He was a giving person in every sense of the word.

I hope that when I leave public life, and I certainly believe it will be the case, that people will say of me what we are now standing here saying of Duncan Carter, that he

gave of his best. He gave his all and that he was a truly fine gentleman in every sense of the word.

I am indebted to you, Sir.

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

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I too would wish to add my words and, of course, in reflection of the life of the late Duncan Carter, who passed away in August 2008.

Sir, I considered him as a statesman, a family man, a sportsman and a dear friend and confidant. He was one of those Barbadians who placed country before self and always ensured that people mattered. Therefore, he treated to issues and concerns which people brought to him and, indeed, he celebrated the achievements of those he knew and met.

Sir, he has a line of outstanding achievements when he served as a law enforcement officer in the Criminal Investigation Department in Barbados. He was also a very outstanding cricketer and we learnt of his exploits in the Central Cricket Club, later in the English League.

Sir, on his return to Barbados in the 1980s, he then sought to be involved in politics so that he could serve at a higher level. We learnt that he failed at his attempts in 1991 but then successfully for two terms, in 1994 and 1999, in the House of Assembly, as the Member of Parliament for Christ Church East Central.

Sir, I learnt of all the outstanding things of which the late Duncan Carter was involved. Indeed, other Honourable Members here today have expressed his outstanding contribution, not only in Christ Church East Central but in the various areas in which he served.

Mr. Speaker, he was the Chairman of the National Sports Council where he brought a measure of professionalism into the management of the affairs of the Sports Council. He also served as a national team cricket manager and selector. Therefore, it is no wonder that so many distinguished Barbadians with whom he had rubbed shoulders were able to speak at his funeral and gave their own Eulogies about Duncan Carter.

11.10 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me, I wish to just quote one sentence from the Reverend O. Grenville Butler. In his appreciation, he said:

“Duncan was a big-boned gentle giant, soft-spoken, thoughtful, easy to get on with.”

Then, Mr. Joel Garner, President of the Barbados Cricket Association termed Duncan as:

“...a deep thinker, and a steady person who lived a life of service.”

Mr. Sam Wilkinson:

“...a modest and sincere individual who made his mark of the game when the cricket cupboard was as full then, as it is bare now.”

Sir, you know of what he is referring.

Mr. Duncan Carter was married to Pauline and they had two children. We all know, Mr. Speaker, that it is not easy for anyone to be a Member of Parliament. The extra responsibilities and the various tasks that Members of Parliament are called upon to do, Duncan served in that way as well, and so his wife and children would have had to undergo tremendous challenges in looking after not only his needs but his interest, as well as making the sacrifices to ensure that he met the demands of his constituents, Sir, as you also know so well.

Mr. Duncan Carter loved his family dearly and he boasted every time we met of their successes with a measure of joy and pride that I knew he was happy that his children were pursuing correct paths, and they had become worthwhile or useful citizens. I always had moments to chat with him in those areas.

As a Barbados Labour Party supporter, I always admired Duncan Carter. Indeed, our personalities are so different. He was always calm, cool, collective and sincere and that was the kind of demeanour that he always displayed.

Mr. Speaker, he never showed anger, malice or scorn to anyone or anyone's ideas, whether it was in the Barbados Labour Party or those persons on the other side of the political fence, but Duncan always showed a high measure of respect and, I think, that is important. I believe that his forthright nature, the character that he developed and carried with him forever, his commitment and dedication are the things that would have added to the people in Christ Church East Central supporting him at the polls on those two occasions. Mr. Speaker, Duncan Carter would be sadly missed. He would be missed for his endearing spirit, his commitment to duty, his unending faith in God, and his outstanding service to the entire country, Barbados.

Sir, a little note was placed at the back of the hymn sheet, and I felt it was worthwhile to be quoted:

“...remember by what I have done.”

Sir, I think this is most significant. Often in Barbados, we seem to remember to eulogise persons to put the flowers on their chests when they are in the coffin but somehow we forget to tell them when they were alive how really special they are and what important roles they would have played in helping to make others happy or successful, as the case may be.

The little verse says and I wish to quote it, Sir:

“Up and away like the dew in the morning, Souring from earth to its home in the sun, Thus would I part from the earth and its toilings,

Only remember by what I have done.”

Indeed, this morning, we are doing exactly as has been indicated in that verse.

I want to add my expressions of condolences to his family and to say, as I close, Mr. Speaker, that the Barbados Labour Party Members and, indeed, all Barbadians, have lost a great son of the soil, in the loss of Duncan Carter. As Paul puts it, as expressed in the New Testament, Duncan Carter ran the race and there is a crown laid up for him in Glory. I make this pronouncement because of the kind of life that he lived and the kind of morals that he displayed.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to publicly express to his wife and family, deepest condolences, and may he rest in peace.

I wish to thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I feel driven to join in the tribute this morning to the life and the contribution of the late Mr. Duncan Carter in this Chamber as the Member of Parliament for Christ Church East Central.

I sat and listened with interest as the career path of Mr. Carter was chronicled by the Honourable Members on This Side, and the Honourable Members of the Opposition. I want to join in my expression and sympathy and my wishes of strength to the family of Mr. Carter. I also want to join in the suggestion that we, as Members of Parliament and Representatives of the people can take many pages out of the book of Mr. Carter, in terms of representation.

I knew Mr. Carter, fleetingly, I would describe it, Sir, but I always remember that as an opponent in the ridings of Christ Church, the words he would often quote to me, would have been:

“Ah boy, you take it easy, boy.”

He was that kind of gentleman, so when you challenged him, all he would tell you is:

“Ah boy, you take it easy, boy.”

And Duncan went about his work. His success at the polls indicated, as the Honourable Members have said, his ability to touch the needs of people and to serve these needs, and this is important.

Barbados, as has been indicated by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central in his contributions, is a small community, and Christ Church is only part of that small community. In truth, the relations extend beyond the one described by the Honourable Member and extend throughout the communities that we seem to represent.

If it is a Barbadian saying we can take to heart sometimes is the adage that touches one, touch all. Sir, I am saying that we need to remember in our adversarial politics, the respect which is due to every human being that we encounter.

I want to speak a little bit about his contribution as a cricketer, not like the Honourable Member for St. James North, because of any intimate knowledge that I possess about how cricket is best executed. Certainly, in reflecting on the fact that Duncan, as a very competent fast bowler, was unable at the time, as has been indicated and quoted by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, to penetrate the highest levels of cricket, but today, he would probably, if he were available for service, be the leading light in the situation which we now encounter.

A lot of our cricketing stalwarts who have gone, and some who remain must be, as they say, squirming at the situation as it befalls the island of Barbados, and to a broader extent, the community of the West Indies, when we see the state in which our cricket has evolved.

Indeed, I spent a part of last night, indeed, watching the performance of our team in New Zealand. Again, we saw that reality and it speaks to a large extent, to our society in general and that we need, Sir, as a people, to rededicate ourselves to determination and grit. I believe that in the career of Duncan Carter, there are many examples of determination and grit.

11.20 a.m.

As has been quoted, you may not have the floury accolades behind your name, but because you serve and we have so many examples of persons who have served in this Chamber and indeed outside of this Chamber, who may not

be in possession of the accolades which we normally attach to greatness, but because of their willingness, their determination and their grit, they are able to make a difference to the lives which they touch. That is important.

Mr. Speaker, like has been said, Mr. Duncan Carter was able to say he came to this Chamber as a gentleman and he left as a gentleman. I think he also came to this Chamber and was able to so touch lives that it made a difference to the lives that he touched.

On behalf of my political party colleagues in Christ Church, I am sure that some other Honourable Members may make their own tribute, to pay tribute to our colleagues who have given service before in the constituencies of Christ Church, some have passed on, and indeed in all the constituencies of Barbados.

I want on behalf of the Constituency branches in Christ Church to express our appreciation and our admiration for the contributions made by Mr. Carter and to express our heartfelt sympathies to his family and his friends even at this time, as time has passed. At this time when we celebrate the birth of Christ, it is apt in many ways that we also celebrate the life of Mr. Duncan Carter in this Chamber and in our community.

On their behalf, I want to join in offering our condolences to his family, his friends and his colleagues on Both Sides of this Chamber, some present, some past and some indeed already gone to the great beyond.

Sir, with these few words, I want to join in this tribute to a man who served his people well and served this Chamber honourably. I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. Honourable Members, the Chair would certainly like to associate itself with those foregoing salutary remarks. Like the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, I would only have known him fleetingly, nonetheless I would have heard of his prowess on the cricket field and I would have also understood that contribution.

I therefore wish to acknowledge the sterling contribution which the Honourable Member would have made to cricket, to public life in general but particularly to this august Chamber. Therefore, on behalf of the present Members and the Honourable the House of Assembly, I take the opportunity to extend deepest condolences again to his friends and relatives and to wish them well. I now invite this Honourable Chamber to rise for one minute's silence in acknowledgement of his memory.

One minute's silence was observed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER No. 3

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$55 868 735 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. 12, 2008-2009 WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION AND THAT THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO HEAD 25 BE AMENDED AS SET OUT IN SCHEDULE II TO THE RESOLUTION.

HEAD 54 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT \$9 790 739

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, this request for just under \$10 million is by no means a small amount of money at this time. Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that out of the request for the \$55 million which is before the House for consideration, that just about \$16 million is being requested for the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. The reasons are quite simple.

Educating a nation is quite an expensive undertaking. The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development historically, as well as within the current time, continues to go through several stages of the

development of the plant and of the rollout of technology within the schools.

We are also providing resources for the continued maintenance of schools and ensuring that the tertiary level educational institutions, such as the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, are provided with resources to continue their programme, as well as the School Meals Department.

Mr. Chairman, I would seek to speak to these issues. I want to first commence this contribution on the Educational Sector Enhancement Programme, which takes some \$13 million from the entire \$55 million, but under Head 54, to which I referred to earlier, some \$7 or \$8 million.

Honourable Members would well be aware of the Educational Sector Enhancement Programme initiated some time ago when a request was made for some \$426 million to be supported by local funding of \$193 214 000, as well as funding from the Inter-American Development Bank of \$170 million, and the Caribbean Development Bank of \$63 million. House

11.30 a.m.

The Inter-American Development Bank was to support the work within the primary sector, while the Caribbean Development Bank was to support the work within the secondary sector.

Sir, much has been said about this exercise, but a major part of this exercise was the infrastructure within our school system. To date, the project has, both with the expenditure at the primary and secondary level, expended some \$249 million. The project has been restructured somewhat, even before this Government came to power, based on the roll-out of the entire project.

The project was supposed to have rolled out on a seven-year period but, due to a number of issues, which I do not think I have the time to go into. Sir, one would obviously relate to the progress of the award of contracts. That takes some time.

One would also have to speak to contractors working on the project. That would take some time. One would also have to deal with variants in relation to the particular contract. All of these things impacted on the rollout of the project and the project therefore had to be restructured.

Mr. Speaker, the project was outlined in several phases. There were Phases 1, 2, 2, 4 and 5. In Phase 1, one had the roll-out of several schools, both primary and secondary. As part of that Phase I included were the Christ Church Boys School, now renamed the Milton Lynch

School, in the Constituency of Christ Church East Central; Cuthbert Moore Primary, in the Constituency of St. George North, Deacons Primary; the School for the Deaf and Blind, now called the Ervin Wilson School in the Constituency of St. Michael South East; Sharon Primary, in the Constituency of St. Thomas; South District Primary, in the Constituency of St. George North; St. Joseph Primary, in the Constituency of St. Joseph; St. Mary's, in the City; Westbury Primary, also in the City.

There were also four secondary schools, Combermere, Alexandra, in the Constituency of St. Peter; Ellerslie and St. James Secondary.

There were also two private schools, because the project was to serve the entire school system.

Mr. Chairman, we are at a stage today where the project comes to an end on December 31, 2008, still with

several schools not having benefitted because of some of the reasons outlined. Sir, I am not going to enter into a blame game. There are realities that sometimes impact on the process.

To date, we are currently working on the St. Ambrose School, in the Constituency of the City. We are working on the Ann Hill School, in St. Michael South East. We are working on several secondary schools, with most of the work being put in, such as cable infrastructure for the provision of technology within those schools. We are also working on several primary schools for that particular infrastructure. All of that information, of course, is available.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to first state that under that project, the Christ Church Girls' School has been completed. The St. Martin's/Four Roads, now called the Reynold Weekes Composite, has also been completed. Schools which are in the tendering process are the Hilda Skeene Primary, Selah, All Saints, Gordon Greenidge, and the Ignatius Byer Primary.

Other schools such as the Garrison and Deighton Griffith Secondary are undergoing work. The St. Michael School has been completed. The Grantley Adams Secondary School has been completed. Coleridge and Parry has been completed. St. Lawrence Composite is undergoing work. St. George Primary is completed.

West Terrace has been completed. The Louis Lynch Secondary was also completed but one remembers what happened to that school. That was just under \$2.5 million spent on that project, but one would remember the circumstances which prevailed, which caused that school to be taken out of use.

Sir, I would like to be fair and say it was no fault of any person in the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. One remembers the environmental circumstances that forced that school to be closed, after a major refurbishing of just under \$2.5 million was spent. Sir, its closure has caused some crush within the educational sector because where you would have had 23 secondary schools, you are now down to 22 and those students, just under 800 in number, had to be redeployed throughout the system.

Sir, the Ministry in its work and those school principals have to be commended for assimilating those students within the school system. As I said, it has placed some pressure on the other schools. What concerns me, and it is something that we will continue to work on, is that after 1998, there are still several schools to be worked on, where major infrastructural work still has to be done.

We should be going to tender for the amalgamation of the South District and St. David's Schools, which is referred to staple growth currently within our work. That tender should be going out within the new year. It was on the books for some years.

Sir, I would want to say that some of these things still amaze me, but I am still learning the process. I would want to say that I am still learning why some of these things could take so long, but I have been told and I am being educated why these things sometimes take this length of time.

Mr. Chairman, as Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, my education does not lend itself for the protracted periods when students and teachers have to be in circumstances that are not ideal. Therefore, the staple growth, the amalgamation of the South District and the St. David's Primary, to be amalgamated to become a 629-persons school, will take place at the St. David's Primary, near the Edgerton Road.

Sir, in that area, there is a small playingfield used by the residents, but there is not a major field for community activity. Therefore, part of the vision of this Democratic Labour Party is to ensure that the community of Edey Village, St. David's, Cox Road and Boarded Hall, would have, along with the students, because this is how we have to maximise, the resources of the State. The people would be able to have a community area they could use, with respect to the schools who will use it as well.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge, wherever they are in our country, if they are utilising the playingfield at St. Christopher, at the Ignatius Byer, at those two new schools in St. Philip, that they respect the facilities, that they do not deface the walls, that they do not vandalise the fence, because they are opened for easy access.

11.40 a.m.

Sir, we have had too much of this and as Minister, I have had to speak to this and there is a major exercise commencing. This House passed the Resolution for the Supplementary for fencing and other things like this. I have said to the persons in our Project Implementation Unit to ensure there are several entrance and exit points within the fencing so that persons from within the community could gain access when students go home and it is not being used by the schools, and this is incorporated into that process.

Mr. Chairman, on many occasions you have had instances where people just drove their motor cycles, cars and trucks, especially when rains falls, all over the playing fields and it does not make sense. It is a form of behaviour that should be outlawed, really, in our country. Sir, the communities use them to play cricket, football, volley ball and other sporting endeavours. Therefore, one would want to appeal for more respect to the school system. We would have to continue rolling out other works and we might have to enter into a programme with one of the lending agencies.

Sir, a school like Vauxhall Primary in Christ Church needs major work. We will attempt to do some work within the summer vacation within the domestic programme but that does not stop the major hemorrhaging. I want to assure the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central that I have listened to his concerns; I have read the correspondence, which has come from him and from the principal of the school, so that would not be a neglected area.

Sir, Deacons was in Phase 1 of the project and you find now that Deacons, after seven year or eight years, needs some major work. We really cannot keep pace with the demands of the infrastructure on the resources of the State. Therefore, I do not have any difficulty appealing to persons within the community, but also the private sector and PTAs to lend support.

I would love to see schools having some paint put on them every two years, particularly nice, bright, beautiful colours. People who are into understanding colours would understand what it does to the minds of students, when they see the vibrancy of colour but, Sir, when they are defaced and smeared with compounds, which I would not want to mention on the Floor of the House today, not the most proper of compounds, I am not talking about paint. Sir, when one smears these things on the floors, it is problematic but we would need to have paint every two years in cycles.

Mr. Chairman, you have a lot of children using the plumbing and sanitary, so it would go down and one has to continue to keep up the plumbing. Sir, sometimes one gets the impression that the community does not understand

this. Sir, education takes about 22 per cent every year of Government's expenditure and, Sir, that is not an insignificant amount of money.

In truth and in fact, this arrangement with the Caribbean Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the input of Government is BDS\$0.5 million - Sir, you are going to come across situations which are going to demand even more than what has been projected in relation to these various projects.

Mr. Chairman, I would give you just one example in relation to the work being done on these schools. The price for Combermere School was \$4.597 million and the amount exactly expended, because of adjustment, was \$5.346 million.

Sir, that is one example and there are several other examples where there would be variations in those projects at those various schools. I remember being a teacher at Christ Church Boys' School at the time, paying specific interest in what was going on there and being asked by the Principal to be the lead person on that project. Sir, as a good teacher, I went forward and gave of my knowledge, experience and expertise. Sir, not as a contractor, I want to make that clear.

I am not, like many persons, who realise that there are projects to be done and quickly become contractors by going to Corporate Affairs and registering a name to become an enterprise or they get a friend to incorporate a business. They do not know the end of the hammer from its handle. Sir, I am not into that, although I come from a family of builders.

Sir, my father was an excellent builder, a man in whom I have great pride. He not only constructed houses but there is still furniture in the family home that he did as a joiner and, Sir, I do not see any furniture like those. Sir, they are indestructible because those builders were highly skilled even though many of them were self-taught. Sir, many of them understood the basics and they then used that creative talent, which so many Barbadian artisans and builders have, and they used that.

Mr. Chairman, I was making the point that Christ Church Boys' School was tendered at \$1.19 million. I remember when they were working on the eastern block, it was out of clay blocks and the entire structure fell down. Sir, rather than put a floor on that structure, you had to start from the foundation right up. Sir, that project ended up costing under \$2.5 million.

Mr. Chairman, it is these kinds of situations that can develop. As I have said, I am learning each day as we go along. I want to report to the House and to the Honourable Member for the City that St. Ambrose is progressing well

and is on target, and for the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East that the Ann Hill project is also progressing well and is on target. We want to have those schools back into operation for the commencement of the September term in 2009.

Mr. Chairman, part of the resources here under Account Code 212 for \$110 113 is to facilitate the movement of students. Sir, once you move students from a location, the Ministry has been able to use Transport Board buses to move those students to their various locations. They gather at a given spot and they are then transported.

The students of St. Ambrose are currently accommodated at the Scouts' Headquarters and we must thank the scouts because they have been up there now for years. Sir, as a former scout myself, I am quite familiar with the compound. It is not the most salubrious of conditions but, again, you must thank the principals, teachers, parents and students, who have been there for that length of time. I want to say to them that if everything continues as they are currently going, that they will be back at the St. Ambrose School, at the commencement of the term in September 2009. Sir, I want to assure them of that.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to commend the Minister of Health because St. Ambrose School has never had a playing field. They had to go over to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's playing field, but there will be a playing field in that area. I know that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and the Representative for the City to that, before he was in the Ministry of Education and the Minister of Health, have given some of the land to be used as a small playing field for that school.

Mr. Chairman, I know the conscious decision was taken then, and one I support now, because I believe that educational institutions, just like churches, should be in communities to give them vibrancy. I do not feel they should be placed on some stretch and hidden away from the people.

11.50 a.m.

If you have an educational institution, it should be reaching into the community that they are located in bringing vigour to communities just like Churches should be bringing vigour not only evangelical vigour, but to provide physical succour to those people within those communities. Sir, this Government continues apace to ensure that the students are housed at the various institutions.

We will, as I said, look at rolling out other finances. Government has to step up a bit more to the plate because the Education Sector Enhancement Programme, its arrangement with the CDB which comes to an end, \$4 333

358 million in this Supplementary is for assets under construction, with the two schools I have mentioned, to ensure that the contractors would be paid on time and be given their due reward.

There is also \$2.5 million for professional services under the Education Sector Enhancement Programme to execute the work for this financial year. Additional funds would be needed to pay for the necessary financial services for the supervision of the works. The level of funding required is based on an average of 13.5 per cent of the estimated cost of \$33 million of the planned additional works, plus 5 per cent of the fee for the reimbursement for the period ending March 2009.

Sir, of course, this figure is however highly dependent on the actual number of months of supervision, that fall within the period and, therefore, largely to be paid in that period. Therefore, the amount of the \$2 570 000 has been determined to be required, based on the designs completed and the eventual execution of the scheduled work.

The Lodge School, which has fallen into substantial disrepair, is one of the schools on which work will commence in the new financial year. I will speak to that when the Estimates come. Initial projections would suggest that this school - we want to protect some of the historical buildings there. I believe one or two of them are listed buildings, so we want to protect those and retain the facade, et cetera. It is something you cannot avoid if you want to protect that physical heritage, the built infrastructure. We have to respect that. That facility could possibly end up costing in the Region of \$25 million. It is absolutely mind boggling when one looks at the kind of expenditure.

Sir, Staple Grove School, when these figures were revealed to me, again, I keep saying to people that I am not cheap but I am frugal. It is now estimated to be about \$13 million. There was a projected cost before of about \$15 million. I have all these figures in my head. I am conservative. With the cost of steel having gone down and with some other cost in the construction materials, I am hoping, and keeping our fingers crossed, because we must still be custodians of the people's resources. We must be. It is in that Region.

Sir, bearing in mind that the George Lamming School, which was built under this project, came in, we believe, just under \$6 million, and that is an excellent structure. It is very beautiful. I want to compliment the architects and the design people. It gives a command for discipline and supervision at the various heights and levels that are really remarkable. I want to commend those persons.

Sir, when I entered and saw what was done with that, I have also seen it at Christ Church Girls' School, even though we have to do a bit more with a covered courtyard. That will be done in the New Year as we move forward. Also at the Reynold Weekes School, where you are using the courtyard for assembly and praise, there must be a bit of cover provided from the elements. I want to assure the Honourable Member for St. Philip South that his query to that matter is being addressed. I cannot provide, neither will I promise that all could be done at the same time, but they are all within the vision.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I have never been a sinner. I have always been a child of God. I do not know of what the Honourable Member speaks.

Sir, those areas will continue.

Sir, the St. Leonard's School - I spoke at their Graduation, just a few days ago. It is one that has caused me, personally, some pain because young men need the best conditions in which to work, just like young women. That is the only single male school in Barbados. As I said, we have spent just under \$20 million at that facility over time and all have not yet been completed. St. Leonard's has an excellent auditorium. Unfortunately it has some of the worst acoustics that one could encounter. I believe it was looked at for the use of cultural programmes. Sir, that is what we need to do with facilities within the communities, for cultural programmes, but its acoustics are terrible and we will have to spend some money there.

We have to complete the playing field and the total playing area, which is now being levelled. We have to look at the walls around the school, particularly around the west and north-west of that facility. As I said, we are not yet into the Estimates for the coming year, but work will continue to bring that school up to the kind of standard we would want.

We will have, in due course, a total report on that process of the St. Leonard's School. That is one of the things I would want to promise the House, that as we do all of these projects, there will be a full status report of all of them, the costing, time, if there were variations, or if they have gone over budget. The people of Barbados can be assured that this will be done as these projects unfold and as they come to their final conclusion.

Sir, there is also money in this Supplementary for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, \$887 726 for the Open and Flexible Learning Centre. That is quite simple. The Open and Flexible Learning Centre does online education. One recognises that we have to utilise the technology more and more. We have to go to persons

within their homes. The technology allows persons to access education through the Open and Flexible Learning Centre.

Sir, the initial provision established where one was looking at a merging of the three institutions, the Barbados Community College, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and Erdiston Teachers' College under one central rubric, the centre was inadvertently left out, and one or two other areas under the Ministry of Education. This is now being corrected by the provision of these Supplementaries to handle this activity.

Let me say that we have established the Higher Educational Development Unit to work with creating synergies between these three institutions. One does not believe that simple servers are to deal with issues such as Smart Stream, since all schools and tertiary level institutions must become part of the Smart Stream initiative from January 1, 2009.

There is no need to have a server at the Barbados Community College, a server at Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and a server at Erdiston Teachers' College, but there is a central server at one of the institutions, most likely the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, because of the quality of its technological infrastructure, to roll out that software or the provision of persons to work with Smart Stream at every single institution, rather than have them serve across institutions.

12.00 p.m.

Therefore, we put in place, the Higher Educational Development Unit also for the use of library resources. Students at the Barbados Community College should be able to use the library resources at Erdiston and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and vice versa, throughout all the institutions. Therefore, that kind of process is needed to help in moving forward on the development of education in Barbados.

This Government stands committed, as the leading messenger of educational development in Barbados, to continue the thrust to add, develop, enhance and promote, and that is why we put NASE back into place to assist in feeling the wider pulse of the community, in relation to educational development in Barbados.

We are not going to subtract ourselves, believing that either the Minister of Education, the Minister of State, any of the Honourable Members on the Other Side, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas who speaks on educational matters, that we know it all. So that we will involve the community in the delivery of education, in the suggestion of education, in programming, in lending resources, as part of that exercise as well. I am going to

work along with the Minister of State to ensure that the Primary School Advisory Committees are set up within the new year and that they work.

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Thank you very much, Sir.

Sir, an experiment was tried before and it failed but we will ensure that it is done in such a way that they work within the Communities. It is part of the whole governance initiative again, to involve communities in the business of schools. We have the Secondary School Boards under this Government and they are working well.

Again, I want to commend and compliment all of those school Boards that continue to work well and give guidance to those who need it, within the secondary school structure but the primary school structure must not be left out. I remember the experiment, but there was a need for continuation. It will be replanted and reinvigorated. It will be given strength and sustenance, because it is imbedded within the philosophy of the Democratic Labour Party, of which I am a member, to ensure that this effort and with greater governance and involvement of the people will continue, over time.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 54 stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am happy that we are discussing education this morning. I am a little surprised that we have jumped all the other Heads to start with education, leaving out Head 19, Head 53 and others to come here, because there are some questions that I think are of fundamental importance.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member for Christ Church South clearly was not listening to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, but he can be forgiven for that, because he does not listen often.

Suffice it to say, Sir, this debate has gone broader than the Estimates would have reflected and before I get into the aspects of education, I do know that the sum being requested in this Supplementary is for some \$55 868 735 and this is the Supplementary even before the end of

December, coming to a rough total of some \$210 million that the Government has requested in Supplementaries.

Sir, I only reflect on these matters because the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central would know that the attitude taken by the former Opposition in relation to Supplementaries was one of great contention. However, what is more important is the Government's commitment to provide the information that allows us to be able to determine whether we agree with these requests, if they are reasonable or unreasonable and what is the picture against what is being painted.

When he settled the Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue for this financial year, we were told and the House voted and approved some \$3.4 billion. Clearly, the Supplementaries will now carry that expenditure to some \$3.65 billion roughly.

Sir, in these circumstances, it would only be reasonable for us to ask what is the out-turn of revenue, and what is the revenue position against which you are asking us to support the request for this expenditure? Sir, we tried to do it on Tuesday and we got no response, but we will continue to do so in the hope that if we know what is the situation which the country is facing, then we are in a better position to say, yes, no, yes, modify, to offer our perspective as is the right of this Committee of Supply so to do. There is no other Committee that has that right, under our system of governance.

Therefore, I would urge the Government to provide some additional information that will allow us to be able to appropriately examine. Our own instincts tell us that the revenue situation has been good. Our own instincts also tell us that once you have increased the VAT take, as a result of increased energy prices, and even with yesterday's reduction in LPG, the reality is that diesel is still 53 cents more per litre than it was, so that you are bound to get increased revenue.

Sir, if the revenue therefore is holding up, we are then in a position to better assess whether we can support this "Christmas" request for \$55 million, coming on the heels of \$160 million having been voted by this Chamber before.

Sir, I would now like to get into the details of the Heads.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: The UDC's Supplementary last year, pales in comparison to the request for the Rural Development Commission today of some \$7.6 million. Nevertheless, I sense that the Government

wants to stay on education and we are equally happy with that because the record is there to speak for itself.

I believe, and I have always said, that I do not feel that education is a partisan issue in this country, and that was the approach I took when I became the Minister of Education. It is the approach that I still have, as Leader of the Barbados Labour Party. I note that the Government and the Minister spoke with a certain degree of non partisan behaviour until the last two minutes when he, kind-of, remembered that, perhaps, he needed to call the Government's name and the Democratic Labour Party's name and then made some assertions that were not necessarily buttressed by the facts of the speech that he gave prior, as to the commitment, but let us not fool ourselves.

The modern political development of Barbados and the social development of Barbados have required all who have come to serve in public life, to recognise the central importance of education as the means by which persons can be lifted out of poverty, and be lifted from the circumstances of their birth, and to be given opportunities in this country. Sir, to that extent, those who look from outside and those who will look from history will recognise that is the defining difference that has been made in this country's development.

Sir, it started in the 1950s with the establishment of the schools: West St. Joseph, St. Leonard's, Parkinson and others because you could not give free education, if you had no educational places to give. It continued with the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow with the giving of free education. It continued through the 1970s and 1980s with the building of additional places at secondary level.

12.10 a.m.

Most people forget that it was only in the mid 1990s that we were able to satisfy the number of school places at the secondary level. Mr. Chairman, it was for that reason that Barbados had an extensive assisted private secondary system. When I became Minister of Education in 1994, there were a number of private secondary schools still benefitting. Those numbers have reduced over the last 15 years.

Sir, the reality is that by the middle of the 1990s, we came to the definite determination that having satisfied access, you had now to deal with quality. It is no sense giving a man, a boy, or a girl, a place unless you could assure them that the quality of education which they receive was such that would equip them for the rest of their lives. That, therefore, has been the motivator behind the educational policy in Barbados for the last 15 years. There is no secret about that.

What is significant for me is the very clear understanding that educational reform is a generational initiative. I listened to the Minister virtually admit this morning that it is, when he said that he now understands how long it takes to get this done and that done because, effectively, you are dealing with 4 500 students at the primary level and about 4 000 at the secondary level per year in each age cohort.

Mr. Chairman, you have one opportunity for change per year in education which is September. If you miss September, you have to wait for the next September. That is the reality. In every other Ministry virtually you can effect change throughout the year. You are not time-bound in the same way. In recognition of that, it therefore means that the planning processes have to be precise because if you miss, you are really going to lose an entire year.

When we addressed the issue of quality, we recognised that we had another problem - the Minister has adverted to it because it is going to be a perennial problem in Barbados - that for an island this size, to have the number of primary and secondary schools that we have is a massive investment in buildings. You cannot have buildings without taking care of them.

Effectively, prior to the mid 1990s, you did not have a systematic programme to rehabilitate buildings, so a school like St. Matthew's Primary had not been touched for almost 50 years. Each one of us in here can get up and give examples of a school in our Constituency that had three or four decades of neglect.

Mr. Chairman, what we recognised was that neither the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, nor the Caribbean Development Bank wanted to lend for pure buildings in terms of a maintenance programme. They lend you to build a new school but Barbados had over 100 schools and, therefore, we had to find a way in order to be able to rehabilitate plant without having to suffer the indignity of having to replace simply because you allowed buildings to fall totally into a derelict state.

The truth is that we have done reasonably well. I think the Minister can give the figures, and I would be grateful if he does, as to the percentage of schools in the system that have benefitted from rehabilitation over the last 15 years. The truth also is, as he said, that having done some for a number of reasons apart from the normal wear and tear, there is a need to go back and revisit some of them in a short space of time.

Mr. Chairman, we have also developed the culture of using school buildings for other purposes. I support that culture completely because I do not believe that you should invest in a plant and use it only eight hours a day, five days out of seven days and 38 weeks out of 52 weeks. That

would be an under-utilisation of the plant. Therefore, the Ministry has contended with school boards year after year. Some boards do it well and manage the relations well, and others give you hell, quite frankly, to be able to allow a community group.

Mr. Chairman, I remember in 1995/96, the difficulties we had allowing the people who live in the Garrison and the Bay Land areas to be able to use the Garrison Secondary School. I remember the difficulties we had in allowing the people from Bush Hall and Waterford to use Combermere School. There was a sense in which, depending on the leadership of the Board and the school, you could have tremendous problems.

Mr. Chairman, at the end of the day, it is that community that takes care of the school for you. It is that community that will stop a fire from spreading from one building to the whole school. It is that community that you can call upon to do the kind of painting that the Minister spoke about and that has been done at a number of schools across Barbados, perhaps not as comprehensively as we would like, but we have had initiatives where communities say they want to paint this school and they ask the Ministry for permission to do so.

Mr. Chairman, those things said, we have to come up, separate from the need, to complete the remaining schools that have been untouched, with a framework that allows for comprehensive maintenance such that the need for massive resources at one time again is not put on us. We should have a comprehensive maintenance programme that would allow us to adhere to the best precepts that we have been taught as individuals that a stitch in time saves nine. Having said all of that, Sir, it also strikes me that we need to change how we think. I tried to do it when I was Minister of Education in relation to certain aspects of our planning, but I also understood that unless change is embraced by all throughout the system, it is temporary.

I felt strongly then, as I do now, Sir, that we should not be building fences, that we should be planting hedges that would prohibit people from going through. In that way, you would satisfy the requirement of greening. You would spend less money on concrete or metal and the fences would not be broken down in three months, six months or one year. Every one of us who have a fence at a school in our Constituency knows that within months of the fence going up, it is either cut or part of it is raised up, and in less than a year, that investment is gone.

Sir, when I was doing Estimates - the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would well recall this - I told the Heads time after time that I have never seen anyone run through a bougainvillea hedge or a sweet lime hedge yet, and that once they are done and taken care of... That is an area in which in my view the community can be mobilised

to help not just to plant but to maintain the state of those hedges, et cetera.

The country and the school would look better. The school would be a softer environment, more conducive to learning, but equally there would be long-term savings to all of us. I really would like if we could have agreement.

These things do not make the difference to whether or not a Barbados Labour Party or a Democratic Labour Party is in Government. It makes the difference to the quality of life in Barbados and to whether or not the country as a whole could divert those resources to other more critical areas.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir. I am going to come back though because there are a few other things...

Mr. Chairman, I do believe that it would make the difference to the kind of Barbados that we have. If we could therefore have consensus on things that really do not affect whether or not a candidate is elected, but sending the message clearly that there is unity of purpose in terms of what we are trying to achieve in terms of the greening, of the security, of the participation of the community and in terms of the children.

12.20 p.m.

There is absolutely no reason why you cannot have clubs within the schools agreeing to undertake the maintenance of those gardens as a key component. In fact, when we did the National Certification Project, one of the components of that project at the secondary level was, in fact, extracurricular activities. Sir, simply to have book learning does not equip one for life. We all know that. Therefore, we wanted to find a way to measure the performance of children in giving back, in learning and in participating.

I, therefore, would want to suggest, not as the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party, not to the Government as Government, but it is about time there are certain issues in the social fabric of this country that are above partisan consideration but that require public education, and that those of us who are in the positions to influence public opinion....

Sir, the whole issue of greening is one of them. Mr. Chairman, I am going to lay today in this Honourable House a Private Member's Resolution, asking the Government to consider, all things equal, the acquisition of the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary. Mr. Chairman, I am

going to be the first to confess that for all the years I have passed there, I have never been, but I was completely impressed. Sir, there may be other issues in terms of the management, people relationship and a whole host of other things, but the fact that it is one of the remaining wetlands and that the range of species and the work that has been done to educate children and Barbadians, I think is worthy of our support. Sir, those Members of Parliament from Christ Church, I am sure would want to support me strongly in the call for some kind of arrangement to be put in place to ensure its continued operation.

Mr. Chairman, I do feel strongly, and I will speak to the Minister with responsibility for the Urban Development Commission and Rural Development Commission, because we are building flat houses. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South may know these things better than I do because he is a little older than me, but I am told that after Hurricane Janet a whole set of storm carpenters came into vogue and the whole housing pattern of Barbados changed from the gable roof and the hip roof, to these flat roofs. Well, it is only the mercy of God that we have not been hit because the day we are hit, with the range of flat roofs that we have in this country, we would have a serious problem. I am saying that when we changed the design at Urban Development Commission, it was to pick up the Barbadians' vernacular in housing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member should be winding up at this time.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I would want to make the point that if you have the gable roof, Sir, first of all, it is more likely to stay on. Secondly, with the gable roof, there are the fixed louvres which allow for ventilation, so you would not be forcing people to go outside to be cooled.

I am saying that if there are certain things that we could agree on, for example, the hedges for the schools, the type of house that we want Barbadians to live in that has greater resistance to storms and hurricanes, we must forget the partisan nature. Let us agree these are the things that we want to make Barbados a better place. Sir, I think this Government would have added value to the project of nation building.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

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 SPEAKER and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. F.J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable House be now suspended until 2.20 p.m.

Hon. F.J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 2.20 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

12.26 p.m.

RESUMPTION

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, when the Chamber was suspended about an hour ago, we had just been treated to a presentation by the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East in her contribution.

I would like to start by making the observation that I saw the Honourable Member for St. Thomas making thorough and copious preparation, as is her right as the Shadow Minister of Education, to respond in her rightful position, as the lead spokesperson on That Side. I could see that she cringed, as I did, at a number of the strange contortion of facts, to which the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East treated this Chamber.

Mr. Chairman, the facts are, that the "EduTech", Programme, to which we are substantially paying our attention, had its origins under the leadership of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. Sir, in large measure, the public of Barbados needs to take stock of where we are.

Sir, when my colleague, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central made his presentation and spoke to the need to address so many shortcomings, it really is more a reflection on the way the project had been

planned and executed by the Barbados Labour Party than it is a commentary on his stewardship.

Mr. Chairman, there are questions that could be asked down the corridors of the entire education system and we must seek for the answers. Sir, I always take my direction from my discussion when I meet the constituents I have the honour to service in Christ Church South. I am going to take out a sector of these constituencies, the young people between the ages of 17 to 30. These would have been essentially served by the benefits or the failures of the EduTech programme, the hallmark of the education programme of the Barbados Labour Party.

Sir, the point is that we need to make a thorough examination of where our emphases are because, clearly, the Barbados Labour Party was unable to come into contact with the real success in terms of the ability of the education system to treat to the needs of the young people of Barbados.

There are too many of them, who are leaving school unprepared for the work force. There are too many of them who require opportunities outside of the normally provided opportunities in primary and secondary education, who require an earlier reaction to their special needs, that have never been provided in the last seven years, while the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East had it to do under the Barbados Labour Party.

Sir, they cannot come in here now and expect to preach to the Democratic Labour Party Government on what should be and should not be. The Honourable Member ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime. The Honourable Member went as far, towards her wrap-up and spoke to her consciousness, her interest in the environment and how she wanted to plant trees instead of plant fences because trees would have created that balance. The Honourable Member said she had never seen anybody crawled through a sweet lime fence or a bouganvillea fence.

Mr. Chairman, the point is, the Honourable Member had 14 years and if she had planted bouganvillea around one school, we would have a forest. Sir, instead of that, a few months ago, this Honourable Chamber passed a Resolution for thousands of dollars to fence the schools of Barbados and, Sir, in my Constituency, St. Lawrence Primary School still needs attention.

Mr. Chairman, you are aware of the situation at Foundation School. We share the benefits of that school and we share the pain of observing an infrastructure, which has been essentially neglected for 14 years and they now want to come in here, pretend to be gods of some sort and pretend to preach to this Democratic Labour Party about

where they are wrong, what they should be doing and what they should not be doing.

Mr. Chairman, we are not saying we will not accept ideas, but when they come veiled in comments that the Honourable Member started with, indicating that this Supplementary is \$270 million essentially because, as has been stated in here time and time again, we have sought to regress the indiscreet spending of funds and committing - that is the point, all of it was not spent, it was committed and promised. We had to tidy all those things up and part of the need to come to this Chamber and seek a supplementary is as we judiciously try to manage the economy of this country and to make sure that things in this regard are put right.

Mr. Chairman, the only person I have ever heard it passed from the lips of, to talk about Supplementaries being things of the past, is the Honourable Member for St. Peter, again, who is noticeably not in his seat. The Honourable Member said around 1994 that Supplementaries under the Barbados Labour Party would be a thing of the past. Well, Sir, we all know the outcome of that statement. We all know the reality and the hallmark of the Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Mr. Chairman, when I speak about the conditions of the schools, I have seen at St. Christopher School, for instance, in the easterly corridor of my Constituency, which serves a lot of Bourne's Land, St. Christopher and Hopewell residents, where teachers and students had to go to the stage of protest almost to have some of the needs of that school met, which were essentially security needs, we feel that we have focussed on the correct things in education. We need to focus on building capacity. We need to focus on making sure that the special needs of our students and young people, as they approach adult age, that those special needs are met.

Mr. Chhairman, another feature of this question of Supplementary is satisfying increases in cost.

1.50 p.m.

We understand that when utilities go up, charges for work done by contractors may move. I want to charge Barbados. I want to charge the technical ministries in Barbados, the contractors and consultants out there, that we need to examine this question of cost over-runs and increases very carefully and to make sure that we are actually getting some level of output that reflects what is expected and what is measured for the payments being made.

I recognise that we have inherited a situation, where cost over-runs and increases are taken almost as read. I believe we need more scrutiny and attention and to try on

more occasions to attribute that cost where it should be. If because of ineptness, bad workmanship or whatever, and I heard references to this recently, those who are responsible need to pay, not the person contracting the services all the time. Contractors and consultants in Barbados need to send that message because things are going to be challenging. We are in difficult times in the world economy and we have to measure very carefully the output that we get for the expenditure that we put into these projects.

Sir, I understand very well the need at this time for the schools to be better equipped and the need for the Supplementary to support and develop the machinery and equipment to support and develop the technology that makes imparting of educational training to our young people easier and more convenient; that makes access to the useful information that we know to be out there, easier. It also presents the need for us to secure our facilities by way of infrastructural development and infrastructural maintenance in a way that it can actually secure the kind of equipment, computers and electronic devices which are required to support this kind of access.

Sir, these kinds of items need to be constantly updated. The Minister in his presentation spoke to the eight schools for which the \$4 million was going to be allocated, has admitted this is in truth and in fact a splash in the ocean, and in the reality of losing the Louis Lynch Secondary School, that kind of capacity, one has to take drastic measures to replace it, and he will certainly have the support of this Honourable Member, and I am sure this entire Bench in dealing with the matters that face the education system in Barbados.

Sir, the other very most important thing which I alluded to earlier, that is the measurement of the success of our education system. I want to suggest that we need to create, very soon, an environment where some of our young people who may not have taken the opportunities offered to them in the first instance, an environment where they can be given a second chance to develop skills that can be applied to the world of work as we know it today.

Sometimes in growing up, we do not necessarily recognise these essential needs at the time when they are offered. As we grow older and the reality of life sets in, a number of young people, the age groups I mentioned, begin to recognise the need to come back to the drawing board, come back to the education opportunities offered and to take advantage of them.

We need to set up in our constituencies, parishes and schools, classes of training which can allow these young people to access this second opportunity and, in some cases, even a third opportunity. We need to set up within our Youth Ministry, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, this kind of process where we can harness our

young people, because the future of Barbados lies in what these young people grow up to be, and the kind of leadership that they are capable of offering to our generations in the future.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, you can see from the efforts being made by this Administration the kind of commitment that we have to this goal. This goal is not an ethereal or foreign goal. It is a need. It is an urgent need in Barbados to make sure our young people are brought back and given an opportunity to take advantage of education and training because, in reality, the opportunities for those without skills dwindle as the technology and methods of doing business and work in the workplace change.

We, therefore, in the Democratic Labour Party have to respond to this. I am confident ... you have seen the work we have done in transport in terms of our commitment to getting our students to school. I keep saying to this Chamber and other places, that this is a demonstration of the direction to which this Party is committed, a direction which is not new.

A direction which was not born on January 16, 2008, but started in the revolutionary policies of the Right Excellent Errol Barrow and this Democratic Labour Party, continuing through the commitment to education, development and opportunity offering of the Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, as the Minister of Education, the former Prime Minister of this country, and continuing through the management of education under the Democratic Labour Party, a hallmark of which has always been the people of Barbados first, the training of the minds first.

Sir, while the Barbados Labour Party concentrated on buildings, and the consumption of large sums of money is their business, I am sure we will get some answers to that as we continue to dial. The Democratic Labour Party Government of Barbados is committed to educating the young people of Barbados, providing further opportunities as they develop and grow older, and making sure that Barbados has a secure future in the world in which we live.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael East. Before you begin Honourable Member, I am beginning to notice some hand signals and other communication, from the Public Gallery on to the Floor of this House. I would just like to caution that is not to occur.

There must be no hand signals or any other type of communication between members in the Gallery and Honourable Members on the Floor. If that occurs, I will

have to take the necessary action. It is not to occur in the House. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hin Honour K.St.C. BEST: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Resolution before this Honourable Chamber. As I sat and listened to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East giving a lecture as to the way forward to our educational system, one has to wonder whether the Honourable Member at one stage presided over the education system in this country.

All these things after 14 years of triumph, I believe that if you start something that is wonderful and beautiful, your predecessors will continue to champion that cause. That is the reason we are championing the cause of education which was started, and which Errol Walton Barrow championed the cause of the minds in this country, who saw it fit to say that our people are our only resources and education is the way forward.

2.00 p.m.

Yet we have the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East who presided and shut down our schools for a musical fest. Sir, as I traverse the Constituency of St. Michael East, the Belmont School, St. Gile's Primary School, Grantley Prescod Primary School, Springer Memorial School and Charles F. Broome School are all in dire need of repair. The plants are deteriorating at all ends.

Mr. Chairman, it was appalling when I visited St. Gile's Primary School, there is no privacy within the staff room. The staff room comprises a couple of presses and a drink machine, which separate and provide privacy for those teachers.

The classrooms are all joined together, which means that a teacher in Class I or Class II, teaching a different subject, the children are distracted because the voices echo.

Sir, those are the things that needed addressing by the Barbados Labour Party. I urge, and I was given the assurance from the Honourable Minister of Education, that these matters will be dealt with, with speedy haste.

Sir, in order to enhance this Barbados, we must enhance the young minds, and in enhancing the young minds, must be done through a proper environment and where the physical part is conducive to learning, so that when parents entrust their children to the teachers, that they know they are going to a safe environment and not one where the walls are filled with mildew.

I think I read in the newspapers this morning that the Government workers are greatly affected by the physical plant. It does not only extend to the Customs Department

but in the majority of schools. If not all in St. Michael East have a problem and are in dire need of repair.

If you look at the Belmont School, the entrance before used to be on Belmont Main Road. It is now at the back. The Headmistress or Principal is placed in a little corner, under the Barbados Labour Party. There is no knowledge of what is happening at the front of the school because the entrance of the school has now changed. All that had been done to that school in that area is a hard court, which was built just before the Election.

Yes, we need hard courts so that the children could have extracurricular activities, but the physical plant, the condition and the environment for studying must be safe and must be an area where the Principal, the teachers and everyone feel comfortable, which makes the attitude for learning beautiful and interesting and that is not happening at the Belmont School, or the St. Giles School. The teachers in those schools are trying their best, with the very limited resources and the poor plants.

The Barbados Labour Party wants to come in these Chambers here today, Sir, and thump on their chests and say, "Oh, we are championing the cause of education." But how can you champion the cause of education, when you allow the buildings to deteriorate to a level, where you are scrambling now, probably you may have to build new ones, and want to question the reasons for coming to these Chambers for Supplementaries.

Sir, it is quite clear that the Supplementary we are asking for here is to enhance the educational system in this country, and provide the atmosphere where Barbadians of all sorts of lives feel comfortable within our educational system. We have to start at the very young minds and come up.

The Barbados Community College, which is also within my Constituency, is crying out and bursting at the seams. I was very glad to hear the Honourable Member indicating, Mr. Chairman, that other schools will be having Sixth Forms to take some of the pressure off the Barbados Community College.

I have taken it upon myself, as the Parliamentary Representative for St. Michael East, to embrace and adopt all of the schools and to ensure that every term I attend those schools and give the children a pep talk because they want to know what is happening in the Government. They want to know what is happening in Barbados. They want to know who is their Parliamentary Representative. They want to be aware of what is happening in this country.

The Honourable Member for St. Thomas could say what she likes but today is so close to Christmas, and I

want to finish my speech this year, without any distractions. I have put her to rest at the last Sitting.

Asides.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: I will continue.

I am saying, Sir, that under the Barbados Labour Party the physical plants in the educational system deteriorated to a level that is unbelievable. I am sure and I am calling on the Honourable Minister to ensure that when the teachers become registered, as he indicated, that their place of work is some place that they want to go and spend time to teach the children of Barbados.

I would also want to see that the schools in Barbados are used after 3:00 o'clock to assist the communities, and you have members of the community to assist probably in lessons to ensure, because I know for sure, Mr. Chairman, that the teachers may not be able to, all within those hours of work, and if you have some community group working in tandem with the teachers, then you can probably produce better students and you will have better results at the 11-Plus and beyond. Sir, I am asking that the schools remain open for the communities.

I am sure that when that comes into being, the people would understand that the Democratic Labour Party Government is a caring government and cares about the people in communities, the children in Barbados and the people of Barbados. Sir, I do not want that when the people come to the schools that they remain in the state they are in now, but we will have some serious work, not only in St. Michael East, but throughout Barbados.

If it means that we have to come back to Parliament for Supplementary after Supplementary to make the physical structures of this country's education plants effective and efficient, we will do that, but we will ensure that we account for the monies that we spend and there will be no largess over spending or nothing of that sort.

The contractors who do the repairs will be called to account, and to produce proper work, or there would be two contracts, their very first and their very last, under the Democratic Labour Party Administration.

Mr. Chairman, I want to end by lending my support to this Resolution.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In the spirit of Christmas, Sir, I shall stick as

best as possible to the facts that are outlined here, in relation to this matter on education. I wish from the outset to indicate to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central and the Minister of Education and Human Resources Development that I commend him for his sober approach this morning.

2.10 p.m.

I thought that he has learnt quite a lot over the last 11 months about education and the various processes through which projects have to be undergone in order for them to come to fruition, therefore I want to commend him for his wisdom in pursuing such.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see that the EduTech Project, which a Barbados Labour Party Government spearheaded, is being continued. Again, the Minister is wise. Quite a number of schools have been brought in to the system, not only for the technology but, indeed, the enhancement of the school plant, the training of teachers and a number of other components that go well with the EduTech Project.

Mr. Chairman, it is something that no wise Government, whether new or old, would want to curtail, because at the end of the day, the human resources development component that has been added to education will greatly assist because EduTech is about people. It is about helping the young and the old, and about helping the teachers and people in the communities, as would be seen with the community technology programmes, to get on the cutting edge of this whole technological new world.

Mr. Chairman, I am very happy that this is happening because in 1994 when we assumed office as a government more than 90 per cent of the schools plant lacked refurbishment. Today, I can tell you that more than 55 per cent of the schools plant have been upgraded. Most of the projects that the Honourable Minister mentioned today are projects to do with schools that were part of the programme where the designs and so on were already in place.

The Honourable Member spoke about Christ Church Girls' School now renamed; the St. Martin's Four Roads Primary, now renamed; the Lodge School; St. Leonard's Boys; George Lamming Primary and others that were already in process and ready to be completed by the time the Government changed.

I am happy because the Honourable Member and his team understand that it is important that we look after that human element and that the environs are conducive to teaching and learning, therefore we support those efforts on This Side.

Mr. Chairman, when I look at utilities that are a part of this Supplementary for \$200 000, I know that the energy bills have escalated, and I support this. The only thing I would like to ask the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, to do is to have a real critical look at what we had indicated to the Permanent Secretary then about preparing an energy conservation programme.

I say this because when I do my travels across the island, as all Honourable Members do or should do, despite whatever time in the night I pass, I see lights burning all night long on the top floor of some of those schools. I am not saying that security lights should not be used, but when the lights in the classrooms are on unnecessarily, and when equipment that can be unplugged is not unplugged during the evening after school, then the cost will continue to escalate.

Mr. Chairman, I would like for a good energy conservation policy to be instituted, not only for the schools but for the various Government Departments, so that all of us can buy into it because, at the end of the day, it would be savings for the taxpayers.

Mr. Chairman, the tractor that is owned by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development is at the stage now where it can be scrapped. It has worked really hard over the years. Sir, I support that \$38 000 because that lone tractor has to prepare over 70 primary schools, which are starved of funds, for the September term. The secondary schools do have funds in their estimates and they have a lot of general workers and artisans and so who can help with the cleaning of those facilities.

Sir, granted that the National Sports Council and the National Conservation Commission would assist at times, I believe that a new tractor would help to ease the challenges and indeed remove some of the anger from parents at the start of the September term that will always be turbulent as long we do not get the systems put in place in the way that I am sure any Honourable Minister would want to have the schools in pristine conditions. Sir, without the use of the good working tractor, it will create some further problems.

Mr. Chairman, I want to share the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East because I too was a part of the schools beautification programme. Sir, unless one follows and asks for a status report, sometimes things go through one ear... They are beautiful on paper but unless those implementation steps are pursued, then things fall back again.

Mr. Chairman, I know that some schools did make an effort and some of them have beautiful hedges. The

green is a part of what we would want for our aesthetic appreciation, therefore the schools' beautification programme is also one that we need to pursue with vigour. I agree that the sweet lime fence or that of bougainvillea or even hibiscus are great and they can go with the fence, if some fences have been erected.

Mr. Chairman, I believe, if you are talking community, that we need to engage more of our parents, guardians and friends in the community. There are business people who would be willing to donate soil, there are others that would be willing to donate plants, and parents and guardians would be willing to help with the planting and the nurturing of such plants to recreate that green within the schools' environs.

Mr. Chairman, I know that fences are generally uprooted through vandalism. I would know that Honourable Members would want to challenge me. The Honourable Member for St. James South would want to know if I do not work, but that is not his business. The point is that when I look over at the Lester Vaughan School, I cannot help but seeing that the fence that was fixed just before the middle of this year... Sir, anybody can now enter Lester Vaughan School from the southern location.

Sir, the school is enclosed and some mornings the small gates are not opened for students and, therefore, they cannot get in and they have to enter from what I would call the western entrance, so the next morning you would see the fence cut open and pushed apart. Any and everybody can walk in to that school at day time, night time, whenever they will. The only thing that cannot enter would be vehicles because the gates are locked.

Mr. Chairman, fences are vandalised. Sometimes they deteriorate with the changes in the weather, especially the green chain link fences.

Sir, I am not saying that the security of staff, students and other workers or visitors on the schools' compound would not be important. I believe that the way to go is to have a good marriage of the two, the fence going with the sweet lime hedges and the other hedges that we mentioned earlier, to make sure that in years to come, even if that fence collapses, it can be removed, but the hedges would remain with the school. I think that would be a measure of pride to those parents and guardians who attend the school because the greening of that area would be very important.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to talk about the involvement of the community, and Honourable Members are making a real critical point. Sir, I must remind Honourable Members that from 1994 until 2007-2008, we have had really excellent relationships with some principals

and staff, but there are some other principals and secretary treasurers who have not bought into the whole exercise of giving way to the community by embracing them. I learnt from a neighbourhood school the importance of bringing them into the school environs and giving them opportunities to participate in activities.

2.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, when I went to Sharon Primary in January 1970, every week the school would have been vandalised, the charts were torn from the walls, the windows were broken, the doors were broken and entered. Sir, all kinds of strange things were happening. From the time we bought into the communities like Jackson, Arthur Seat and Shop Hill, those things became less and less, until eventually there was no need for security guards at Sharon Primary. I do not think there is need for any now, because there is such a happy marriage between the individuals and the schools.

We believe a happy marriage between communities and schools would help to minimise vandalism and the disrespect we see many people seem to have towards the school. People sometimes express their anger at the very school they would have attended because they felt that they were either interfered with or unfaired.

Sir, we cannot afford to encourage that kind of behaviour, instead, let us open up the schools for the 4-H Clubs to continue to function, for the Red Cross Society to use the facilities, for other persons in the communities to carry out their duties, and for empowering the people who live around the schools.

Mr. Chairman, I think if we continue to open up schools, as we have over the years, with the continuing education programme, because there are no less than six schools that have started up that programme under the Barbados Labour Party - granted that there would have been a few schools before 1994, when we became the Government.

Mr. Chairman, there are some schools under the EduTech Programme where parents, guardians and others are now involved in the technology. That is a very healthy way for the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development to continue to go.

I also recognise that the Government - and I am going to use the same words that are written in the document - has inadvertently omitted to include what I consider to be approximately \$2.5 million in funds for institutions I consider to be extremely important for the development of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, when you look at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, where that school has grown in large numbers to facilitate not only young Barbadians, because a lot of senior persons use the part-time programmes to enhance their skills or to learn new skills.

When I see that the Government has inadvertently allocated \$574 297 for the Distance Education Programme, one of the critical areas in the technical and vocational arenas, that is a cause for concern for me, because it is more than half-million dollars that has been inadvertently omitted, similarly, the Barbados Community College, that amount of \$991 434, where just under \$1 million has been inadvertently omitted from the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot say why that has happened but I am glad that it is included because the people of Barbados matter, and those institutions have been carrying this country well over the many years. I would, therefore, wish for them to be able to continue to cater for the youth and others by having the certification, especially for those young people who may not have completed a secondary education.

I would wish, therefore, that they would be drafted in, under Project OASIS. I hope too that Mainstreaming Project, as it has now been renamed, would continue to include those young people who want to do electrical installation, catering and various other courses. Sir, I am happy to see that the funds are included because you cannot inadvertently omit \$2.5 million from these institutions that make a difference.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to see that the St. Ambrose Primary School is coming to a level. I pass there almost every day. I go to the London Bourne area. Sir, I would want to say that \$110 000 for transport for those students is very important.

I too would like to add my commendation to the Scouts Commissioner, Rev. Dr. Nigel Taylor, and the team of scout leaders, who have been excellent landlords over the past three to four years, in accommodating the staff and parents at the Scouts' Headquarters. That too is another project that was left by the Barbados Labour Party and I am happy to see that it continues, as the people of Barbados are the ones who are most integral in this exercise.

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, similarly, staple growth - where this Barbados Labour Party sought to do the formal acquisition and so to make sure that those folks who live in those areas would get the best of the amalgamation.

The St. David's School is located in a corner. It is dangerous. The students have little or no where to play and I wonder sometimes how they do make it safely to and from school. The amalgamation with the South District School will help to give them the conducive environment we know necessary and I hope that will soon come to fruition.

Mr. Chairman, as I close, all I would want to say is that we will support these requests for this Supplementary because we believe that education is the best aspect of development that we have going for us, and that in order for us to take advantage, we must put the funding behind it. Sir, it must be done through the expansion or refurbishment of the facilities, through the purchase of equipment, the payment of staff, the provision for grants and other needs of persons who cannot sometimes do better, those persons who need the extra funds to buy books, or institutions like the Learning Centre and those others, to help them to be properly-run.

Sir, we do not have a challenge with this Resolution, except to say that we are happy that our minds, that of the Honourable Minister, and I believe the rest of this Government, are on the same track because we are putting people first. We are ensuring that their needs are met and that they are on the cutting edge.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution before this Honourable House and to note that we have heard today a kind of admission by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, that effectively, the Edutech Programme under the Barbados Labour Party, was essentially serving the purpose of repairs to the physical school plant throughout the country, and not what was being promoted by the Barbados Labour Party when they were in office, when they went around the length and breadth of Barbados proclaiming far and wide that the EduTech Programme was revolutionary, that it was concentrated primarily on the introduction of technology that would revolutionise the academic performance of students, and would transform education within our country.

Sir, today as a footnote, we hear the penitent admission of the Leader of the Opposition that the Barbados Labour Party Government conceptualised that EduTech Programme primarily to repair the school plant.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. The Honourable Member knows very

well, as he would have visited four or five schools during that period, of the various components of EduTech.

Mr. Chairman, as was mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, the school plants were run-down but the components not only included the refurbishment, they also included teacher-training, the infusion of the technology, and a host of other areas that are a happy marriage to make the EduTech Programme the success it has been. Therefore, for the Honourable Member to say it is only for refurbishment of plant is really misleading this Honourable Chamber.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I used the word “primarily”, which is a significant difference in the meaning of those words. Sir, I am just quoting what the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East told this Honourable Chamber today. I am not making up anything. This is the penitent admission I reiterate of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

That Honourable Member told this Committee that effectively the international lending agencies would not have lent the millions that they have, to support a programme which was officially termed a programme for repairs. Therefore, I am saying that the Democratic Labour Party, while in Opposition, had made that point to the public.

We exposed the Barbados Labour Party. We are now hearing, after the public has rejected the Barbados Labour Party, that effectively the Barbados Labour Party packaged this EduTech Programme and as some people said, it is just a sexy word for school repairs.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the track record of the Barbados Labour Party in terms of executing Edutech left a great deal to be desired. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member knows well that this Honourable Member has been in education for several years and taught at a number of schools, primarily secondary schools and, Mr. Chairman, I can speak from a position of knowledge.

Sir, many of the teachers, parents and children of these schools look forward with great expectation for massive improvement in their infrastructure and computers throughout the school. Sir, what did they get? Some schools are still waiting and have not been dealt with as yet, and the programme is coming to an end at the end of the year.

Mr. Chairman, even schools that were touched by the Barbados Labour Party got a number of computer hardware that was destroyed in a short period of time, and many people questioned the choice of computer hardware

that was bought by the Barbados Labour Party. Indeed, many people argued that it might have been better to provide the students with laptops rather than provide a few computers, in a computer laboratory that would be woefully inadequate in terms of servicing the entire student population.

Sir, with inadequate security and supervision, as I have said, many of these computers were destroyed and made dysfunctional in short order. Sir, millions of dollars were wasted by the inappropriate emphasis of the Barbados Labour Party in terms of the execution of this EduTech Programme.

Mr. Chairman, as we speak, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East and others in this Honourable Chamber agreed today that we could go across the length and breadth of the country and notice that within many of the schools we still have an urgent need for repairs. For example, at Westbury Primary School, as I visited that school for Independence, the senior staff pointed out serious cracks in the walls of some of the building, which I have drawn to the relevant section within the Ministry. We could assure the school population there that this Democratic Labour Party would move assiduously to address these serious concerns.

Therefore, I welcome the fact that within the City as well, that the St. Ambrose School is being rebuilt and that it will be opened by the beginning of the next academic year. Sir, the little children who reside in the uptown area, such as Wellington Street, King William Street, Vine Street, Spruce Street and so on, were inconvenienced by having to travel all the way up Collymore Rock to Hazelwood, which is heavily traversed by vehicular traffic including heavy duty vehicles. Sir, I am very relieved to hear that these children would be able to walk to school as usual.

Mr. Chairman, I would also join in thanking the officer of the Scouts' Movement at Hazelwood for accommodating these children of the City. I have visited that plant. I know it was cramped, but I congratulate the principal, staff and parents, who have really been understanding in prevailing and enduring this mild inconvenience while work at the St. Ambrose School location is being executed.

I take the opportunity to call upon the contractors there to make sure that they employ suitably qualified residents from the immediate vicinity of the school site, be they labourers, masons, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and so on. I have indeed made representation to the contractor and I look forward to finding employment for those young people in that area, who really are in need of honest employment, especially as we talk about involving the community and, therefore, being residents of that area,

they deserve an equal opportunity to source employment at that work site and, indeed, throughout the island at the various construction sites in our country.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take the opportunity in talking on this Head 54 on Education to focus on the private schools because I was able to visit the Metropolitan High School in the Independence period and, in fact, I have taught at a number of private schools as well and I know that many of these private institutions of learning have cash flow issues, that is to say, they rely on the fees paid by parents and guardians of students primarily for them to pay staff, utilities and other overheads.

Sir, many students have financial challenges and, as they pay on a monthly or term basis, sometimes may be in arrears and then the operators of these schools have challenges in terms of paying the staff on a timely basis and maintaining the physical plant.

Mr. Chairman, this Democratic Labour Party Government is aware of these challenges and we are committed to doing all within our power to assist these private educational institutions to continue to provide quality education, be it primary, secondary or even at the tertiary level to the young people of our country because all cannot be accommodated at the Government institutions and there is a need for these schools to be supported, both in their curriculum development be it, for example, their ability to provide the School Base Assessment (SBAs) for CXC level subjects as occurs in the Government schools because the alternatives to the SBAs is not necessarily as attractive and student friendly.

Mr. Chairman, I have spoken to a number of interests in this sector and this is the feedback I have received. Sir, these are issues that would engage the Government and the Ministry as we seek to make the climate within which the private educational institutions operate conducive to learning and the high quality of education being delivered there.

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

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity, therefore, to call upon the private sector, be it banks, be it the retail sector, to really come forward and assist the country in terms of improving the quality of education available to our students because Government cannot provide all.

Sir, as good corporate citizens, I am calling upon these private businesses to adopt a school within their neighbourhood. Sir, some have started that and I congratulate them. Sir, in adopting the school, they should provide scholarships to students because that would help

the cash flow of the particular private school, when the students are able to get scholarships, then the staff of those schools could be paid.

Mr. Chairman, even in the provision of libraries, there are a number of primary schools that do not have functional libraries and this is where corporate Barbados could get on board and embrace the school system by providing books, equipment and equipping the libraries generally with furniture and so on so that these schools could be modernised in terms of that aspect.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I note that some private school students, who may not use uniforms, may have challenges in terms of accessing the taxpayer-funded transport at the Transport Board and, therefore, be there university students or other students, this is an issue that could be addressed. I am sure this could be regularised to ensure that these persons are not disadvantaged in terms of the current arrangement.

2.40 p.m.

Also, we talked about the Barbados Community College. Within these Supplementaries we are providing funding there. I know this is a very attractive tertiary level institution. I attended there at one stage. You have a very wide subject offering, but I know there are a lot of freedoms there because the students do not have to wear uniforms.

There is no rigid discipline in terms of students being put in detention and this sort of thing. With these freedoms come responsibility. I urge those students to ensure that the millions of dollars provided for them by the people of Barbados are not wasted and they really buckle down to ensure that their grade point average is high.

The general performance of these students is so high that the Barbados Community College continues to be a very popular choice. Indeed, as we talk about rationalising the Barbados Community College, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Erdiston Teachers' College in relation to the University of the West Indies and so on, clearly I know those students who gained an Associate Degree in the Hotel Management area from the Barbados Community College, and were able to go on to the University of the West Indies completing their Bachelors in two years, saving a year, saving themselves time and the country thousands of dollars. That can only occur if they pass their courses, apply themselves, avoid delinquent behaviour or failing to apply themselves academically.

Mr. Chairman, I support this Resolution.

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

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Sir, I just want to add a few words to this debate. I think it would be remiss of me if not to at least lend my voice to this very important discussion not to delay the Committee, but to just add to what some of my colleagues have been saying.

First of all, I think we should begin by congratulating the Honourable Minister of Education and, of course, the newly assigned Minister of State, certainly, the Minister of Education, substantive, for what really has been a very important bit of work, and I think relatively successful, even though this is in the early days yet.

I think when one reflects on the fact that it has been perhaps universally accepted, that in many ways Barbados has been seen as one of those countries with a relatively good, and I say relatively good, education, one of which we have been proud of over the years. Indeed, the Democratic Labour Party, has been the Party in the forefront of building the foundation of that very important institution in Barbados.

Sir, when one thinks as well about the energies that have been put in by successive Ministers of Education, the vision which they have brought to broadening educational opportunities in Barbados, and strengthening what is the fundamental base for the development of our human resources on which we claim to have as our only major resource, so to speak, I think one has to congratulate the Minister for following lock, stock and barrel, with that vision.

Sir, I think that many people, after the last 14 years, became a little concerned about declining standards in the education system. This is not necessarily to be partisan, but to really reflect on the fact about what we were seeing, some levels of declining performance, other things relative to the building within which schools were located. We know of the Lodge School and Harrison College. We know of all of them. We know of several primary schools.

I can speak of at least one of the primary schools in my area, Deacons' Primary School, in which I am quite perturbed with the state and condition of some of the plant. Bathrooms are not in the best kept shape; children having to sit on toilets without seat covers and the general condition. It is really not the kind of thing that one would want to send one's child or children into that type of environment. Yet, we have people who utilise these schools and must utilise them on a daily basis.

When I spoke to children, over the Independence holiday, I told them I was going to see, even from my own meagre resources, if the Ministry could not get there in time, to ensure that by the time school opens for the next term, that I am going to rectify those bathrooms, because I frankly do not like to see it. I use the school sometimes for

activities and I do not want to have people invited there to use the facilities that are not up to standard. I am going to try to ensure that is done.

The Honourable Minister, who brought a Supplementary here some weeks ago, has assured me that other things are going to be done at the school, covering for the stairs. There is no covering and when it rains children cannot go for the school meals. The Minister was there and saw that the lighting was extremely poor. It is practically non-existent.

Sir, we have at Eagle Hall Primary School a similar problem. We also have a problem with a wall that is cracking. It is a structural crack that we have to address.

We know that there are issues in the system in terms of the plant, but we also know that there are issues in terms of how we treat to the capacity problems that we have. We have to recognise that with the influx, and I do not want to get into debate about immigration, but with the influx of non-nationals into the country, additional burdens are being placed on our schools. In fact, I believe that the Minister of Education, perhaps could speak more readily to this, but my understanding is that some of our schools are bursting at the seams. They are over the capacity because of additional numbers in the schools. We have to try to find a way to provide for them. One of the areas we are finding a major problem is in the post-secondary education system.

Sir, I am a proud student of the Barbados Community College, but if I had, with the few "O" levels I have...

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Former student.

Sir, if I had to enter there now, I probably would not get in. I think that when the Barbados Community College was envisaged and developed, much to the chagrin of the so-called educational experts in Barbados, Sir Lloyd Sandiford, then Erskine Sandiford then had to undergo a tremendous amount of beating both within and outside of the Democratic Labour Party, particularly outside.

It was vehemently opposed by several so-called leading educational likes in Barbados, but the wisdom and vision of that former Minister of Education, allowed a lot of poor people's children to be afforded the opportunity, who could not get into a sixth form school, to go the Barbados Community College and from there to go on to the University of the West Indies and gain degrees.

I went into the University of the West Indies straight out of the Barbados Community College. I entered into the

University of the West Indies at the age of 19 or 20 years and graduated at the age of 23.

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: That was time well spent. Sir, 22, I should say. That is the situation.

Sir, we now have a situation in which the Barbados Community College is overloaded. The Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is overloaded. There are not enough sixth form schools, so we have a major capacity problem. We have children with 6, 7 or sometime 8 "O" levels who can get into neither institution. I think that the Minister of Education in this Democratic Labour Party, has been trying to bend his mind around how we can provide opportunities for those students.

Sir, I heard the Honourable Minister speaking about the extension of the Satellite Campus of the College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. This is the kind of forward-looking policy we need as we prepare to deal with a globalised community that is far more competitive and demanding than it was 20 years ago.

We have to provide opportunities for students to inculcate the new techniques and technologies, the new knowledge, the new discursive tools of analysis that are necessary to compete in the world. If we do not have a good plant, if we do not have good places, then we are going to be suffering in that particular regard.

2.50 p.m.

Therefore, I want to encourage the Government and the Minister of Education to forge ahead with plans to expand those institutions, because they serve a fundamental need in this community, as we see it.

We also have to improve on the quality of the teaching. Therefore, we have to ensure that our teachers, in particular, not only are given the technology with which to teach, because that is important. They also have to be given consistent upgrading of skills.

It is no longer important for a teacher to get a graduate or post graduate degree, or some training in education and then that is the end. Sir, just as doctors and lawyers need to upgrade their skills continuously, teachers need to upgrade their skills continuously.

I really feel it is very unfortunate when, in many ways - and I will say this to the unions and the management of the schools - that this petty and foolish argument we are having every year between the unions and schools, when it comes to teachers, who have to get training and who have

to participate in different types of activities, they need to resolve those issues, expeditiously.

It is important that teachers are allowed the time to go and upgrade their skills, but it is also important that once those skills are upgraded, and that new knowledge is imparted, that teachers also are made to understand that they have to subject themselves to a level of scrutiny. Teachers also have to be tested. Teachers also have to be reminded that their skills have to be tested, and that they are not just going to be teaching in school, walk in and walk out, and not be given some kind of appraisal at the end of the day. Teacher appraisals are just as important, and as we test students, we will test teachers. We will look at teaching techniques. We will look at the technology.

We will look at the system holistically and try to improve those methodologies for teaching. It is all in terms of improving the pedagogy.

In the schools we have to lift this because education is way too important for us, but we also have to deepen the whole process of extracurricular activity in the schools. I have seen how schools can improve and get better by participating in sports and cultural activities. We all hail Springer Memorial School but as the young people would say, I am going to big-up mine.

The Garrison Secondary School did wonderfully this year and, as a graduate of the Garrison Secondary School, as well as the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and Minister of Housing of Lands, we are happy. I think that your involvement builds pride, discipline and an aptitude that it is necessary to succeed in academia.

When I was at school, I did not participate in a lot of sports. I was not a very good sportsman, except watching the horses, but I still recognised and participated in some type of extracurricular activity. I was on the debating team, and I did not turn out to be a bad speaker.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I think that we have to build a holistic approach to education, and move it right up through the system. Of course, that begins at the nursery schools. We need more nursery schools. I think the Minister of Education knows that. We are going to get more. We opened two this school year; one in Six Roads and another one that we remodelled. We are going to be opening more of these nursery schools.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: We are going to have two more nursery schools, just as we need additional school plants, perhaps, at the secondary level. Therefore, we are

going to be trying our best to improve plants and to provide spaces and opportunities, and that is why this Supplementary is here today.

Sir, I want to close by going a little further up, even though we do not have that in here, to university level. I want to make the point, because we have a major issue that I think we need to deal with, and I think the Minister of Education has been on to it. In my view, there needs to be a greater link between what is happening at the Community College and our secondary schools, and what is going on in the University of the West Indies. There is a gap between the two and that gap is not necessarily a gap of transition because people are transitioning from the Community College and secondary school into the University of the West Indies, but I am concerned that in our mad rush - and it sounds good and we want it - to say that we want one graduate in every household, while I support that, I believe that is a horse that properly needs riding.

Sir, having sat as a member of a review committee on the Social Sciences Programme in the Government Department of the University of the West Indies, I can tell you that a lot of students are entering the university system, not properly prepared for the university, and we are seeing a decline in the level and quality both of aptitude and of writing, and general skills, not that they are not trained. They are trained, Mr. Chairman, but they are not making the grade.

In fact, I can tell you this. You can go through the entire University of the West Indies' Political Science Programme and not know how Parliament functions in Barbados. Sir, nowhere on this Programme is this thing taught. They do not know what is a Bill. They do not know the difference between the House and the Senate. They do not know what is a Green Paper. I am saying that something has to be fundamentally wrong.

We advised the University that some level of articulation agreement has to occur between the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies first-year programmes, to ensure that the transition is not as deep as it is. A lot of people do not want to say this.

We have a situation at the University of the West Indies where people are being shuttled and shuffled through that institution, some of them coming out no better than they went in, but coming out with degrees, nonetheless. Sir, we have to look at that curricula at the University of the West Indies. We have to ensure that standards are not being lowered at the expense of putting out more graduates.

Mr. Chairman, it sounds good to have these amounts of persons with First Class Honours. When I was at the University of the West Indies in the first year, they had two

First Class Honours. The second year, they had three First-Class Honours. The third year they had one First Class Honouree. I am not saying the students are not of that quality. Now, you get 50 in one year and 25.

I am not saying that the students do not have the quality but I am saying that the level of training, perhaps, needs to be looked at again. Mr. Chairman, as a former lecturer in the university system at Masters level, I am telling you, Sir, the quality of writing, the level of knowledge and reading are not up to scratch.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I had to tell my students at the beginning of the term that I am not accepting any foolishness. This thing about writing scripts for people and the grammar is bad and Internet speech and text speech, "ppl" for people, and that kind of nonsense is going on and it has to stop.

I am saying that if the Government of Barbados is going to be putting that type of money in the University of the West Indies, we need to ensure that there is a level of quality assurance for students coming out of that system.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: And we are not just shuffling people through a system just because you want to say that you have a university graduate in every household. I would say, finally, on this point, this whole question of these degrees, these Master Degrees that are popping up like popcorn at the university...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I am serious. There is a Master's Degree in Cricket Studies, a Master's Degree in Wood Work, a Master's Degree in Microphones, a Master's Degree in everything. I do not have a problem in that people need to get Master Degrees, but the falling over and tripping over each degree, and you have three and four degrees that resemble each other, and cross-cutting courses, just because you want to have them, is not the way to proper educational planning.

3.00 p.m.

We have to have discussions with every Department in this country. I want to see us raise the level of having degrees, particularly in science and technology and industrial innovation. That is where we are going to cut our teeth in this globalised community.

Mr. Chairman, I do not have a problem with people having Master Degrees. They can have them, but they have to match what is required in Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean. Persons should not just pile them on every year by having two and three, and then run down to the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development expecting to get support for them. We will support degrees as much as we can, and we will support the students but the degrees have to be relevant to the needs of the societies within which we live. That is the remit from this institution.

I want to say to the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development to press on. I want to congratulate the Democratic Labour Party for putting school children to ride on the buses free. I support this Resolution for increasing and upgrading the plant. I want to support the Minister of Education for his vehement support for increased discipline in schools at all levels.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say, as I conclude this debate, and as we conclude the Sittings for this year, that we have, as a Parliament, to ensure that we hold up our end of the bargain to provide for our students and our teachers, and to ensure that Barbados maintains its position as the country with the top educational system, not only in this Caribbean but in this hemisphere.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Resolution. Sir, perhaps the true test of an education system and the extent to which it is working is the extent to which the products of that system are able to come out in society and contribute in a meaningful way to the development of that society.

Sir, to the extent where any society produces students who find it difficult to contribute to the development of the society, it is not really reaching the kind of heights and does not achieve any objectives that allow us to say that it is truly a perfect system because, as we know, there are imperfections.

Sir, one of the things I also want to focus on is the fact that we seem, as a society today, to be consumed with numbers. Very often we brag about the number of persons coming out of an educational institution and the number of passes they have without at the same time looking at the extent to which these individuals can make any reasonable contribution to the development, whether or not they can go out there and find a niche in society that they could, at least, say I can play a useful role in society.

Sir, by and large, when we look at it, maybe that is one of the reasons why you find in our society that you have individuals who play a dysfunctional role. One of the things that we must be concerned about is the fact that we have individuals in our society who today are prepared to cop out not because of the fact that they cannot make a contribution but because the educational system has not prepared them to play a useful role in that society, and therefore what happened is that they adopt the easiest path. That is one of the issues that we need to deal with.

In order to understand the problem, we must also appreciate that an educational system in itself cannot play the role. We must appreciate the role of parents.

Sir, the era of free education seems to suggest to individuals in our society that the State can take care of everything. You just send your child to school and basically the school can give it all the correct attitudes that it needs to have, but we forget the role of the home. That is why even in this respect as I support the Resolution, I also want to emphasise the role of parental responsibility in terms of ensuring that the products of our educational system can play a meaningful role. In that regard, I would want to give encouragement to the Minister. We also need to try to make the ParentTeachers' Associations within our schools more active because in that way we would then have and enjoy the support of the wider community.

Sir, one of the things that we see in the districts is the vandalism that goes on at our schools. Sir, what we forget is that some of the same people who are actually vandalising those schools sometimes went to school in the same districts. If there was greater community support for the schools, maybe you might have at least peer influence operating to prevent vandalism to the extent that we are seeing it.

Sir, I just want to go to the Lawrence T. Gay School which is in my Constituency where from time to time Government invested in the erection of fences. This is done in order to ensure that you have greater security around the school. You have schools which might engage in extracurricular activities and school projects in different things.

In order to make the environment even safe, you need fences, and you have a situation where people from within the community actually destroyed those fences. Sir, if every time you do it, and within a few months the fences are destroyed, it suggests to me that the community in itself is not aware of the importance of maintaining a safe school environment.

Mr. Chairman, not only that. You have children who might be engaged in projects. As a matter of fact, I learnt that one of the main impediments at the Lawrence T. Gay

School for starting and keeping organisations such as the 4H Movement going, which might want to engage in agricultural projects, is that you have a situation where the fruits of the students' labour might be stolen. Sir, when you have that kind of thing, it creates an element of frustration in schools, which we need to address.

I want to suggest that we seriously then need to examine how to get active functioning ParentTeachers' Associations. Sir, one of the things that parents also need to remember is that while the Government can actually provide resources to assist the development of their children in terms of learning, it is only if they have a supportive environment in the home that you could find again the correct attitude being given to children.

Sir, as we all know, if you do not have the correct attitude to learning, you cannot learn, that is why the parents have to play a critical role as far as that is concerned.

Sir, in addition to that, I also want to appeal, even at this point in time, to the Minister in terms of the whole question of single sex schools. Sir, I noted that St. Leonard's Boys' School had their graduation a little while ago and it was shown that the school did relatively well. One of the things I believe we need to have in our educational system is greater choice.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things that we must recognise is that just as much as co-educational schools were a purpose in our educational system that single sex schools also serve a purpose in our educational system. Sir, we need to have greater choices given to those parents who might want to send their children to single sex schools.

Sir, when you look at the performance of schools such as St. Leonard's Boys with a history of abuse in some cases from previous Governments, and also a situation where they operate under relatively limited resources when you compare them to other schools, you have to compliment them on their performance today, despite the challenges they have faced.

3.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, in that regard, I would want to make a special appeal to the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development to, at least, give greater choice to those parents who want to send their children to single-sex schools. I would also want to take the opportunity to congratulate the staff at the St. Leonard's School for the excellent job done in terms of those students under very difficult circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, one of the other things we need to recognise... I am one of those people I feel that in terms of

the performance of the education system, and the fact that the true test of the education system is the extent to which it produces individuals who can actually function in society, is that we need benchmarks of performance within our education system.

Mr. Chairman, in most every activity in life in which we engage, there are benchmarks of performance. Therefore, if you are working in private enterprises, there are some benchmarks of performance that will determine whether you would have reached certain targets. Therefore, in this way, I think we need to set benchmarks for performance for our schools.

Why should we have a situation in our schools where we tolerate a situation where individual schools do not reach certain levels of performance and we seem to be satisfied with it because what we are interested in too is numbers? We are interested in getting people through the system, without looking and ensuring that these persons we send through the system are adequately prepared to take on the challenges of life.

Mr. Chairman, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West talking about the fact that we are producing a number of persons who hold a number of degrees, but the other point I think we need to recognise is how meaningful is it, if those same students cannot, at the same time, contribute in any meaningful way to society.

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

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Sir, we have a situation in our society where we recently had the EduTech Programme. What we noticed in that programme was the emphasis on technology, to the point I believe some persons were actually feeling that because of the fact that you are aware of technology, that you could produce. Sir, one of the things we need to emphasise is that unless you are able to utilise technology in a very constructive way, society itself cannot move forward.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to say that one of the things we need to teach our students and youngsters, as we go into the schools, is that we should not learn technology just for itself, but that we should also look to see exactly what use it could be put. That is what we need to emphasise, not just to come up with a brand name or coin a phrase, called EduTech, just to mislead people as to the extent to which it can actually help them to make a meaningful contribution to society, so that when they come out, they then discover in the world of work, that it is very much different.

Sir, we would soon realise that unless you can apply the technology, you would not be able to achieve your goals, while, at the same time, achieving society's goals.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to speak on this Head and to lend my support to the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development. I believe that all Honourable Members have made the point that the EduTech Programme has been doing a good job over the years.

Mr. Chairman, the last speaker has made the point that there is need to broaden the scope of the Parent/Teachers' Association, and I would want to make a call for a greater relationship between the Parent/Teachers' Association and the schools. In fact, I believe that in our development today, we should make Parent/Teachers' Association compulsory at every school.

We should also seek to ensure that parents attend these meetings, at least once or twice a term, because it is important for parents to see and learn of the development of their children. Sir, I do not know if the Minister could speak to the percentage of parents who attend these meetings but I believe there is a need for the relationship to be deepened and widened as we move forward into the EduTech Programme.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we spend more than 20 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product on education. Sir, in a modern society like ours, when a government could be spending more than 20 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product on education, much more than the United States of America and Canada, is something I believe this country stands out proud.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to suggest that when we look at the EduTech Programme, which has been in existence for 10 or 20 years, and not just 10 months, that Barbados can be proud of the fact that from the 1930s, 1940s and more so in the 1950s, Governments have been spending a lot of our resources on education. Sir, that is one of the hallmarks of being Barbadian. We have spent a lot of money and resources. We do not have natural resources but we have human capital and we spend a lot of money on it.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to say that there needs to be an assessment of the type and quality of our education system today. Sir, there are many challenges that we have in education today. Honourable Members have been speaking about the fact that we have a number of free

programmes being offered at these schools, such as free school meals, free bus fare, free text books, et cetera.

Sir, I wonder if an assessment has ever been done as to the relationship between what I may call free educational programmes that the students have, and what benefits are we getting. Could we analyse this to see what are some of the challenges that we could bring to bear on the whole educational sector? I believe that we, as a government, have done a lot.

Mr. Chairman, there is talk about declining standards. When you look at what is happening, for example, in the last exercise by this Government, when it introduced the free bus system for school children, we are hearing a number of stories coming out. Are the children benefitting to the extent we believe they are benefitting? The question was also asked, are the children taking care of the buses on which they are travelling? Sir, a lot has to be done in terms of looking at the entire school system. Sir, I wonder if these standards only started declining 10 years ago or five years ago?

3.20 p.m.

I believe that in many educational sectors today, people believe that to give the nation's children all the free things they now benefit from, if it is truly reflected in their appreciation for all the things we provide for them.

I believe more has to be done and that is why there needs to be an exercise where we analyse carefully between the schools and their parents so that parents must be able to sit down with their children and show them the things they provide for them.

Is it really free or are we paying taxes and, through a number of various means, to get these things for our children? I believe that sometimes children do not appreciate, in large measure, what we are providing for them.

Therefore, the call from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central is important that the Parent/Teachers' Association need to join hand in hand with schools and make the necessary balance at this time that we do not see.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk about community schools, we hear about buildings that were repaired more than 10 years ago but today they have to be repaired again. We hear about a number of problems that exist within schools that are close to the community like the St. Leonard's School.

I recall about 10 years ago Government spending a lot of money on the St. Leonard's School, but we have to

spend more money again today. I recall that we spend money on fencing schools in my area but these things have to be spent over and over again. I wonder if it is not necessary for us to look at the relationship between the community and the school.

Mr. Chairman, we can throw all these free things at children but are they really responding to the free things they get? Sir, when you look at the relationship of the CXC results, where we have spent all this money and resources for the community but I wonder if we are getting true benefits out of these things. Mr. Chairman, we have to analyse from time to time what are some of the things we are doing for the children of this country.

Mr. Chairman, I have heard it mentioned over and over again that children are bursting at the seams. Is it a good thing for us to have a situation where the school plant is bursting at the seams and many children want to go to school at this particular school? I believe that has been mentioned across Barbados that many schools have many children and if the school is overcrowded, the Government needs to find a method where they could accommodate these children. I do not believe that the level of immigrants has a big impact on the numbers in our system.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to see the numbers because, is it less than one per cent or is it less than two per cent? If you say to me that you are trying to restrict immigrants from the Caribbean into our system, is it a good thing or a bad thing? I want the Ministry of Education to tell us more on this. How many pupils from the Caribbean islands are now coming to our system? Is it a good thing to have offshore schools? You have to be able to say to the public that you have 10 per cent or 1 per cent placing for immigrant children.

The Government needs to say to Barbados that we do not have places, or that we have places. You have to say how many people can be accommodated into the school system.. I do not believe it when I hear that there are too many students at the Community College. I believe that the Governing Body of either the University of the West Indies, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic or any of the secondary schools or tertiary institutions need to find a methodology to accommodate children.

Mr. Chairman, we live in a world today where it is not an eight-hour day anymore. Sir, I believe it is a 24-hour day. Sir, I went to the Barbados Community College at night and the Government needs to find ways where we cannot only broaden the school children or the school plant and accommodate more hours for the school population. I do not believe that there is overloading. I do believe we need to spend more time in looking at our declining standards because I see it from time to time. Sir, more teachers and persons, working in the school system have

been crying out that there is a need to look at this declining standard today that children are taking for granted today, that they get things free. Mr. Chairman, they tell the drivers on the buses that it is provided free by the Government so you cannot tell us anything. Sir, some of the drivers have been complaining that these things exist.

Mr. Chairman, there are many teachers in the system who cannot say much to the children because it is a problem. Therefore, I support the Honourable Member who made the point that there is a decline in standards but, Sir, what do we do? How do we get across to parents and children that there is a need to sit at this time and discuss this whole question of declining standards?

Mr. Chairman, we could provide good buildings for them. I have heard of sick buildings and the problem that there is a need to improve toilet facilities for teachers, and I agree with all this. I agree with providing new buildings. Sir, both Governments from 1938 have sought to provide a better school plant. If you go back to the Estimates of the 1950s, the 1960s and 1970s, you will find that Government has provided a lot of resources. I have said to this House a while ago that 20 per cent or more, of our GDP, is spent in education.

Mr. Chairman, there is no other island in the Caribbean that spends so much money on tertiary education, primary education and early childhood education. We have been fortunate that we, as a people, determine that education is where we want to spend our resources. Therefore, today children that get these things free, according to them, because we know we have to pay for them, must appreciate it. Sir, parents must sit with their children within a community setting and discuss the whole matter of how these things are provided. They must tell them to enjoy them but that they must also take care of them.

Mr. Chairman, the communities across Barbados must take care of the school plant and they must take care of buildings that are provided by Government. Sir, so often we hear of persons invading the schools and doing as they like because it is a government building. Sir, these things are unfortunate.

3.30 p.m.

I make the call for us to look, and I hope that the parents out there, because I think parents need to spend more time with their children and should go to these meetings. Although I must say that the relevance of the Parent/Teachers' Meeting is not necessarily there. They need to refocus on their programming. We know that some of them just go to raise funds and to have a good time. The focus of the Parent/Teachers' Meeting should be how do we accommodate the children, how do we discipline

children and, of course, allowing children to participate within the wider section of the society. If it is to be meaningful, the curriculum of the schools must continue to undergo change. I know that in our time we started to look at the curriculum development. It needs to be changed continually.

We need to change the curriculum to emphasise the reality within our world today. Children need to be taught more about what is happening in our society. Children need to be taught about money management and, as one Honourable Member said, how do we focus on Government and the people. All of these things need to be done. I do not believe that every school should have a Sixth Form. I am now hearing that all secondary schools are asking for a Sixth Form. We are hearing it. I thought that we had discarded the Sixth Form notion. I thought when Sir Lloyd opened the Barbados Community College, we were more looking at the technical curriculum and so on.

We are now going back to a Sixth Form school to do, I guess, more academic, or are we looking at being more technical? I think that the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic model may very well work in Barbados. I think we need to look at that, more skills oriented rather than book work. So the call for more Sixth Form schools need to be studied very carefully.

The other point I want to make is this. I know that the Minister of Education has looked at a number of changes. I wonder if he can tell us where the school term has one week in the middle of the term, has it really worked? It is a change that many Barbadian parents have bought into so far, but I have heard the comment, over and over, that we need to revisit it to see if we could make more changes. Sir, we have now pushed the children almost right up to Christmas, and this has caused some problem within the transportation sector. I want to know if this would be a permanent feature, or just an experiment. These are things the Minister and Ministry must continue to analyse.

Sir, I see nothing wrong with implementing new programmes, and I want to compliment the Minister for introducing something new, but you must keep analysing, not only from your own point of view, but the views of other people. Is it really working? Has it worked? How can I improve this for the benefit of all?

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: In terms of teacher training, when we started Erdiston College in 1948, we have always encouraged people from the Caribbean Islands to be trained here. Barbados was the mecca of training, not only teacher training but police training and the Law. Barbados has always been at the forefront and we need to encourage it.

Sir, that is why I continue to make the point that you cannot say, we are bursting at the seams when we encourage people to come here to study. We need to have offshore schools. That is the only way. We need to encourage more tertiary institutions, but we need to encourage that level of participation. It did not start now.

Sir, when I was at Erdiston, we had people from the Virgin Islands. I do not know if they still come. Again, more has to be done at that level to encourage more participation from the Caribbean Islands to Barbados. There are a number of persons now coming from the French and Spanish Caribbean to the Barbados Community College to do studies here. That is important.

We need to encourage more persons from across the Region to study in Barbados. If there is one thing Barbados has going for it, it is education. We have encouraged more people to study in Barbados. It must continue to be the Mecca and the Government must not say, we did it, because it has not now started. They must continue the programme to encourage persons to come here and encourage our people to be more trained.

Finally, I support the notion that there must be a stronger relationship between parents and teachers. I think it should be a permanent feature. However, we have to look at the method of the Parent/Teachers' Association at this time.

I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. E .G. HUTSON: Sir, I rise to support this Resolution of which \$4 million will be allocated towards the support of the construction and repair work, at a number of primary schools throughout our country, and another \$2.5 million in respect of professional fees relative to the design and so on of those schools.

Sir, I just want to make a couple of observations. My Constituency has three primary schools. I want to point out that under the previous Administration those three primary schools were neglected. There was no priority given under the EduTech Programme towards the Welches Primary School, of which the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would be very familiar. That school is allocated to be part of the work to be done in Stage 10, the final stage, I believe of the EduTech Programme, so was the Good Shepherd School in Fitt's Village. Sir, the point is, there was no priority given.

Sir, the Welches Primary School, St. Thomas, has been neglected. There is need...

Miss C.Y. FORDE: On a point of order. Sir, it is not correct to say that the Welches Primary School or indeed the Good Shepherd School were overlooked. Those schools received large amounts of money in refurbishment during the period, particularly, 2000/2007.

I am expressing that because I know for a fact they spent way past the \$200 000 amount. I would not have been a part of the Ministry and not ensure that Welches Primary School, in particular, received the necessary repairs, as I would for all the other schools in the country.

Sir, it is really not correct. I think the Honourable Member may be saying, because it is so far placed down the line for EduTech, that might have been the case, but it really was not overlooked when it came to refurbishment.

Hon. E.G. HUTSON: Sir, if in excess of \$200 000 was spent on the Welches Primary School, I would like to know in what areas it was spent. The school is in a situation where there are several leaks. If the building had been refurbished to the extent of \$200 000 within the last 24 months, there should be no leaks. The building is in a state of disrepair. The central building is in excess of 100 years' old.

3.40 p.m.

It is a tired and spent building. Mr. Chairman, there has been evidence of mice and other vermin that come up from the floor of that school, so where is the money that has been spent in repairs? Where was the money being spent when the Head Teacher up until this year, had her facility that was probably under a staircase?

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to waste my limited time on the actual details of that because anyone visiting the school will see. You only have to drive pass and look at the condition of the fence and the driveway to the school and you would know that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, we are into discretionary time, so I would want to encourage you to use your time wisely. I am going to have to curtail your time somewhat to allow, I think, your colleague next to you, to speak.

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for your guidance. I wanted to speak to the issue of the pre school facilities, and post school facilities, within a number of the rural schools, because it is a challenge within our educational system.

As you know, because of the transport and other logistics, we have issues in respect of our rural schools, in terms of supervision for our primary school children in the

early hours of the morning, and then challenges in respect of parents being able to collect those children after school.

I think this is an area that we need to look at, within our educational system. The whole question of development for our rural schools would also aid, certainly in terms of the congestion that we have on our primary schools within the City and, no doubt, the spin-off, in terms of our traffic requirements.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to make a comment because I know that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas' heart is in the right place, but I think that she spent a significant amount of her contribution dealing with the whole question of continuing education. I want to put on record that the continuing education for those children who had not done so well during their secondary school experience, that in the Democratic Labour Party Administration of 1986-1994, during that period, there was continuing education programme at Springer Memorial School, St. James Secondary School and I believe the Foundation School.

One of the first things that the Barbados Labour Party did was to cut the funding of those programmes in the early 1990s, but the whole question of the continuing education for those children who missed on their opportunities while they were at school, is significant.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to encourage the Minister of Education to look to see if he can find funds within his limited budgets for that programme, extending it, and also looking at the question of fees. Students are having to pay in excess of \$1 200 to do IT courses under that particular programme at St. James Secondary School in the continuing educational programme, which is an after school programme.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that we need to look at that and try to restore some of the funding that was cut by the Barbados Labour Party Government in their term as Government of this country.

With those two comments, Mr. Chairman, I will take my seat and allow my colleague to make his contribution.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know time is of the essence so I will be quick. I want to add my support to the Supplementary on Head 54. I observe that Barbadians have been regarded over the years as an educated people. We find postings, positions

and jobs all over the world here in Barbados also, and we have been generally recognised as an educated people.

I am pleased to see the new focus that we are taking on education in Barbados because it is a natural fit between the Democratic Labour Party and, of course, the legacy that has been bequeathed to us by the founding father of our Party, that education is a must and should be a must for the people of Barbados, and to ensure that all Barbadians are well educated at all levels.

Generally speaking, I am very pleased about the work done at the two public schools in my Constituency, that is the Combermere School and also the new George Lamming School. It is my understanding that some \$5.5 million has been expended on the refurbishment at the Combermere School. I have seen the physical plant improved over the numbers of years that the work has been going on there, and it is now almost a new plant. I was pleased to see that work, when I visited them at Independence time.

Also, at the George Lamming School it is a new plant. There are some flaws that were pointed out to me on my visit there at Independence time. You know it is an amalgamation between the Carrington Primary School and the Erdiston Primary School. I have been talking with some persons associated with the Erdiston Primary school. Of course, Mr. Chairman, this society is still a very snobbish society and there are some concerns about the amalgamation between the Carrington Primary School which, of course, comes from a very working-class area, and the Erdiston Primary School, which attracts a vast number of middle-class people.

Sir, some of the concerns expressed to me were that some of the established people at the Erdiston School would suffer as a result of the amalgamation. I am sure that the relationships will be worked out and the synergies will be established as the school continues. The Principal at that school is a noble lady, and I am sure that she will use the expertise she has within our armoury to make that school a success.

Mr. Chairman, there are some complaints that have been voiced to me and I would like to draw them to the attention of the Honourable Minister of Education in that the school is well located, but the entrance and exits to that school are in reverse. Sir, because of the road leading to the School, it is causing severe bottlenecks, especially at rush hour. Therefore, the entrance and exit need to be reversed, especially for the people who are using the residence of Flint Hall.

The gates are extremely narrow. Already, one School Meal's truck took down one of the pillars, trying to

gain entrance to the school. I believe that needs to be looked at and rectified in the shortest possible time.

The EduTech ready schools in Barbados, Mr. Chairman, are playing a double role, in that we have established some partnership along with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community Development and Culture through the Community Development Department.

We are partnering in a way that the EduTech schools are supplying the necessary plant within the constituencies across Barbados in that they are supplying the facilities where there are no community centres or resource centres.

Those EduTech-ready schools are being used as centres where people using the same Community Technology Programme could access. We are using those schools where there is the absence of community centres and resource centres.

I want to say a big, thank you to the Ministry of Education for so complying with our request to use those schools, especially we will be using Lester Vaughan, the Lodge and the St. Lucy Secondary Schools where there is a paucity of community centres and resource centres.

3.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the reopening of the Public Library is also an important step in that direction in that we are also partnering with Connect Barbados through LIME, the former Cable and Wireless, where we are also providing facilities at the main Public Library where secondary school children and grown adults who are attending tertiary institutions can also use those facilities and ease some pressure on the primary and secondary schools.

Mr. Chairman, I want to express my thanks to the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development for coming on board and establishing synergies between our Ministries and in making these facilities available to the wider public.

Mr. Chairman, like the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, I too want to voice some concerns about St. Leonard's Secondary School, which is also my alma mater. Sir, in the face of ongoing refurbishment, changes in the Heads and also the negative publicity, St. Leonard's Boys' School continues to shine and produce some of the best Spanish results and other results. As a matter of fact, it is extremely ironic that a former student of St. Leonard's Boys' School now heads the leading school in Barbados, Harrison College, but I believe not a better person to head such an institution.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that most, if not all, of our students leaving the St. Leonard's Boys' School are better for attending such a noble institution.

Mr. Chairman, I am, of course, cognisant of the time factor and I support this Resolution.

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

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this Money Resolution. I actually was not going to speak on the Resolution. This is the second time during this Session of Parliament that we are having a debate on Education, so I hesitated to enter into the debate, but there are a few points I want to raise in the five minutes that the Honourable Leader of Government Business has indicated that I have.

First, I want to congratulate the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development on his initiative to ensure that our schools are being named after outstanding Barbadians. Sir, he must be complimented in this regard.

Sir, in St. Philip South, we have the Reynold Weekes School. It was regrettable that I was not in Barbados at the time when it was renamed. I would have dearly liked to have been here. We also have the Olga Millar Nursery School in St. Philip West and, of course, the Gordon Walters just down the road from us in St. Patrick, and no doubt this would continue.

Sir, one of the other points I want to raise is that I believe that these debates should not be an "us" versus "them" debate so that when there are points that should be taken on board, or embraced, or considered by Government, I would like to believe that we will take them on board.

In that regard, I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we should consider whether the fencing of schools is a more desirable alternative than say, for example, having hedges as suggested, because the schools that I have been to that have fences all have many holes and they do not last very long. After a couple of weeks, and maybe sometimes even a couple of days, people cut holes into the fences and use them to traverse to and fro, so maybe in fact we should consider the suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition that we should consider having hedges instead of fencing, so I would like to side with the proposal.

Sir, I am surprised that the Honourable Member for St. George North, who I am told was an educator, does not seem to understand the issue of over-crowding. We on This Side are not saying that it is an immigrant issue only. What

we are saying is that there are circumstances, including immigration, which have led to us having an over-crowding of our school system. In this regard, I think that those among us who understand the importance of having the right size form in terms of the number of students, understand the implications for having too many students in the school and therefore in a form.

My understanding is that whenever you go above 25 students in a form, it is a question of how much attention each individual student can receive, so that is why the issue of over-crowding is one that concerns us.

Sir, the issue of the university degree also concerned me. I am one who believes that we seem now to go for fast food education. I know you would ask me to speed along at the same time.

Sir, I have been meeting students with degrees over the last couple of years and when I say to them tell me what you can offer us as an employer, tell me what skills you bring to the table, there is usually a silence, so we need to indeed look at the degrees we are awarding and at our curriculum and ensure that when university students graduate, they indeed have the necessary skills to enter into the working world.

Sir, I want to make another point. I am one who is a proud graduate of the University of the West Indies, and I do not believe that we should, in any way, diminish the quality of the education at the University of the West Indies.

Sir, if I leave Barbados, which is unlikely again, and go to Australia and I say that I have a degree in Law, I should be welcomed in Australia because the last student that they had from the University of the West Indies was a good student under standard Law. The ode of that is that if we diminish the quality of the education, it means that when you produce a University of the West Indies degree people are going to say that the last student they had from the University was no good.

Sir, we must ensure that the quality of our education never suffers in the interest of having one university graduate in every household, which we endorse.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member needs to wind up, unfortunately.

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I will. I will just finish this point. All I am saying is that in our haste let us not waste our educational system and our educational opportunities. Let us ensure that we have quality students, that we produce quality graduates who, like you and I who are graduates of the University of the West Indies, can hold our heads tall wherever we go on this world.

I thank you for the couple of minutes, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. Your wind up should be very succinct and brief.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I will be very succinct, I do not intend to spend very much time on it. I have heard contributions from the Honourable Members on This Side. I think that there is a solid understanding of the nuances of education and what we have to do calls for the further development of Barbados using education as the tool for the mobilisation of that development.

I have been enthralled by the presentation and recognise that any of the Honourable Members on This Side who has spoken thus far could, in fact, be the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development to carry forward the agenda which has been so well stated.

Mr. Chairman, on that, there are many issues which will be addressed as we move forward, but they are all under the microscope. We will lead, under the Democratic Labour Party, to a renaissance in education in Barbados so that this country can be better off for it and continue to be the leading light, not only in this part of this hemisphere, but in this part of the world.

I thank you, and beg to move that Head 54 stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 19

TREASURY \$12 569 166

Hon. R. D. JONES: I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

SENATOR F. J. STUART: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 25

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT \$8 855 065

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman: I beg to move that Head 25 stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that.

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

4.00 p.m.

HEAD 38

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS \$13 641 496.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that, Sir.

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

HEAD 51

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE CIVIL SERVICE \$16 500

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 51 stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that, Sir.

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

HEAD 57

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WORKS AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT \$10 995 769

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 57 stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. R. D. JONES, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. R. D. JONES, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (Recommitted)

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$64 068 575 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 2008/2009 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 13, 2008/2009, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable House be now suspended for 15 minutes.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Sitting be suspended for 15 minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

4.04 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 4 – TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND.

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

4.30 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

ORDER NO.4 RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$64 068 575 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. 13, 2008-2009 WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THIS RESOLUTION.

HEAD 19

TREASURY \$10 000

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

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, this item under Head 19 is quite a simple matter. It is under Account Code 753, Furnishing and Fixtures. It is needed to supplement funds to cover the cost of providing additional storage to accommodate files. It is simply to purchase some storage cabinets for files within the respective Ministry. I really do not intend to get into any long debate on protecting the files and the work of the people who have to store such equipment.

I thank you.

I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

Hon. F.J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

HEAD 53

NATIONAL INSURANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY \$59 732 701

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

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, speaking to this Head 53 in the sum of \$59 million to supplement the allocation of expenditure for the Ministry for the year 2008-2009, has come about because the Ministry recognises several things.

At a very low scale we have to allocate some additional funds for the increase in salaries and wages due to the recently concluded NUPW agreement with the Government and the salary increases attendant thereto. Also, we recognise that there continues to be many areas of the health sector that the Government has to fix and maintain.

It would be remiss of me, in speaking to this Head not to reflect on the perilous health care system we inherited in January 2008. At the very outset I must commend my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, for his sterling leadership over the past 10 months in the Ministry of Health. I have been given the baton and I intend to take it and run with it and get the Ministry of Health working as it should be.

Sir, it is rather unfortunate that today we have to seek this additional sum, by and large, because of gross neglect in the health care sector in the past 14 years. I make no apologies when I say that there is a clear divide between

this Democratic Labour Party Administration and the former Barbados Labour Party Administration, particularly under the leadership of the Honourable Member for St. Peter, when we recognise what has happened, or not happened in health care in Barbados.

Certainly, this is an administration that recognises the importance of health, and health care to each and every one of us. Illness does not discriminate whether you are rich or poor, or black or white. We can at any point in time take ill. Therefore, as has happened in many Governments over time, our emphasis is to ensure that we have a quality health care system, that benefits all Barbadians and those who visit our shores from time to time. It is my firm belief, wish and vision that Barbados can become the premier health care centre in the Caribbean, but we have a lot of mess to continue to clean up.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, for example, when one talks about health care in Barbados the focus is usually on that tertiary institution. That institution has been starved of financial resources for the last 14 years. I do not think that we need to bury our heads in the sand about it. We have only been in office for 10 months and I think it is rather unfair for any one to expect us to turn around that institution, or turn around the entire health care sector in 10 months after the gross neglect of the former Administration.

Sir, I cannot lay the blame exclusively at the leadership of the Ministry of Health over that time, but also the Ministry of Finance, at that point in time, because the former Minister of Finance seemed to have adopted an attitude that he can, every year, cap or reduce expenditure on health care in this country and still expect Barbadians to get optimum health care. It could not work. Sir, I stand bold and to say that the Honourable Member for St. Peter, who is not here today, has to shoulder a lot of responsibility for the state of health care in Barbados.

Sir, we came in and found the waiting time at the Accident and Emergency Department averaging nearly 24 hours; equipment not functioning, equipment bought and lying in the corridors of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for two or three years which could not be hooked up.

We have seen a situation where private physicians or private health care facilities have blossomed and flourished and are doing extremely well, and to a large extent benefitting from the fact that they have provided services to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, our principal and only tertiary health care institution, and today, in the 21st century, we have seen a situation where private health care facilities have far more superior equipment and technology than the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I say that is a crying shame and these are some of the wrongs that we have to

correct to get it right. We intend to refocus the whole health care sector.

Sir, I have spoken in other fora about the need for us to take things wider in the community. We have talked about mental health care, care for the elderly and what needs to be done there. There is much that we intend to do to move the state of health back to the level Barbadians rightly deserve.

Sir, part of this supplemental would go towards paying over-time. We have seen an increase in sick leave over the years. Yes, it may be attributed to Barbadian workers getting more and more frustrated, may be attributed to bad management, but it is also by and large attributed to what we call sick buildings in Barbados. This Administration has had to come and place the physical accommodation of public servants on the front burner, something the former Administration did not do.

Sir, the Ministry of Health has some of the worst physical accommodations for public officers. We intend to address a lot of that. What has been happening as we have seen announced in other parts of the society, we are faced with a situation, for example, the Ministry of Health is dealing with up to 20 cases of individuals who are requesting to be boarded and to be sent off medically unfit. These are incidents that are troubling. These are incidents that speak to the level of productivity in this country, and the Ministry of Health, certainly, would be at the forefront in addressing many of these concerns.

We also have to spend additional funds in respect of upgrading the physical plant at the Polyclinics. Most of our Polyclinics are in a terrible state, roofs leaking, doors not closing and staff not functioning in a secure environment. These things are wrong. We have polyclinics that are not equipped with the kind of facility and equipment to provide the kind of care that Barbadians and others who use the facilities need. When one says this is a large sum of money, it speaks to the importance this Administration has attached to health care in this country, something that the former Administration did not do.

Sir, we also have to take some additional funds and pay suppliers. We inherited a situation in the Ministry of Health, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in particular, where these institutions are heavily indebted to suppliers in Barbados and other parts of the world. I intend, as Minister of Health, not to hide anything from the people whom we are here to serve.

4.40 p.m.

We inherited a situation where suppliers of equipment and goods, particularly from abroad, would not provide anything to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital unless

we paid for them upfront. Our credit rating had gone through the floor. Never before in the history of Barbados, a government had so much money to spend and you could not believe that the state of health care could have reached the level that it did, under the former Administration. Sir, today, our job is to clean up that mess. We have to get back to the stage that when the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, or the Ministry of Health orders a piece of equipment, the supplier can say that we know you pay your bills. We will send it for you right away.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: This is what Barbadians deserve. This is what taxpayers deserve and we will settle for nothing less.

I also speak to suppliers in Barbados, some small and medium-sized enterprises, who could not have been paid for months, except they know the money will come. It is no sense telling them that the money will come, if they have to still pay their staff and their bank loans. We could not be so unconscionable as a government, to have small and medium-sized enterprises closed because the State owes them for goods and services that they provided.

This Supplementary, Mr. Chairman, speaks volumes to my mind of what differentiates the former Government from this Government and our emphasis on quality health care. A part of the funds is also going to help supplement the Medical Aides Scheme. We have seen increased demand for this, and expect there will be greater demands on it going forward, but we have to ensure that Barbadians who deserve and need care can get it, and when it cannot be provided in Barbados, we need to ensure that wherever possible, at the best possible price, they can get it, because we hold steadfast to the view that each Barbadian deserves quality care, and we will not move away from that.

We also have to provide some additional funds to the Barbados Drug Service. As we all know, the Drug Service provides free medication to those of the public sector pharmaceutical arrangement, as well as some of the private arrangements. It has grown now to the stage where it is costing taxpayers nearly \$50 million a year.

We do not want to move away from public health care. I am not one that would ever advocate privatisation of it in Barbados but, certainly, we need to ensure that Barbadians do not abuse the system, one and secondly, where we can bring measures to bear to restructure and to improve on what currently exists, that is done.

We certainly will, in a short course, be addressing some changes to the Barbados Drug Service, but that will be done after we have had far and wide consultations with the public and private pharmacists, and all the stakeholders

in the Ministry and outside the Ministry. The Barbados Drug Service, certainly, has to be reformed. It cannot continue with business as usual, but for this financial year, we recognise that we have to give some additional funding to the Barbados Drug Service because gone must be the days when individuals lying in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital claim they cannot get medication, when old Barbadians who have toiled in the sun over the years and reached the evening of their days cannot get their blood pressure tablets, or their hypertension medication. If we are a caring nation, then we have to ensure that such fundamentals are put in place. This Supplementary is aimed at ensuring that, at the end of the day, we are on the path to restoring some faith and confidence in our health care system.

I am sad to say that it has been somewhat an embarrassing situation, when one reflects on what we have inherited in the health care sector. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West had started to rebuild the foundation and I will continue on it, with the support of all my colleagues in this Honourable Chamber. Mr. Chairman, rest assured that this Administration takes health and the health of the nation as a priority. It is expensive.

This financial year, we will probably spend close to \$400 million in the health care sector in Barbados. It is my intention, and the intention of the Government, to ensure that we bring better management systems to bear in the health care system; to ensure that we get better value for the dollar than we are currently getting, so there will be some changes.

I want to assure all Barbadians and all Members of this Honourable Chamber that we will not rest on our laurels until such has been achieved. There is all this faith and confidence restored in the health care sector and Barbadians can go to bed at night knowing that if anything happens, they are in good hands.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you, Sir.

I beg to move that Head 53 stand part.

Hon. F.J. STUART: I beg to second that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Members, before the Honourable Member starts, in the Addendum to that Resolution I believe there is an error in reference to Head 23, where it should be Head 53.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, as you would note, the Barbados Water Authority is included in this Supplementary and I thought it would be important for

me to make representation on that particular aspect of this Supplementary request.

First, let me say that I would wish to not only acknowledge, but compliment my predecessor, the former Minister of Health, who would have started a process of reform at the Barbados Water Authority, and who would have given extensive support on the direction to create a more efficient Barbados Water Authority, as we go forward in seeking to satisfy the needs of the Barbadian society, as it relates to the water supply.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that a lot of work has been done in the past and we would have to acknowledge the contributions made, not only by Democratic Labour Party Governments, but by all Governments, as it relates to trying to ensure that the Barbadian society, understanding that water is a very critical resource and a resource that requires the Government to continue to ensure that efficiency is employed to ensure that no village, district or community is without adequate water supply.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I believe that as we go forward, and as we employ Government resources, we have to ensure that three important areas of efficiency are addressed. One is the operational side of the Barbados Water Authority. I believe that we have to continue to examine worldwide best practices that will assist us in continuing to ensure that we move the Barbados Water Authority from one stage of operational efficiency to another.

We have, for example, taken on board the need to look at the whole area of losing our water through the outdated mains that we have. There is a massive project to come on board that will look at the replacement of these mains.

Barbados is a water scarce nation, and we cannot afford to have inefficient systems pumping water to various districts and losing half of the water that is supposed to get to the residents of those districts. Therefore, we have to continue to look at operational efficiency, not only in terms of the movement of water, but in the creation of new sources, so that we indeed can continue to look at ensuring, not only efficiency but ensuring that what is necessary to supply the country is available to us.

We also have to look at manpower. There have been concerns about manpower practices, whether or not we need to look at going on different systems to ensure that the needs of the Barbados Water Authority are consistently taken care of.

4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not pretend to know all of what needs to be done because we have just taken over that area of our Ministry, but I would assure the public of Barbados that we would be diligent in ensuring that those areas of inefficiency, whether manpower, operational or technological, will be addressed and with great dispatch. Mr. Chairman, at the end of the day, we want to ensure that we have a system that works and a system where all of those persons who are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the water supply remains viable are given the tools to be able to carry out their responsibility, whether there are human resource needs or operational needs and that whatever is required to ensure that Barbados stands well for a long time relative to its water resources...

Therefore, I fully support the supplemental Resolution, Mr. Chairman, and assure the public that we will continue to work with the staff of the Barbados Water Authority to bring all of the things that are necessary to bear on our capacity to supply our nation and ensure that we do it efficiently and cost effectively. I thank you.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I have just two questions for the Honourable Minister who just spoke. The Explanatory Note speaks to \$8.5 million for capital operations for the financial year 2008-2009. Given that there are only three months left in the rest of the financial year, I wonder if the Honourable Minister would be so kind as to indicate the nature of the capital works to be undertaken or is it that it is to supplement funding for works already completed or in the process of being done.

Secondly, I note that there is a request for \$3.2 million to cover the cost of the acquisition of land for the West Coast Sewerage Project. Would the Minister be so kind as to tell this Honourable Chamber where the land is and how much it is so that we could get an idea how this is going to proceed, and whether this is likely to proceed on the basis of a publicprivate partnership, or whether it is going to be fully funded and executed by the Barbados Water Authority?

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

His Honour K. St.C BEST: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Money Resolution. It is good to hear the new Minister speak about changes he envisaged at the Barbados Water Authority on the operational, manpower and the technical side.

What concerns me is that in this day and age we have residents in Barbados without water-borne toilets or without any water supply at all to their residence. Sir, that is a problem that is created by way of squatting. If we are going to look seriously at the operational side and the technological side in respect of the Barbados Water Authority, we need to seriously look at the positive and negative effects of squatting in respect of our water resources in Barbados.

This problem cannot go unnoticed for the simple reason that we are hearing of all these threats to our water resources. The last Administration promised many sewerage systems within the St. Michael East Constituency and, to date, no fruits are borne in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad that I heard the Minister said that we will look at the technological and the operational side in respect of the Barbados Water Authority. Mr. Chairman, I would hope that technological and operational sides would treat and look at the issues of solving the water problems in the Belle and Belle View areas that fall within the Constituency of St. Michael Central as well as in the wider Barbados, and also look at the whole question of the zoning system in respect of where we can have all Barbadians having water-borne toilets and where people would not be living like if they are in the age of slavery, struggling and bathing under stand pipes. These are the things I want to see happen.

Mr. Chairman, we must look at what is really happening throughout Barbados. You have developments going up throughout Barbados, but when you really look at it, one wonders if a true analysis has been taken of what was happening because too often you hear residents in various new developments complain about the low water pressure, particularly if we go up to areas in St. Thomas like Shop Hill and Edgehill that fall within the Constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I believe that one of the reasons we have not had a reservoir built is because we are taking agricultural land out of production and are putting down houses, but are not making the necessary provision for the residents that reside in those areas.

Mr. Chairman, that concerns me greatly and I will therefore urge the new Minister to look seriously at solving that problem where residents in various areas have problems in the peak hours, early in the morning and early in the evening, where the use of water is at its greatest level. We also have to go toward the question of building more desalination plants in order to help solve these problems.

Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the Democratic Labour Party Government would ensure that something is done with haste after all the necessary investigations and

studies are carried out to ensure that our water resource is safe and that the residents of Barbados feel comfortable when they drink the water of Barbados.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few points on this matter. Let me begin with the one that may not go well with my colleagues. Sir, we came to office and one of our issue was governance and accountability. In that regard, I believe that we committed to a higher standard and we must ensure that we adhere to this commitment on a continuous basis.

In this regard, Sir, I have to say that I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we have two Heads here, one is for \$8 500 000 for capital operations. Sir, from my end, I believe that the Minister owes a responsibility to answer the question so that we know whether or not these are new initiatives or this is a supplementary towards the 2008-2009 Estimates.

Sir, similarly, we have an amount for over \$2 million for land acquisition. Sir, again it would be nice to know the purpose of the land acquisition, et cetera. As I said, Sir, we have committed to a higher standard of governance and I believe that we should have these matters disclosed clearly when we are having these discussions.

Sir, I look forward to having a long and clear debate on the state of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the state of the health care sector in this country. No doubt the Honourable Minister, the Honourable Member for St. James South, would ensure that this happens as soon as possible.

5.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, as far as I could remember, this is probably the second time that we had a Supplementary on Health. Sir, it saddens me that some of the issues that we were faced with in January we still have. Sir, those issues may not be political but whatever the root cause, we need to examine them. For example, we still have a situation where suppliers are not paid. We still have a situation where personnel from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are calling suppliers and suppliers are saying they cannot dispense goods because the Hospital owes too much money.

Sir, that is not good. As the Minister said, and I agree with, we have small, medium-sized providers of services who suffer as a result. Therefore, we need to look

within the system to see what has gone wrong that prevents us from paying our suppliers on time.

Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Drug Service is a good example. At one stage, there were some pharmacists who were saying they were not filling prescriptions that came through the Barbados Drug Service because of the large amount of money that was being owed to them. Mr. Chairman, similarly, there are employees who are working for months and are not paid. Sir, those are two areas that must be addressed.

Mr. Chairman, I know we can spend lots of time discussing health but I just want to encourage the new Minister to let us have another debate on health, one which will help us to determine clearly whether or not we are going to have a new hospital, how long would it take, how much would it cost. Let us have a new debate on that.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

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

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this Money Resolution. I also want to look at it from a certain perspective. Sir, for some years now, we have been hearing talk about Public Service Reform, and one wonders whether the amount of scarce resources that this country invests in Public Service Reform, based on what we are seeing in many of the public institutions of this country, if it is having the kind of impact that it should have.

Sir, in supporting this Money Resolution, I ask this question because, as the Representative for St. Michael West Central, my constituents have been individually impacted upon by what I would call the lack of real reform in relation to certain issues.

Sir, I would want, first of all, to compliment the initiative in terms of trying to address certain problems because, certainly, when one looks at the whole question of what is happening in terms of our medical system in this country, these problems need to be addressed.

Sir, I want to refer to the question of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Medical Aid Scheme. Mr. Chairman, I know that under the provision additional sums have been given to that particular scheme to help boost its operations and I want to compliment the Minister as far as that is concerned.

Sir, very often we are not really told about the pain that many families around the nation experience in terms of trying to get expensive medical aid for those persons who might not be able to afford medical care. This is something that we should not subtract because when I hear many

people speaking about the question that we need to privatise the Hospital, I do not think that people understand there are others in this country who sometimes meet unfortunate circumstances and accidents and they cannot do better.

Sir, because of the fact that those families do not have the resources in order to permit them to deal with the ailments that they have to deal with, those persons would be deprived of a quality of life which they could have had, if the Hospital becomes privatised. Sir, I have no problem in supporting a Resolution that seeks to address this issue. Sir, maybe in that respect, the amount here is inadequate.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make another point. one of the things that you constantly hear about from persons who have to deal with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the question of missing files. Sir, I go back to the question. if Public Sector Reform was having the kind of impact that it needs to have, then why is it that we have situations in this country where institutions that have been around us for ages, cannot get it right in terms of ensuring that the basic and necessary functions which are required to ensure that we provide good medical services for our population, cannot be done.

Mr. Chairman, there is no reason why a young man should experience the fact that he was cut some time last year, went to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for treatment, then for him to have a situation where, in order to do follow-up treatment, his files would have disappeared, and that young man is in danger of being not able to walk for the remainder of his life.

Sir, these are the kinds of things that affect ordinary people. These are some of the reasons why Barbadians changed the Government on January 16, 2008. These are some of the reasons, and we have to understand that if we are to be taken seriously, if we are to continue to pour money into an institution that is supposed to support Public Sector Reform, if we do not address these issues...

Sir, what happens in this country is that unless it affects somebody who we consider "big up" in this society, it does not matter. Therefore, unless it happens to affect somebody of the stature of the Prime Minister's daughter, son, or the Governor-General's wife, then there is no problem. Sir, the other thing about that is that it does not happen to certain people at certain levels of society. Sir, we have to understand that there are others below the radar, who it is impacting on them. We are not listening to them. We continue to ignore their pleas. We continue to ignore the difficulties that ordinary people have.

Sir, this is a very strange thing in our society too because those people do not have the necessary contacts, in some cases. They, therefore, depend on us as

representatives to ensure that the people who are supposed to provide for them, to make sure their cases are heard, that we stand and speak on their behalf. We are the people they have entrusted, to ensure that those things happen in those institutions.

Sir, I want to say that we have got to ensure that when we put these kinds of resources into institutions like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other institutions that are supposed to look after the welfare of citizens in this country, that those resources have some impact that we need to show it.

Mr. Chairman, we have a way of saying it is not us, it is somebody else, and it is easy to point the finger at somebody else, but all of us have to understand that we are a vital part of it and that the consequence of it is human suffering and people not being able to lead a full life in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I want to point to the role of our Health Inspectors in this country and to say that we should not undervalue the role they play in this country. They are important in terms of maintaining a healthy environment in this country. Sir, when we walk around this country at times and we see the state in which we find ourselves, and we are talking about developed country status, we have to say we need to ensure that our Health Inspectors are empowered, that persons operating inside that institution need to be empowered.

Mr. Chairman, in a recent debate we talked about the question of benchmark of performance. We need to ensure that the institutions that we give the power to ensure that our country maintains a certain standard of environmental health, that they do it.

5.10 p.m.

Sir, when we find instances where it is not, we need to benchmark the performance in relation to that, Sir. The reason why we do it is because we need to ensure that every citizen in this country maintains a certain standard in terms of the surrounding and the environment because it has an impact on their health.

Mr. Chairman, I want to support the Resolution but I also want to say that we should appreciate the quantum of the resources we are giving in the effort to try to ensure that we maintain a certain standard of health in this country. I ask all citizens in this country to help us to work towards achieving this.

I really think that we should have a general debate on the issue of Public Sector Reform to see whether or not the institution that is set up for that purpose is having the impact it is supposed to have. If not, we need probably to

consider a different approach towards receiving true Public Sector Reform in this country.

Sir, I thank you.

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

Miss. C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief intervention particularly when it comes to the Barbados Water Authority. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East - it is the first time we will agree on something - made mention of the communities and I must confess that the situation remains the same.

While I will give credit to the Barbados Water Authority for the years it has been replacing some of the water mains, I must confess that it has fallen again, in a terrible way, when it comes to repairs after they have done the digging up and so to work on leakages.

Sir, last weekend, for more than three days, the folk in Hopewell, Shop Hill, Melrose and those various communities have suffered. Sir, there is nothing worse than at Xmas time, when you want to clean and do all the necessary things that there is no water. Sir, I can only speak to this because I have passed through communities and people have called me. Therefore, I would like for this...

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is obviously misleading the House when she talks about a weekend lasting more than three days.

Miss. C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would not stay in this Honourable Chamber at this hour to trivialise matters because we all have things to do. I am making the point that last weekend there were taps off in many of the communities, some starting from Thursday. Therefore, I am going to be admonishing the Barbados Water Authority to pay closer attention.

Sir, that is not all. I knew there was a policy and I hope that this Government will continue where, whenever the utility companies sought to do their excavations of the roads, that there was follow-up. I remember clearly there was some funding in the various Estimates of those institutions so that as soon as the communication had been made, having collaborated with the agencies that they would follow through.

Sir, as I speak, Rock Hampton Hill, a pipe I saw that was burst three weeks ago, it has been dug up. The pipe has been fixed, but trenches as wide as 4 to 5 feet are still opening with limited signage. Sir, I am not saying this in any disparaging way about the Government and how it is being managed, or about the Barbados Water Authority,

but we really need for them to be a little more responsibility because, at the end of the day, people in Barbados are a little more litigious and if anybody gets hurts, if a car drops in, it does have that potential. Therefore, I would want to encourage the authorities to assist all Barbadians, not just St. Thomas, in getting a better deal. It is a very dangerous and unsightly exercise.

Mr. Chairman, the final point has to do with customer relations. I am not going to expand the debate, but I have a tremendous difficulty that when you call, you are still hearing a machine. I know there were systems being examined to have a 24-hour response.

It is so unreasonable to call when your tap is off, you have babies and animals because St. Thomas is a rural community and people need water because they are raising animals, and they must have water and things of that nature but, Sir, when you call, the watchman answers or you get a voice mail, which really makes people more agitated than they should be.

Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Authority to continue with the Main Replacement Programme but ensure there are better systems in place to meet the needs of Barbadians.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. James South spoke about the gloom and doom for the last 14 years, how things have changed, that he is working towards change and about the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, who would have done a sterling job.

Sir, there are still serious problems in the Accident and Emergency Department. There are numerous persons who are not getting their medication from one polyclinic or the next, so there are still problems. While I understand the newness of the Honourable Member and what he would want to express, I believe that the funds being voted for will be useful to all Barbadians, but I think it is a little unreasonable to keep harping on it when nothing has been done to change the whole outlook in the Accident and Emergency Department and in many other areas of which I will not mention now because I know this is not a full debate.

Mr. Chairman, in relation to the \$838 918 for the Medical Scheme, I support that. I want to commend and congratulate the public of Barbados and corporate Barbados for the efforts they are making in helping people. A lot of ordinary people, who do not seem to understand, are going to the media and asking for funds when the Medical Aid Scheme is there. I believe more ordinary people need to better understand how it is managed and to make the necessary approaches and get the necessary guidance to access the Fund.

We see women in the newspapers with their children held high up in the air. people are pointing a finger and there are all kinds of strange things. Of course, Mr. Chairman, the other side of that is that there are people who have no ailment at all that they would stand up with a tin by Cave Shepherd, or any other store, asking for contributions that they should not have access to. Sir, I believe with a better coordinated effort, the Medical Aid Scheme will reach those persons, who deserve to get that kind of assistance.

Mr. Chairman, the final one is to do with the aged. Sir, I support every cent. I have had the privilege of working with the Gordon Cummings District Hospital and I saw the deterioration in that institution. There has been a lot of improvement over the last five to six years. Sir, of course, there is more and I recognise clearly, that quite a bit of the fund we are seeking, goes towards substitutes and those persons who are ill, or on study leave. I believe the quality needs to be maintained and, therefore, people need to be filling in when others go on leave.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to caution the Honourable Minister because I heard him in a speech last week saying that Government should go the route of accessing people's property but, Sir, that is something I will never, ever support.

Sir, what I would like to happen is that when senior citizens are admitted to the Geriatric Hospital and other institutions across the island, that their pension not be submitted because we have reached the stage in Barbados where many people have avarice and they do not want to look after senior citizens. Sir, some of them cannot because of their employment but every time the pension is available, they can find their way into the District Hospital to cash those cheques and then the senior citizen does not even get a roll of toilet tissue.

Sir, if the Government has to carry the burden of maintenance of senior citizens and others, I believe that money should stay in the Government's coffers. Therefore, there has to be some proper regulatory framework put in place to ensure that those who are institutionalised, are benefitting and getting quality care that those funds do not go to another source that has no interest and that has not paid any attention to ensuring that the person's life is prolonged.

Mr. Chairman, I want, as I close, to highly commend and congratulate the workers in the area of the aged, those in the Home Help Scheme; those working in the Geriatric Hospital and so on, and even those working in the private sector. Sir, it is not an easy task to work with senior citizens who are down with Alzheimers, dementia or whatever the ailment is. Therefore, it calls for a lot of training, stamina and commitment in order that those

persons who are now, particularly, in the care of the Government, that the individuals and teams who work with them are properly paid and that they are thanked.

5.20 p.m.

It is a job that I know I could not do full-time. If you were really exposed to the type of work they have to do, the volume of work, the kind of care and attention to that job, it would really be a difficult task. I want to commend those persons who are working with senior citizens for their outstanding contribution to the extension of life, and the quality care that the senior citizens enjoy.

Sir, with those words, rather than stretching on, because I have so many ideas, I would wish to lend my support in respect of this Resolution.

I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Sir, I rise to support this matter before this Honourable Chamber, and to state that I fully support the Honourable Minister of Health, when he talked about the appalling accommodation which has been given under the Barbados Labour Party Government to the Ministry of Health, indeed, even the office of the Minister of Health. I acted as the Minister of Health for a few days. I was shocked that the Barbados Labour Party could treat this very serious Ministry with such scant disregard, that they would have required their Minister of Health to be in a sick building, as far as I am concerned.

Remember that was the Old General Hospital complex, decades old, when moisture was seeping through the walls. That type of moisture encourages microbes. You get those microbes with that moisture that could actually threaten the health of the Minister of Health, under the Barbados Labour Party Government.

To the extent that even the Minister's Secretary had to pass through a hallway accessible by the public to get to the Minister, as a result, the public could easily access the Minister of Health, for there was no proper security. The Democratic Labor Party Government is committed to providing better accommodation for the Ministry of Health. Therefore, such issues would be a thing of the past.

Sir, my mother was hospitalized on a few occasions, so I know from a direct experience the gross disregard of the Barbados Labor Party Government in their stewardship for health care. I am rather shocked to hear the Honourable Member for St. Thomas criticising this new Democratic Labour Party Government in terms of our management of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and, in particular, the

Accident and Emergency Department, because it was the Barbados Labour Party who held the reins of office for 14 years.

Under their watch, the Accident and Emergency Department reached a stage where the public was rather concerned of having to wait...talking about long weekends, more than two days sometimes to get any sort of treatment, so the Honourable Member for St. Thomas should really hang her head in shame, keep quiet and accept that the people have rejected the incompetence of the Barbados Labour Party Government in the health care sector.

Sir, I remember when the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was shadow Minister of Health and we had to wait for an inordinate period of time, as Opposition, to get even an official tour of the Hospital. When that eventually happened, I was part of that delegation, and as the prospective candidate of the Democratic Labour Party at the time for the City of Bridgetown, I raised concern about the incinerator at the Hospital, because during the Barbados Labour Party's regime, the chimney remained so low that all of the incinerated medical waste, the black smoke, would have been going into the homes of my constituents in King William Street, Nelson Street, Vine Street, Concrete Alley and so forth.

I know that the former Minister of Health, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, is very excited. I am sure he would probably brief the current Minister of Health about the prospect of building a waste to energy generating plant such that medical waste would not have to be burnt at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but burnt as part of that waste energy generation plant, therefore, easing the good people of Bridgetown. So I look forward to this. The Democratic Labour Party Government cares about the people and is presenting plausible solutions.

I would just make a couple of quick suggestions while I am on my feet. As I said, I had relatives that were hospitalised and realised that dating back to the days of the Barbados Labour Party Government, there was a need for the laundry at the Hospital to be operating seven days a week. As I said, as far back as the Barbados Labour Party term's of office, you had a situation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, especially, where there was a shortage of linens. Patients could not even get a blanket.

This is the suggestion I would make, that the laundry be opened seven days a week, reducing the incidence of shortages, even in the Accident and Emergency Department where that issue also occurred.

Finally, on the issue of the Environmental Health Officers, I am very satisfied that the Barbados Community College's Environmental Health Officers Class took the

initiative, as part of their practical, of going into the community of Bridgetown and educating the public about rodent control and vector control in general.

I urge the public as we are in the Yuletide Season, when a lot more litter will be generated, to ensure we are responsible in our garbage disposal of the use of the composting and refrigerating of offals, so that organic waste is not left over the Christmas weekend to putrefy and be a feeding ground for the rodents and other negative vectors within our community, so that we would have a really enjoyable Christmas.

Finally, another quick suggestion. We find that patients, again dating back to the days of the Barbados Labour Party, within the walls of the Hospital, I am not blaming the nurses because they are overstretched, but we know that the Barbados Labour Party Government did not do enough to recruit sufficient nurses to augment the shortage of nurses.

I congratulate the former Minister of Health for going into St. Vincent to attract nurses from our Caribbean Island, where there is an excess, to help us in that regard.

Sir, I am saying that at mealtime some patients who cannot feed themselves could actually go hungry because there is no one there to feed them. A quick suggestion. We can bring in volunteers at that time to help those persons who may not have a relative or friend, who could assist that person who is ill and unable to feed themselves, so that their health is not compromised. This is something feasible.

As I said, while visiting my mother recently, I noticed that there was a Charity, based in Canada, a Barbadian living in Canada, that was able to mobilise for one week a group of young people from throughout the country, who painted the Accident and Emergency Department and the Children's section, and really uplifted the physical appearance. They were volunteers.

They were not being paid and I congratulate them and encourage the service groups to come forward, rather than relying on Government, so that we can take ownership of health care in our country, ensuring that the vulnerable would not suffer.

I thank you.

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

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief intervention here, because I think that any question put to the Government is a question we would always wish to answer, since we believe in transparent

Government and we have no intention of concealing important information from the public.

Let me say that we have on our Order Paper, an item that is called the Barbados Water Authority (Amendment) Bill, where there would be a full-fledged debate on the Barbados Water Authority, and any questions unanswered at this point in time, perhaps because of the immediate availability of information would be answered then.

Let me go on to say that none of the issues raised today on the Barbados Water Authority are new issues, none of them. The problems that have been expressed and attributed to the Barbados Water Authority are issues we have struggled with for years.

5.30 p.m.

Sir, it is this Government's intention to work towards resolving those issues that were raised.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: The matter of the roads left in disrepair - after the Barbados Water Authority would have done its work, is an aged-long problem in this country. I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. It is one that causes problems for those of us who drive, but it is not the doing of this Government that has caused that to exist.

Those issues have existed long before this Government came into office and once we are given the opportunity - and we have been given the opportunity by the voters of this country - we will work with the Barbados Water Authority to ensure that we put a more efficient process in place, and that what we said in our initial presentation, a more efficient process in place, that will see the end of those days when the Barbados Water Authority goes to deliver services and then leaves the place in disrepair. Mr. Chairman, it is not only the Barbados Water Authority that leaves roadways in disrepair, but I shall move on.

Mr. Chairman, the other issue that I want to mention is the fact that I grew up in St. Andrew and I know what it is not to get water in the morning in time for school. I know what it is to go through the kinds of experiences that the Honourable Member for St. Michael East mentioned in his presentation and these things have to be rectified. This Government is now working towards developing a template that reflects upon best practices worldwide, that we will be able to improve upon existing systems, and improve the quality, not only of the water supply but of the work done by the Barbados Water Authority.

Therefore, I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the questions asked are important, but I assure the public of Barbados that there will be a full-fledged debate in this House on the Barbados Water Authority. I am not going to join with anyone and castigate the Barbados Water Authority. I believe that the workers at the Barbados Water Authority are doing a great job, but we need to strengthen the system.

I am not going to say that the customer service is perfect. Where can you go in Barbados and find that customer service is perfect? People have problems. It is the job of this Administration, and the job of this Minister, to ensure that the things that would have bothered the country for the last 14 years, and perhaps before, are rectified this time around.

We are going to do everything in our power to join with the agency to ensure that manpower needs are met, that the operational efficiency is encouraged and fostered, and that the technology available to us to improve the quality of the service of the Barbados Water Authority will be brought to bear upon the Barbados Water Authority. Mr. Chairman, that is the commitment of this Government, and we will do our best to ensure that commitment is kept.

Thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank all Honourable Members who have made a contribution to the debate on this particular Head. I know beyond a shadow of doubt, that all of us in this Honourable Chamber are deeply concerned about the state of health care in this country. The Honourable Chamber has my full assurance that there will soon be a full debate, in this Honourable Chamber on health care and health care reforms for Barbados.

I certainly believe, like all of us, that we must not settle for mediocrity. The health of the nation is far too important for us not to engage our minds and lend of our experiences and views to help shape a 21st century health care sector for Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I now beg that Head 53 stand part.

Hon. F.J. STUART: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 58

MINISTRY OF FAMILY, YOUTH, SPORTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT \$4 325 874

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

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, you would know that the Ministry of the Environment takes a big part of this particular Head. I would like to begin my presentation by noting that the Government is committed to ensuring that matters related to the environment are of significant importance to how we move forward in developing sustainable development tactics to ensure that this country continues to stay on good footing.

Sir, we believe that our social development as well as our economic development are part and parcel of a comprehensive holistic developmental process that also includes the environment. Our Honourable Prime Minister has made it quite clear to the country that the environment must take centre stage as we continue to move Barbados along the pathways to progress, so that we not only ensure the economic and social well-being of our citizens, but we also ensure that they have a place to dwell that is safe, and a place that is fortified through our environmental programmes, et cetera.

Mr. Chairman, the truth is that we have not had the kind of advocacy on the environment that we should have had over the years. We are still waiting for a substantive piece of environmental legislation to come forth. I want to assure the Barbadian public today that environmental legislation is on its way, and will come to this Chamber in very short dispatch. It is important because of the threat of global warming. It is important because of the realities of climate change.

It is important because the very existence of our people are put at risk because of the fact that there are those large countries which are responsible mostly for greenhouse gas emission and the smaller States, such as us, must suck up all of these impurities.

Sir, if we are not careful, we will find that our people will be at risk and we will not be able to provide them with the level of food security, the level of security in terms of air quality, and the level of security in terms of protection against storm surges, et cetera.

I believe, Sir, that any progressive, forward-looking Government would examine what is happening around the globe, and would understand that the environment must play an important role in how we go forward. I am excited

to have the honour and the opportunity to be leading this charge.

I assure this Honourable House and the people of this country that we will do the very best that we can to ensure that the Government's hopes for a strong, fortified, protected environment come to fruition, where all the citizens of this country can benefit.

Therefore, what we have before us, Mr. Chairman, is a Supplementary asking for resources to be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Family, Youth, Sports and the Environment in the following areas:

The area of General Management and Coordinated Services and that is broken down where we are asking for \$2 500 for maintenance of property; supplies of materials \$32 000; utilities \$6 000; employment contributions \$9 565; other personal emoluments \$129 149.

Under the National Conservation Commission, the Supplementary is requesting \$86 404; under the Coastal Zone Unit, we are requesting a Supplemental amount of \$5 000; travel and operating expenses \$51 715.

Under the Coastal Infrastructural Programme, which is a very important programme, we have been spending a lot of resources and paying a lot of attention relative to the protection of our coastlines, particularly on the West Coast and South Coast. Sir, that particular programme is asking for \$930 000.

5.40 p.m.

The Natural Heritage Unit, which also operates the Beautify Barbados Programme, is asking for \$150 000. Mr. Chairman, we are also seeking \$2 500 000 for the redevelopment of Harrison's Cave. The Environmental Protection Department is seeking a supplemental amount of \$86 427 for other personal emoluments, \$7 978 for employers' contribution, \$76 000 for utilities and \$5 200 for supplies and materials.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that these amounts will enable the Ministry of the Environment to continue its programme and to continue to advance those projects that were started for this fiscal year.

I therefore beg to move that Head 58 stand part.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. R. D. JONES, seconded by Hon. Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His

Honour, the SPEAKER the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. R. D. JONES, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Resolution was read a first and second time and passed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES (RECOMMITTED)

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of a Private Members' Resolution as follows: WHEREAS the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary is a 35-acre property within the Graeme Hall Swamp as a Barbados National Environmental Heritage Site;

AND WHEREAS the said Sanctuary is part of an endangered Lesser Antilles Mangrove Ecosystem with its brackish waters fed by springs and runoffs within the 1 156 acres watershed;

AND WHEREAS the Sanctuary is the last significant mangrove woodland and the largest inland water body in Barbados, and one of only three primary roost areas and the longest established heron roost area in Barbados;

AND WHEREAS the Sanctuary is home to the widest diversity of resident and migratory birds with at least 84 species having been recorded;

AND WHEREAS the Sanctuary also provides an environment that seeks to educate all of its visitors and can enhance the knowledge of all Barbadians, especially our school children;

AND WHEREAS in 2007, the Barbados Labour Party Administration initiated an Innovative Green Economy Initiative in Barbados, which was intended to address issues such as energy conservation, noise reduction and clean air promotion, ecosystems, clean and efficient technology; renewable energy; biodiversity-based products and services (such as organic foods); chemical and waste management and mitigation technologies as well as green communities with ecologically friendly buildings, construction and transport systems;

AND WHEREAS the Green Economy Initiative as formulated by the Barbados Labour Party Administration makes recommendations for greening Barbados; creating new green jobs; and was intended to move the Barbados economy to a green economy for enterprises;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Parliament calls upon the Government of Barbados to acquire the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary to avert its closure and to ensure that it remains open for the benefit of all Barbadians, for the benefit of our fragile environment and for the patrimony of this country.”

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, as I rise to move a motion for the adjournment of this House, it is an interesting time at which such a motion would be moved. This is the festive period, a period of celebration, a period of caring, a period of sharing and a period of the recognition of the birth of Christ which sometimes, because of the heavy commercialism during this time, might go unattended.

Mr. Speaker, I would want first to urge all Honourable Members to put the birth of Christ at the forefront of whatever they do as they celebrate his birth and in celebrating his birth do what Christ did, that is, to care, to share and to bring persons into the family of Christ. Mr. Speaker, as we move about our various constituencies, as we bring care and share to all of those, we also invite them to share in the blessings which Christ brought to those of us who are Christians.

I want to commend all Honourable Members of the House, particularly This Side, for the work over the past several months, for their diligence and for the care in looking after the people's business.

I therefore want to wish each and every one of them a blessed and happy Christmas. Of course, we will meet each other over the course of the several days as we share with each other and as we share with our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I would wish the Other Side a most blessed Christmas period and look forward for their participation in the various debates which would become even more robust as we move forward into 2009.

I would also want to wish the Clerk of Parliament and his Deputies, and all of the workers of this House that give us some comfort in their competence, and their families as well, those who have spouses of whatever form, type or fashion, a most pleasant Christmas and the best.

We want to wish those persons from the media, who though sometimes can take what we say out of context, a

blessed Christmas as well. They are important persons in the national estate.

I also want to wish those persons who every Tuesday, or if we meet on Friday, would come out to hear the words of their elected Representatives - the words of the Government really, because persons come to hear the Government - for their continued participation in the governance of Barbados by their presence and by their support through whatever aura they might send to us.

We would also want to wish the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force, from the Commissioner of Police right down to the Constables, who look after our security in here and out there and their families a most happy and rewarding Christmas. I believe I speak for all Honourable Members on This Side.

5.50 p.m.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, it is not that you come last in my blessings, but it is better to give than to receive, and I know that you might have received in order to give, but I would want to wish you and your Deputy Speaker a blessed Christmas as well.

With those words, I beg to move that this Honourable House be now adjourned until January 20, 2009, at 10.00 a.m.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, as is customary, I would wish to associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of Government Business, in respect of his wishes for all who work in this Honourable Chamber, all who service this Honourable Chamber, in whatever format. I want to wish them all a very blessed and pleasant Christmas and to have, hopefully, a happy and healthy New Year.

Sir, next year promises to be challenging but I do believe that once persons are capable of rooting themselves and keeping their eyes focussed on what they have to do, that they will all succeed. I do believe also that there is a level of resilience in the Barbadian people that will allow us to beat off any challenge.

I want to thank all Honourable Members on my Side for the work over the course of the last 11 months. I want to thank the Leader of Government Business for his courtesy in dealing with the Opposition. I want to thank the Clerk in particular and the Deputy Clerks.

Of course, I would like to thank the other ancillary staff, the Hansard Reporters, the Marshals, in particular,

because while most Honourable Members are here on Tuesdays only, my office is located in these precincts and therefore I have occasion to interact with the members of staff on an even more regular basis.

I would want to say too that requests from my office are usually met with despatch, to which I am grateful. I want to say too that the opportunity for such interaction allows for fellowship to develop.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of yourself, I know this has been a challenging year in part for you and, therefore, I wish you a very blessed and healthy Christmas and a Happy New Year, and to say that I look forward to a resumption next year. I hope that it would be a more packed calender but nevertheless, whatever the outcome, I trust that on Both Sides we would be able to discharge the people's business in a way that is befitting of what they expect of us.

I want to wish Merry Christmas to all, through you, and a Blessed and Prosperous New Year, to the extent that it can be possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me associate myself with all the good wishes and everything else for a good holiday, particularly too to the ancillary staff who work so efficiently behind the scenes to make what we do here possible.

Of course, on behalf of the Honourable Members of Parliament and myself, I want to extend to all Barbadians a happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I know I will interact with many of you over the season, I know I am welcomed but I would prefer to wait for your call.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable House be now adjourned until January 20, 2009, at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House be now adjourned until Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

5.55 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	1
Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 1.	

PAPERS

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	1
2. Report of the Supervisor of Insurance for the year ended December 31, 2005.	

OBITUARY SPEECHES

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	2
Mr. R. C. Eastmond, 3; Mr. H. F. Lashley, 4; Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 5; Mr. R. St.C. Toppin, 7; Miss C.Y. Forde, 8; Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 9.	

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	10
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 10.	

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	10
Hon. F. J. Stuart; Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley.	

RESUMPTION

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	19
Hin Honour K.St.C. Best; His Honour K. St.C. Best; Miss C.Y. Forde; Hon. P. M. T. Todd; Hon. C. P. Sinckler; Mr. J. D. Paul; Mr. G. A. Clarke; Hon. E .G. Hutson; Hon. S. D. Blackett; Mr. A. D. Brathwaite; Hon. R. D. Jones; Hon. F. J. Stuart.	

HEAD 19

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	39
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 39.	

HEAD 25

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	39
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 39.	

HEAD 38

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	39
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 39.	

HEAD 51

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	39
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 39.	

HEAD 57

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	39
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 39; Hon. R. D. Jones, 40.	

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 4 – TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND.....	40
--	----

HEAD 19

Hon. R. D. JONES.....	40
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 40.	

HEAD 53

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS.....	40
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 42, 50; Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, 42, 49; Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 43; His Honour K. St.C. Best, 43; Mr. A. D. Brathwaite, 44; Mr. J. D. Paul, 45; Miss C.Y. Forde, 46; Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 46; Hon. P. M. T. Todd, 48.	

HEAD 58

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE.....	50
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 51.	

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES (RECOMMITTED)

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY.....	51
SUSPENSIONS.....	19, 40.

ADJOURNMENT.....	52
Hon. R. D. Jones, 52, 53; Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, 52; Hon. F. J. Stuart, 53.	

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BEST, Hin Honour K.St.C.

BEST, His Honour K. St.C. (St. Michael East)
BLACKETT, Hon. S. D. (St. Michael Central)
BOYCE, Hon. J. D. E. (Christ Church South)
BRATHWAITE, Mr. A. D. (St. Philip South)
CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
EASTMOND, Mr. R. C. (St. James North)
FORDE, Miss C.Y. (St. Thomas)
HUTSON, Hon. E .G. (St. James Central)
INNISS, Hon. D. O'N. (St. James South)
JONES, Hon. R. D. (Christ Church East Central)
LASHLEY, Mr. H. F. (St. Michael South East)
LOWE, Dr. the Hon. D. S. (Christ Church East)
MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A. (St. Michael North East)
PAUL, Mr. J. D. (St. Michael West Central)
SINCKLER, Hon. C. P. (St. Michael North West)
STUART, Hon. F. J. (St. Michael South)
TODD, Hon. P. M. T. (City of Bridgetown)
TOPPIN, Mr. R. St.C. (St. Michael North)

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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. Papers. In laying the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Gymnasium Ltd.) Order, 2008, Hon. R. D. Jones addresses ‘Mr. President’. The first paper is unnumbered and the second is numbered ‘2.’. Printed as in the source.

Q2. Obituary Speeches, Mr. H. F. Lashley. The Speaker calls Mr. H. F. Lashley as ‘The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East’, the constituency of Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, who is called by the same description immediately afterwards. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Committee of Supply, Head 54. One speech heading reads ‘Hin Honour K.St.C. BEST’. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Committee of Supply, Head 19 (Order No. 3). The seconder of the motion that Head 19 stand part is headed ‘SENATOR F. J. STUART’; elsewhere he is ‘Hon. F. J. STUART’. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Committee of Supply, Head 53. The Head is titled ‘NATIONAL INSURANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY \$59 732 701’, but Hon. D. O’N. Inniss speaks to it as the Ministry of Health’s supplementary, ‘in the sum of \$59 million’. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Private Members’ Notices (Recommitted) and Adjournment. After the Speaker had resumed the Chair, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley and Hon. R. D. Jones are each called by a speaker headed ‘Mr. CHAIRMAN’. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Friday, 19th December, 2008 at 10.15 a.m., with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were led by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood. The Minutes of Tuesday, 16th December were confirmed. Hon. R. D. Jones, the Leader of the House, explained that the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Gymnasium Ltd.) Order, first laid in April 2008 as an Order of 2007, had never been Gazetted, and laid it again correctly cited as the Order of 2008; he also

laid the Report of the Supervisor of Insurance for the year ended 31st December, 2005.

The House paid tribute to the late Mr. Duncan Carter, Member for Christ Church East Central from 5th October, 1994 until 2003, who had died in August 2008. Mr. Jones recalled seeking to contest the seat against him; Mr. R. C. Eastmond recalled his cricket for Police in the 1960s; and Mr. H. F. Lashley, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, Mr. R. St.C. Toppin, Miss C. Y. Forde and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce also spoke before the Speaker associated the Chair with the tributes.

Standing Orders were suspended and, under Order No. 3, the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. S. A. Lashley in the Chair, on the Resolution to grant \$55 868 735 to supplement the Estimates 2008-2009 (Supplementary Estimates No. 12). Debate centred on Head 54, \$9 790 739 for the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. Mr. Jones described the Educational Sector Enhancement Programme, originally \$426 million with local funding of \$193 214 000 and loans of \$170 million from the Inter-American Development Bank and \$63 million from the Caribbean Development Bank. Miss Mottley, as a former Minister of Education, asked why the debate had begun with education rather than Head 19 and Head 53, compared the \$7.6 million sought for the Rural Development Commission with the UDC’s supplementary the year before, and defended the EduTech Programme.

After the luncheon suspension Mr. Boyce answered Miss Mottley, followed by Hon. K. St.C. Best, Miss Forde, Hon. P. M. T. Todd, Hon. C. P. Sinckler, Mr. J. D. Paul, Mr. G. A. Clarke, Hon. E. G. Hutson, Hon. S. D. Blackett and Mr. A. D. Brathwaite. Mr. Hutson said \$4 million would go to construction and repair at primary schools and \$2.5 million to professional fees, and Miss Forde rose to deny that the Welches and Good Shepherd schools had been overlooked. After Mr. Jones replied, Head 54 stood part, and Heads 19, 25, 38, 51 and 57 stood part without debate. The Resolution was reported, read a first and second time and agreed to, and Mr. Jones gave notice of a further Resolution to grant \$64 068 575.

After a short suspension, Order No. 4 took the House back into Committee of Supply on that Resolution (Supplementary Estimates No. 13). Head 19, \$10 000 for storage cabinets, passed after a short explanation. On Head 53, \$59 732 701, Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, newly responsible for health, attributed the sum to salary increases under the NUPW agreement and what he called neglect of the health sector, and promised a full debate on health care reform. Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe spoke on the Barbados Water

Authority; Miss Mottley asked about \$8.5 million for capital works and \$3.2 million for land for the West Coast Sewerage Project; and Mr. Best, Mr. Brathwaite, Mr. Paul, Miss Forde and Mr. Todd also spoke. Head 58, \$4 325 874, was explained by Dr. Lowe, including \$930 000 for the Coastal Infrastructure Programme and \$2 500 000 for the redevelopment of Harrison's Cave. The Resolution was reported and passed.

Miss Mottley gave notice of a Private Members' Resolution calling on the Government to acquire the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary to avert its closure. On the adjournment Mr. Jones, Miss Mottley and the Speaker exchanged Christmas greetings and thanked the staff, and the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 20th January, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.