
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Pursuant to the Adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

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)

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

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B.

(Leader of the Opposition)

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

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

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, M.B.B.S., B.Sc. (Minister of Economic Affairs and Empowerment, Innovation, Trade, Industry and Commerce)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. E. GEORGE HUTSON, F.C.C.A., C.A. (Minister of International Business and International Transport)

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

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

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, M. Ed., Ed.D., B.A., Dip. Theology (Minister of the Environment, Water Resources and Drainage)

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, Education and Human Resource Development)

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS, M.B.A., Dip., B.Sc., (Minister of Health)

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, M.Sc., B.A. (Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Rural and Urban Development)

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO, M.B.B.S. (Minister of Family, Youth Affairs and Sports)

Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Minutes were circulated, and subject to any observations or corrections, I beg to move that these Minutes be confirmed.

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

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

PAPERS

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Annual Reports of TVET Council for the periods April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, also April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007.

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Annual Report of the Grantley Adams International Airport Inc. for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4 – SECOND READING OF THE FINAL APPROPRIATION (2008/2009) BILL, 2009.

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

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to move the Second Reading of the Final Appropriation Bill, 2008/2009. The Final Appropriation Bill represents the sum total of the Supplementary Expenditure voted for in the Honourable House, and each Head of Expenditure would have been debated during the course of the Financial Year. I believe by the Rules of this Honourable House it is not usual for us to reflect on previous Votes.

Sir, therefore, standing on the tradition, I beg to move the Second Reading of the Final Appropriation Bill.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART the House resolved itself

into Committee of Supply, Mr. S. A. LASHLEY, Chairman of Committees, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

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

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

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

46.10 a.m.

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ORDER NO. 5 – TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVE ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRAND OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$1 985 813 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2009-2010 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 1, 2009-2010 WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION AND THAT THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO HEAD 68 BE AMENDED AS SET OUT IN SCHEDULE 11 TO THE RESOLUTION.

HEAD 13

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

\$670 000

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

Hon. D.J.H. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, by way of this Supplementary, the sum of \$670 000 is being sought to supplement Head 13, in the Prime Minister's office. This is essentially for the purpose of meeting the cost of the relocation of the Tower at Husbands, St. James and the erection of a Tower at Mount Gilboa, St. Lucy, for the financial year in respect of this particular Head. We are looking at \$670 000 under the National Defence and Security Preparedness.

Savings have been found elsewhere in the Ministry and have been diverted to this particular project. Under that Head, we are dealing with assets under construction to meet the cost of the erection of a Radar Tower at Mount Gilboa, St. Lucy, and the relocation of the Tower at Husbands, St. James.

I believe that the House may have already been familiar, and I do not necessarily want to go into too much detail on it, where the Integrated Coastal Surveillance System, which has a Command and Control Centre at District "A", a Mobile Unit and for Radar Towers located at various parts of Barbados, including South Point and Ragged Point, St. Philip.

Obviously, there was a proposal to install a new one at Mount Gilboa, St. Lucy, and there were challenges in relation to the one at Husbands, St. James. It was decided that it would be moved from the site, which is near to households, to a location in the area of the Caribbean Meteorological Institute, so our Ragged Point and Husbands facilities which were erected in 2007 are fully operational.

In relation to the Tower at Husbands, it had been erected without the permission of the Chief Town Planner. Therefore, when residents complained, obviously we had no choice but to respond to their complaints. A Tower like that being erected in a residential area is something that needs to be very carefully and environmentally tested. Therefore, it was unfortunate that the Tower was, in fact, erected without the Chief Town Planner's permission. We now have to bear the cost of relocating it to an alternative site. The Chief Town Planner has agreed to a location 30 metres east of the present location.

Sir, the fourth Tower at Mount Gilboa, there were problems in relation to acquisition of the land. Therefore the Ministry of Housing is still currently in discussions concerning the lease of the land for this purpose, but we need to proceed with this project because Barbados has been relatively successful in dealing with the question of illegal drugs, which people attempt to land on our shores.

I believe the entire Cabinet visited the project and were satisfied about its ability to help in that regard. Therefore, to complete the network would require very

urgent attention to both the Husbands and Mount Gilboa sites.

There is no legislation in Barbados similar to that in other countries that would permit a Government to go on to a site and use it in circumstances such as this, even in constructing a facility as important as this. Therefore, we have to be very careful about how we go about the development of this project.

Included in the funds that were voted in the Estimates were resources of \$1.2 million for staffing and NIS contributions based on projected staffing requirements of 30 persons.

H46 10.40 a.m. Sequence 4

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

House A46, Sequence 05, 10.40 a.m.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: However, owing to the delay in establishing all of the components of this project, it is unlikely that the full complement will be in place before the end of the financial year and, therefore, Government would have saved about \$1 million, of which \$670 000 of it would be applied to this particular project.

We are, therefore, freezing \$670 000 under one subprogramme and seeking to apply it to another, so it would have no impact on the Government's overall expenditure. In fact, it is anticipated that there will be a savings this year, as a result of this project.

I think it is important for us to make it clear that the Government feels as strongly about the question of interdiction of illegal drugs, as it does about many other national priorities, and therefore, every effort and every resource will be made available within our limits to ensure that this project is successful.

There were, and are still some issues about the design of the project. Barbados has a reasonably effective defence capability through the Defence Force and I would say, generally speaking, an outstanding Police Department. However, a project like this requires the cooperation of both the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force. Therefore, we have to find an appropriate administrative mechanism that would satisfy issues of command, and joint operations involving other Government departments like the Customs Department, et cetera, and we need to get it right, in terms of developing the facility.

The physical space has already been constructed at District "A", which as I said, the Cabinet visited and we want to get the project operational as swiftly as we can, but

do not let anybody be in any doubt that this project will proceed and that this project has the potential of ensuring that there will be very little success in landing illegal drugs on the shores of Barbados. Sir, as long as there are no other areas in which the system is compromised, once it is fully operational, it will be done.

Sir, you would have heard in recent times, announcements by other countries in the Caribbean that they are establishing a similar facility, working with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in each of the eastern Caribbean islands. I believe that once our surveillance is fully networked through the Region, and as long as I said that we can get a command structure in place, which is desirable to achieve the ends of this project, that we would be successful. Sir, no project, however well-conceived technologically, will be successful, if there are people in the system who are facilitators of those who are seeking to import illegal narcotics.

Mr. Chairman, we have had the challenge in Barbados of persons within our security forces whom, it is alleged, have compromised operations. This is a very serious matter because it obviously places in jeopardy the lives of the persons involved in the operations. It obviously can compromise the amount of resources that you put into an entire system and it also has the impact of creating disharmony between the various entities that are involved in these operations.

Sir, we therefore have to constantly use mechanisms to ensure that the persons who are working in our Barbados Defence Force and in the Royal Barbados Police Force in these positions, are persons who can be trusted and who are beyond reproach.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, you can spend millions of dollars on that infrastructure but as long as there are people who benefit and who are inclined to dishonesty, or inclined to want to benefit from the system, they can compromise all that you are doing and this is one of the troublesome and very worrisome aspects of projects of this sort.

As I said, we have seen the impact that it has had, even with the limited scope of the current operations, scenarios where it can be compromised. It will not stop us from doing all in our power to deal with the question of illegal drugs in this country. In fact, I would like to intensify the work that is being done in that regard, particularly in relation to the protection of our children.

I do not get overly intellectually aroused when people agitate in relation to adults doing foolishness. They should feel the full weight of the Law, but I do not think that the Law and our resources need to be spent on them, as much as it needs to be spent on protecting our children. Recent evidence has suggested that a large number of

children in our country can access illegal drugs, at school, in school, after school, in any part. I am talking about 10 to 12-year-olds. I think anybody who is involved in selling drugs to children, or encouraging them in any other form of deviance, should feel the full weight of the Law.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: We should be uncompromising in that regard, whether acts against children of a sexual nature, the sale of drugs, can be even more destructive to their future, as well as other areas in which our children need to be protected, because it can affect, not only any of us, but it will have an impact on entire generations of Barbadians. It is from that perspective that I raise that alarm because, as I said, we are going to spare no effort in that regard.

One of the reasons we felt strongly it was necessary to remove the school children as much as possible from the contact with the minibus culture, and you cannot entirely remove them, was by introducing the much maligned free school bus service which, as far as I am concerned, has had some impact in that regard.

There are Principals of schools who have indicated that it has impacted positively on their institutions. It has reduced the cost of public transportation for those school children and I believe it has had a salutary effect, and that is one step in that regard.

We have also had discussions and putting plans in place for additional legislation that will deal with some of the challenges that are faced by our young people in the home environment. I believe that there are going to be other initiatives, some of which are going to be popular and some which may be unpopular, but specifically targetted at protecting our children.

We have to start somewhere and I believe that is one area of national life that is neglected because people always believe that when you do these things, you are trying to moralise, you are trying to set moral standards for the society. I am not of that view.

House A46, Sequence 05, 10:50:14

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Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: There are interventions that the State has to make, and we are going to make them. I am not a hands-off person when it comes to children. I think that they should enjoy their childhood and they should be given a little freedom to do the things that other young people like them do.

I do not think that you can completely control them, but I think that there is a signal that our society needs to send to them about the extent to which we will protect them from vices and values that are subversive to their growth and development. I take a very strong position on that. There is a lot they have to cope with that we do not even realise they have to cope with on a daily basis.

Mr. Chairman, I have concerns about the use of cell phones. I have said so publicly and if it makes me unpopular, I will do what I have to do in that regard and take the unpopularity. I am concerned about the kinds of things that are being circulated on cell phones and the substantial amount of money spent by children topping up cell phones instead of buying lunch.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member does not have to be blindly partisan on every issue. If the Honourable Member for St. Joseph has constructed a speech to perhaps sanitise his role as Attorney-General for the blind indifference to the things that happen to our young people in this country, things that I came and found going on in the van stand in Barbados, that the Police had drawn attention to time and time again in relation to young people...

I am not saying to go overboard. I am not saying that I believe that people need to be publicly chastised, or that we need to take extreme acts. I am saying that there are things that this Government has to do to reverse the trends that are taking place in relation to our young people in this country.

Asides.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: You have to start somewhere. You cannot solve all the problems. In other words, I cannot spend all day saying let us find legislation to ban cell phones in schools and then follow that with finding resources that children could travel free on school buses and then you got to look for people to go into the van stand up in all of the crevices and alleys to see what is happening because they are being exposed...

There are people selling them illegal drugs in those places. There is a long litany of challenges. We cannot deal with all of them, but we have to start somewhere. I think that as a society we have to say this is what we are not prepared to accept in Barbados. It is not a question of saying what we...

People like vision statements. You are supposed to say what you would accept. There are so many challenges coming that I do not even know if I can sit and write what I would accept, but I can tell you what I am not going to

accept. As long as it is within my power and the power of this Government, we are going to do something about the things that we will not accept in relation to our young people.

Mr. Chairman, at the core of the management of our social relations in this country as a whole, I mean that in the broadest sense, including the low levels of crime, is the fact that people look upon the Barbadian society and are still of the view, because of what they characterised as our conservatism, some even say the highhanded nature of our disciplined forces, et cetera, that it makes it a little bit easier for us to manage increases in crime and other social tensions.

Mr. Chairman, if we let go now, that will come to an end too and some of the incidents that I have heard of that have been taking place, particularly against Law enforcement officers - Some of them can be unreasonable but the vast majority of them carry out their job, in my view, in a very professional manner.

Some of the acts that have been perpetrated against them in seeking to assist where crimes are about to be committed by small mobs but nevertheless mobs, indicate to me that sometimes once that spark ignites, that things can get out of control, and we do not want that in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, some of the same people who are involved in activities that cannot be supported by the Law will still turn around and tell you that they like Barbados because X and Y do not happen here, yet they are still contributing to it by doing some of the foolishness that they do.

I believe, as I said, that now is the time for us to send a very clear and unequivocal message particularly in relation to our children. I think that any attempt to reduce the flow of illegal drugs into this country by Government should be given the fullest support, and that anybody who stands in the way of Government's or the society's attempt to stem the flow of those illegal drugs needs to feel the full weight of the Law in this country.

Mr. Chairman, it is in that context that perhaps I have ranged a little too wide for the liking of everybody, but I felt it was important why we support this project because it is costly. There are other things you could be spending the money on, but my view is, at least, it gets to the heart of one of the challenges.

As long as we could protect our border effectively, and as long as people know that Barbados' borders are protected, the likelihood is that they would be less casual about trying to land illegal drugs on our shores barring the kinds of concerns that we have. It is against that

background that I give my full support and have every pleasure in moving this Supplementary.

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, the Prime Minister has indicated that his Government fully supports this project, the Integrated Coastal Radar Project. We on This Side cannot do other than to support this request because this was a project that was part of a series of initiatives designed initially to be able to protect our borders, to be able to reduce the inflow of illegal drugs into the Barbadian landscape, and equally to stop the illegal poaching and fishing that takes place in our waters now by persons from far and wide. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we would have absolutely no difficulty in supporting this project.

The truth is that the Barbados Government took a decision at the time that if we could, in fact, have the ability to be able to have surveillance over our territorial waters, particularly as it related to the fact that we had concluded successfully our maritime boundaries with Trinidad and Tobago, that we would be in a better position on a whole range of fronts as I just outlined.

House A46 Sequence 6

11.00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: In the circumstances, there was one significant action which was not yet put in place and which I put on the Floor of the Honourable House for the Prime Minister and Attorney-General to consider. That relates to the amendment to the Marine Jurisdiction and Boundaries Act, to be able to provide a very swift penalty for persons found doing illegal acts, including illegal fishing in our waters.

Sir, it was not because we want to stop it, but we recognised that with the enhanced technology procured by the Barbados Coast Guard, we would be able to deal with this issue. Sir, more importantly, if they come before the courts, that the powers of the courts will be sufficient that it will help repay for the investment which we have made in developing this progress.

I say so, not because it was an original idea. This is what has been done in Canada and in other countries of the world, where that enhanced power of the court to fine - and usually it is a large amount of \$1 million or three times the

value of the catch - it allows for money to come back into the Treasury.

Sir, all of us are aware of the Japanese and Korean vessels that are currently fishing in our waters. The truth is that for the first time, once this system is fully functional, it gives us the ability, with the increase in vessels that the Coast Guard has, for us to be able to deal with this problem, and to get money back into the Treasury that would help offset the very significant investment that we have made in this.

Mr. Chairman, as the Prime Minister indicated, the benefits for ordinary Barbadians will come mostly in being able to stem the flow of illegal drugs into this country. Sir, this is a matter that will not divide this Honourable House because this project was conceptualised with that objective in mind.

Equally, we have a strong concern about the exposure of our young children to many things: illegal drugs is one. Indeed, if you look at the legislation, you would see that there is a greater penalty for selling drugs in the environs of a school, than there is in any other location. Sir, that is a reflection of previous Parliaments' determination that it is more than criminal to involve young people, whose minds may not be fully formed and who may be the subject of easy influence into activities that may well derail their lives forever.

I am also concerned about the extent to which I see so many young people on the roads at night, unsupervised. I do not think it is a good thing. Sir, when we were Government, one of the reasons we looked at an after-school programme in the Ministry of Education was because we recognised that there were a number of students who were going home to empty houses, where their parents are working.

Sir, it was not that their parents had no concern for them, but that the circumstances of the household were such that when these children got home, nobody was there to take care of them. We, therefore, would have instituted a number of after-school programmes.

Mr. Chairman, there are some schools, and I believe you may find it under the Ron Clark Academy in the United States of America, specifically for black children, where they are now taking the children from 7.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m. I am not suggesting that we do that here, but that is in response to the phenomenon that once you send children back to an empty house, the opportunity for idle hands to get into mischief is much greater than if you keep them involved in structured extracurricular activities. It was one of the reasons in the curriculum reform that we put in the whole question of extracurricular activities as one of the core subjects for persons to get a Barbados Secondary

Schools' Diploma, because if you could force children to be involved in structured activities...

Sir, most of the people in this Parliament would have been involved in structured activities after school. Sir, very often it is those children who are not involved in structured activities, who find themselves getting into serious difficulties and serious problems.

Mr. Chairman, I have said that I do not believe that Government can intervene in every aspect of the responsibilities of a parent relationship, but I am also cognisant and conscious that there are circumstances where the child's behaviour is such that it requires other forms of intervention. That is why we started the Edna Nicholls Centre, because simply to suspend the child and to stop the child from coming to school, did not resolve any issue, therefore, to force that child, who would be the subject of a suspension, to go into a structured environment, where persons who are trained to find out what is it that caused that initial problem or behaviour on the part of the child that led to the suspension.

Sir, I say this. It was never intended that the Edna Nicholls Centre would be the end-all of the process because under the Education Act, they can only keep the child for up to three weeks, with a possible extension. Therefore, it was always recognised that you needed another type of institution. I believe the Honourable Member for St. Joseph was working on this before he left office, that you need an institution - and I do not think there should be any divide on this - that allows for parents or, ultimately, a combination of persons through the court, not because the child has committed a criminal act yet, but because the child's behaviour is such that it is so disruptive to a school environment.

Sir, anybody who has been a Minister of Education would tell you that Principals make the point that there are some children whose presence in the schools are so disruptive that it is impossible to keep discipline within the particular environment.

We, therefore, recognised that there was need for some kind of residential facility that would allow such persons to be the subject of intense intervention over the course of six or nine months, to be able to assist in getting that young person back on the straight and narrow path before there was an increase in deviancy.

I, therefore, look forward to deeper consultation with the Government on matters such as these that affect the welfare of hundreds of young Barbadians, who might otherwise be allowed to perform and to carry out a normal life, if they receive the requisite support and intervention.

Mr. Chairman, while the Prime Minister was speaking, I said it as an aside but I will say it aloud now. I do not believe that any child should have a cellular in the school system. There are ways of contacting parents if the child has fallen ill. That is what the telephones in the schools are there for. When we were going to school we did not have cellars. I do not believe it is appropriate.

If there are ways that we have concerns about that child needing some form of communication on the bus on the way home, that is why you have public pay phones in the bus stands, plus the fact that we do not pay for local phone calls in Barbados. Further, we have developed a culture as a people where you could beg for a phone call to make a critical call to a parent or family member and nobody would deny you that phone call.

Sir, what bothers me is the extent to which pornographic and other material is readily available and is used across the cellular. Of course, it can still happen if the child does not have the phone in the school, but what you have is the removal of a critical mass of cellars in an environment where you have hundreds of school children vying to out-do each other.

Mr. Chairman, I feel it is a distraction in the school system. I feel it is inappropriate. I believe if we are, therefore, serious about protecting our children, one of the key things that the Government has power over, is the ability to say whether cellars should be used by children in the school system. If we, therefore, want to send a message as a united Parliament, then I believe that is the way in which we can do so.

11.10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: The truth is, there are other things that would be difficult for us to do, but there is no doubt in my mind that unless we can anchor our young children with the right values, the right beliefs, the right philosophies and the right mind-set, that the volume of information and the volume of people with whom we are interacting in this country, four times our population, visit these shores on an annual basis.

It is cheaper to move information than it is to move people. Therefore, unless we anchor our young people with the right values, right beliefs and the right mindset, they can become subject to a whole host of things that would otherwise be inimical to their development.

I believe, therefore, that these are matters not just for Parliament, but civil society. This is the kind of national conversation that I believe we should be engaged in as a people. To that extent, there are things that the Government

does that I do not agree with on many fronts, but when there are things that I believe that there can be consensus, upon that goes beyond our partisan participation in public life, that goes to the kind of society we will build in the future, that goes to the kind of people we will be in the future, then, Mr. Chairman, I believe that we have a moral obligation not just as a political party, but as individual citizens, to be part of a process that says to the rest of Barbados, let us discuss how best we can anchor our young people on these issues.

Sir, there may be minor budgetary implications but, for the most part, what it does is to allow for both a distillation of ideas and a conversation to take place that can allow people to have clarity of purpose as we go forward, not just at the governmental level but, more importantly, at the individual household, at the level of the parent, at the level of the guardian, at the level of the grandparent and at the level of the community group. If the Government really therefore is serious, I believe that this national conversation can be undertaken with unanimity across the country as to what kind of people do we want to develop.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I am grateful to you, Sir.

Getting back to the original point, I simply would remind Honourable Members that amendment to the Marine Jurisdiction and Boundaries Act is, in my view, a critical amendment to allow the Government to recoup significant funds from those who continue to ignore the fact that these are Barbados waters and do their fishing and poaching with impunity. If it can help offset the money that the taxpayers have had to put into this project, then I believe it should be done with a matter of urgency, once these towers are completed, while there is some limited operation in the system...

I have not visited since it was. I think we went into Opposition. I heard the Prime Minister said the Cabinet visited it. I believe that once these towers are finished you should have full operational capacity, and if we can time the amendments to the legislation with that, then I think we would be able to save the taxpayers a considerable amount of money.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution and to say from the outset

it is good to see that this Government has moved swiftly to ensure that our coastal areas are covered. I am very anxious to say that the name is Mt. Gilboa and not Mount Gay. It shows that This Side is very much up-to-date with what is happening in St. Lucy. I want to thank this Government for the promotion of the Mt. Gilboa site which is now known for a very good rum in Barbados.

Sir, while we deal with rum, I want to make the point that we as senior people in this country have a responsibility, especially parents, to understand that we have a right to protect our young children in this country. Parents have no right sending children to buy lotto tickets, cellphone card, rum or cigarettes.

Too often in this country you see parents who are now giving up their responsibility of buying certain things for themselves sending minors to buy these things. I hope that the Government will not only talk about these things, but will ensure that they fully protect the young children of Barbados.

Sir, we talk a lot in this country about what crisis the country is in, and how people are in poverty. One only has to watch the importance of a cellphone card, today, over food. There was a time in this country where a person would have asked you for \$10 to buy something of substance, now the request is for cash to buy a cellphone card, a top-up or anything like that.

We have to realise that as much as you hear all the nonsense that Government should not regulate its expenditure, and how Government should allow buses to run without passengers, and so on. All of a sudden...

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: That is what you all are asking for. That is what I see. At a certain time of the day buses are running without passengers, and people are on the telephone asking for Government to continue this. Sir, not only that. The most hurtful thing is trying to use old people as an excuse.

Sir, I was in Barbados when old people could not get on a bus after 8:00 o'clock on mornings. All of a sudden, I am hearing the people who prevented old people from going to the clinic and for medicine at certain times during the day, now saying that they should be allowed to travel. I am saying that the same way we have to protect the young people from the vagaries of Barbados, we now have to protect the old people from the vagaries of politicians.

Sir, I am saying that the Honourable Member for St.

James North would not have been in that conversation, do not mind he is pretending in here. He is

more sensible than that because he would have looked down...

Asides.

His Excellency D. St. E. KELLMAN: I am very glad that the Opposition is now on board with this debate.

Asides.

Mr. R.C. EASTMOND: On a point of order. Is it parliamentary to call an Honourable Member a pretender? It seems to impute that the Honourable Member is a trickster or some kind of con man, or something.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, those matters, as you can appreciate, can only be relevant to a point of order if it had come to the hearing of the Chair, and the Chair did not hear that remark. It may have been an aside, but certainly I did not hear the remark.

Mr. R.C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I deeply regret your condition and recommend urgent medical attention.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I deeply regret asking the Honourable Member to withdraw those remarks forthwith.

Asides.

Mr. R.C. EASTMOND: Well, my parents encouraged me that if my superiors in whatever role require me to obey their commands, I shall have to do, and the remarks are hereby withdrawn, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Honourable Member, please continue.

His Excellency D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, you need not worry about that Honourable Member. He is a very obedient Member. That is why, by the end of the year, we would not have to worry about him, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, as I was saying, we have to be very careful. For many years here I have called on the previous Government to use the location at the Cement Plant to station a Coast Guard boat. So long was that request, that the now Chief Justice of Barbados agrees with it. The Cement Plant also agrees with it.

It is clear to me that now these provisions are being put in place, the demand for it to occur might not be the same. I am still saying that we should not rule out the

possibility of having that boat there, because of its location to the activities that normally take place in that section.

Sir, I have always made the point that if it is one thing we need as a country, it is a very strong Coast Guard. That is why I have always felt that we could have easily decreased the number of persons in the Barbados Defence Force and increased the number of persons in the Coast Guard.

H46 11.20 a.m. Sequence 8

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House A46, Sequence 09, 11.20 a.m.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, if one really looks at what is really needed in this country, we need a strong Coast Guard more so than a Defence Force. Not only that, there was a time in our country that we found ourselves needing personnel in the Coast Guard and in the Police Force, but yet still we had large numbers in the Defence Force that could easily have helped those two divisions, Sir, and that is why we saw a break-down in our system.

Sir, the most interesting comment I heard this morning came from the Leader of the Opposition, who said that with the Marine Jurisdiction and Boundary Act, we will be able to deal with illegal acts and fishing, a very interesting comment.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I do not like to interfere when the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is speaking because he is often left best to his own devices. The Honourable Member cannot mislead this Chamber by suggesting that I said, illegal acts in fishing. I said, illegal acts and illegal fishing...

Mr. Chairman, I even used the word, "poaching". If he does not know what the word "poaching" means, I believe that the Clerk at the Table can carry a dictionary for him, so that he can learn the definition of the word, "poaching".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy, please continue.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to question me on what I heard and what she said, I would ask you to call for the records. I will say that the Leader of the Opposition did say, "poaching", but it came after the fact. I never said that the Leader of the Opposition said illegal acts and illegal fishing. I said, illegal acts and fishing, and the Honourable Member went on to say that with this in our possession, we

will be able to deal with the Japanese. Why would we deal with the Japanese? Do you mean that they are doing illegal acts outside of fishing?

Mr. Chairman, I have always warned persons that when I am on my feet to be careful how they get up to speak in this House. There is no doubt that we have to invest money to protect our young people because it goes deeper. We might get in here and look at it from the micro level, but when we destroy our young people, we are destroying the productive forces of this country.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, it is for this Government to ensure that we do those things that are correct. This is why for years, we on This Side have always been advocating that we have to protect the young people, and that is why I had no problem in supporting the free bus service.

It seems to me now that all of a sudden, the ones who have criticised the free bus service believe that you should have buses running without anybody in them.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, one has to be very careful what is endorsed in this country and the message sent.

Mr. Chairman, it is regrettable that when you have the authority to do things, you do not know what to do, but as soon as the Government is changed, in less than two years, you have all the answers, even though you were in Government for 14 years and advice given but not taken. Now all of sudden everybody, after two years or less than two years, is a consultant, and could not consult with themselves in their time.

Sir, we as a Party must not only come here today and behave like what we saw for 14 years where we have to ensure that we do these things. We have to put them in force. It is one thing to pass legislation and one good thing about the Barbados Labour Party was passing legislation; but we want legislation and then we want action. I will ensure, Sir, that as long as I am in here, legislation is not something that will be passed and documented, but action will be taken.

Mr. Chairman, it does not make sense when we are dealing with our young people that we allow people to come and say they are doing things in the interest of young people and then at the end of the day, nothing else is done.

Mr. Chairman, if you go to the Mental Hospital, if you go to Dodds, you will see that the majority of persons

are young people who could be productive and could have been in the work force of Barbados. I have already made a statement in this House that at the same time when we were accommodating other persons from outside of Barbados into Barbados to add in the workforce, that we were using the system to put our young people in what we call the Mental and at Dodds, previously Glendairy or up Station Hill.

Sir, the evidence is there. We destroyed the young people of Barbados and then had to go and look for people outside of Barbados, and we did not even know their track records. Sir, we put away our own young people but yet still we accommodated others. Sir, that is why I have always said in this country that if there is one thing known to the Barbados Labour Party, was how to export jobs in this country at the expense of its own. Sir, that will be debated at a higher level at another time.

Sir, we are not in here about grandstanding and behaving as if we care about young people, but we are in here to ensure that we protect our young people and ensure that they walk in the right way. That is why we understood the importance of free bus fares which followed after free secondary education, free school books, free school meals and nearly free clothing but we stopped there to let the parents know that they had to have some type of responsibility for their children. Sir, that is not all, but we will also ensure that those youngsters will have an opportunity to live and work in Barbados.

I warned this Parliament, Sir, that we were educating and re-educating our young people in this country to prop up unemployment statistics to make them look good, but while we were training them, putting them in school, and putting them back in school and all that, others were coming into Barbados and working.

Sir, you heard people talk about the Immigration Policy but we have to correct the wrongs that were done by the others. We also have to ensure that Barbadians must have a share in Barbados and the other CSME countries must also have a share too, but after Barbadians have a right to have their share in their own country.

We have sold out this country to outsiders and we have to rescue this country and ensure that when young people come to your constituency office, once again, you can offer them a job, or tell them where to go and find a job, instead of them having to compete with somebody who is prepared to accept anything.

Sir, not only that. We have to ensure that young people will have somewhere in life in Barbados. We have also come up with a housing scheme, not where you go and have a joint venture and you do not find the contractor, but we are now giving people the opportunity to have a piece

of land so that they could decide who could build the houses, and they have a one to one relationship with their neighbours.

If you want to understand how that scheme works, all you have to do is to come to Mt. Poyer, St. Lucy on Saturdays and see how neighbourhood love is once again working in this country. This is something that has disappeared from the landscape of this country, and we are now bringing back the community in this country.

I thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this matter before this Chamber and in this Head 13, voting these funds to support the Integrated Coastal Surveillance System.

I would wish to add my two-cents worth in saying that this is a very important system for national security and in the last few days, CNN was carrying a series on the drug trade in Columbia. They had a journalist on the spot engaging in dangerous journalism to show the public how sophisticated the international drug trade has become.

House A46, Sequence 09, 11:30:14

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Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, what we learnt from that series is that those drug barons in Latin America are now actually constructing semi-submersible crafts that are not visible to the Coast Guard and Army surveillance helicopters and other aircraft. These crafts are almost beneath the surface of the sea and can easily avoid detection. They are being used to ship drugs from Colombia to Central America and North America.

These semi-submersible crafts cost millions of dollars to construct, but these drug barons are stopping at nothing to get their drugs smuggled into the markets of North America and Europe. They are also using pirogue speed boats which are able to outrun some of the Coast Guard cutters and so on, and avoid being detected as they smuggle their drugs along the coast of North America.

This is the reality of this day, Mr. Chairman, and so island States like Barbados with borders to the sea must keep one step ahead of these drug barons.

Mr. Chairman, I therefore congratulate the Government for ensuring that this project is fully implemented. Mr. Chairman, this project would go a long way to ensure that our fisher folks are able to ply their trade

in terms of fishing the waters off our coast free from fear of drug smugglers who stop them at gun point and harass them and pressure them into transporting drugs. This project would really help us to ensure that Law-abiding fisher folk can ply their trade freely and legitimately without being compromised by this illegal drug trade and others trading in illegal contraband.

Mr. Chairman, this project is very important and must be lauded. I agree with the Honourable Member for St. John, the Prime Minister, when he focussed on the need to ensure that applicants to the disciplined forces must be properly screened to ensure that persons of ill-repute do not slip into these Forces. These are positions of high responsibility and national security and we must ensure that the integrity of the system is not compromised.

In recent months, Mr. Chairman, we would have read in the media that in neighbouring Guyana there was an incident where Coast Guard personnel were charged for robbing and killing civilians. Mr. Chairman, it resulted in the Guyana authority taking the initiative to publish the photographs of applicants to the disciplined forces in the media to give the public an opportunity to indicate to the authorities if any of those applicants are known criminals or are of devious character.

Mr. Chairman, this is something that we could consider here in Barbados because that would ensure that the necessary due diligence is done to weed out any persons who might have criminal intent and may wish to join the disciplined forces for whatever reasons. These persons are trained in weaponry and are exposed to very sensitive security matters, so the integrity of the system must be maintained.

Mr. Chairman, this approach is not necessarily, in my view, farfetched and unnecessary. It is something that I am sure the various agencies would contemplate. Mr. Chairman, I would frown on any person who is of criminal intent seeking to get involved in the Police, the Prison Service, the Defence Force or the Coast Guard because that is not the place for them.

Mr. Chairman, let me focus on the issue of demand reduction. This is a very important issue that Third World countries always make to the developed countries in North America and Europe. Mr. Chairman, because there is a high demand for these drugs, it is fuelling the drug trade.

Sir, I am not seeking to defend the drug trade. Mr. Chairman, if we reduce the demand for these drugs, then it sort of reduces the profitability in the drug trade. If people are not buying the drugs, then the drug pushers would have drugs on their hands that they cannot sell. Mr. Chairman, we as individual citizens must therefore do our part to promote a zero-tolerance approach to drug abuse. We as

politicians must stand up and be counted as leaders of our country and adopt a bipartisan approach such that we frown on people who openly seek to peddle drugs, or use drugs.

Mr. Chairman, I want to let my constituents and Barbadians, in general, or anyone who deals with drugs not to deal with them in front of me. I am not going to go around people who are smoking marijuana and smile in their faces as if that is okay. Mr. Chairman, we as politicians must be firm on this matter and adopt this bipartisan approach and let our constituents know that we do not support the use of illegal drugs.

Mr. Chairman, we need courage to do this, but we must stand up and be counted because the majority of people in our country are Law-abiding citizens and they expect us to lead them and to lead this country forward and not turn a blind eye to crime that escalates, and then you end up with the majority of the public engaging in this illegal behaviour, and the whole fabric of the society falls apart and you have chaos and anarchy as the respectful Law is totally absent.

Mr. Chairman, we have to let the people know that no drugs are to be used on the premises of any fundraising events that we have. Mr. Chairman, let us be firm about this, and the drug pushers would get the message that we, as a Government, we as a country, and we as a Parliament frown upon the abuse of drugs.

Mr. Chairman, it goes further. It is a psychological problem because, even in the popular idiom of the dance hall you would hear some of the leading artistes saying cocaine abuse is bad but marijuana is cool because it was found on King Solomon's grave and it is a religious issue.

Mr. Chairman, I taught at nine different schools and I have seen situations where children had to be rescued from some drug hole next to the school where they were hidden away and were fully intoxicated with the marijuana, or what have you. These children were then more susceptible to getting involved in violence, and sexual behaviour and promiscuity and so on and so forth, so we must put an end to this.

Mr. Chairman, when children are tested and found positive for drugs, we should go into the homes and investigate to make sure that the parents, relatives, neighbours and friends are not getting these vulnerable impressionable children involved in this sort of negative behaviour.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with those who have spoken about the fact that the children are special groups. Adults have to take responsibility for their actions but the children are minors and we as responsible adults must protect them from the negative elements in our society who, due to their

greed and the lust for money, would peddle drugs and other illicit activities towards those children.

Mr. Chairman, the headquarters of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development is strategically located at the Elsie Payne Complex, right next to the ZR van stand. Certainly, your humble servant, as I walk around, would not encourage children to be loitering in the ZR van stand or in Queen's Park, or where have you long after 9 o'clock when they should be in school.

They should also not be riding up and down in the front seat of any ZR van or minibus with their boyfriend or what have you when they should be in school. Mr. Chairman, we as adults should frown upon that.

Mr. Chairman, I do not support ZR drivers who are smoking marijuana and driving up and down, not only risking their lives, but also the lives of pedestrians and passengers in the vehicle and other vehicles. Mr. Chairman, persons do not necessarily have to challenge these people and risk being hurt but we have crime stoppers and they can call the police station and get out the ZR van if they see these people drinking a stout or other alcoholic beverage, or smoking marijuana, and then getting in that vehicle to drive the public. That is not acceptable.

House A46 Sequence 10

11.40 a.m.

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Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I travel still on ZRs and minibuses and my eyes are opened, that is why I am speaking. Sir, if we turn a blind eye to all of these developments, we would have total breakdown in Law and order and we, as a people, would have to take the blame for it.

We cannot run away. We all live on this little rock and the criminal activities, whether we live in the heights or terraces, will affect us all on this island, and so we have to pool together as a nation and do our best to ensure that Law and order prevails.

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that the vast majority of our people in this country are Law-abiding citizens and that they know the difference between right and wrong. I know that sometimes it is fear when we see certain elements of this criminal activity perpetuating publicly and we appear powerless, but we have the power. The majority of the country are Law-abiding citizens and once we fight to make sure that these inalienable rights are protected, we can prevail. Sir, good can prevail over evil.

Mr. Chairman, with those few words, I support this Resolution and say that the issue of the vulnerability of Small Island States in the Region is so prominent and of concern to us that even at the recent Convocation of the Caribbean Community and (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy held a few weekends ago, even at the Prime Ministerial level, this issue was being debated.

They realised that as many of the economies endure economic downturn, in terms of the pressure on bananas, sugar and other agricultural production, some people may become involved in drug trafficking and that drug pushers may seek to bribe public officials. Therefore, we must stem negative trends.

We, as a Caribbean people, must fight to ensure that the Region, which is attractive in terms of the international transshipment of the drugs from Latin America to Europe and North America, that with these sea and air linkages connecting the Region as a trans-shipment area, we must pool together to ensure that the security and safety of our nation is uplifted.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I just want to make an observation in relation to someone in the Public Gallery. I am watching you and you are watching me but I want to remind you that your presence in this Honourable House is not for you to make grimaces and smirks as Honourable Members are speaking.

I am going to caution you that if I see that repeated, I am going to ask that you leave the Chamber. You know to whom I am speaking and you are watching me and I am watching you. I hope that is enough warning.

Honourable Members, it is not permitted to move around in your Chair, talking to persons in the back and so on. That is not permitted in this Honourable House. If I see it occurring again, I will ask that you leave this Honourable Chamber.

Honourable Member, please proceed.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, I take it that your advice to me is offered in good faith and I shall, therefore, pursue my right to speak on the Floor of this Honourable House, as required by the honourable persons from St. James North who sent me here, but subject to the Standing Orders of this Honourable House and subject to respect for its Presiding Officers.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for the City said something that immediately caught my attention. The Honourable Member spoke about the concept of demand reduction for drugs. Sir, immediately I recalled that a great

patriot who, though still alive, is no longer an Honourable Member of this Honourable House, had said that in tackling drugs, we must have a multifaceted approach.

Mr. Chairman, I know for sure that the Honourable Member for St. Philip West had been conceptualising a particular approach to deal with this matter some time ago. I am also aware of the fact that every Honourable Member of this Honourable House would have concerns over the scourge of drugs, with some Honourable Members being placed in positions to understand the problem better than others.

Mr. Chairman, I started by mentioning the question of demand reduction and the question of the patriot. This patriot, who served in this Honourable House, believed that demand reduction was an aspect of the fight against drugs. He also - and I will not elaborate on this for reasons of national security - believed that information-sharing among friendly States was crucial in the fight against the importation and exportation of drugs. Sir, reasons of nationalism and security forbid me from going any further.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member also was of the view that strengthening our security forces and purging the security forces of corrupt elements would have been fundamental to ensuring that we were serious about our fight against drugs, most of which, as you know, are imported.

Sir, even though there is a local variety known as "Bajan Green" that grows in the gullies of Barbados, those habituated to marijuana find "Bajan Green" an inferior drug to "Jamaican Black" and "Columbian Gold."

That grand patriot was also of the view that fundamental to the question of the fight against drugs - and I agree with everything the Honourable Prime Minister and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East said today - that rehabilitation had a big role in the question of overcoming substance abuse.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot elaborate very much on the issue of drugs in schools because I do not have the time but I am very concerned. Sir, through that great patriot who no longer serves in here, we were the ones in the Barbados Labour Party to set up the National Council of Substance Abuse. We were the ones who chose rehabilitation. Sir, I am sure that I have the confidence of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, when it comes to a deep-rooted understanding of these issues.

Sir, I am not signalling out any Honourable Member and putting that person on a pedestal, I am merely giving a patriot his fair due. Sir, that patriot to whom I am referring on the Floor of this Honourable House is the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, who had a conversation with

me about the fight against drugs some time ago, who had a particular vision at the time.

Mr. Chairman, a country that depends heavily on tourism can be at risk. Barbados' name has attracted all kinds of people over the years. Sometimes persons come in and present themselves as tourists, and their real reasons for being in Barbados are dubious. We, therefore, have to be wiser than these persons who would want to exploit our country and its hospitality for reasons other than healthy and sound.

Sir, in an electronic age, there are those who can enter Barbados with their laptops and God knows what connections they could make with their laptops that could compromise the security of this honourable country.

Mr. Chairman, as a Parliament, we also have to look at the question of the tower. Again, I am not going to go into any details that would compromise national security, I merely want to make the point that the Government has to ensure that the workers, who work in the tower, can interact with the authorities regularly enough, to be able to give the authorities an account of their concerns, an account of their frustrations where such exist, and an account of any necessary equipment they may need.

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Mr. R.C. EASTMOND: Sir, I really want to make that plea because I am aware that in the past it has happened to that particular personnel in the tower who yearned to meet their superiors and did not get an opportunity, not because of any national security considerations in the form of serious threats where security was an issue, but because certain essential things that went to their terms of service, and certain things that would have made them function better, were necessary.

Sir, I am not going to speak as an alarmist. We live in an era where we cannot honestly and realistically rule out the possibility that there can be espionage in Barbados by unfriendly people. We cannot rule out that possibility. We cannot rule out the possibility that there are unfriendly people. I am not saying unfriendly States.

There are groups that do not constitute States, not even when we can say that the Vatican, despite its uniqueness is a State, there are those who might feel that their particular coming together would give them some particular authority to want to come into Barbados and pick up sensitive information.

We, therefore, have to secure our interest to a point that we keep out undesirables, that we minimise or

eliminate any attempt by unfriendly people to do espionage in Barbados contrary to the interest of Barbados and contrary to the interest of Barbados' neighbours in the Caribbean. We have to ensure that bona-fides of those who come into this country are well-established even beyond the information in their passports.

Therefore, information shared and intelligence gathering - I must confess that the late Tom Adams, and I am absolutely fascinated by information shown on intelligence gathering, I am absolutely fascinated by it to the same degree of the late Prime Minister Tom Adams who had a love and a passion for reading books and spying.

Sir, I read Fredrick Forsyth who wrote a book entitled "The Devil's Triangle" and its line was that a man was about to die, and Fredrick Forsyth, in "The Devil's Triangle," featured Barbados' name in that book, as a place where particular activities had gone on. I believe that the authorities of the day were entirely innocent in those days to what was going on.

Sir, some day, at a lunch table, I might be able quietly to confide in Members and speak about those considerations which led Forsyth to write of our people of Barbados. If you read all of Forsyth, the man is a fascination when it comes to knowing how almost every intelligence agency operates. The point I am making, we must keep out foreign spies.

Sir, we have to ensure that aircraft are secure in the air as they approach and leave, and ensure that they are when parked on the ground for long hours, whether those long hours are in the day but, particularly, when they are parked overnight, like between 9.30 p.m. and next morning at 8:00 o'clock.

We have to have enhanced security to ensure that our systems do not admit or are permitting whether through negligence, or whether through so-called shortage of resources that situations can arise where those aircraft can use our space. We have to remember Cubana always. That is 33 years ago. Perhaps, we are wiser 33 years after.

Sir, as a true Barbadian patriot, I cannot do anything but support the Government on this one. I remember a story that troubled me. I remember 23 years ago, there were serious allegations that a candidate in an election, to secure votes, counted a block vote of about 400 young people and calculated that if he could make them a promise that drugs would be legalised, that he could win his seat.

Sir, I will be frank with this Honourable House. In the early 1970s there was medical "mis-opinion". I call it "mis-opinion" now, but in the early 1970s there was a perception that marijuana by itself was not habit forming

and its only danger was that it would tempt the user to use higher drugs.

Asides.

Mr. R.C. EASTMOND: There was a perception that marijuana by itself was not habit forming and its only danger was that it would lead you to ecstasy, possibly, probably if you can get that, LSD, and certainly in the short-term forms of cocaine, including crack.

Sir, it does seem now that the politician who allegedly misled those young people by luring them to voting for him on the footing that he would help legalise marijuana, he was not only wrong, but no Government in its right mind would be in a situation where narcotic substances are a danger to our people and would legalise drugs. To the same extent that the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Jamaica has said “no” to gay marriages, Barbados has to say “no” to the legalisation of certain narcotic substances.

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

Mr. R.C. EASTMOND: Sir, white rum, coloured rum and other forms of alcohol for certain categories of people constitute enough danger. We do not want to go beyond that. Therefore, I tender what I have to say without pretense, within your hearing and certainly I am offering this Honourable House the utmost respect as I accept Your Honour’s accommodation of me and your Honour’s patience in hearing this most modest delivery, but a delivery intended to promote the interest of our people and to ensure greater security even for those of us who are sitting here at all levels and whatever Chair, Sir.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. H.F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to be part of this debate in this Honourable Chamber this morning. Indeed, I believe that all right-thinking Honourable Members of Parliament have absolutely no other reason but to support this Bill that is before us this morning.

Sir, I will like to coin my presentation this morning against the backdrop of social cause and effect. I am saying against that background that in every way and any means possible, the security of our borders has to be a national priority and of upmost paramountcy.

Sir, when the Right Honourable Prime Minister delivered his presentation to introduce this Bill to this

Honourable Chamber, he was absolutely passionate about safeguarding our children, our future. That is critical. The youth of Barbados, as enunciated by previous speakers, face many challenges in school and across Barbados.

H46 12:00 noon Sequence 12

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

House A46, Sequence 13, 12:00 Noon

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Sir, recently, if we have been tuning into radio and television and all the news media, you would realise that there was a very serious debate going across Barbados, as it relates to youth problems, drugs, et cetera, and the recent buzz word of bullying, which has caught the imagination of the public of Barbados.

Sir, I am speaking very slowly today because I want to really remind Honourable Members that what is happening in here and what is happening in Barbados is absolutely nothing new and where the genesis really began. Sir, sometimes when we start to plan and start to strategise, we tend to forget that these things have already existed before.

Sir, bullying is as old as we know it from the time I was going to school, from age seven. I am still at school now...

Sir, when I say now, there is bullying all over Barbados, some people have taken it in another context but bullying always existed in this country of ours.

I also want to say that there is bullying among politicians, bullying in the Police Force, and bullying all around Barbados, so that is nothing new. From the time you were going to school, you were always open to this whole notion of bullying.

Sir, I want to start going very seriously. When I was going to school, we were subjected to do the GCE Examination. The Honourable Member who just sat, could remember this experience. One of the subjects that we had to do in English Literature, was a book called, “West Side Story.” We had to analyse the book, West Side Story, and then write it back as an examination piece. Does anyone know what is West Side Story? West Side Story was a film that depicted gang-violence in a musical form and it was made in 1961. It also dealt with the very serious issue of gangs called, the Cricks, and the Bloods.

Only recently, Sir, I heard a prominent member of the Royal Barbados Police Force speak about this code of silence that is existing in the schools across Barbados, when children themselves inform about this kind of behaviour in the gang system in Barbados. Sir, what has

happened is that the children themselves have been sworn to this secrecy of not to speak anything, and if they, in turn, inform on another child, they call it snitching.

I was watching a television debate where a young man said that when he got back to school after talking about what happened in the school, the children in the school confronted him and called him a snitch. They do not know themselves what is a snitch.

A snitch is not if an old person comes along and sees something happening and then informs the police on the person; that is not even a snitch. A snitch is if say, myself and the Honourable Chairman decide that we are going to plan something and then I turn around and tell on him, then I snitch on him.

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Inform, an informer.

Sir, what is happening is that because of this same subject that we did at school on West Side Story as an examination piece and was accepted, it turned out that we saw an emergence of gangs in Barbados. Where is the proof? Does any of the Honourable Members in this Chamber remember "Cool and the Gang," and "The Boppers" in the 1970s? Do you remember that when you went to St. George and you went to the Monte Carlo Casino, you were confronted with gangs out of St. George with guns? Am I wrong? Do you remember that the Merrymen made a song in the 1960s, called, "Two Many Guns in this Town?"

Sir, it goes right back that in those days, you also had the development of drugs in a wider form than now. You had speed, cocaine, heroin and hashes. You also had marijuana, which was the least among the drugs.

The Honourable Member for St. James spoke and said not to legalise marijuana in Barbados. I suppose all of us support that, but I want to take a slightly different view. Sir, I agree with the legalisation of marijuana only for medical purposes. This might shock some Honourable Members. It is nothing new. In many parts across the world, marijuana is legalised. There are marijuana cafés, where you can go and sit down, distinctly for medical purposes, and medical purposes only.

In Barbados back in the 1960s and early 1970s, there was Dr. Chase's Medico. You do not remember? Why do we forget these things? When people were suffering from asthma, you could go to town and get it from any pharmacy, you put it in an enamel plate, you light it, you put a chimney over it, you get a towel and put around your face, and inhale it.

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Oh yes, because I believe that this nation has become a nation of hypocrites.

When we talked about the issue of violence in school, in 1993/94, we did a production in the Pinelands called, "Of Age and Innocence." Sir, in "Of Age and Innocence," we critically examined the school system back then, and we realised that there were drugs in school. We realised that there was violence in the primary and secondary schools across Barbados.

When we staged the production, we did it against the backdrop of Lil Rick's song, "Me Don't Know How the Youth Get So," and that was the theme, followed by the fact that Kevin is now on Radio VOB, but he had the leading role and I also played a role in it as the Headmaster. We also examined the acts of flogging and corporal punishment within the school system.

Mr. Chairman, when we did that production there was very much Hypocreaceae. The Police, the Teachers' Association, and all the other groups in Barbados that should have known better, objected. They said that Oh no, these things do not happen. This production should be banned, even though we could provide the solutions and give eminent warning to what was happening.

Do you know what? Sir, if back then, the decisions were made to arrest the situation in Barbados, it could not have gotten to the level it is at now.

Do you know what? Sir, we have too many armchair social practitioners in Barbados. We have too many people who remove themselves from the community and do not go back.

Do you know what? Sir, some social practitioners in Barbados are making the job and the responsibility of politicians a little difficult, because things that they could easily do, that whole burden now falls upon the politicians. The politician now is not only a social practitioner, an intervention agent, but now he is also supposed to be the head of the family. Some people are afraid to speak these things but I do not, because they are real.

I live in a community where I see children abusing their parents; where parents outfit their children with the most lavish and splendid jewelry, if they could afford it. The truth is that most parents have their priorities wrong. Therefore, Sir, what I am saying is that after examining all of the ills...

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Sir, that is what I talk about. You would remember what I said about cause and effect. I am trying to identify the causes, coming back from 1961 up to this period in time. Sir, what solutions do we have that are interacting and working with other persons that know are critical.

Sir, shortly, I want to present to the Prime Minister of Barbados a programme called, "Youth Action Programme" (YAP). Sir, that YAP Programme is a very serious intervention programme. The Honourable Attorney-General could also look at it as an alternative way of sentencing. Who does it involve? For too long, Sir, we have been following only orthodox methods within the prison system of itself, but there is a need for penal reform. I am saying that because when we really look at it, Sir, we need that intervention approach, the YAP Programme.

The other reason I am saying that is because we have a serious problem in the Caribbean with those persons who have been sent back from Canada, North America and Britain.

House A46, Sequence 13, 12:10:12

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Recently, the outgoing British High Commissioner from Barbados and the Caribbean was on the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) and the statements that he made as it relates to those persons being sent back to Barbados is certainly profound. To me, he took a very callous approach like if those three developed countries... Sir, when a person leaves Barbados at one or two years old and they come back here at age 40 or 45, they do not know what Barbados looks like.

Sir, their position is that once you have committed a crime over there, they will send you back. Sir, when those persons come back to Barbados they are met at the airport or in the Caribbean by one or two other persons and there is no real programme in place for them. Sir, this Youth Action Programme (YAP) is involving those same persons who have been sent back to Barbados.

This Programme speaks about intervention in the prison, and in the community and of having these persons rehabilitated into society. Sir, they themselves play this critical role because our people are very impressionable. We have a way of identifying with Mavado and all of these dub artistes.

Sir, we have positive young people in Barbados. We have positive youth organisations to help us deal with the problems with the youth in Barbados. We have the Emerging Global Leaders, Pinelands Creative Workshop, the Barbados Youth Development Council, the Boy Scouts

and the Girl Guides. All of these are institutions that could play a critical role in helping to form a serious policy as it relates to youth, crime and violence.

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Sir, therefore, the YAP is being worked out. It is still working involving civil society, the authorities, the Police, the Probation Office and all of those organisations that have a say into today's youth.

Sir, if the orthodox methods and the conventional methods that we have tried over the years have not proven successful so far, let us try some of the successes and also unconventional methodologies that could work and that are practical.

Sir, I want to support this Motion before this Honourable Chamber very seriously because I really believe that it is a very serious social component which must be addressed. Sir, I do not believe that any of us in this Chamber should be frightened to take the action that is necessary and critical to save the communities across Barbados. There are a number of progressive communities that are doing well, but we have to open our eyes. We have to become very real and acknowledge what is happening and then bring the necessary solutions that would apply to these situations.

Sir, against that background, I want to thank you very much for allowing me to speak from a very truthful, realistic and practical position and experience that I know have taken place in this country.

I thank you.

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a brief intervention in this debate to support the Resolution before the House on the Integrated Coastal Surveillance System, which comes under the programme of National Defence and Security Preparedness. As has been indicated, this is a very important and very costly programme, but not so costly as to render it an unwise investment for Barbados at this time.

The whole issue of national security and national preparedness are sufficiently important to Barbados today to justify any amount of expenditure in this nation's interest. The risks to which we are exposed are many and varied and it is important that a serious Government take cognisance of those risks.

Mr. Chairman, ever since taking up the office of Attorney-General, I have had to attend meetings of Ministers of National Security across this Region. Sir, there is scarcely a meeting that one attends where one does not hear about the risks posed to the islands of the Caribbean by the whole issue of drug trafficking and the misuse of the waters around these islands for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman, by an accident of geography the islands of the Caribbean are perched between the drug producing countries in the South and the consuming producing countries in the North. These islands are therefore necessarily trans-shipment areas for illegal drugs. Understandably, because these islands are poor and the drug trade is so astronomically profitable a trade, the blandishments held out before people in security forces across the Region in some cases have proved irresistible.

Sir, all of our islands have to be very careful, and the Prime Minister was quite right in saying this, that our national security is not compromised by persons charged with the serious responsibility of protecting our islands from the infiltration of those who are involved in the drug trade.

Mr. Chairman, one of the challenges which we in this Region face is that for about three decades now the issue of money-making has been elevated to a position of centrality in the lives of most of our people.

I think it was the very forward-looking liberal Economist in the United States of America, the late John Kenneth Galbraith who once wrote, I think it is in his book "The New Industrialist State", that whenever a society elevates money-making to its highest central purpose, it is only a question of time before public officials and other officials will sell themselves and their positions for what they would fetch in the marketplace. It is most unfortunate that we have so elevated money-making to a position of centrality that we across the Region are now exposed to these risks.

When Commissioners of Police meet at the regional level, when Chiefs of Staff of our respective Defence Forces, or Armies meet, these are the issues they have to discuss, and when Ministers of National Security meet, invariably these are the issues on the table because it is no longer possible or no longer safe to swear for a lot of the people who are employed in our security forces.

Mercifully, Barbados has not had any major problems in that regard and the Government is keeping an eagle eye out to ensure that situation does not get out of hand, but it is a real serious problem because of the amount of poverty that stalks across this Region.

Mr. Chairman, the roaming fingers of the drug pushers have worked their way to every sensitive zone in the body politics and the body social of this country.

House A46 Sequence 14

12.20 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, drug-pushing has many dimensions to it and, of course, all persons involved in the trade cannot be approached in the same way. Obviously, the motivations are quite different, depending on where you locate those persons involved in the trade.

For example, those persons who produce drugs are obviously motivated by a desire to make money, and if they are producing substances that can cause so much destruction in our society, that can destroy the productive segment of our society, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy quite correctly said, when they are apprehended, they should be made to feel the fullest weight of the Law.

Mr. Chairman, there are those who traffick it. They too are motivated by a desire to make as much money as they can, at the expense of whoever they can. When they are apprehended, they too should be made to feel the fullest weight of the Law.

Sir, further still, there is the consumer whose motivations are quite different from the motivations of the producer or trafficker. Very often, the consumer mistakenly believes that the consumption of these illegal substances would bring him or her some relief from a distress he or she is experiencing, or would give some lift to life, in circumstances where he or she is depressed. Sir, that person is not necessarily a wicked person. That person is a victim of circumstances and is relying on these substances to alleviate their particular kind of distress.

Mr. Chairman, what we have to understand is that when all is said and done, we are all drug-takers. What distinguishes us from those who the drug traffickers target, is that the drugs we consume are legal drugs, but they consume illegal drugs.

When we consume legal drugs, the explanation we give is that we are experiencing some kind of pain or physical distress that these legal drugs are supposed to cure. If we cannot sleep, we go for the legal drug Valium. If we have a prolonged headache, we might go for the legal drug Panadol, Phensic or Whizz.

Sir, those who consume illegal drugs, they too are experiencing pain of some kind. What has, unfortunately,

not happened is that the society has not taken time to try to inquire what is the nature of the pain of most of these people who have had to take refuge in the consumption of illegal drugs.

Sir, they are experiencing pain of some kind too. Very often that pain is socially derived from the economic and social arrangements which we practise or which we have. Very often their pain is derived from unemployment, homelessness or other distresses that do not strike us readily as forms of illness.

Mr. Chairman, as drug-taking societies, what distinguishes us on the ground is the distinction between those who take legal drugs and those who take illegal drugs. Mr. Chairman, we have very serious problems in these societies at that level, and I agree with those who have preceded me, that in our schools this problem has now begun to assume proportions of a crisis and unless we manfully and courageously tackle that problem, our children might be destroyed, even before they get a chance to leave school to make any kind of contribution to this society.

Mr. Chairman, I am one of those persons who have said consistently that the homes of Barbados today, in the year 2009, are much weaker than they were 40 years ago. We have much more education available to us. We have much more information available to us. We have much more technology available to us. We have higher standards of living available to us but let us be very frank about it. Our homes are very much weaker. Our parents are not as vigilant, are not as strong and are not as decisive as the parent of 40 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, whereas in times past, when that was the case in a minority of situations, you could rely on the school to pick up the slack. Today, our schools are themselves in crisis as well. Mr. Chairman, sometimes one gets a sense that our school teachers are in retreat and that students are taking control of our classrooms. Mr. Chairman, if there is a compromise on the issue of the leadership of this society, if there is no "Horatius" anywhere to guard the bridge, we are all going to pay a very heavy price for all of this.

Mr. Chairman, that is why I was quite interested to listen to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East in this debate, when the Honourable Member was talking about the banning of cellars in school. Sir, not too long ago, it was the Barbados Labour Party that was boasting about liberalising the telecommunication sector and using, as an index of our social progress, how many cellars there were out there in the society, and how many people had more than two, three or four.

They did not seem to understand then that the foundations were being laid for a very serious social problem which we are now hearing the Democratic Labour Party must tackle, on the basis that they will be bipartisan cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, the same person who was the Minister responsible, during the period when the telecommunication sector was being liberalised, is the person to stand in this Honourable House today and to tell us how dangerous this thing now is. Sir, you cannot liberalise the telecommunication sector and leave school children unaffected. It will reach down to them. The cellular is a piece of technology. It is, perhaps, one of the more advanced pieces of technology we have today. It is related to the computer architecture in the technological world.

Mr. Chairman, there was a time when the hoe that farmers used was the most advanced piece of technology around, but that was restricted to adults. The cellular and the computer cut across all age ranges, so when you are talking about liberalising, you have to take into account that unless defenses are put in place to protect your children, they will be at risk, and you could be creating problems that could become difficult to solve.

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I do not know why it is necessary to arm any school child with a cellular. I really do not know. It is part of this national misconception on the part of parents that they do not want their children to pass through what they had passed through. They do not want their children to have to do without what they had to do without.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to say that is a form of weakness. It is symptomatic of a lack of self-confidence. Sir, I would want to say that all the things we have had to pass through are those same things that have brought us where we are today.

12.30 p.m.

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Hon. F.J. STUART: All of the sacrifices that we had to make went into the building of our character. If when you look into a mirror, after all the sacrifices you made and after all the things you had to do without, you do not respect the person you see there, you are bound to become the kind of parent who would say you do not want your children to pass through any of those things.

In any event, your children cannot pass through them because the world in which your children live is a quite different world from the one you lived in, so, in a sense, it is a vain pursuit, and I think we are paying a very heavy price for this kind of illogic.

Sir, I hope that on the basis of what I heard in this House today, the Parliament of Barbados is now becoming aware, seriously, that we are facing a national crisis.

Sir, I told the story recently, which I will tell to the House again today, of an experience I had that brought me, again, face to face with how serious this problem is.

On Pine Plantation Road one morning, I saw a Police Sargeant got out of a vehicle to go to stop a fight. One man had another man collared up and was shaking him violently. When the Police Sargeant managed to get the man who had the other one collared up to let him go, and he asked what was the quarrel about, he was told, "This man owes me money and would not pay me."

The Police Sargeant quite innocently asked, "How much money does he owe you?" He replied, "\$150, and he is only giving me \$50." "What does he owe you this money for?" He replied, "I gave him some drugs to sell for me, and he should have been bringing back \$150 to me and he is only bringing back \$50, and I want the money to buy my children's school books." That is where we are in Barbados today.

Now the objective of buying your children's school books is quite a laudable one, but notice that the means we use is indicative of the fact that we now have a situation that drug pushing is maintaining our households, critical areas of our households. We have a serious problem on our hands and I look forward to the joint effort on the part of the Honourable Members of this Parliament, as we try to confront this challenge and to save Barbados from further decline.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

On the motion of Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F.J. STUART, the CHAIRMAN reported progress to His Honour the SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, I beg to move that this House be now suspended until 1.44 p.m. this afternoon.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 1.44 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative, without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

H46 12.35 p.m. Sequence 16

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House A46, Sequence 17, 1.53 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

When the Suspension was taken, the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it will now revert.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (resumed)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13 stand part.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

HEAD 68 -

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT IN THE AMOUNT \$1 315 813

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

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, in this Head 68, we are asking this House for a Supplemental in the amount of \$1 315 813 for the Ministry of International Business and International Transport. This amount of money is required for the strengthening of the airport security.

I think in introducing this Head, it would be appropriate for me to say that this project for the strengthening of the Airport would have arisen out of the events of September 11, 2001 and speaks to the recognition by the WTO, of the need to strengthen the airport security systems within the Caribbean and Central America. Mr.

Chairman, some \$10 million had been allocated for that particular project out of which Barbados will benefit to the extent of US\$651 062..

Mr. Chairman, the Inter-American Development Bank, through its Multinational Investment Fund, will support this project to the extent of US\$455 737 and the rest of the funding just over US\$195 000 will be provided by the Government of Barbados. The funds from the Inter-American Development Bank would be in the form of grant financing and would not be repayable to the bank.

Mr. Chairman, this project had been conceived for some time. There had been some tardiness in terms of getting the appropriate agreements signed and as such, it had not been included in the various budgetary submissions that had been laid before this Honourable Chamber over the last two years. Now that the project has been signed, we are trying to get the appropriate approvals from this Honourable Chamber.

When we speak to the whole question of security at the airport, Mr. Chairman, this project will effectively have three core objectives. The strengthening of the regulatory framework that governs civil aviation; the provision of new administrative services for the airport in the form of a modern database system; and the provision of modern security training for the support staff.

Sir, there are more than 200 personnel at the airport, who are engaged directly with security at the Grantley Adams International Airport facility. They are immigration personnel; customs personnel; persons who are employed by private sector organisations operating out of the Airport facilities; and persons engaged in screening. I speak of the screening of checked luggage.

House A46, Sequence 17, 14:00:14

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Hon. E. G. HUTSON: When I speak in terms of screening there, I speak in terms of both the screening of checked luggage as well as hold luggage. Mr. Chairman, over 200 persons would be trained as part of this particular programme. There is also a component in there where local instructors would be trained as well so that the whole question of security at the Grantley Adams International Airport can move forward and conform to the International Civil Aviation Organisation standards.

Mr. Chairman, the challenges that are faced by airports around the globe since 9/11 in terms of the security issues to reduce the incident of terrorism... That is how initially it was started. Mr. Chairman, in recent years that security has been extended to the fight against the illicit

trade in narcotics. One could also see implications in terms of the fight against human trafficking.

Mr. Chairman, all of these international issues present challenges to airport securities across the globe and, indeed, it could easily be extended to security issues for small islands like Barbados at the seaport, and if we are thinking in terms of the Latin American countries, security issues in respect to border controls and so on.

Mr. Chairman, this is the sort of background to the particular project that we have. For purposes of enlightening some of the Honourable Members of this Honourable Chamber, I spoke a little earlier in terms of the implementation of a new administrative service which is aimed at providing an effective implementation of the procedures and training programmes required for strengthening the airport security system. This is extended to include the developing and formulating of strategies that would allow for the financial and operational sustainability of the current and future security system mechanisms.

In respect of the regulatory strengthening component, they should see an upgrading of the National Civil Aviation programme and airport security plan to meet the new standards and regulations as set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation. Mr. Chairman, that particular component has five specific tasks.

The first module is to review and evaluate the existing National Civil Aviation Security programme for any deficiencies.

The second module is the upgrading of existing airport contingency plans, airport security plans and airport operations manual at the Grantley Adams International Airport to meet the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation standards.

The third module is the development and formulation of long-term strategies for financial and operational sustainability of the security systems and mechanisms of the present and future airport security.

The fourth module is the development of a security certification programme to ensure that the staff responsible for airport security are capable and knowledgeable of all requirements, standards and procedures set forth in the national civil aviation security plan.

The fifth module is to develop criteria for the identification and selection of a local public relations firm for the execution of public awareness of this particular programme.

Mr. Chairman, this programme is entrained. The first module started last week when we had an opening

presentation to kick off that programme. That programme is expected to be completed within 12-months.

Mr. Chairman, when we speak in terms of security at the airport, it extends not just to the security systems that people that are travelling actually passed through but to the whole fencing of the airport, the need for extensions to conform with the International Civil Aviation Organisation requirements, the need to ensure that there is an appropriate distance between the facilities at the airport, the fencing and so on and the houses in the immediate precincts.

This is something that has been challenging this Honourable Chamber for some years as well as the actual ramp security. I am speaking here in terms of the security that we are offering to aircraft when they are on the ground. The Honourable Member for St. James North mentioned it this morning during the debate of the Surveillance Systems.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members would recall the incident that occurred some six or seven months ago at the Donald Sangster Airport in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where their ramps security was breached and we had the attempted hijacking of that aircraft in Montego Bay. Mr. Chairman, the need for proper security systems and the need to constantly keep that in review and updated is there and cannot be understated in any way, so we are looking at that whole question of ramp security.

Mr. Chairman, there are other issues that are engaging the attention of the Government in terms of the Federal Air Marshals Programme. We are in discussions with our friends in the United States of America in terms of what legal changes and so on one may need in respect of that programme, and indeed whether Barbados will want to conceive on that particular issue as well as other events in terms of the security for persons passing in and out of the airport.

Mr. Chairman, with those few words, I think I have been able to give Honourable Members of this Honourable Chamber the sort of background to where this particular Supplementary that we are seeking in the extent of BDS\$1.3 million is going to be used.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 68 stand part.

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

The question that Head 68 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

House A46 Sequence 18

2.10 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: Mr. Chairman, on this Head we will support any and all reasonable measures put in place to strengthen the security at both ports of entry. Sir, I would want to ask the Government, as it goes about dealing with the issue of security, to carefully evaluate what exactly would be in Barbados' best interest and not necessarily to play follow pattern on this particular issue.

Mr. Chairman, I was expecting to hear the Minister giving some information in relation to the new fingerprinting programme at the airport. He was notably silent on that particular issue. Sir, I would like to hear him speak on it because the one thing that we have not been able to discern is what exactly is the policy construct that has informed and is driving the whole issue of fingerprinting at the airport.

Mr. Chairman, Government has not as yet articulated any policy and I am, therefore, left groping in the dark to know really and truly what is the plan. In fact, it seems almost as if the Minister himself, although having responsibility for the airport, was taken entirely by surprise at the whole issue of fingerprinting at the airport.

Mr. Chairman, a country, particularly a small country so heavily dependent on tourism, should not want to put obstacles in the way of people coming to our country. Countries, in fact, have been going overboard to try to find ways around such obstacles.

I know, for example, there is one country in the Region that has decided, as a matter of policy, that rather than promote the coming to their territories through the United States of America from Europe, they are actually seeking to have passengers airlifted from Europe straight to territories, without having to pass through the United States of America.

Sir, once persons pass through the United States of America, there is a visa tariff, a transit visa fee, that has to be paid. Countries want to find ways to get around obstacles and not to put obstacles in the way of people travelling to their countries. Mr. Chairman, people do not have to come to Barbados and so to put an unnecessary irritant in their way is really to act contrary to your very interest.

The United States of America has many issues in relation to their national security and they have to take certain strong and stringent measures in relation to security. Sir, even then there are those who are arguing strongly that the United States of America perhaps has gone overboard,

in terms of the measures that it has taken in relation to its security policies.

Mr. Chairman, in Barbados we do not have those issues, not that we could not have a catastrophe here, but we do not have the sort of issues that confront a place such as the United States of America in relation to security threats and so on. Sir, I am asking the Minister not to allow the Government to reach the stage where it starts to terrorise itself and annoy our citizens, particularly in relation to the very fingerprinting policy I mentioned earlier.

Mr. Chairman, in relation to that policy, initially Barbados' own citizens were being compelled to give their fingerprints. After a while, I am told it has become voluntary and optional but initially it was, in fact, compulsory. Sir, you irritate your own citizens by imposing these sorts of stringent unnecessary requirements on them. Further, you could turn away potential visitors who do not have to come to Barbados and who would find this, perhaps, to be an unnecessary obstacle in their way and might decide to resort to other shores.

Mr. Chairman, I would want the Government to understand that while we on This Side support all and any reasonable measures, we believe that Government ought to be very careful in evaluating what is in our own interest, as opposed to what can, in fact, act as obstacles to those who want to come to Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the other point I would wish to raise is the issue of categorisation of Barbados. Sir, I believe one of the major reasons for paying attention to our security at the Airport is to ensure that Barbados achieves Category I status. Mr. Chairman, I am very confused on what is taking this Government so long to achieve this. Sir, I am sure that more than one year ago in this very Honourable Chamber, some measure that was brought here actually triggered a debate on that particular matter. On that occasion, we were told that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States of America was scheduled to make a visit to Barbados shortly, at which time it was expected that this matter would have been resolved.

Mr. Chairman, I know for a fact that Barbados has not yet received Category I status and that it is taking inordinately long. The Government has found itself in the fortunate position of having very little to do to take Barbados to the position of Category I. The last Administration virtually did all of the donkey work and really and truly very little was left to be done. Sir, I would like to know what could possibly be the issue.

Mr. Chairman, we had it the other way, in that when we went into office in 1994, the state-of-affairs in terms of our safety oversight standard were very low. They were

also adversely commented upon by reputable persons. The Federal Aviation Administration described our safety oversight standards as being on a "dying bed", ready to expire at any time.

Sir, over time we brought our standards up to a certain level and handed them over to this Administration; a state-of-affairs where very little had to be done for Barbados to achieve Category I status. Mr. Chairman, it is now 18 months into the political life of this Government and we are still to hear anything why Barbados has not been able to achieve Category I status.

Mr. Chairman, this is important. First of all, it sends a signal to the outside world that Barbados is safe, that we have proper standards. Sir, even without it, we will continue to attract scheduled carriers and charters, but with it, we can go one step further and attract investment. Sir, by failing to reach Category I status, Barbados is losing out on the opportunity to attract significant investment from carriers that we would be able to call Barbadian carriers.

Sir, that is the object of Category I status. We want to get carriers to become Barbadian carriers. We want to have Barbadian airlines, and only with Category I status would those airlines be able to fly from Barbados to the United States of America as Barbadian carriers. We can attract significant physical investment at the airport; jobs would also be there to attract this investment.

Sir, by dragging its feet, the Government is not recognising to the extent to which we are losing out on foreign exchange that can come into our country, as a result of achieving Category I status. Sir, after all this time, I really would hope that in his windup, the Minister would give us some satisfactory explanation why they cannot move to Category I status, when this Government had so little to do on becoming Government for Barbados to move to that level.

Mr. Chairman, I would also want to raise the issue of what is the new airport management doing in relation to revenue generation. Sir, one of the main reasons for taking the airport from being a Government agency was for it to be able to generate revenue. Sir, in our time, before this structure was being put in place, there was not a lot to market as an airport. We as a Government had inherited an airport which really was in an extremely bad condition. There was a roof at the airport that was like a sieve. Sir, once rain fell, it used to come straight through. There was cramped check-in counter space. That is not now the situation.

2.20 p.m.

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Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: We have nice modern check-in facilities and expanded large counter space. We had serious drainage problems at the airport, including the car park, which was small and could not accommodate much traffic. We have woefully substandard office facilities. We had no real executive lounges, to speak about, nothing really that would appeal to anyone to market. Now the Government has at its disposal quite an ultra modern airport.

I want to know what this new airport management structure and the new Board are doing in terms of using the airport to generate revenue. We have to move from the stage where...

The first thing I have to comment on is, there seems to be a lot of instability in the organisation because in the first 18 months of Government you had the resignation of a Chairman, and more recently there have been changes to the Board as well. Where there is instability, policy formulation and implementation will not be certain and will be slow and ineffective. However, that apart I really want to know what is happening now to market this ultra modern product that we have. I am calling on the Government to ensure that this is done.

Sir, an Airport Manager, a CEO, again I have noticed in the papers being advertised. There is yet another vacancy in the wake to the CEO's position. What role is the CEO playing in this whole process? Is the Board just meeting every month to take a report from the CEO as to what happened the previous month? This is an antiquated way of doing business at an ultra modern airport.

You have to have a situation where the Airport CEO has to be playing a critical role in the attracting of airlift. I believe that by now the Government should have come up with a new air services development strategy which would be involving airport personnel who would be on hand, as negotiations are taking place, to outline what incentives could be put in place for interesting carriers to come to the airport. Is this happening? Is the Government approaching the issue of revenue generation in a serious way in relation to the airport? I believe that the time has come when we have to look at that.

Mr. Chairman, I said that I was going to be brief but I wanted to make those few points.

In concluding, I believe that, some may say this is a small point, but I have come in both at the Barbados airport and airports in another place. I do not understand what could possibly inform a position that says as you approach a security check point you have to take off shoes and so on, placing shoes in the same tray as your clothes, pens, wallets and so on. I cannot understand what could inform that policy.

I believe that it is a very simple thing to have one set of trays for shoes and another set of trays for clothes and the like. It is happening very often that you are being asked to take off your shoes and put them in a tray, then the shoes are taken off once the tray goes through the scanner, and it is brought back in with the other trays. So someone may have got it to put their shoes in and somebody will get that same tray for their jacket, wallet or whatever else they have to put in it. It is very unhygienic.

I remember commenting to an officer at a scanner at a Miami airport, how on earth can this happen, you have one set of trays serving all of these different purposes, including shoes. When you are leaving the Miami Airport, one of the last places you go before you go through the check point is the bathroom. You want to urinate for the last time before you get through the check point. You know that these bathrooms are not clean. Therefore, when you come out, take off your shoes and put them in a tray, you are spreading germs. It is as simple as that.

Sir, to some it may appear to be a small point. The officer in Miami told me that he was amazed that I took that position, for others were saying that they love the idea of having one tray. I told him that I do not believe anybody would have told him that.

I would like the Minister to use his influence if he can, to ensure that in Barbados we do not follow the pattern to the extent that we do not have such an unhygienic position in place.

Sir, with those few remarks we will support the measure.

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

Hon. E.G. HUTSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a couple comments in response to the comments made by the Honourable Member on the Other Side, just to keep him in the loop, so to speak.

Sir, in putting some wrap up comments together, certainly in the Category 1 status, Barbados does not dictate when the IASA audit will be done with respect to the Category 1 status at the airport. There are audits that are done on specific areas in an ongoing-type of way at the airport. Barbados is ready.

Sir, this is one of the challenges and, it is not a priority from the Americans. The last time I visited I spoke to the FAA and expressed to them the need for us to get it done, because the Honourable Member was, in fact, correct in terms of the ability of Barbados to attract carriers that are operating out of Barbados to the United States of America. We need to have Category 1 status for that

particular purpose, and to that extent without the Category 1 status, we would not be able to have a resident carrier who wants to fly into the United States.

We have investors that are interested in doing that. It is pretty much a chicken and egg situation. From the Americans point of view, if you do not have a carrier ready to fly into the United States, then it is low on their priority because you really do not need it for the other traffic that is coming from other sources.

We have emphasised the fact that we have some investors in the queue that are waiting to get this status and they are going to accommodate us. The process has actually started with the appropriate correspondence. I expect to have the IASA audit within the next few months. No specific date has been given but we have a gentleman's understanding, so to speak, that it would be done by the end of the year, but certainly no later than the first quarter of next year. Within a few months we should have that.

Sir, as I said before, the work in terms of the security issues at the airport is ongoing. The hygienic issues that the Honourable Member spoke about, these are things that are not our policy nature, but certainly the appropriate persons can take note of that. There are persons that would share his view. It looks to me as though it is a simple matter that can be addressed as we try to build up our customer relationship.

H46 14.30 p.m. Sequence 20

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House A46, Sequence 21, 2.30 p.m.

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Some of the other challenges we have in terms of the security would be to deal with, and are a bit more serious than that is the secure tamper evidence bag and so on that is going to be needed for a lot of our duty-free items, because that is one of the new security arrangements that is coming forward.

By way of an explanation, if you do buy your duty-free liquors in Barbados, it is fine to fly those duty-free liquors into the United States of America and England, but if you are going to connect to another flight - having checked your luggage in Miami, if you are going to fly onward to California, New York or whatever through Miami, those duty-free items now need to go into your baggage that is going into the hole of the aircraft. This is a challenge because given your weight constraints on your bags, that is additional weight going in and obviously there is the question of breakage.

Sir, we are looking at the whole question of what is referred to as a secured tamper evidence bag, which will be

such, once it is given the appropriate approvals would allow persons to take their duty-free liquor, as handheld luggage, right through to their final destination. These are some of the security issues that we are trying to come to grips with and to try to position Barbados, because that is critical toward the development of our rum industry, which would be the main thing that would be impacted, if we do not get that measure dealt with from an international point of view.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, with those few words, I ask that Head 68 stand part.

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

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

On the motion of the Hon. F. J. STUART, seconded by the Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, 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. F. J. STUART, seconded by the Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, the Resolution was read a first and a second time, agreed to and passed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John, and Prime Minister.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Question Number 5 is now ready.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, the reply to question Number 5 is as follows:

The Government has not as yet taken a decision to build a new hospital or to refurbish the existing plant.

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

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: Would the Honourable Member for St. John then tell us when does he expect such a decision would be taken; especially in the light that I am hearing that a press conference has been held, stating that a new hospital will, in fact, be built?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what is the question. That is not a question.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, repeat the question, please.

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: Yes. I will rephrase it.

In light of a press conference being held stating that a new hospital will be built, can the Honourable Member for St. John shed any further light on this matter, after hearing his response?

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

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: No, Mr. Speaker.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are permitted up to three Supplementary Questions.

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: Well then, Mr. Speaker, is the Honourable Member for St. John then suggesting that he is prepared to accept the significant difficulties that patients are experiencing at the current Queen Elizabeth Hospital and do nothing to improve the provision of health services to the people of this country, which, from our opinion, and Our Side, believe that we must have a new hospital? Is he prepared to accept the deplorable conditions at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at present?

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, those are about four questions. Just let us have one question at a time.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: The Member for St. John proposes to do no such thing.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Is the Prime Minister satisfied with the present condition of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at this present time?

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the present condition, and the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party outlined, as well as the Throne Speech, the steps we would take to alleviate the present condition of the hospital.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: If the Prime Minister is not satisfied with the present condition, would he tell this Honourable House how soon he will be moving to alleviate the situation?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that question was already asked and answered.

Are there any other Supplementary Questions?

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today. I beg to move that this House be now adjourned until Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. D. J. H. THOMPSON: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

House A46, Sequence 21, 14:40:14

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CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
DUGUID, Dr. W.F. (Christ Church West)
EASTMOND, Mr. R.C. (St. James North)
HUTSON, Hon. E. G. (St. James Central)
KELLMAN, His Excellency D. St.E. (St. Lucy)
LASHLEY, Hon. M. A. (St. Philip North)
LASHLEY, Mr. H. F. (St. Michael South East)
MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M.A. (St. Michael North East)
STUART, Hon. F. J. (St. Michael South)
THOMPSON, Hon. D. J. H. (St. John)
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. Masthead. The session is not stated in the source, so no session line is printed.

Q2. Order No. 5, heading. The heading reads ‘TO CONSIDER THE GRAND OF SUMS OF MONEY’, presumably ‘GRANT OF SUMS’. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Committee of Supply, Head 68. The heading reads ‘HEAD 68 -’ with the Ministry’s name on the next line. The question that Head 68 stand part is recorded as put and agreed to immediately after Hon. E. G. Hutson’s opening speech, before Mr. R. St.C. Toppin spoke, and the question is recorded again after the Minister’s reply. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Committee of Supply, Head 13. Several Members, including Mr. D. St.E. Kellman and Hon. F. J. Stuart, speak of supporting ‘this Resolution’ or ‘this Bill’ while the Committee is considering Head 13 of the Supplementary Resolution. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Take-slips. Take-slips read ‘14.30 p.m.’ and, at the end of the record, ‘14:40:14’. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 20th October, 2009, with Mr. Speaker, His Honour M. A. Carrington, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood. The Minutes of Tuesday, October 13, 2009 were confirmed. The Prime Minister, Hon. D. J. H. Thompson, laid the Annual Reports of the TVET Council for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, and Hon. E. G. Hutson laid the Annual Report of the Grantley Adams International Airport Inc. for 2007-2008. Standing Orders were suspended for the rest of the Sitting.

On Order No. 4 the Prime Minister moved the second reading of the Final Appropriation (2008/2009) Bill, 2009, explaining that it brought together the Supplementary Expenditure already voted during the year and that by tradition it was not debated. It was read a second time, passed through Committee of Supply without debate and was passed.

On Order No. 5 the House went into Committee of Supply on a Resolution to grant \$1 985 813 from the Consolidated Fund for Supplementary Estimates No. 1, 2009-2010. Under Head 13, Prime Minister’s Office, the Prime Minister sought \$670 000, found from savings in staffing, to relocate the radar tower at Husbands, St. James, which had been erected without the Chief Town Planner’s permission, and to erect a tower at Mount Gilboa, St. Lucy, completing the Integrated Coastal Surveillance System. He stressed that the system could be compromised by dishonest people within the security forces, and spoke at length of protecting children from drugs, the minibus culture and cell phones.

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, supported the project, urged an amendment to the Marine Jurisdiction and Boundaries Act to deal with foreign vessels fishing in Barbados’ waters, and said no child should have a cellular phone in school. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman called for a strong Coast Guard; when Mr. R. C. Eastmond objected to being called a ‘pretender’ and then told the Chairman he regretted his ‘condition’, the Chairman required him to withdraw, and he did so. Hon. P. M. T. Todd spoke on demand reduction and drugs around schools and ZR vans; Mr. R. C. Eastmond spoke on airport security and the risk of espionage; Mr. H. F. Lashley spoke on bullying, the ‘code of silence’ in schools and a proposed Youth Action Programme; and Hon. F. J. Stuart described the Caribbean as perched between producing and consuming countries and argued that the homes of Barbados were weaker than 40 years earlier. The House was suspended until 1.44 p.m.

After the suspension Head 13 was agreed to. Under Head 68, Ministry of International Business and International Transport, \$1 315 813, Hon. E. G. Hutson described an airport security strengthening project supported by the Inter-American Development Bank’s Multinational Investment Fund to the extent of US\$455 737, with five modules of work. Mr. R. St.C. Toppin supported reasonable security measures but questioned the fingerprinting of travellers, the delay in obtaining Category I status, instability in the airport’s management and shared trays at security scanners. Mr. Hutson replied that Barbados did not dictate when the audit for Category I would be done. Head 68 was agreed to, and the Resolution was reported, read a first and second time, agreed to and passed.

At Question Time the Prime Minister replied to Question No. 5 that the Government had not yet decided whether to build a new hospital or refurbish the existing plant; supplementary questions followed from Dr. W. F. Duguid and Mr. G. A. Clarke, and the Prime Minister said he was not satisfied with the present condition of the Queen

Elizabeth Hospital. On the motion of Hon. F. J. Stuart the

House was adjourned until Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at
10.00 a.m.

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