
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met on Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

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)

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

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

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

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

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)

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

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

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

Hon. F. J. STUART, Q.C., 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. G. 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. 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., 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, April 20, 2010.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, April 20, 2010, which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have with me the Auditor General's Report for the year 2009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, April 20, 2010...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just one moment. That is the explanation which would have been submitted to me?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I believe that I would have asked the Clerk to indicate to you that I am not going to entertain that explanation at this time. You see, I have a difficulty with Members "boycotting", as the statement says, and then asking for leave to give an explanation. In addition to that, Order 72(1) provides:

"Any Member who is unable to attend a meeting of the House shall acquaint the House as early as possible of his inability to do so."

I consider it, as I believe I would have said before, that Members who, essentially, absent themselves on those grounds are, essentially, not respecting the authority of the Chair, and of this House. I do not see how, in those circumstances, you can expect to be allowed to give an explanation, and on those grounds, it is disallowed.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. In the first place...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I have ruled on that matter and I will not entertain it.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. There is an arising matter that I do not know that, all of a sudden, Members are to be stifled from expression in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will wait until privileges come up and speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Clerk of Parliament.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF

THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF URGENT

PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, last night I would have written you a letter, and delivered a copy as well to the Clerk of Parliament, in accordance with Standing Order 18 of this Honourable Chamber, to propose that today, April 27, that I raise a definite matter of urgent public importance as follows:

"Whereas the Minister of Finance...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just a minute please. That is the matter which was submitted to me and on which I have deliberated. I have also indicated to the Clerk that he should indicate to you that I am not going to allow it to be raised under Standing Order 18(2). It says as follows:

"A Member who wishes to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House under this Standing Order shall before the commencement of the Sitting, hand to the Speaker a written notification of the matter which he wishes to discuss. The Speaker shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite, urgent, of public importance and may properly be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the House."

I am satisfied, having looked at what you indicated that it fails those particular tests. There is certainly no urgency in the matter. The matter to which you referred has been around for quite a long time. The Government has had it in their attention. The Oversight Committee is in place. The Supervisor of Insurance still has those powers vested in him under the Act.

As you have indicated, there are criminal offences provided under Section 1(85) of the Insurance Act of Barbados, Cap 310 of the Laws of Barbados. Section 1(85) also sets out the various sanctions and the fact is, that when you are talking about a matter of this kind, a so-called emergency debate, it has to do with something which is definite and urgent.

I am of the view that something of the nature of say, the Arch Hall tragedy, or even the burning of the prison, or something of that sort, were there a major catastrophe involving the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but I am saying that matter, which you now seek to raise fails the test and I am not going to allow it.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am understanding you clearly...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I have ruled on that matter and you have no right to speak further.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a right to ask for a clarification, and as long as I am in this Chamber, or the other Chamber, I have never seen a presiding officer seek to stifle debate in the way in which it is being done.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I would ask you to tread very carefully now, and you are speaking while I am speaking, Honourable Member. I would ask you to tread very carefully now because you are suggesting that I am stifling the debate. Honourable Members, please, please...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking to clarify...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am not finished yet. I am simply waiting for Honourable Members to keep quiet so that I can be heard in silence. Honourable Member, I have made my ruling on the matter. You followed the Rules by submitting them to me and I followed the Rules by looking at it.

I have looked at matters of this nature before, and I have seen no where the Speaker gives reasons, but I have given reasons, and the matter is at an end.

Mr. Clerk of Parliament, please continue.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am rising to ask you to clarify and I am, therefore, on a Point of Privilege. In defence of the...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have no right to be speaking at this time.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a right to be heard. You can choose to rule me out of order. It is your right...

Mr. SPEAKER: You are ruled out of order.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: But I have not spoken yet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, sit down. You are, essentially, wasting the Parliament's time.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I have not yet spoken and with due respect, Mr. Speaker I have a right to be heard.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat. Mr. Clerk of Parliament, please...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, I have a right to ask for a clarification in respect of Your Honour's ruling.

10.30 a.m.

Sequence 3

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Your Honour, and previous persons in that Chair have a duty to at least listen. You can choose to rule me out of order...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: But what you cannot do, Mr. Speaker, is to stifle me from the right of being heard in this Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk of Parliament, please continue.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of privilege, Sir. All of you need to get up now and ask for the clarification.

Sir, on a point of privilege, I am asking that I be heard in this Chamber, which is the third oldest Parliament in the Commonwealth, and which has admitted to persons being able to express their views, or to seek clarification even if it is in disaccord with the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member. Mr. Clerk of Parliament, please continue. Please continue Mr. Clerk of Parliament.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to speak in this Honourable Chamber to seek clarification on aspects of your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, the rules of the House, which guide us, set out the manner in which matters of privilege should be raised. This is not the first time I am having to engage in this kind of discussion to and fro with you, and you understand, I believe, exactly what I mean and you have access to the Standing Orders.

I am saying to you Honourable Member, that you are persisting in behaviour which is delaying this Honourable Chamber and it will not be tolerated. Please take your seat and let us proceed with the matters at hand.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to speak in this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. You may not be allowed to speak at this time.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, when this Chamber presumed the ancient practice of privileges of Honourable Members were claimed on behalf of Your Honour the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute Honourable Member, Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Honourable Member, the manner in raising points of privileges are set out in Standard Order No. 76, please follow it.

Mr. Clerk of Parliament, please continue at this time. You have no right to speak at this time Honourable Member. Mr. Clerk of Parliament.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Your Honour made a ruling and I am seeking a clarification on that ruling. Even a judge sentencing a man to be hanged in this country is entitled to seek a clarification from a judge.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that Honourable Members be given that opportunity. I do not know what it is that the Honourable Member is frighten of... and all of a sudden, remember you can run, but you cannot hide.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member. Mr. Clerk of Parliament, please continue.

Mr. CLERK: Orders of the Day.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, we are on matters of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not recognising the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East at this time.

Yes, Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: On a matter of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member. Just a moment please. Honourable Member, my ruling remains the same. There is a set procedure for raising these matters, please follow it. Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, there is a set ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: I have not spoken yet. I got up on a point of privilege. I have not spoken. Sir, you cannot tell me to sit down. You cannot tell me to sit down. You have not heard me. You have a right to do what you have to do. The people of St. Andrew sent me here. What are you telling me at all? I cannot speak in this House? I was in here since 1991, and I have never heard a Speaker behave like that. What are you telling me at all?

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Members, please. Honourable Member for St. Andrew, I want to caution you as to how you address this Chair. I am not going to tolerate any of this disrespect today. If I have to ask that all of you be expelled from the Honourable House today I am prepared to do that, fine, good.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am not hearing you.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, are you telling me that the people of St. Andrew sent me in here to speak and you are stopping me from speaking?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am telling you that the people of St. Andrew sent you in here to also follow the rules and you cannot get up...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Standing Order 76.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: You mentioned the rules. I want an explanation as to what you mean, because Standing Order 76...I want to refer to Standing Order 76. What is the Standing Order that states when the Speaker stands? The House should become silent?

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you are showing gross disrespect. I do not know what is governing it. You are an Honourable Member. You have been in here a long time. I have had the upmost respect for you, but I want to say that I am disappointed with your behaviour here this morning, Honourable Member for St. Andrew. I am disappointed in you.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me draw your attention to Rules 38 and 39.

“When the Speaker, or Chairman rises during a debate, any Member who is then speaking, or offering to speak, must resume his seat, and the House, or Committee must be silent so that the Speaker, or Chairman may be heard without interruption.”

“The Speaker in the House and the Chairman in the Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House and Committee respectively, and their decision upon any point of order shall not be opened to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a substantive motion made after notice. Notwithstanding Standing Order No. 22 (Manner of giving Notices), such a motion shall not require more than two days’ notice.”

Now I have ruled on the various matters. Let us proceed.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: On a point of privilege. Order 76.

“A motion directly concerning the privileges of the House shall take precedence of all other public business.”

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, what are you rising on?

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, you just said, today, that if you have to, you will expel all of you, including me. Mr. Speaker, please, I have said nothing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just let me correct that please.

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Are you entitled to an explanation and others are not?

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am entitled to keep order in this Chamber. I am not going to allow Honourable Members to pursue whatever personal agenda they may have. You may pursue it as long as it is within...

Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR: Mr. Speaker, you may ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat. I do not intend to argue with any Honourable Member in here. When I said I will expel all of you if I have to, I meant those specific Members who were actually disabusing their privileges under the Chair. Okay? Up to that point you had not disabused the Chair.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, with the subject of a threat without the opportunity to defend, it is against the rules of natural justice, but more importantly, Rule 76 applies...

10.40 a.m.

Sequence 4

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House A62, Sequence 05, 10.40 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Please bring a glass of water for me. My throat is getting dry. It is going to be an interesting day. Bring a glass of water for me.

Just a minute, Honourable Member.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: This word, disabusing, though, you have to give us some explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Honourable Members, we have the whole day in which to do the people’s business and I would appreciate it, if we were allowed to do that. I have ruled on the various matters which you have sought to raise. I have ruled them out of order. The procedure is there for you to take what action you wish to take. Let us proceed.

Mr. Clerk of Parliament.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Rule 76 and I read.

“76. PRIVILEGE

1. A motion directly concerning the privileges of the House shall take precedence of all other public business.
2. Any Member desiring to raise a matter under this Standing Order, shall first obtain leave of the Speaker who shall determine whether the Member is entitled to raise the matter as a question of privilege.”

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the only way I could raise the matter and apply for leave...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: ...is by standing in my place, Mr. Speaker, and speaking and having a right to be heard.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, you do not have the leave of the Speaker to speak at this time, please take your seat.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have not made the application, so you cannot rule the application out of order unless it has been made. It is a basic point that even a primary school child will understand.

Asides.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, you did indicate that Members were disabusing the rules of this House. I would like you to explain.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Andrew, I have not yet called on you to speak.

Honourable Member, please take your seat. I have not recognised you to speak as yet.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, Standing Order No. 76. 5.

“5. If during a sitting of the House, a matter suddenly arises, which appears to involve the privileges of the House and which calls for immediate intervention of the House, the proceedings may be interrupted, save during the progress of a division, by a motion based on such matter.”

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: I want you to give a ruling, explain that provision in the context...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: ...not only of what we wanted to discuss today, but also in the context of what transpired at the last Sitting when the Member pulled a gun on another Member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: I want you to explain this within that context, because I saw that a Member pulled a gun on another Member and then he came in here last week...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: ... and said he apologised and said he did not have a gun.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member please leave this Chamber.

What is the relevant Standing Order where a Member continues to disobey the Chair.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Andrew, you have time and time again, refused to listen to the Chair, and in my view, you have been most disrespectful. I wish, for the sake of transparency and even clarity, to go back to the Standing Order which you mentioned, 76. 5.

I am saying to you that such a matter cannot arise on the ruling of the Speaker, because there is a specific way of dealing with the rulings of the Chair. I am going to give you this opportunity to apologise to the Chair for your behaviour and let us move on.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you are out of order. Please take your seat.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot be out of order if I have not spoken.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am dealing with a specific matter. Please take your seat.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker,

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a matter has arisen under Standing Order No. 76.5, which is only precluded if a division of the House has been called. There is no Division of the House.

Mr. Speaker, you yourself are not exempted from comment. Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 76.5. there is a matter that now merits urgent attention of the House...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Michael North East please, take your seat.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: ...and I therefore move a motion that the matter of Privileges be addressed...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Michael North East please sit down.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: ...as a matter of urgency, given the failure of the House to allow Members of the Opposition to speak in this Chamber today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I now move that motion accordingly.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: I beg to second that, Mr. Speaker.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Andrew, as well as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, by your behaviour, I wish to say to you that under Standing Order...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, there is a substantive motion before this Honourable Chamber, if Mr. Speaker, that matter is not addressed, then the Members' privileges yet again under the Standing Orders are being infringed.

This only exempts such a matter in circumstances where there is a division.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Andrew and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. Under Standing Order No. 40.2.

"2. (a) The Speaker or the Chairman shall order any Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting."

I am now ordering the Honourable Member for St. Andrew as well as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East to withdraw from this House immediately.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: But I have put a motion before this Chamber before Your Honour ruled...

Mr. SPEAKER: Marshals, please remove those two Honourable Members from this Chamber.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: ...and, Mr. Speaker, we are entitled to have that matter addressed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Marshals, please remove those two Honourable Members from this Chamber.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: You cannot, Mr. Speaker, ignore the motion and then seek to rule.

Mr. SPEAKER: Marshals, please remove those two Members from this Chamber and if you need further assistance, we can get you further assistance. Remove those two Members from the Chamber.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Marshals, have no fear. It is an offence for them to assault you in your duty, just remove them from the Honourable House.

House A62, Sequence 05, 10.50 a.m.

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Mr. SPEAKER: Remove those Honourable Members from this Chamber.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please keep out of this. Have those two Honourable Members removed from this Chamber immediately.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: A matter has been raised, Mr. Speaker, for a motion and Your Honour chose to ignore the motion that was legitimately put before the House under Rule 76(5).

Mr. SPEAKER: Have those two Members removed from this Chamber immediately.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a matter was put before this Chamber...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have those two Honourable Members removed from this House immediately for the remainder of the day's Sitting.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please, please. Honourable Members, please let us stop the cross talk and so on, that would only exacerbate the problem. When those two Honourable Members have left the Chamber, we will continue.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member does not have the Chair. I do not recognise the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East and

the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, please leave this Chamber.

Honourable Member, you do not have the Floor. Mr. Clerk of Parliament, just a minute please.

Mr. Clerk of Parliament, where are we?

Mr. CLERK: We were just before Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Yes, Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I stand to raise a matter of privilege under Order 76 of the Standing Orders of this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am aware that you would have been granted leave, but let me say before hand, although I am going to allow it, that I do not appreciate the fact, and I think it is disrespectful to the House, that you asked leave to raise the matter and then leave having been granted, you absent yourself from this Chamber without reason and certainly without giving the usual notice, which is required, which is usually given under Order 72, which I read earlier.

However, for the avoidance of doubt, and given the fact too that we would have had a personal explanation already from the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, I am going to allow you to raise the matter in this way, and I would also reserve the right for the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, who is not here today, to respond to you in due course. Go ahead, Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the circumstances in which I stand to address this Honourable Chamber are such, that they can bring no pleasure to me, or to any other Member of this House. To use the words of Edmund Burke, these are matters on which it is difficult to speak, but on which it is impossible to remain silent.

I have been advised by the Clerk of Parliament that I must, in seeking to have a matter involving the conduct of a Member of Parliament, refer to the Committee of Privilege, address your Honour the Speaker on the facts and I, therefore, rise to do so.

On the evening of Friday, March 19, I was in attendance at Parliament, this was the final day of the Estimates debate for the year 2010. At about 7:30 in the evening, the House was debating a matter relating to the Barbados Drug Service.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip West was speaking on the matter of the Barbados Drug Service when I rose on a Point of Order. I was heard on the Point of Order by the Chairman of Committees and then I took my seat without any further words.

After taking my seat, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West again addressed this Chamber, and upon taking his seat, shouted across the Floor of the Chamber that he was going to slap me across my head.

Mr. Speaker, this threat by the Honourable Member was totally unprovoked and came as a complete surprise to me, as at no time did I address any comments, or remarks to the Honourable Member while on my feet, or while in my seat. In fact, I do not recall any instance during the previous four days in Parliament, or the last day of the debate in Parliament at any time addressing the Honourable Member, either directly, or indirectly, on any matter relating to the debate, or otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member again repeated the threat where upon I got up and left the Chamber. After about 10 minutes, Sir, I returned to the Chamber and took my seat. Immediately upon my resuming my seat, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West bellowed across the Chamber the following words:

"You couldn't wait outside for me? I ready for you now. Come back outside if you is a bad, I gine slap you cross you head, come back outside if you is a bad."

The Honourable Member, Sir, then jumped up from his seat and proceeded in the direction of the door to the exit of the Chamber. I left my seat and followed him to the door.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please, let us...

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: We approached, Sir, the curtain of the Chamber from opposite directions. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West reached the area of the curtain first, and I was approximately one step behind him.

House A62 Sequence 6 11.00 a.m.

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Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, as I rounded the edge of the curtain, I saw the Honourable Member for St. Philip West bend over and remove his firearm from his ankle holster. He then returned to an erect position, with his body turned towards me, with the firearm in his hand. The firearm was still in his right hand, Mr. Speaker, and he was looking at me in a menacing way. The Honourable Member, Mr. Speaker, then pushed the firearm into his pants waist band on the left side, directly in front of me. He then turned, opened the door and exited the Chamber.

At the time when I saw the Honourable Member for St. Philip West remove the firearm, and with the firearm in his hand, Sir, I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that I was fearful for my life and safety.

Mr. Speaker, I went out of the door to the Chamber, and emerging in the area outside of the Speaker's Office, the Honourable Member turned to me and walked up to me in a most belligerent and threatening manner, saying: "I ready for you now". The Honourable Member continued his threatening, aggressive and belligerent behaviour towards me with further threats. By that time, Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North and the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East had come out of the Chamber. The Leader of the Opposition positioned herself directly between the Honourable Member for St. Philip West and myself. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition said then to the Honourable Member for St. Philip West "You gine hit me..." and a few other words followed, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West continued his threatening, aggressive and belligerent behaviour towards me. By that time, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, the Minister of Housing and Lands, had come out of the Chamber and was trying to restrain the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, by seizing his left shoulder and left arm and pulling him into the area of the bust of Sir Conrad Reeves, which is situated at the top of the stairs.

Shortly thereafter, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West pulled away from the Honourable Member for St. Philip North and rushed towards the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West, then backed the Honourable Member for St. Andrew against the wall with his continued threats and his belligerent and aggressive behaviour.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, who had then come out of the Chamber, went in between the Honourable Member for St. Philip West and the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, to prevent the Honourable Member for St. Philip West from assaulting the Honourable Member for

St. Andrew. All the while, Sir, two other Honourable Members for the St. Philip Constituencies continued to try to restrain and subdue the Honourable Member for St. Philip West.

I am aware, Mr. Speaker, that there is a security camera in the area of the bust of Sir Conrad Reeves and I believe that much of what I have stated will be verified by the security footage. There was one police officer in the vicinity of the bust of Sir Conrad Reeves during the altercation.

Mr. Speaker, those are the facts. I respectfully submit, Sir, that the conduct of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West with the firearm, together with his other conduct, constitutes the act certainly of brandishing his gun and constitutes disorderly conduct. It was done, Mr. Speaker, within the precincts of Parliament and specifically before the Honourable Member exited this Honourable Chamber. His handling of the firearm was executed in a threatening manner and his conduct falls far short of the standard of conduct that is required of Honourable Members within this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, the conduct of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West affects this House and its Members, in that it is likely to bring this House into disrepute. The conduct was disorderly, contumacious and disrespectful.

I, therefore, beg to move that the conduct of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West be referred to the Committee of Privileges for its consideration and for recommendation to this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the relevant Standing Order 76(3), essentially, once I am satisfied that a prima facie case is made out, then it will be referred, but as I indicated, given the fact that it involves the conduct of another Member, it is only fair that the Honourable Member for St. Philip West is heard in this matter and, therefore, I will reserve a finding on that until I have heard the Honourable Member for St. Philip West.

Now, it is not usual, but I got a note from the Honourable Member for St. Peter which essentially said that I threatened to expel him, and that he did nothing to warrant expulsion, and that he needed an apology from me. The Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, if you think that I have threatened to expel you, if you think you have done nothing to warrant an expulsion, then I unreservedly apologise for that. There is no difficulty in that. As I would have said, I indicated the Honourable Members whom I meant and, therefore, that I believe is the end of it.

Now, may we proceed with the other matters of the day, please?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 5

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL SUM AND INTEREST THEREON BY THE BARBADOS TOURISM AUTHORITY, OF A LOAN OF \$10 500 000 IN THE CURRENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FROM THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, FOR THE PROVISION OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES BY CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES.

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

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the passing of this Resolution that relates to the Barbados Tourism Authority, Cap. 342, which provides that the Government of Barbados may guarantee monies that are loaned to the Authority.

Sir, several statutory corporations have similar provisions where, in essence, they can borrow money, providing that they have the appropriate guarantee from Government. This particular matter relates to a Resolution that was moved in the last Parliament. It is necessary, therefore, for me to give some history.

It is, of course, the Carnival Destiny charter, where the Barbados Tourism Authority, as Government's agent, was required to provide a number of irrevocable Letters of Credit to the Carnival Corporation. Sir, consequential of providing those irrevocable Letters, naturally they had to be underwritten and that was done by the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Sir, I think it is appropriate that I give some background to that, because prior to the Cricket World Cup, 2007 event, and prior to the actual charter of Destiny Cruise Lines, a notice was given in this Parliament on November 17, 2006. It was, in essence, a Resolution very similar to this one, where the Barbados Tourism Authority was asking for the Government of Barbados to guarantee

the Letters of Credit that were being placed in favour of Carnival Cruise Lines.

11.10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, the event passed, and this Resolution was withdrawn from the House, and I will try to get into that as much as possible, because I think it is important to understand why we have come to this point.

Sir, I do not know why the Resolution was withdrawn because, as I understand it, it is very clear that where the Barbados Tourism Authority is borrowing money, that the Government must guarantee it in a manner that Parliament sees fit. Therefore, to simply have a Letter of Comfort from the Ministry of Finance, while the sum may not be large in some terms, US\$14 million in the original instance, of course, today we are down to US\$10 million, but there is a principal involved and I imagine the reason why the legislation is written the way it is...

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Sir, as I have said, it is not unique to the Barbados Tourism Authority Act, the Transport Board, the National Housing Corporation and the Barbados Water Authority, because all of those Statutory Corporations have a similar provision to allow them to borrow money, but they have to get the Government's guarantee, and of course, Parliament has to act in that process.

Mr. Speaker, I thought it was a little unfortunate that we went through the exercise of having the Resolution withdrawn. What it is, in essence, meant...

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: As a matter of fact, it was the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East that had asked for that Resolution to be withdrawn. I would not speculate on today's occurrences and if there is any relationship to that, but it is a fact, and Hansard will show that the Resolution was laid on November 17, 2006, as a result of the decision of the Cabinet and Barbados Tourism Authority to go ahead and cater the vessel, and then it was withdrawn after the event. We just had a Letter of Comfort, a very loose form of security and that, Mr. Speaker, is very unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker, again, one may argue that US\$14 million in the whole scheme of things where our debt situation is concerned, is not a whole lot of money, but you still have to conduct yourself in an appropriate manner. The

important thing about Government is that none of us is here forever. We are basically holding the reins in trust for others to come and you have a very clear example here, Mr. Speaker, that occurred in the past that is impacting on us in a very direct way now in the present because, Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the Bank of Nova Scotia, who this Government is trying to do business with, is now insisting that we clean up these matters.

Mr. Speaker, it is a very serious thing when you are failing to meet your commitments, because a Commitment Letter was signed with the Bank of Nova Scotia promising a Letter of Comfort at first instance, to be replaced by a Parliamentary Guarantee at the appropriate point. In essence, what you are doing, Mr. Speaker, is that you are playing with the international reputation of the Government of Barbados and, Sir, these things are looked at. We talk about a credit rating with Standard and Poor's and Moody's, and these agencies can look at that behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, the thing is that you are not even doing on a loan that was performing. This was a situation where the Letter of Credit had to be called upon by Carnival Corporation because of failure of the initiative.

Sir, you had an initiative that failed, a loan that failed, and then a Government that failed, then to provide what it promised by way of the securitisation of the facility. Sir, I think we need to state those things, because everyone wants you to look forward and not look back.

We heard the Honourable Member for St. Peter said to blame everything on him and just move on but, Sir, it does not quite work that way, because the same gentleman who acted for the Bank of Nova Scotia as their commercial manager and signed the Commitment Letter, has since been promoted. He is now the Managing Director and how do you think he now feels in terms of entering into financial arrangements with the Government.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we need to be very careful in what we do when we are given the reins temporarily, because that is all it is. Sir, there are a number of aspirants running around Barbados who want to be in this place and presumably want to be on this very Bench, the Front Bench.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: There are quite a few people. There are a number of constituents, and one has just been unleashed, but you have to understand that you are holding the reins in trust and that what you do, you have to understand that it has an impact on future generations.

Sir, that is why, certainly where tourism is concerned, whether it is master planning, whether it is just

the issue of institutional arrangement that governs the sector, whether it is the issue of looking for new markets, the issue of how we go about promoting the destination, I am conscious of the fact that decisions we are taking today will impact my successor and impact my successor's successor. You have to be constantly aware of that and that would explain even decisions with respect to housing.

Sir, I could go down the line and speak about the health situation at the hospital and what do we do there, Sir, decisions relating to our transport sector and our public transportation.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the decisions we are taking in housing. We are conscious of the fact that the decisions we take today can have an impact tomorrow. Sir, the mere fact that we are in here now cleaning up this situation, is a fine example of what not to do in Government. You have to be responsible and you have to face the music, even if it is unpopular. Yes, you may get some lashes sometimes, but it is important to face up to it and deal with it.

I am just thankful, Mr. Speaker, that I have been part of the Government that has been able to clean up the situation by bringing this Resolution in here to tidy up this issue and I believe that we have not had too much fallout per se.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that there is risk premium now associated with the facilities and so on, that we may be seeking, where we do not have a Parliamentary Guarantee, and this may be as a result of our handling of this matter and some other matters that we will be looking at involving CBC, which the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is well aware of, but that is another debate.

I am saying that we have been able to tidy up and repair the situation, but it is an object lesson for all those persons who are involved in this exercise of being a Government. Sir, one has to be conscious of what they are doing, and how it impacts tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, what we are saying here is carried live on the radio. Sir, as a matter of fact, due to some very hard work by the officers here, it is also streamed, so that means that people on the Internet are seeing me, and you, and they are looking at me, looking at you and that is the reality, including those persons as I mentioned, who are listening live on the radio, those persons who aspire to, one day, be part of this exercise.

I just want to give them a fine example they should follow, because I do not know if they were tuned in earlier, if they had the very best example provided. I am just saying that we are trying to make the right decisions that could impact this country in a very positive manner.

Mr. Speaker, I gave all that background with respect to the Resolutions and the machinations associated with them, but it would be appropriate that I also give a little bit of history in the situation involving the actual charter of the cruise vessel.

11.20 a.m. Sequence 8

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the last Government, in consultation with various private sector interests, as well as the Local Organising Committee for Cricket World Cup, came to the conclusion in a study done by Tourism Global that there will be a shortage of hotel rooms for Cricket World Cup.

Now, Tourism Global is like a recurring decimal. They were very busy doing studies in the last Government towards the end. I am not going to get into who is currently part of it, or who is rumoured to be part of it, suffice it to say that the Honourable Members on the Other Side are very familiar with all of the principals, past, present and future of Tourism Global. They are very familiar with them.

The same Tourism Global that just benefitted from some very interesting briefs, and was doing some work for the last Government, came to the decision that the only way to deal with the accommodation requirements for the World Cup period, April 2007, would be to charter a cruise liner.

Sir, let me make it clear that it was not unanimously agreed upon, and several people, including very influential players in the tourism sector, disagreed vehemently with the decision. In fact, it was described as unfortunate that the biggest sporting event to be held in Barbados should be seen as an opportunity for Carnival Corporation to add to their very impressive financial statement.

Carnival Corporation is a company that registered projects, not revenues, in the billions. When Carnival Corporation is talking about making money, it is many hundreds of millions and billions, therefore, why should we enrich a corporation like that when in fact we should be trying to develop many of those persons, who are struggling to get into the accommodation sector? Of course, the small hoteliers, guest houses and so on. There was certainly no agreement across the board that was the way to go.

Nevertheless, the Government went ahead and decided to go with the arrangement. Of course, the rest, as they say, is history.

We all know the World Cup did not turn out to what it was promised to be. It is unfortunate that so many Caribbean countries have really struggled to recover from all of the debt they placed themselves in, expecting this windfall to come from the International Cricket Council World Cup. In Barbados we too are, should we say, picking up the pieces. We have to decide what to do about Kensington. We have made a decision, but it was again very sloppy, the whole situation with issues of ownership of the real estate not being properly established, even the question of what happened.

I know the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would give you chapter and verse, in his suggestion that maybe we should have built a new ground. In retrospect, it certainly would have been cheaper. Certainly may even make more sense from other points of view, in terms of a sports developmental point of view.

I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central now talking about an additional stadium across Barbados. Did we not miss the boat when we had that opportunity? Of course, the historians can debate that. What we can certainly say is that a number of mistakes were made generally speaking, with respect to how much we vested in the hope that the World Cup would have yielded the windfall.

Sir, the defenders would tell you nobody anticipated that India and Pakistan would have exited, and given way to Ireland and Bangladesh. This may be true. Particularly where this Carnival Destiny charter is concerned, that is one of the things that has been started.

I think you have to understand as well, that the utilisation rate in order for the charter to make sense was going to be 85 per cent. Mr. Speaker, that is madness. Even if India and Pakistan had remained in the competition, are you going to plan the viability of a project on the basis of an 85 per cent utilisation rate? That is crazy.

Anyone who does scenario planning where you have your best case scenario, your worst case scenario and your most likely scenario, there is no way, even in the best case of scenario planning, would you expect to have 85 per cent utilisation rate in something like that. Again, you see the poor planning coming through.

In fact, it really makes you ask certain questions, how the Government could go into a venture where it is near enough impossible to recover the cost involved. I do not think they anticipated we would have been US\$13 million in the hole, over BDS\$20 million, but at the same time, even if it went according to plan, it is clear to see, that simply could not work, so we find ourselves now in a situation where we have to pick up the pieces.

Sir, again, I think it is important that I touch on some of these World Cup issues as uncomfortable as it may be, for many, because we have another World Cup only weeks away, the Twenty/20 World Cup. We all know that where sports tourism is concerned, and where sports generally is concerned, it is the desire of Barbados to continue to be the host for major worldclass events, and we have to make sure that we do not make these same mistakes.

I spoke earlier about the importance of Government, and seeing your work in a wider context. It is not only about what is happening next week. It is not only about impressing for the next Election. It is about thinking about the next generation as well. That is what the Democratic Labour Party is about, and why we operate differently from the others when they are in office.

Sir, let me say that the context of the situation, because it seems as though the whole idea of cost was just thrown through the window. Should I say the value of money and the appreciation of the finite nature of it, particularly for a society like ours. We are a small developing nation and we do have other areas of Government that require the dedication of resources. It all went through the window in the name of the World Cup.

Sir, there are so many things that I can talk about where that is concerned at tourism alone. Much of the direction that was given, and the way in which no sort of rational thinking was allowed to obtain, because it was all about the World Cup. We could go on and on.

Sir, I just mentioned one, or two matters, because I think, again, it is important. I am not in the business, of course, of trying to embarrass any public officers. I let other people do that, attacking them in public. That is not what we are in the business of doing at all. I am dealing with the political direction that was given.

I remember very well when the Air India charter came in. That too was connected to the Destiny Cruise Line.

HA 62 11.30 a.m. Sequence 9

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House A62, Sequence 10, 11.30 a.m.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: The truth is, we were told that all of these Indians were going to be coming and it was necessary to have accommodation arrangements for them, so we went out and got Air India Jumbo Jet 747. When it landed, there was a huge fanfare, all of the trimmings and so on. I remember hearing the then Minister of Tourism who, of course, was known to make very extreme statements.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Yes. He loved the hyperbole, with the chest in the air. The ribbon coming out of the pocket saying: "Oh, we are opening a new gateway, Asia, and Air India is here". We were going to have all these Indians and these flights were going to come in full and, of course, punctuated by announcing he was the best ever Minister of Tourism. We are still waiting.

I do not have anything on file about any arrangements with Air India. All I have is the fact that we rented a Jet for US\$653 000. Sir, that is what we did and that was the kind of madness that was allowed to take place. No one stopping and pausing for a moment to say, yes, it is a wonderful event and let us put our best foot forward, but at the same time, let us look at the things that we need to control and the cost factors. No one paused for even a moment.

Sir, we had all kinds of craziness going on. There were many trips to Mumbai around that time. On top of the US\$630 000, over BDS\$1 million, we still had people going on trips. I am still trying to ascertain what we have on file, in terms of a legacy from all of that but, nothing. All we have are bills and that is the legacy.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: We are not going to find anything, the trips to Mumbai. All of the tickets that were purchased and given away. Again, taxpayers' money is being used for all sorts of purposes. I prefer not to get into too much of the specifics, because I am not in the business of pointing fingers at public officers and so on. I am not doing that, but I know that this was directed. There is no question about it, and therefore, we have to make sure that this does not happen again.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: It was taken off the Order Paper. That is a fact, Mr. Speaker, trying to avoid the debate, but I have to mention it here because, as I said, we have a similar event, the Twenty/20 World Cup which starts, as you know, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the month.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Next Friday, but it starts here on the 4th.

The truth is that while the Cricket World Cup 2007, was a very wonderful thing, and the event here, it was still cricket. Barbados has been putting on international cricket for a very long time and doing a very good job at it. People come from all over the world to see test cricket here,

because they know we are good at it, and we did not need to have the \$200 million facility to do it. We used to do a good job at organising cricket that the world over enjoyed.

Mr. Speaker, we were in Opposition at the time, and I well recall that almost every week, it was something else to do with the World Cup and I would wonder, but this is just cricket. This is something that we have been doing for years. Maybe, the first Test Match was played in Barbados, I think, at the Garrison Savannah, or the first Cricket Match certainly in the early 1900. We have more than 100 years of experience in putting on international cricket, yet we were all caught up in this whole Cricket World Cup 2007, nonsense.

Again, I think it was appropriate that the West Indies should host it but, clearly, we went off the rails and as far as the whole Twenty/20 Cricket that is coming up, I think that we have learnt our lesson well. We have certainly embraced the accommodation sector fully.

There is a level of coordination that is going on between the organisers of the tournament and the Barbados Tourism Authority.

It is true that we do have the official travel agency arrangements, similar to what obtained last time, and that has made the acquisition of tickets, not the easiest, but we have come up with a scenario where we are working with the identified official tour operators. Sir, at the same time our traditional ones will still have access to tickets, given the arrangements that now exist between the Barbados Tourism Authority and the organisers.

We have definitely seen evidence of some forward bookings that would show that we will have some numbers in for the Twenty/20 Cricket, and because of the booking patterns, Mr. Speaker, given that this is not a normal period as far as travel in tourism is concerned. We are still in the middle of a world recession.

I think it is still good that even now, although people are booking later, we are still making arrangements for them. In fact, in all of our markets, where we have a presence, the office in Canada, the office in the United States of America through the New York office, and of course, the United Kingdom office, we are even putting last minute pushes on to ensure that anyone who wants to come for the Twenty/20 Cricket, will be accommodated.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central I am sure, will speak about how the overall event is going. The Finals have already been sold out, as I understand it and, in fact, there is one match in Guyana that is not sold out, but the other sales are going very strong.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: I understand that we will be watching the West Indies here during the Finals, and that will be wonderful to see Gayle and the boys in action, but I think it is important to see that we are just steadily and quietly going about doing what we have to do.

I want to make it clear. Some may want to criticise, Mr. Speaker, that we have not made a whole lot of fuss, but what is the point in fussing.

The last Government fussed about the Cricket World Cup 2007, and the truth is that the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) which, of course, do their ongoing Tourism Exit Surveys had indicated to us during that period of 2007, we saw 42 575 visitors travelling to Barbados. Of that, a little more than half, 62 per cent which is 26 632 actually came, because of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup. The total expenditure by those patrons was \$73.6 million.

Sir, I want you to understand that for all of the hoop la la that was made, the braggadocio, the chest thumping, the big talk, all we really had from the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, in terms of business directly connected to it, was 26 people and \$73.6 million. Sir, you can have a good English tour and bring 15 000 people into Barbados easily.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: That is the point.

I want you to understand exactly, the extent to which we were duped and why we will not allow it to happen under our watch.

We are probably not going to see 26 000 people come in for the Twenty/20 Cricket, but we are going to see, certainly, more than half of that. What did we spend? Depending on how the matches go, there is regional traffic. We are talking with LIAT to improve the situation in terms of getting people in here, moving them out to St. Lucia and bringing them back, because as you know, the Semifinal arrangements we are sharing with St. Lucia.

We are going to have a good tournament and we are going to make sure we benefit from it. We are not chartering any cruise lines. We are not paying for any exorbitant Missions to go all over the world doing foolishness. We are not borrowing a whole tonne of money that people will have to spend 50 years paying back.

House A62, Sequence 10, 11.40 a.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Hon. R. L. SEALY: We are just quietly doing what we have been known to do for a long time, that is, to

organise good quality cricket, Barbadian style. That has worked for us, and we will continue to do that.

I might add too that, yes, we focus on the international cricket, but it would be hard for me to sit so close to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and not mention the fact that so many other teams come to Barbados and enjoy good cricket and good hospitality on many grounds. There is Northern Stars, there is Bristol, there is Dover, a very popular ground as well, for touring teams, Windwards in St. Philip, and the list goes on and on.

The 3Ws Oval has now gone to another level. We are well aware of this at the Barbados Tourism Authority. We just had four County teams come here for their pre-season training, Yorkshire, Essex, Derbyshire and Surrey, I think it was, and we want to have another four as well. Next year we want to push that. Many of them have been going to Dubai, but obviously there are many advantages to Barbados, the language issue, the legacy of cricket, the good grounds all over Barbados and the safety and so on. We are pushing the cricketing aspect of our culture. It is only natural when we talk about sports tourism that cricket would have to take the lead. There are some other sports that are coming on strong that are attracting numbers, and we have to create the avenues for them to develop, but we have something very special going on.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to again locate the whole issue of what we are doing now, and what we have learnt from what was done, and more particularly what not to do ever again, because of the Cricket World Cup that had occurred previously.

Mr. Speaker, we are all set. I think as well that I should mention that the situation with the Carnival Cruise Lines is still quite sound. I know that the Honourable Member for St. James Central would want to know that we are now in the second arrangement with Carnival Corporation. We inherited an arrangement, but it came to an end December last year, and we recently signed a new arrangement. The good thing about this particular arrangement is that it has a home porting component, recognising that home porting is our strength, so the relationship with Carnival is still quite strong.

I mentioned that in case anyone thought that this arrangement would have in anyway impacted it, but of course, it could not impact, because Carnival got out “licking” to use the Bajan term, because of the fact that the irrevocable Letters of Credit had to be called upon. They got their monies through the Letters of Credit and not through how we anticipated paying them back, so they were not too hurt from the arrangement. They actually could smile.

We are certainly doing our part to continue to develop cruise as well. I think that I should just mention that without moving too far away from the Resolution, because I realise that we are debating a guarantee.

Mr. Speaker, I think that I have touched on the salient parts, and I am hopeful that we can put this matter to bed quickly, because the whole arrangement is impacting our capacity, or our relationship with this particular institution, the Bank of Nova Scotia. We have to be careful and make sure that we are very clear in learning our lessons.

Mr. Speaker, it is this kind of poor decision-making of the last Government that contributes to why they are now the former Government, because Cricket World Cup was not about cricket. I am not supposed to be able to see strangers in the House, but I see somebody who was very much involved in that whole period and it was not about cricket. The Cricket World Cup was about the fourth term.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy would tell you about the jumping up and the celebrating when they got the Finals and everything. It was: “Oh Lord, you all ain’t got a chance now”. We were jeered and so on in here. We got the Cricket World Cup now, so manna from heaven, and there would be so much prosperity gushing through the streets, the Democratic Labour Party does not have a chance. That was what we had to deal with, but of course, that was not quite the case. A few individuals did not get what they wanted and now the entire country has to pay for it, and it is really unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I am just happy that this is only, but a small chapter in that Cricket World Cup saga that we are able to close. By the way, it is going to be around for 10 years, because it is a 10-year repayment period, but at least it is a small part of the near \$800 million, I understand, that we are now in debt as a nation from the Cricket World Cup. There have been various estimates, but it is near enough impossible to truly put your hands all around it, but we will make sure that future events like the Twenty/20 tournament and the other things that are planned...

Even as we speak, there is a world-class yachting event occurring in Carlisle Bay. There are fireballs, these two-man yachts that are in Carlisle Bay from all over the world, four, or five continents, and we can do these events. We can bring in good sports people, have top quality events, we can get the spend from it, we can benefit from a sports point of view and a tourism point of view, and we do not have to do craziness like this Carnival Destiny charter and all of those other mad initiatives that were associated with the Cricket World Cup.

Mr. Speaker, I think that I have said plenty and I sincerely hope that we can move on and take it from there.

With those few words, I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, when one looks at what has occurred for the last 14 years, it is no wonder that we are now in a situation where we are now having to deal with debt on top of debt. For the last 14 years, all of the advice that was given to the previous Government, they ignored all of it. When they were told that you do not spend \$1 billion in a country and see no matching investment, they ignored that too.

Mr. Speaker, anybody who understood anything about financing would know that whenever you are about to spend a substantial amount of money in a country, especially when you are dealing with a capital investment, that the one thing you seek to do is to find out how much investment would follow it. Everybody who looked at what occurred at the Cricket World Cup 2007, would have seen a scenario that instead of getting increased investment in Barbados, we saw the reverse, that is, instead of having more businesses in the general area, we saw businesses having to leave the general area and relocating to lower estates and many other areas, and it worried me.

Sir, I have always made the point that when you are making that type of investment, you normally go to a virgin area so that you would make the investment and you would attract other investments, but this is exactly what did not occur.

House A62 Sequence 11 11.50 a.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, we spent a lot of money on the old Kensington Oval, thus creating capital expenditure and revenue expenditure, but we had no new investment to help with that expenditure that occurred.

Sir, I am saying that what also boggled the mind was to see that everybody was bragging about the money that was to be made from Cricket World Cup, 2007, yet we were entering into an arrangement with a cruise liner, where the Government of the day had to guarantee the cruise liner "X" amount.

Sir, I thought when I raised the issue on the Floor of this Honourable House that at least they would have learned something. You cannot have something that is

supposed to be so successful and you are asking someone to join you, but they are asking you for a guarantee. Surely, you should have seen the red flag, you did not have to listen to me, but from the time you were asked for a guarantee from that cruise liner, you should have known that there would have been some kind of doubt in this particular matter.

Mr. Speaker, what is even worse is that the cruise liner got a guarantee, but the thousands of Barbadians who were asked to add on, to build and do many other things to their homes, accumulated large sums of losses, but no guarantees.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that Cricket World Cup, 2007, was a disaster, not only for Barbados, but that it brought many poor persons, because there was an expectation that was never realised. Sir, I well remember the impressions that were created in this Honourable House.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central was right. It was supposed to be the guarantee to the fourth term, instead what was guaranteed was a sure debt for Barbados. Sir, that is why wherever you go, the legacy now that was spoken of about how Cricket World Cup, 2007, would have created a legacy in Barbados, the only legacy we have in Barbados is debt.

Mr. Speaker, people ask us why we are in a financial crisis today. Sir, it is clear, if you are accumulating a debt, it means that you are not generating any investment from it, neither are you able to attract increase activities from it. Therefore, how are you going to service that debt? Sir, that is why we find ourselves in a situation today, and I say to you we are doing well, when you consider that the world went into a crisis and that the Barbados Labour Party has left us one. Sir, we are now dealing with a double crisis.

The only Government in the world that had to deal with a double crisis is the Democratic Labour Party. Sir, the figures are there, if you speak about Kensington Oval, if you speak about the highway, if you speak about the prison, the figures are all there, yet the Barbados Labour Party would have the gall... Sir, I will not anticipate, but I await the debate to speak about a \$30 million Euro loan.

Mr. Speaker, I have always said in this Honourable House that interest rates are not the only measuring factors that should be used when discussing loans. I have always said in this Honourable House that when you are dealing with a floating loan, interest rates are not to be taken into account as the only factor.

Sir, you can borrow a floating loan at a stated interest rate of 13 per cent, but you could find yourself with an effective rate of 6 per cent. Sir, people do not

understand these things, and even though they have spent 14 years in Government and should have seen that the interest payments were dropping, they still walked around talking about a bad loan, even though the evidence in front of them was the opposite.

Sir, I am saying today that we need not speak about the Euro loan. When we speak about bad arrangements we can speak about the arrangement that was made with Carnival Destiny, where the ship was guaranteed what it did not work for.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: That is a fact. It is not a laughing matter. Carnival Destiny got what it did not work for and the taxpayers of Barbados will have to pay for that too. Sir, when they want to discuss matters like these, when they want to talk about bad management and about matters of urgency, well, this is urgent and let us come back here and discuss this. Sir, this is something that is actual, nobody can question this. Everybody knows the end of this particular matter.

Sir, we are now saddled with this debt, and Carnival Destiny did not bring any passengers to table. We were supposed to be bringing the passengers to them. It was not that they had guaranteed us that they would have brought ship loads and we have decided to write off some of their expenditure. We were supposed to give them the passengers. Sir, what happened today is that we did not get those passengers, yet we have to pay for them. This is a very serious matter.

I am saying that what made matters worse is that our best museum, which was built more than 100 years ago...

Sir, do you know what hurts? Sir, we heard in here about how we were going to be promoting eco-tourism and heritage tourism, and about how good they both were, yet the good asset that we had as it related to heritage tourism, we put the bulldozer on it, Kensington Oval.

Sir, there are people who, whenever they come to Barbados, used to ask the taxi drivers to take them to Kensington Oval. Do you know what they used to do when they go there? They used to go on the pitch and kiss it, but we put the bulldozer on that too. They would also go to the Kensington Stand to see what it looked like and why people behaved in that manner. Do you know what we did to that? We destroyed it, because we believe in creating a pretty picture.

Sir, I used to say in here that when you speak about the Barbados Labour Party, that you were speaking to the party of cosmetologists. They like a pretty picture and they do not care about the cost, or about how it has to be

financed. Sir, that is exactly what we got out of this issue. We got something that looks good.

Sir, do you know what is the most hurtful thing? Sir, the point I have always made in this Honourable House is that whenever I go to Kensington Oval, I do not know where I am, because it is like watching cricket in another country. It is the same samey-samey thing. When we had something that was unique and important to this country, we destroyed that to copy something that somebody else has. We also believe that we could promote a stadium that looks like someplace else, when, in fact, we had something of value. We destroyed that too.

It reminded me of some people who had a lot of money to waste, who decided to get rid of their good old mahogany furniture, only to bring in a sofa, they dumped the good mahogany for plywood and wood ants, getting rid of the furniture from which wood ants run. That is the Barbados Labour Party and their management of the Barbadian economy. They know how to destroy money. The more money you give them, the more they destroyed. I am saying this is one act to demonstrate that whereas we were promised a legacy... I used to hear it in here all the time, the legacy from Cricket World Cup, 2007.

Sir, today I am witnessing the first act of that legacy: debt and more debt for the people of Barbados and no returns.

Mr. Speaker, we speak about loans and we try to equate loans in this country, but one thing people must always remember is that there are loans that are borrowed to help the economy, there are loans that are borrowed to help the people of Barbados and that those loans can be regarded as productive loans. There are loans that are borrowed to increase the growth of the country.

Sir, when you seek to discuss a loan where the only thing that you could increase would be crime, or numbers.

H: No.A62 (12)12:00 noon

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His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party really believes that Barbadians have short memories. Sir, you know they were building a prison for 2 000 people, Sir, and not 1 000 people. Their projection was on growth and the crime rate. Sir, go to Hansard and you will see that I placed it in there. They were projecting crime in this country and they were not projecting it by 5 per cent. They were projecting crime at 100 per cent. Sir, that is what they were doing at a time when they claimed they had all the money in the world.

Sir, they are very fast to tell us that when the economy is bad, that you get increased crime, but they had a good economy, according to them, but yet they were projecting 100 per cent increase in crime and they were building the capacity to suit it.

Mr. Speaker, I thought that what would have been done is that they would have used the good economic fortune of Barbados to build a smaller prison, and that they would have put some social policies in place to ensure that instead of the crime population increasing, that we would have seen a decrease. Sir, it is the first Government in the world that sought growth through crime and, Sir, it is reflected at Dodds.

Mr. Speaker, where are we today? We are here now discussing another piece of the Barbados Labour Party debt saga. Sir, there are very good at these things. They are known, unlike us, for always having projects that are non-productive. They can spend money well, but they never know how to have recurrent revenue to match recurrent expenditure and they never know about having revenue expenditure to help with the debt.

Mr. Speaker, they are the ones who laughed at me when I came in here and started to use terms like those. When I talked about opportunity cost and so on, they also laughed at me, but if they had looked at the opportunity cost of spending over \$1 billion on a prison, then they would have recognise that it might have been better to utilise Harrisons Point, which they gave me in less than 24 hours and which, may I remind you, they are talking about how they had to have a prison, but I gave them one that the prisoners were saying was too safe for the country.

Sir, not one person escaped from down there, and it did not cost the country \$1 million, but they went and committed the country to \$700 million and they are now saying that you should not talk about the cost of building a prison. You cannot only be talking about the cost of building a prison. That is the past. You have to look at the future. Are you going to budget on cost, Sir? You cannot budget on cost. You have to budget on cost plus.

Mr. Speaker, no wonder this country is where it has been left, because when we thought we had finances, we now realise they were operating only on historical cost and not future cost.

Sir, I say to you that we must congratulate the Directors of Carnival Destiny. They have earned their masters well and they have been able to reflect on their Balance Sheets well to their masters while, at the same time, the country of Barbados and 270 000 plus Guyanese, would have to worry about how this debt would have to be repaid.

Mr. Speaker, it was interesting that those persons who would have taken us here cannot be found any more to help with this debt, but we, the Democratic Labour Party, as usual, would have to pay it.

Sir, a lot of people have forgotten that every time we come to Government, we come to Government with situations like these. Sir, it was even worse in 1986, when we came to Government, because when we came to Government, we came to Government and found the Japanese loan and soap operas. Now, in 2008, we are back with a lot of debt, a highway, a prison, even the Justice Hall, and nothing to say about Warrens, and nothing to say about Carnival Destiny, or Kensington Oval. Sir, all I would say is "God Bless Barbados" and thank the Lord for giving us the Democratic Labour Party for cleaning up the mess one more time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

I rise in support of the Resolution that has been brought by the Honourable Member, the Minister of Tourism. Sir, I do so, all be it, hesitatingly, because I do not want to add really further debt, but it is a debt already in place, occasioned by the actions of the Barbados Labour Party and, as a Government that has been charged with the responsibility of cleaning that which has been visited on the backs of the people of Barbados, we are commissioned, therefore, to do that cleaning up.

The people of Barbados have been told over time, within the last two-and-a-half years of the massive amount of debt which has been left as a result of mal-action on the part of the Barbados Labour Party on their backs. Sir, this is just another example of that particular exercise, that particular journey undertaken by the last Barbados Labour Party Government.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party Government, going back as far as 2003/2004, relative to the Cricket World Cup, got the people of Barbados into a frenzy. It was carefully calculated so that the people of Barbados could not focus on the debt which was being visited on them by that particular Government at the time.

You know when you work a person into a frenzy they take their eyes off the target, off the mission and all kinds of things were said relative to this Cricket World Cup.

It was supposed to be the saviour of the economy of Barbados. You heard a lot of talk about legacy and all kinds of things and the Honourable Member for St. Lucy truly reminded us of the legacy, the legacy of debt. I believe that should be repeated. The legacy of debt visited on this country by the Barbados Labour Party as they unfolded Cricket World Cup in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am not here condemning the presence of cricket in Barbados, because it is known that cricket has served us well for a small country with the size of its population, we have produced so many great masters of cricket. Of course, our living National Hero - the day we will celebrate tomorrow - is counted as the best that any country, small, or large, has ever produced. Sir, he is a great leader on the field of play and in the society. He is a great leader in the promotion of the tourism product of Barbados.

In truth and in fact, I am told that whenever that individual visits England, Australia, or South Africa, it is so well embedded in the consciousness of those persons, that he does not have to open his mouth. Sir, that is legacy for Barbados and we did not have to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in that instance to promote Barbados. It was just his mere presence.

Sir, there are other great masters of the game that this country has produced, so we know that cricket is in our consciousness, and the mere mention of the word would galvanise our people to go to Kensington Oval, to go to the 3Ws Oval at the University of the West Indies, to go to Windward, North Star, Dover, Banks, Carlton, or any of the cricketing grounds we have across Barbados, so I am not decrying that particular point. What I am decrying, is the debt that has been left to us and it is a debt which we have to carry and a debt which we have to honour. That is why today we bring the Resolution to this House.

Sequence 13 12.10 p.m.

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Hon. R. D. JONES: The story is already told of the Resolution coming before the House on May 29, 2007, and being withdrawn then by the Honourable Member, who is the Leader of the House for the Government of that time, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

They withdrew that Resolution out of fear, for the debacle of knowing that the seven or eight of us at the time wanted to speak on that particular Resolution. They withdrew it, craven behaviour, cowardly behaviour exhibited by the Government at that time, the Barbados Labour Party Government, but this did not disappear. The Resolution disappeared, but the debt remained. The issue

was still current and current for a number of years until today, when we have to bring it.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: The bad behaviour is still there. Honourable Members, that bad behaviour will continue. Of course, it is the Barbados Labour Party. We cannot change that. How can we? That is part and parcel of their very nature. We saw it demonstrated this morning, a terrible display, but I am speaking on the Resolution before the House.

Sir, you might think that we are belabouring this point, but we have been charged with a responsibility to manage this society and economy, with the participation of the people of Barbados. As such, we have to tell the people the truth, not the innuendo that the Barbados Labour Party is known to drag across the trail. They do that well. If you have to accord anybody great marks, you have to accord great marks to them, 100 per cent for innuendo that they constantly drag across the trail. One saw some of that displayed only on Sunday night. That is the kind of behaviour, but we have harsh facts before us.

Sir, the money, US\$10 500 000 that we now have to support with the Bank of Nova Scotia. I am speaking in the currency of negotiation. If you are going to do a calculation, it is a two to one ratio, it is BDS\$21 million. I better speak of it in those terms, because Barbadians understand their particular currency, BDS\$21 million.

Sir, the original figure was US\$14 772 000. That was the original figure and after the fiasco, they got a travel agent in Barbados, a cruise line agent, to scramble up some Barbadians, come from wherever you are, and I have no problem with Barbadians cruising. We are surrounded by water. This is a demonstration of failure that they were now trying to correct.

They got Barbadians from far and near, got them from St. Lucia, or wherever they were, and placed them on board the Carnival Destiny to cruise up and down the Caribbean, to get some of the money to help reduce the debt that they found themselves in, so they collected about \$2 million, or so to help reduce that debt, trying again to fool the people of Barbados that they were doing something, but they could not cruise enough, because the boat was committed for a specific period of time. I guess that if they had it beyond that, they would have said that they have recovered this debt that we have visited on the backs of Barbadians. The Barbados Labour Party involved the people of Barbados without their will, in a fiasco that must be known and that must be stated.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is absolutely right if you can use that kind of hyperbole. He is

absolutely right. Carnival Destiny did not get many people on board. It was a sea hotel. They did not get anybody onboard, but they got their money, every single cent paid to them without effort. They did not have to do anything and berth. Is that the word? It is like a birth too, both berth and birth, because it was a birth of more debt on the backs of Barbadians. That is what it was, and we paid for it, \$14 772 00 for that birth. I am going to be particular because I do not want to be accused of corrupting the word in anyway.

Sir, the people of Barbados, I believe, are generous in spirit, but they cannot be this generous out of their pockets. They surely cannot be generous out of their pockets. I think they have to put a charge on the Barbados Labour Party Government during that period for this money. In truth and in fact, it should be the Barbados Labour Party who should be paying back the Bank of Nova Scotia for this financial fiasco. That is who should be paying back this money, not the taxpayers of Barbados. They were not involved. They operated in a hidden manner.

Sir, I was surprised since this Resolution was withdrawn that we had to pay this money. Yes, it is being reduced, but we still have, in order to access resources for the people of Barbados, to be repaying this principal plus the interest. We have the figures before us.

I know that the Democratic Labour Party Government would have to become involved in this shenanigan. There are other colourful words that you could call this type of behaviour.

The Honourable Member spoke of the Air India Charter. They too brought in 385 people in economy class, \$653 587.55 and they rounded it off. The 45 cents they added to it and said give \$653 588, so they got 45 cents more that they should have received, US cents. They brought 385 people up front.

Sir, I have to work 31 days before I am paid, and work hard I do, so I am losing weight now. Can you understand what they did to the people of Barbados? Sir, 385 people. They brought them from Mumbai. That is a city in India that is well-known. Sir, what excuse to the people of Barbados is that? India did not get to the Super 8, this is cricket, the game of glorious uncertainties. It has always been the game of glorious uncertainties, but they were, all of a sudden, the great Saviour. Do you understand what I am saying? Only the Lord knows and understands the vagaries of life.

Sir, they wanted to be predicted. They were making predictions. India and Pakistan were going to the Super 8 and we were going to bring that cricketing fanatic nature to Barbados and flood them across the landscape and seascape of Barbados. That is how they were predicting that this

economy was going to function, the madness. I do not like to use harsh words, but I am going to be emboldened to use these words within the context of what is taking place.

Sir, one of our business entrepreneurs that operated around Bridgetown is now operating a business in St. Philip. There was the prediction of the construction of a hotel. I do not remember its name, because I do not remember it. It is in St. Philip. What is the name of the place in St. Philip? This massive structure?

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Casa Grande is the name. The big house when you translate it from Spanish to English, or the great house. It is a massive structure and not one Indian went into it. Maybe that individual could have absorbed the expenditure.

HA 62 12.20 p.m. Sequence 14

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House A62, Sequence 15, 12.20 p.m.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Thousands of Barbadians were told to go and get a loan from the banks, put on two little rooms, because you are going to get some of these massive inflows of tourists coming in for Cricket World Cup 2007, and Barbadians again got into a frenzy. They expanded their premises, as told by the Government. The Government told them to build and they built. Carpenters, masons, plumbers, electricians got work.

All the sand was moved out of St. Andrew to build those places. Again, the sandpit was flooded, as they were coming over Horse Hill slowly, because they were heavily laden with good sand, because they listened to the Government and we should listen to our Government, but our Government should not fool us. Government must and should be responsible and the last Government was the most irresponsible Government, especially during this time.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I am incensed and I am not normally like this. I am a gentle soul. I go through certain Constituencies and I still see these places that were added on. They did not make one cent, or cent one. I prefer that colloquialism, out of the Cricket World Cup 2007. Then, there were all of the people who went and got all of their stock to sell items, they had to store them in deep freezers, waiting for Kadooment.

Sir, Kadooment came and they still could not sell all of the stock, because the Government encouraged them to go and buy a plentiful supply, the frenzy that occasioned

this particular activity encouraged by the last Barbados Labour Party Government.

What do we have to do? Unfortunately, we have to provide the guarantee to the Bank of Nova Scotia on this matter. They withdrew the Resolution, but they got the loan. I think it is really harsh on public servants, those at the Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA) when leaders, such as the former Minister of Tourism, the people on the outside called him "Puffy Chest". I would not use that phrasing, pushed up the chest, I am the greatest...

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Yes. Superlative. Everything, an adjective, or an adverb added to the front, the best dressed this and that, and left this burden on the backs of the people of Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, leader of the House at the time, who had Economic Affairs under her wing, left this burden on the people of Barbados.

The Right Honourable Member for St. Peter who was Minister of Finance, who seemed to be corralled, left this burden on the people of Barbados and they want to continue this behaviour by trying to run out of Government, a duly, democratically elected Government of the people of Barbados, by their behaviours and their actions.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: They spread their spit every Sunday, in the faces of the people of Barbados, but we have water, soap, detergent and clorox. We washed it off and we cleansed, because the people know, sometimes even better than we do, how they suffered and were hurt by the Barbados Labour Party Government. The invective continues. They have not learned their lessons. They do not intend to learn. The nakedness of the Other Side today and we knew that this was planned, just like this was planned, that was planned. We have the evidence of the planning. We knew that was going to unfold, Mr. Speaker, this morning. I cannot compliment the Speaker, because you are non-partisan, so I am going to obey you but you did a good job.

Mr. Speaker, disrespect should not be allowed, including the economic disrespect as this. We have to stand up as men and women in this country and tell every politician, enough is enough. We cannot be visiting constantly on the backs of our children and their children, our grandchildren, this level of debt, because of mismanagement. Foolish debt as it is called. We cannot continue.

Mr. Speaker, we have brought a new level of governance in society and in the economy in this country. We will continue to do that. We will be prudent. We will be sensible in the management of the resources of the people of Barbados.

As the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central said, we are in trust, we have been placed here for a time to look after their resources and if we fail to look after those resources, have the fiduciary responsibility to make sure that we manage well, then they know what they have to do within this democracy. This is their right and we should not be insulting them, as they exercise their right as the Honourable Members on the Other Side constantly do.

We cannot be doing this, so even though I said that I rise hesitantly to support this, as a Government, we have to do it. This is when you are against a wall, so we have to do it and we will ensure that this debt is paid off, even though it should not have been there, even though we should not have had a half empty boat berthed in our waters, or a half empty massive jumbo jet come into Barbados that cost us dearly.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I call it half empty. You want to say half full, well half full, half empty, the same thing. Thank you for telling me - flying in from all up there, as my grandmother would say, over and away that was far, with 385 people on board. Maybe, thankfully, we were able to put them somewhere. They did not get on board the boat. They would have been brought down to be put on board the boat, the 385 then fitted into the hotels that were here in Barbados because of the madness of the planning.

You brought Cricket World Cup 2007, in the heart of your tourism season, and then some of your people cancelled and said that I prefer to lose the one day, or two days, because I did not honour my commitment, than to come, because they said Barbados was going to be flooded with cricket supporters.

Bermudians were going to be coming in droves. They are coming now for ICC Twenty/20 Cricket. Do you know they are coming now? The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central will speak to that. They are coming now because they understand a different level of planning, a different level of encouragement, more sensible and good pricing. They are coming to Barbados. They will have fun.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: They did not put up one light. Do you remember the fiasco of the Finals, the insult and the embarrassment of this great cricketing nation? It is not

finished. It is not a finished product after all the hundreds of millions sold.

I am saying to the Minister of Finance that we need, as a Government, to tell the people of Barbados how many hundreds of millions were spent on Kensington Oval, including all the painting of people's houses, the bad wood that they painted over, in the New Orleans.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Sir, rather than giving those people social upliftment by taking out the bad wood and then painting, if they wanted this picture for the visitors that were coming to this country, Sir, what you had was the moving out of businesses, the acquisition of land through private treaty. All of that is part of the debt. A highway that was to be started and completed, which the Honourable Member for Christ Church South had to do his utmost to complete, so it was completed two full years after the Cricket World Cup 2007. All we had during that period starting in September was bad planning and bad execution.

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Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, the end result of bad planning and bad execution is corruption because everybody could put their hand in the pot and stir it up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do not want five minutes, I think I have really said what I wanted to say.

I want to encourage Barbadians to be more vigilant over the time of the Democratic Labour Party in this democracy, so that we do not have these situations visited again on the people of Barbados. I am a proud Dem, my ancestors before me are. We are not going to change, because we know that we do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, we go to the people and we account for our stewardship in our Constituency meetings. We tell them what we were able to facilitate, what we were not able to facilitate, and what were the reasons we were not able to facilitate, and so far, they have been very understanding. They understand that we are struggling against a tide that was brought on the people of Barbados by the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central in his efforts against all of the various challenges, the most recent Icelandic volcano. Mr.

Speaker, nobody has yet called the name correctly of the volcano that has erupted, so I am not going to attempt to call the name, I am not going to make myself look foolish.

A volcano erupted, spued a lot of ash and dust into the air and planes could not fly out of our tourism centres. The tourists could not leave Barbados either, and we did not create that. Did we have any volcano in Barbados outside of the bad behaviour of the Barbados Labour Party? They are the only volcanoes in Barbados. Those are "knowey add on". That is a name. They erupt their thoughts and blow out everything including their brains.

Mr. Speaker, we have these challenges and we are working to conquer these challenges as knowledgeable people committed to democracy so, therefore, I support the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central and, therefore, this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

SUSPENSION

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting do now suspend until 1.40 p.m. today.

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

The question that this Sitting do now suspend until 1.40 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

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RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, we were on Order No. 5. With that, we shall now continue.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, it certainly gives me an amount of comfort to join with Honourable Members on This Side to speak to this Resolution, the exact nature of which is to approve the guarantee by the Government of Barbados for the repayment of the principal sum and interest thereon, by the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. of a loan of US\$10 500 000, from the Bank of Nova Scotia for the provision of passenger transport services to Carnival Cruise Lines.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, the Honourable Minister of Tourism, in his very

erudite presentation, made it clear the circumstances under which this loan would have been arranged. Indeed, the Honourable Member went as far, and it was confirmed, and enforced by the Honourable Member who spoke to outline the nature and history of the loan which we seek to guarantee today. Sir, this is a guarantee which we have also been reminded should have taken place some time ago, in all honesty, and an effort to keep the business of Barbados' economy on a very clear footing, and to keep Barbados in a high standing in the world in which we exist.

Sir, it is important that the people of Barbados understand yet again that a lot of things could have been done with that money. Sir, the point was made that this is not a large amount of money, BDS\$21 million is not in macro economic terms a large quantum. Sir, instead, we have the responsibility as the Administration of this great island, to make sure that those to whom we go in times of need are appropriately satisfied with the terms and conditions under which we agreed, and that we meet those terms and conditions.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I am proud about is being a member of this Administration, even sometimes for the pain that we have to endure being a Member of this Government under the Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. John.

I have watched and listened carefully as the economist, who is senior to me, has addressed these issues week after week, as we grapple with the deep recession which this world is facing and out of which we in Barbados, have to climb.

Sir, I have watched as we have, bit by bit, chipped away at our borrowing. We have chipped away at our commitment, and we have found ways to massage the economic movements in Barbados, to place our priorities in such a way that Barbados could hold its head high in the economic world in which we live.

Sir, we have chronicled to the Barbadian public, time and time again, the amounts of money which we had to guarantee, which we had to come to this Parliament to borrow. These guarantees are not subsequently spent on programmes that we are necessarily planning for the people of Barbados, but on activities undertaken by the Barbados Labour Party, under the leadership of the Honourable Member for St. Peter, as the financial guru for the past 14 years, from 1994, to January 2008.

Sir, I thank the people of Barbados for that, yet they on That Side would want the people of Barbados to forget the kind of mismanagement which brought about their ultimate demise, the kind of non-caring foreign advice.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister of Tourism speak to the question of the planning for Cricket World Cup, 2007 and as the Opposition, we spoke to the question of the planning of Cricket World Cup, 2007. We said that it lacked focus, that it lacked that "barbadiene" setup, that it did not connect with the people of the Caribbean community in a sufficient way as to make it a success.

We predicted, and others in Barbados predicted that the way in which Cricket World Cup, 2007 was being handled, that it was being seen as a play toy to the Barbados Labour Party Administration, and that they were not seriously looking at the kinds of commitments they were taking, that would necessarily realise the dividends that they tried to give the impression they would.

Mr. Speaker, such was the way of those days, such was the way of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, who continues today - and we saw an apt demonstration this morning - to try to foist upon Barbadians some level of economic understanding beyond the things that we are dealing with today.

1.50 p.m.

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Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member created EduTech, one of the largest capital projects ever undertaken by the Barbados Government since it existed, some \$600 million, and what do we have to show for it?

The talk today is about the prison, \$739 million in commitment for the people of Barbados and, yes, some argue that our children should be in a position to pay for these things, but the argument that keeps facing a Government at all times is, how much do we burden our children with?

We must leave them, as a responsible Administration, with elbow room to develop, continue and maintain the development of Barbados in a way that we, as leaders, would expect it to be shaped. Sir, this lies at the crux of the argument.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot anticipate the Chamber, but I know that time and time again, we will have opportunity to come back to the basic economic difference in approach between this Administration and the random recklessness that so marked the approach of the Barbados Labour Party.

The people of Barbados did not get rid of them because they were a good Administration. They did not get rid of them because they were spending money responsibly. They did not get rid of them because they felt that they were committing the country to good, useful,

effective projects. They asked them to give Barbadians a break because of things like what we are discussing today, \$10.5 million to Carnival Cruise lines.

Sir, the truth is, if we had \$10.5 million to subsidise a programme for cruise tourism in Barbados today, it would be looking forward to an increased projection of numbers for the Tourism sector. Would it not have been wonderful to be today debating \$10.5 million injection into the Tourism sector, or the International Transport sector, so as to encourage and facilitate more cruise visits to Barbados? Sir, instead of that, we, as a responsible Administration, are guaranteeing US\$10.5 million but, for the axe which has been so properly chronicled, to have outfitted a cruise liner to sail half empty up and down the Caribbean.

Sir, Barbadians, of course, took advantage of the opportunity to see our islands. It is always a wonderful experience for people of the Caribbean to travel in the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, I always argue the point that, in truth and in fact, the people of the Caribbean are going to lead the whole Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) revolution as far as people movement is concerned at the end of the day anyhow. We will try and put in place as countries, management systems and governance structures that will see an ordinary transfer of persons, capital and everything else but, at the same time, the urge to visit the mountains of St. Lucia, the plains and the hills, the unique culture of Trinidad and Tobago, the Land of the Hummingbird, the rice paddies of Guyana and all the other attractions of the Caribbean, including the mini volcano in Montserrat and the 365 rivers in Dominica.

Sir, these are the attractions that will keep Caribbean people moving around to ensure that they are in contact with what is, in truth, a paradise. Sir, not Barbados alone, but the Caribbean in general.

Mr. Speaker, the World Cup of 2007, must teach us a lesson, but one of the burdening criticisms of that World Cup from the cricket commentators was that they felt, from day one, that the Arthur Administration was playing into the hands of the International Cricket Council, or whoever else's hand they played into, because I heard the Minister mention some other organisations other than the International Cricket Council, which benefitted significantly from the tournament in such a way, that the prices and the charges to visit this cricket, was always outside of the reach of the Caribbean people in a large measure, and one had to sink deep, deep into one's pocket to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the spectacle of the World Cup, something that is not necessarily Caribbean.

We have a way of getting to our cricket ovals in a style that is unique. Sir, it is musical, it is loud, and it is heard all over the world where cricket is played, and for decades, it has been able to so encourage our Caribbean cricketers that we were No. 1 in the world.

Sir, even now as we are not enjoying that halcyon position, they are still those who seek to come to the Caribbean to enjoy the atmosphere and to, in some way, reach out and touch those fields and lands on which were nurtured the likes of Wes Hall, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Learie Constantine and all the icons of the past in cricket.

Sir, the point I make is that the commentators were clear in their analysis that the way we did Cricket World Cup in 2007 was not Caribbean-like, and we have to learn something from that experience that we take into next week, when we entertain the world's cricketers again in another version of the game, one which I have a certain degree of admiration, but I do not, at all, compare it to the real spectacle of cricket.

Sir, Twenty/20 Cricket can only be described as a fun afternoon when we abandoned the classical poses of Everton Weekes and Sir Frank Worrell, and adopted postures more akin to Jacque Kallis and Australian wicket keeper Alan Gilchrist. One wonders, when you watch the two events, if you are talking about the same sport. Sir, they both have their place.

Sir, we are not here to knock any particular sport. I enjoy both versions, but I still lean heavily on the side of the traditional white jacketed game called "Test Cricket". We will, therefore, be entertaining the Caribbean with the Twenty/20 Tournament.

I know from my little contact with the financial organisers this time, with the Minister of Finance, and through our Infrastructural Committee of Cabinet, that careful approaches have been made to the way we are planning this 20/20 cricket. I know, and I can see from the advertisements which have taken root in the Caribbean that we, certainly, have now began to involve in larger numbers, our Caribbean artistes, our Caribbean entertainers generally, and I think that one gets the impression that the Caribbean is better ready to enjoy the benefits of the Twenty/20 Cricket.

Sir, truth be told, we did not have to build stadiums this time, because the stadiums have either been constructed and you do not want to take away from anything that has been created, but this point has to be made again because we have to distinguish when we hear them today and when we heard them five years ago.

Sir, when we heard them five years ago, nobody could tell them that you needed to have the lights at the Oval even before you had the stands. The Honourable Prime Minister of the day, the Honourable Member for St. Peter was adamant...

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, one thing about him, he may not be tall in stature, but he has an adamancy about it. He declared by himself that there would be no lights. They say he used to manage the situation with a pen, and when he crossed out a line, it was crossed out forever. It was like committing it to dust, the traditional dust to dust, the final rites, so to speak. When that line was crossed through an item in any Estimates, or a budgeted proposal to the Honourable Member for St. Peter, that was the end of that. There was no discussion. Sir, that was a feature of the Barbados Labour Party Administration. Sir, do not let them fool you. What we saw displayed this morning is characteristic.

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Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: You talk with anybody who worked with them. That is how they behave. When the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East walked into a meeting with officers, it was her way, or no way. Even now in the Opposition Chambers it is her way, or no way. I know that for a fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, let us keep it relevant.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I will. Faced with the kind of inappropriateness that we saw this morning, I apologise for being distracted for a moment.

Sir, the point I am making, people who advise, or tried to persuade the Barbados Labour Party, in the dying days of the planning for World Cup were dismissed as either mad people, or xenophobic people. They called us "bums" and "wild boys". That is how we were described. This is what we are dealing with, a floating vessel on the sea of the Caribbean. That is what we are dealing with, \$10.5 million. That is what we are paying for today. That is the legacy of the Barbados Labour Party's World Cup.

Sir, the point has to be made, because there are difficult economic times in Barbados. Whenever the die is cast in two-and-a-half, or three years' time, we will have to go back to the people of Barbados to defend our record, the Democratic Labour Party Government. It is this kind of information which we must be armed with, to put a total perspective on what is really going on.

Sir, other than that, Barbadians will be persuaded by the arguments of the Other Side, which bear no relationship to the economic realities, and they will be persuaded that there is some reason why Barbadians should forget all of this borrowing, the accumulation of debt, which we are now to manage. We should forget all that and we should somehow embrace the same people who, in January 2008, had to make sure that politically they were taken from the Administration of the Barbados economy.

Sir, I am comfortable, as I sit and listen to the explanations and the planning of our Finance Ministers, our financial advisers and the Governor of the Central Bank, there is a sense of encouragement and confidence which is happening in Barbados. It is mirrored to some extent to what is happening in the United States and the greater economies of the world, but it is like every time we start to rise above the surface of the water, there comes another event which knocks us into a bit of a stumble.

Again, the Honourable Minister of Tourism, last week, would have had to grapple with the ravages of the volcano eruption in Iceland, and of course, the economic volcanic eruption in Greece, which is now being dealt with, and which again, I anticipate, and all of us I am sure are aware, that will have an impact on how things are going to happen, as we seek to work our way through the economic challenges that we face, today.

Sir, when I say I am confident, as I sit and listen to these advisers, and I listen to our Minister and our Prime Minister, I always have a feeling of security of measured contemplation about what is the next step for Barbados. It may not please everyone at this time, but he is sure in his approach that we must leave a country for our children, which they can manage in the predictable economies that they will face. We cannot therefore continue, as the Barbados Labour Party would have done, to throw money after money, and to borrow, to commit this country with projects which had no revenue connection to them.

In other words, even if we were guaranteeing a loan, if we were doing this validation, not a validation, we are guaranteeing a loan, for a project which broke even, or which raised US\$14 million, one would be able to say that the economic spin-off was worth the exercise, but a project which was destined for failure from early in the planning of this event.

The Minister quite clearly pointed out that the kind of economic equations, which informed the final decision, do not fit proper economic scrutiny. Therefore, the project was always flawed, so we had the spectacle that we had then, and while we may have commented on that, or may have shed a tear for Barbados, we now shed a different tear this afternoon, because we say to Barbados, in order to maintain our credibility in the lending world, we have to, as

a Parliament, come and guarantee and provide for this loan and to make sure that the Carnival Cruise Inc. is satisfied in their arrangements with the Government of Barbados.

Sir, the point also may be that if it was an arrangement between Carnival Cruise Inc. and Mr. Arthur, the Honourable Member for St. Peter, it would have been fine. We could have left it out there, but it was an arrangement with the Government of Barbados, and we, therefore, have a responsibility.

I am comfortable in the entire macro economic programme planned for this country by the Democratic Labour Party Administration and our financial leadership.

Sir, I am confident in supporting this Resolution for guaranteeing US\$10.5 million for Carnival Cruise Lines.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution before this Honourable House, and to join with those Honourable Members who have spoken before me, in condemning the last Barbados Labour Party Administration for the wanton wastage of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money in this whole fiasco where they, in my view, in an irresponsible manner, committed the taxpayers and the people of Barbados to millions of dollars to procure the services of a cruise ship, Carnival Destiny, for accommodation which they anticipated would be necessary for the World Cup, to accommodate patrons coming to the island to view the World Cup Finals and other events.

Sir, I am trained in mathematics and economics, and I would have read a few courses in statistics and probability, and as I understand it, the probability theory is an age-old science which was developed in some instances, to assist the Kings and Queens of Europe, in improving their chances of winning in various games of chance of the day, so the basic principle in probability states that in summary, the probability of a given event will occur, is the quotient represented by the favourable outcomes, divided by the number of possible outcomes.

Sir, centuries ago, when this theory was developed, one would take this scientific approach to forecasting and making decisions based on realistic probability.

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House A62, Sequence 20, 2.10 p.m.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that the probability of Barbados needing to actually lease a cruise ship to accommodate patrons to the Cricket World Cup 2007, was not high enough to warrant the commitment of Barbados taxpayers' money to actually go ahead and spend that money in leasing that cruise ship. It was poor planning on the part of the then Barbados Labour Party Government. Sir, these are millions of taxpayers' dollars.

Mr. Speaker, every time we bring up this matter, we hear the Members on the Opposition Benches talking about oh, we had anticipated that the Indians and Pakistanis would have come in their numbers, and because they did not meet the Super 8, this is why we had the low occupancy of this cruise ship, the Carnival Destiny.

I am saying that a Government must be more responsible, and rather than go rushing without proper planning into this madness, they should have engaged in calm, collective decision-making that would have made it very clear that the risks involved, would be too great.

Mr. Speaker, insurance companies have to do a risk analysis, even in determining whether to insure someone to see if the risk is too great. This is reality. In the whole issue of annuities, perpetuities and the whole issue of actuarial science, you have to manage the risk.

In fact, the whole international housing crisis that gave rise to the whole global economic downturn in recent months, demonstrated the fact that too many of the bankers and other lending institutions in North America and the developed world, were not sufficiently prudent, in terms of identifying the high risk involved in lending to persons who, given their economic circumstances, had a greater likelihood of defaulting in their mortgage payments, and we had this global crisis resulting. Sir, a caring Government and responsible Government would do the necessary projections. Mr. Speaker, I am saying that this demonstrates a real incompetence on the part of the Barbados Labour Party Government.

Mr. Speaker, this is a significant sum that has been wasted. We are talking about US\$10.666 million, approximately BDS\$21.701 million.

Sir, as the Member of Parliament for the City of Bridgetown, I have done a rough calculation and, if according to what I understand, the Urban Development Commission, or the Rural Development Commission could take about BDS\$15 000 to provide a waterborne toilet and bath facilities for houses without, and you multiply \$15 000 by 1 000 that is BDS\$15 million.

In other words, at least 1 000 homes in the vicinity of Kensington Oval, New Orleans, Chapman Lane, Pickwick Gap, Baxters Road, could have been outfitted

with waterborne toilet and bath facilities to replace the current pit toilet situation. Mr. Speaker, BDS\$21 million is no small change. More than 1 000 residents in the City of Bridgetown could have gotten that type of toilet and bath upgrade, a significant improvement in their standard of living.

Mr. Speaker, it was relevant, because I remember in that period, while we were in Opposition lamenting the fact that the last Barbados Labour Party Administration was more concerned about the macro aspects of the Cricket World Cup 2007, spending the hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade the plant itself at Kensington and neglecting the surrounding areas.

Then, out of a knee jerk reaction, they hurriedly put together a plan which, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central so eloquently mentioned, was very flawed. It was really peripheral, superficial and cosmetic, because we have a situation, Mr. Speaker, where they were spread across the newspapers, as if the whole of Kensington New Road, for example, and other parts of Bridgetown, were upgraded significantly.

The Barbados Labour Party Administration at that time was so brazing, that they only painted the part of the houses that were visible from the road, so you had a really insulting situation to the people of the City, where the front and the sides of the houses were painted, but the back part remained unpainted. Could you imagine that, Mr. Speaker, half of a house painted? I am saying with this BDS\$21 million that the rest of those houses could have been painted.

Mr. Speaker, it went further. Palings were painted and then knocked down. Could you imagine that? A whole set of irresponsible behaviour on the part of the Barbados Labour Party Administration, in their attempts to save face and get a fourth term, but the people of the City and the people of Barbados saw through that and voted them out of office.

Mr. Speaker, it went further. The Barbados Labour Party Administration in that crash programme, simply replaced a few siding boards and flooring boards in most instances, and left all the other rotten boards in the houses in place, so they were actually feeding the termites with a few new boards.

Moreover, when a few siding boards were replaced, the outside may have been painted, but the inside was not repainted because the Barbados Labour Party Administration of that time had the audacity to waste more than BDS\$21 million, in terms of leasing this cruise ship, the Carnival Destiny, wasting taxpayers' money that could have been spent, as I have outlined, in other areas that would have been a tangible contribution to the

improvement in the infrastructure of Bridgetown and, therefore, the standard of living of these wonderful people that I have the privilege to represent in the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. Speaker, we should not say that this amount is trivial. It is significant, and really and truly, it is a crying shame, and the Barbados Labour Party does not like us to look back. They would wish us to forgive and forget. In this country, we call ourselves as God-fearing people, so we can forgive, but that does not mean we will forget the incompetence of the Barbados Labour Party team when they were in office, as demonstrated in this whole fiasco.

Mr. Speaker, this Administration will not let the Barbados Labour Party forget the errors of their ways, so that the people of Barbados will know that it is forward ever with the Democratic Labour Party, backward never with the Right Wing Conservative reactionary Barbados Labour Party team.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South mentioned the whole issue of the flood lights. Could you imagine, Mr. Speaker, we went into a situation where we were on stage with millions of people around the world who were viewing the Cricket World Cup 2007, and therefore, Barbados, and we had this fiasco of a Final being played in the dark, humiliating Barbados and the whole International Cricket Council movement, because the Barbados Labour Party Administration did not do the simple thing of installing flood lights. You had players, who were actually like bats in the dark, just to complete the match, under life threatening conditions because, clearly, the player's health was at risk, in terms of being struck by the ball.

Mr. Speaker, that compares now to what is obtaining as we speak, in terms of the preparations for the World Cup ICC Twenty/20 Cricket Tournament, because now this Administration took the initiative to install those flood lights in time for this Tournament. Then we do not have to go through that embarrassment as occurred in Cricket World Cup 2007 and, Mr. Speaker, we do not have the situation that obtained in the Cricket World Cup 2007, experience, where the entrance fees were so high, that many West Indians, and certainly Barbadians, and working- class people of the City, for example, would not have been able to afford those exorbitant entrance fees, and we were made the laughing stock of the world.

I remember seeing a BBC documentary saying what madness is going on. Even in advance of the actual tournament, they said what madness is this, where the developing countries of the West Indies having these exorbitant entrance fees, spending all these millions of dollars in infrastructure and people needing urgent social development assistance to improve their standard of living.

House A62, Sequence 20, 2.20 p.m.

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Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Speaker, we therefore, do not have these exorbitant entrance fees for the Twenty/20 Cricket World Cup. The whole issue of the prohibition of basic musical instruments, which are common-place in our West Indian cricket legacy, has now been turned around, so we would revert to the tradition. Of course, you would have the basic security, and obviously weapons would not be brought in. We are clearly not involved in those unnecessary restrictions as occurred in the Cricket World Cup 2007, experience.

Mr. Speaker, as the advertisement says, we are “Bringing It” to the Twenty/20 tournament, relaxed and filled with the merriment, the enjoyment and the euphoria of the West Indian experience in terms of cricket.

Mr. Speaker, you would remember that back in the Cricket World Cup 2007, if you left the stadium, you could not get back in. As I understand it, that would be a thing of the past and would not obtain this time around.

In talking, Mr. Speaker, a little more about what this \$21 million that was wasted by the Barbados Labour Party in leasing that Carnival Destiny Cruise ship which, as Honourable Members mentioned earlier, Barbados has not repaid...

In fact, it is this Administration that has started to really pay back the money in any great detail. As I understand it, over \$2 million would have to be paid twice a year at an interest rate of 7.5 per cent on the reducing balance. As of March 2010, we still owe \$12.743 million, which we have to repay over a 10-year period.

Mr. Speaker, this debt is going to be on the backs of the taxpayers of Barbados for a number of years to come. Thanks to the incompetence of that Barbados Labour Party Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I was called upon to sit on the Kensington Community Advisory Team, headed by a Permanent Secretary in Government. I represented the Democratic Labour Party. The Barbados Labour Party did not take it very seriously and they hardly attended.

I remember working with the residents and the other stakeholders in the communities around Kensington Oval, trying to ensure that their daily lives would not be dislocated in anyway in terms of access to their homes, given all the various security restrictions and so on. We made sure that it did not become so ridiculous, that you could not even get into your own gate, because of the security arrangements.

Mr. Speaker, I remember that we have a plan to clean up the whole area as an extension of what was done by an Environmental Health Officer from the Black Rock Polyclinic - I would not call his name although it would be a positive expression of his work - who brought together the National Conservation Commission, the Sanitation Service Authority and the Ministry of Health, in the Chapman Lane area, and empowered the residents of the community to clean up the area in a sustainable way, not just as a one-off exercise, and then a few months later you are back to square one.

Mr. Speaker, this Honourable Member had suggested that we extend that to the entire vicinity of Kensington Oval, the New Orleans, Pickwick Gap and so on, but at that time the Sanitation Service Authority did not even have enough money to equip themselves with the necessary trucks to remove the debris that was being accumulated by households and left by the side of the road for them to collect.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that back then before the last Election, the Barbados Labour Party had a Sanitation Service Authority that did not have enough trucks to even clear the garbage from the area, yet they had \$21 million to waste in this futile Carnival Destiny lease. Do you see what I am saying, Mr. Speaker? That money could have been spent to keep that area clean and reduce the health risk from vectors breeding in that vicinity.

This whole exercise, Mr. Speaker, has demonstrated that the Barbados Labour Party Government failed the people of Barbados, and the people of the City in particular, in terms of their mismanagement of the public's funds.

Mr. Speaker, could you imagine, as Honourable Members mentioned, that there was this euphoria and this dream exercise that the Barbados Labour Party tried to put in the minds of the people of Barbados, where they suggested that there would be this great legacy, and billions of dollars would flow into Barbados as a result of Cricket World Cup 2007? They predicted that all of the shops and restaurants in the vicinity would be overflowing with tourists.

The reality was, as I remember it, in the midst of this whole Cricket World Cup exercise under the Barbados Labour Party, one Sunday morning a local organising committee representative was right at the top of Pickwick Gap, where traditionally patrons would walk down on their way to Kensington Oval, with a blow horn telling the people as they disembarked their park and ride buses, not to go down Pickwick Gap, they were going to be robbed down there, so Miss Humphrey Shop in Pickwick Gap, Pearl Shop in Wharton's Gap, Kippins Shop in New

Orleans and Pink Star in Baxters Road could not get those patrons to patronise them.

Mr. Speaker, I remember that the proprietors on Baxters Road were all excited. They came to the meetings and they were promised great things yet they did not reintroduce the Baxters Road Mall, which this Member of Parliament is committed to reintroducing in this term of office.

Mr. Speaker, Pink Star Restaurant, Collins, Miss McGearry Fish Fry, Patsy's Fish Fry and the Grants in Baxters Road, did not get all of this Cricket World Cup bonanza that the Barbados Labour Party talked about, but already they are talking seriously about how they can capitalise on the Twenty/20 Tournament.

Mr. Speaker, this Member of Parliament stands committed to supporting this effort so that we just do not have a trickle down economic effect where the rich hoteliers get richer, but with the thrust of community tourism piloted by the Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, we would ensure that the grassroots retailers would be able to get hands on this foreign exchange from these tourists.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute Honourable Members.

Mr. SPEAKER vacated the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER assumed the Chair.

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish very briefly to join in this debate in support of this Resolution with respect to the guarantee in relation to the debt left by the Carnival Destiny scenario.

It is clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this particular decision taken by the last Administration was one without the benefit of proper cost benefit analysis. It has already been stated by experts looking at the Cricket World Cup 2007, project that to a large extent, several Governments in the Caribbean embarked on this Cricket World Cup project without properly assessing the benefits when compared to the cost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are saddled with this particular debt, because of this very same issue, the lack of proper cost benefit analysis. In addition to that, it was clear to me that in the contractual arrangements, which led to the finalisation of the Carnival Destiny arrangement, there were hardly any safeguard measures to protect the

Government in relation to what eventually happened, where we did not have enough people to put on the Carnival Destiny.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the lesson in my view, is that there is always an inherent danger of not pursuing proper analyses and ensuring that your projections are such that it creates the kind of information base on which one could make decisions that are extremely costly.

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Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in a different scenario, you might have been able to justify this particular cost, but not in the scenario presented by the Government of Barbados at that time, and by other Caribbean Governments, in relation to this particular facility. We are now obviously faced with having to repay this debt. That is the reason for this particular Resolution before this Honourable House.

I would want, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in reflecting on that, also to update Barbadians on the approach that has been taken in relation to the current Twenty/20 Cricket World Cup Series.

Sir, in relation to this competition, projections and analyses have already been done. Sir, I am appealing to Barbadians to support it, because the important issue in relation to Twenty/20 cricket is that it will bring tremendous foreign exchange benefits to Barbados. It is a very key high point of the sports tourism agenda in Barbados, and certainly it is an activity that will redound to the benefit of Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say that in relation to Barbados' obligation with respect to the Twenty/20 competition, I am pleased to report that we have to date, fulfilled all of our obligations in relation to that competition, as it relates to our arrangement with the International Cricket Council. You would be aware that we had to make some changes to Kensington Oval. We have done some additional construction to facilitate the Twenty/20 games.

We have added capacity seating to Kensington Oval, so that we can have more seats and persons coming into Barbados, not only for the Finals, but for the Semi-Finals as well, will be able to find seating at the Oval. Sir, those seats are in place well ahead of the matches scheduled for the Oval.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did a tour of Kensington Oval about three, or four days ago, and I can safely say that the Oval is in topnotch shape for the hosting of Twenty/20

cricket. I am satisfied, based on my tour, that the management of Kensington Oval has done yeoman service in preparing, not only the field, but all the facilities at Kensington.

We have installed additional bathroom facilities for patrons. We have also, for the first time, built facilities for the ground staff. The ground staff now has facilities at the Oval. This speaks of proactive planning and planning that did not entail the floating of a Carnival Destiny on the high seas through the Caribbean. In fact, this Twenty/20 cricket project has seen the development of a number of partnerships, both in Barbados and outside, through the offices of the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must compliment the Barbados Tourism Authority for their marketing of the Twenty/20 competition. We have seen the results of that marketing, which has been increased in Europe, the United States of America and across the Caribbean.

Sir, the response to the Twenty/20 cricket has been such across the Caribbean that we had to have discussions with LIAT to ensure that LIAT could put on additional carrying capacity on its airlines feeding Barbados throughout the Caribbean. Sir, we expect that the 20/20 matches will bring good patronage and that all arrangements are in place to facilitate a successful Twenty/20 cricket competition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, ticketing has been very encouraging but I also want to say to Barbadians that though ticket sales in Barbados have surpassed the 75 per cent, there are still tickets available. Therefore, I would want to assure those Barbadians who would still wish to attend cricket at Kensington, that they should go to the Box Office and purchase their tickets. We still have tickets available for the matches which are going to be hosted in Barbados. Sir, there should not be any disappointment once persons go early and purchase those tickets.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the issue before us in terms of this guarantee is one in which I believe this Government has adopted a very different approach to planning and the importance of what we have to do. Sir, I have stressed this in relation to projects which fall along with the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports, particularly in the area of sports, because of the fact that we are trying to push the whole question of sports tourism.

Sir, we cannot do it blindly, we have to have proper cost analysis in relation to the benefits to be derived from these international competitions. That is the approach that would be taken in relation, for example, to the hosting of the International Womens' Boxing Competition Championship, which is expected in Barbados in

September. We have to look at the figures and we have to plan.

We have to plan marketing, because not only do we have to look at cost, we also have to look at revenue which will be derived. Therefore, to a large extent, we have to plan the kind of revenue we want. Our projections must be that these major championships that will be held in Barbados must bring benefit to Barbados.

Therefore, there must be very certain approaches, particularly in relation to teams that have been formed, such as the Oversight Committee and the local organising committee in relation to boxing, in relation to the International Cricket Council Twenty/20 cricket, is that we have to approach these competitions and championships from a perspective of reasonableness and sensible financial planning. Sir, that has been the approach that we have adopted.

We have engaged all of our partners, whether it is the Barbados Tourism Authority, or our external Missions, to be involved in the effort of ensuring that these competitions are properly advertised and marketed, so that we could project that out of these competitions, would come benefits to Barbados, in relation to the inflows of foreign exchange.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I take it in this debate that it is obviously a time for reflection, but that the lessons to be learnt from this particular effort of prudence on our part to move to guarantee this debt, is that you cannot approach these kinds of events with a wish list that is based on something that is not realistic.

The wish list, if there is one, must be based on reasonable, realistic financial planning. You have to engage a project focus from the beginning, where your project teams will have to be instructed appropriately in relation to the planning that goes into these competitions.

I believe that if you are to benefit, and certainly the approach taken by the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports, in relation to international competition, that we will, and have to establish multifaceted teams with the kind of marketing expertise, to ensure that we cannot have situations where we are embarrassed, and where we are left with a bill that is to be met.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is my brief contribution to this debate. I wanted particularly to speak to the Twenty/20 cricket and to assure Barbadians that all plans are in place for a successful hosting of this event, and all that is now left is for patrons, both outside and inside Barbados, to bring it, and to make sure that they patronise the game in terms of the packaging of the Twenty/20 games. We would have seen that the cost of tickets are extremely reasonable.

Sir, in relation to the grounds, there is a section where patrons can take their baskets, umbrellas and seats, at very minimal cost.

Sir, I believe that the packaging of the tickets does create the opportunity for all Barbadians, no matter their financial ability, to enjoy the Twenty/20 games. I would also like to appeal to patrons attending the cricket to ensure that they have a safe cricket. We are going to have cricket and, therefore, the focus should be on enjoying cricket.

I want to appeal for good behaviour.

2.40 p.m.

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Mr. S. A. LASHLEY: I want to also appeal to Barbadians to patronise the vendors who are approved, and who will be plying their trade at Kensington. This is an opportunity, not only to enjoy cricket, but to support those Barbadian vendors who would be there to make some money. I believe that once persons turn out in their numbers to cricket, that the vendors too would be happy in relation to the money that they make out of this tournament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with those brief remarks, I, again, would like to signal my support for this act of prudence on behalf of the Government, to correct something that has fallen to us to correct, but to move forward from it, and to indicate, as I am indicating, that our approach in relation to the execution and planning of major tournaments of this kind, is one based on prudent planning and projection that are realistic. We have brought on board expertise that would ensure that by careful marketing, that we can bring in the kind of foreign exchange and revenue that make these tournaments and competitions beneficial to Barbados.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that most of what needed to be said in this debate has already been said and I, therefore, do not intend to delay the House on this issue. It is clear that this Government has inherited a debt from Cricket World Cup, which has a certain amount of shock value to it, having regard to all the representations and assurances given to the public about the benefits that would accrue to Barbados coming out of Cricket World Cup.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am intervening in the debate only to put on record my concern that it was always known

that the loan being taken out by the Barbados Tourism Authority, would have to be guaranteed by the Government. It was always known that Parliament would have to give its approval to the putting in place of that guarantee.

Sir, nothing said in this debate has suggested that the requirement of a guarantee had at any time been waived by the Bank of Nova Scotia, but in spite of that fact, and three years after Cricket World Cup 2007, we are in this Parliament debating this issue of a guarantee, and that is where I want to focus.

As has been said by all of those who have spoken in this debate, Carnival Cruise Inc., the owners of Carnival Destiny, have gotten what was for them. The people of Barbados have to pay this debt back, in spite of the fact that the benefits that were to accrue from the incurring of this debt never, in fact, accrued.

The question that Barbadians have to ask, therefore, is why are we debating this three years later? Why has the issue of putting this guarantee in place only arisen and become relevant in the year 2010 when, in fact, this obligation was incurred since 2007?

The previous Administration has the answer to that question, because a Resolution to put that guarantee in place had come before this Parliament before and, in the normal course of things, since the Bank of Nova Scotia had never waived the requirement for this guarantee, it would have been expected that a full and frank debate would have taken place on the issue as long ago as 2007. Sir, that debate did not take place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the debt was incurred, Carnival Destiny got its money but the debate on the guarantee did not take place in spite of the fact that the records of Parliament would show that a Resolution was brought to this House and appeared on the Order Paper.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you would permit me, I should like to refer the House and the people of Barbados to the House debate of Tuesday, May 29, 2007. On that day, on the Order Paper of the House, Order No. 9, on that Order Paper was the Resolution dealing with that guarantee and to the consternation of the Opposition, at that time, the present Government, and I am sure today, to the people of Barbados, the now Leader of the Opposition, who was then the Leader of Government Business in May 2007, stood up in this Chamber and told the House this and, Sir, I quote:

“Mr. Speaker, Sir, Order No. 9 calls for a guarantee...”

Sir, it is necessary still in 2010, but this Chamber, and the people of Barbados, were told on May 29, 2007,

that the guarantee was no longer necessary, although the Bank of Nova Scotia, the records will show, never once waived the requirement of putting this guarantee in place and, in fact, consistently, insistently and persistently insisted on it being put in place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East made that announcement to the House, an Honourable R.R. Farley told the House, "I beg to second that, Sir," and then the Honourable Member for St. Lucy took to his feet - vigilant as he has always been, ever since he came to this House in 1994 - and addressed the House.

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Hon. F. J. STUART: He said:

"Sir, as I said previously, we have no intention of interfering with this. If the Government is of the belief that the original arrangement was successful, and that there is no need to come before this Parliament for any money to pay the ship, we are in support of it, Sir."

That is the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Sir, His Honour the Speaker, at the time, equally alert, intervened. He said:

"Honourable Member, that is not what was said. You will have to withdraw that, Sir."

Then the Honourable Member for St. Lucy got to his feet again and said:

"Mr. Speaker, I said that if the Government believes there is no need for this guarantee, we in the Opposition will not fight them on it."

His Honour the Speaker intervened again to say:

"That is different now, Honourable Member."

"The question that Order 9 be removed from the Order Paper was put and resolved in the affirmative without division."

The House was told on May 29, 2007, that there was no need for this guarantee. The then Honourable Leader of the House, now Leader of the Opposition, told the Chamber that the then Minister of Tourism had informed her that it was no longer necessary. It was not necessary in 2007, but continued to be necessary in 2008, 2009, and it is still necessary in 2010. The question that has to be asked is

why was that retreat from the debating of that guarantee at that time? Sir, I am not going to detain the House on this.

Sir, very much like Nicodemus, the previous Government, under the cover of darkness, procured this loan and did not want the people of Barbados to know about it, especially since the reasons for its procurement were cheated of fulfillment by the fact that Pakistan and India did not end up in the Finals.

The previous Government's position was ... you know when you are in politics for a certain amount of time you get to learn that the plural of conscience is conspiracy, and the two consciences of which I speak today are the consciences of the Honourable Member of the Opposition, and that of the Minister of Tourism, at the time. The plural of conscience is conspiracy. The attempt at the time was to ensure that the people of Barbados got to know nothing about this, that this debt was concealed, but of course, in the fullness of time they would have to pay back every cent of it. Now, I deprecate that kind of conduct.

I do not have to guess at any of this. The record shows it. That a Resolution very much in the same terms as the one we have brought here today, was already before this House as Order 9 on May 29, 2007, and the previous Government refused to debate it, because they procured this loan by stealth and wanted to shroud it in secrecy, while the people of Barbados will still have to bear the burden of repaying.

Sir, here are we today with yet another debt inherited from the previous Administration. Yet another bit of fig leaf torn away from the previous Administration to leave their lamentable nakedness exposed. Not only is their nakedness exposed, but the vulnerability of the taxpayers of Barbados equally exposed as well.

I do not think that I could have sat here today and allowed the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central to wind up this debate without adding my voice to it to make this particular point, because it has to be made that this Chamber was told that the guarantee we are debating today was no longer necessary, when in fact the Bank of Nova Scotia, from whom we borrowed the money, did not know that, and never said it, and it was necessary in 2007, when those words were being spoken, necessary in 2008, necessary in 2009, and necessary on April 27, 2010.

Sir, therefore, against that background, although we on This Side are not responsible for the incurring of the debt, as a Government, we have to honour Government's obligations. Government is a continuum and it is in that context I should like to give my support to the Resolution.

I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me start by thanking my colleagues for the support on this matter. I think I can start with the Honourable Member who just took his seat, and to thank him in his typical steady erudite manner, explaining what the crux of the issue really is.

I can say that I have evidence in front of me from the Ministry of Finance to Scotia Bank, which does speak to the Letter of Comfort remaining enforced pending parliamentary approval. This is correspondence that goes back to May 4, 2006.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, are you going to make that a document of the House?

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Sir, I am reading from my notes. I am not quoting. I am just saying that I have evidence to that effect. I say so because it is important, least anyone... there are invidious forces at work and I would not want anyone to suggest that something happened in between there.

The fact is, in 2006, a guarantee was promised. In 2007, a guarantee was not only promised, well, it was on the Order Paper, and mysteriously we then heard it was taken off the Order Paper, and as long as we have been in office, this thing has been requested, so I think it is important that we realise it.

The truth is, I also believe that...I am not a Lawyer or a legal drafts person, but Section 19(1), The Barbados Tourism Authority Act is also quite clear.

“The Government of Barbados may guarantee in such a manner and on such conditions as Parliament thinks fit the satisfaction of any loan to the Authority.”

I want to believe, again, I am not a draftsman, but I understand what they are saying here that Parliament, not Cabinet, not the Minister of Finance, but Parliament presumably so, that people, with any loan arrangement, and it says “any loan.” It does not differentiate a demand loan from an overdraft facility, as it was in this case an irrevocable Letter of Credit. It does not differentiate. Any loan, therefore, any borrowing needs to receive the full glare of the people’s place. That is my understanding. Therefore, we would frown upon any attempt to subvert that whole exercise.

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House A62, Sequence 25, 3.00 p.m.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: There are some other provisions that allow for borrowing, in terms of working capital and the like, but surely chartering a cruise vessel, is an extraordinary enough occurrence that it would have to be treated under 91 D, which was the initial intention all along, so I am very glad that the Acting Prime Minister has been able to put that in a nice package for us.

Frankly speaking, I would take the legal advice from the current Honourable Member for St. Michael South before I take it from the former Honourable Member for St. Michael South, so let us just put that in its correct context.

I, of course, would want to thank the Honourable Members for St. George South and Christ Church West Central, the former and current holder of the portfolio of Sports, for their work with respect to the World Cup International Cricket Council Twenty/20 Cricket competition.

I very much appreciate the explanation the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central gave, in terms of all the systems being, go, and the latest information in terms of cricket sales and whatever challenges that we have, the volcanic eruption et cetera.

We are working around all those factors and we are looking forward to having a good cricket tournament, but of course, you did hear the point being made that we have learnt from this exercise, and we will take it forward as we engage in other activities.

I think from that point of view, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are very clear on what exactly we are doing and we are very clear in terms of doing the people’s business. I will not get caught up in other attempts to subvert this exercise.

As far as I know, there are elected Members of this Chamber, who have the responsibility for being Her Majesty’s Loyal Opposition and they should be in here to respond, and to answer questions that the people want answered, and not walking out from in here and sending agents to go on the call-in programmes and basically making themselves look like fools. I am not getting into that. I come in here to debate and this is where we are supposed to do the people’s business.

These debates are broadcast, so everyone can consume, so there is really no need for me to get into that. I, of course, once again thank everyone for their contribution. We will certainly endeavour on our part at the Barbados Tourism Authority to put this sordid chapter behind us and to get on with doing some good work, but it is there as a fine example of what we must not do in the future.

With those few remarks, I am obliged to you, and I now beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair and Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 7 would have been circulated earlier, but there are some minor changes to the schedule of that Resolution, and it is now being replaced by Order No. 7 still, but a new Resolution has been circulated, dated today's date, April 27, 2010.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that it effectively replaces the one before, and just the two items in the Schedule have been changed.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, we are withdrawing the earlier Resolution and substituting the one dated April 27, 2010.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ORDER NO. 7

(a) RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING UNDER THE EXTERNAL LOANS ACT CHAPTER 94.D BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SUMS UP TO \$200 MILLION IN THE CURRENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKET BY THE ISSUES OF SECURITIES THROUGH DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC. AS LEAD MANAGER AND UNDERWRITER FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE REPAYMENT OF DEBT AND TO ASSIST IN SUPPORTING THE BALANCE OF PAYMENT; and

(b) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINKING FUND FOR THE REDEMPTION OF EACH ISSUE OF SECURITIES MADE UNDER THE SAID ACT FOR THE MONIES NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AND SERVICE THAT FUND

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South, Acting Prime Minister.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, Parliament is being asked to approve the borrowing of US\$200 million on the international capital markets by the issue of securities through Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., as Lead Manager and Underwriter for the purposes mentioned in the Resolution.

Sometime in the year 2000, the sum of US\$100 million was raised by the Government, and that sum becomes repayable in the month of June this year.

Under the External Loans Act, as it is well known, when loans are contracted in this way, a Sinking Fund is set up into which monies are placed annually for the purposes of redeeming the security at the time of maturity. The Law was complied with on the occasion when this US\$100 million was borrowed, but the monies contained in the Sinking Fund are not enough to redeem this security at this time.

House A62, Sequence 25, 3.10 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Hon. F. J. STUART: In fact, in the Sinking Fund, in relation to this particular loan, we have just about US\$30 million, so it has become necessary to go to the markets to borrow for the purposes of redeeming this bond, and therefore, US\$100 million from this loan will be used to pay off the debt now outstanding, which becomes payable in the month of June. The remaining US\$100 million will be applied to shoring up our foreign reserves, because we go into periods of seasonal decline in terms of attracting foreign reserves to the country, and it is important that we are not caught napping during that period of seasonal decline.

Mr. Speaker, that is not another way of saying that our foreign reserves as of now are in any state of peril. We have foreign reserves that give us about 20 weeks of import cover, which is more than adequate for the purposes of a country like Barbados. The more settled period of import cover, and the more accepted period of import cover being 12 weeks, so our foreign reserves are not in any peril, but seasonal declines can happen and, therefore, we are just taking the precaution of having these funds around to shore up the reserves.

The Resolution, as was just indicated, had to be amended in the Schedule because initially, it was contemplated having a term for the loan we are about to contract of 30 years, but recent advice now suggests that the markets are not amenable to loans of that duration, having regard to the fact that there are developments across the world, which seem to suggest that countries can get into serious trouble with paying their debts back.

Everybody knows what Greece is going through now and the markets are a little nervous and uneasy about terms as long as 30 years and, therefore, we have been advised that a more realistic term for this loan would be up to 12 years, but certainly nowhere in the vicinity of 30 years, so that is the context, Mr. Speaker, in which this Resolution is brought to the House.

In terms of where the Barbados economy is, I am pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, that all of the dire and apocalyptic predictions which were made about this economy and about the future of the country over the last few months, have been cheated of fruition and fulfilment, because our indicators have been remaining reasonably stable, and the standard of living and the quality of life, therefore, of Barbadians seem secure.

We have been able to keep our unemployment levels hovering just under 10 per cent. That is an unemployment level of which we are not comfortable, but in the context of what is happening around the world, in the leading economies of the world, we in Barbados have nothing to be ashamed about with an unemployment level hovering around 10 per cent. The United States of America, the largest and more powerful economy in the world, is in no better position than Barbados in this question.

Mr. Speaker, it is not another way of saying that as a Government we would not wish to have available for everybody who wants a job, a job for them to do, but given the fact that the world is going through its worst crisis in 100 years, I know people like to say since the Great Depression, but more people and more institutions have been affected by this crisis than had been the case, or than was the case during the Great Depression. This is the worst crisis the world has seen in 100 years and every week something new is being revealed to suggest that faith in the institutions which we thought could protect us in times of crisis is being destroyed by some of the most unsettling and troubling revelations to be heard of in recent times.

Mr. Speaker, as far as our economic indicators are concerned, we are not terribly unhappy. We wish we could be happier, but given the context, we feel reasonably comfortable with where things are. Of course, the Government is committed to keeping its hands to the plough and ensuring that we can move Barbados steadily out of this crisis as things begin to improve around the world. It cannot be expected, for example, in the area of tourism, which is our leading foreign exchange earner, that if our largest source market is still being buffeted and being beaten around by these economic tides, that source market can perform as creditably as it has been known to perform in normal times.

Of course, the United Kingdom, as is well-known, is in the heat of an Election campaign now, and we have to

wait to see what is the out-turn of that, because the present British Government, wise and sensitive to what has been going on in the world economy, has not infrequently advised some of its own people to do what the Prime Minister himself has been known to do, which is, to spend their holidays at home. The United Kingdom is our largest source market and in that kind of context, we cannot expect any miracles here in Barbados.

The Minister of Tourism has brought us the welcome news that we continue to do reasonably well in Canada, and of course, that the United States of America is not performing terribly unsatisfactorily either, so the Government cannot sit back and give the impression that because things are going badly in the world, that there is nothing at all we could do. We certainly have our situation here stable.

Mr. Speaker, had we taken the advice which we were given when this crisis first broke, that is, to go on a wild spending spree and to adopt the language so frequently heard on CNN in particular, and on the BBC sometimes, to introduce massive stimulus packages, I could not be here today standing up saying any of the things that I am saying. At the time that advice was being given by our political opponents, nobody knew how long this crisis would last, nobody knew how deep it was, and nobody understood its full dimension.

House A62 Sequence 26 3.20 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, to this very day we have not been able to come up with explanations of the crisis that satisfy any definition of the word clear, or precise, therefore, we are really in new territory. We are traversing new territory and the Government has been wise enough to be cautious in its approach to the handling of the crisis, and to ensure that we protect the jobs of as many people as possible. In other words, that we keep the loss of jobs down to a minimum and, of course, to keep the economy as stable as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we need to pay particular attention to our foreign exchange earning sectors, because this crisis should not be wasted. We cannot afford to waste this crisis and not to prepare ourselves for when the crisis ends, so that we could march out of it confidently and resume the effective earning of foreign exchange, which is the critical issue always in an economy like Barbados.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy never tires of saying that our problem here is not so much one of revenue as it is foreign exchange.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member has been saying this for as long as I have known him in this Honourable House and that certainly accords with all the conventional wisdom around. Therefore, as a Government we have to ensure that at the first opportunity, we exploit to the full, the resumption of the effective earning of our foreign exchange sectors, putting in place measures now we are going through the crisis to ensure that when the crisis ends, that we come out of it confidently and ready to resume the kind of growth which this economy needs, and upon which it depends.

Mr. Speaker, the Governor of the Barbados Central Bank recently brought Barbadians up to date on the state of the economy for the first quarter of this year. I know that he has been unfairly and fiercely abused. I thought I heard his very professional integrity being called into question. Sir, that was only so because he was not saying what Members of the Opposition had prophesied, he was not announcing the fulfillment of their prophecy which was that the economy was about to collapse, unemployment was nearly 30 per cent, and the country was in a state and was about to disintegrate into confusion and social disturbance.

The picture the Governor of the Central Bank painted was a more sober picture, one that demonstrated that the initiatives taken by the Government of Barbados were sensible initiatives, sober initiatives and sane initiatives, all designed to ensure that the Barbados economy is nurtured back to and nursed back to a state of proper health.

Mr. Speaker, this loan is being contracted for the purposes stated. We will pay off this debt in June, and we will have the remaining US\$100 million to shore up our foreign exchange position. The additional \$30 million will go towards a Sinking Fund. We think that this should make some contribution to stabilising our position in the event of a seasonal decline in the foreign reserves position in the second half of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I, therefore, do not want to delay this Honourable House any longer on this issue, I think other Honourable Members may want to speak on this issue.

Sir, I would want to say that the Government feels comfortable with where we are at this time, given the international context within which we are operating. I would also want to say that the people of Barbados can be assured that we will continue to maintain our vigilance in respect of what is happening around us. The public can be assured that we will take whatever corrective action is necessary to protect their jobs, their standard of living and certainly, their quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I know that one issue that we might have heard about, in fact, I believe Your Honour was about to hear about it this morning in this Honourable Chamber, one on which we would have been able to have a full debate. Sir, this would be the issue relating to CLICO Insurance Company. I do not intend to take up the House's time on that issue, or to go into any expansive discourse on it, except to say that the Oversight Committee established by Government is doing its work, and the very fact that the Government has established that Oversight Committee is proof, were any needed, that the issue is not one lost on the Government, and that we have confidence in the persons who constitute the Committee.

We are determined to ensure that not only are the jobs of people associated with that insurance company protected as best we can, but that the investments of people who have invested in that company are protected as best we can.

I believe, in his first quarter report, the Governor of the Central Bank gave the assurance that in terms of people's investments in that insurance company, that the principal of their investments would not be allowed to be undermined by any developments in developing the company. That is a position to which the Government is sympathetic, to which the Government is committed, and on the basis of that commitment, we continue to place our faith in the Oversight Committee and to allow it to do its work.

I am aware that some actuarial and financial studies are being done by the insurance outfit, Ernst and Young, in relation to CLICO, and that the result of those studies should be with the Government very shortly, that we could have the kind of picture that would allow us to communicate with a little more certainty, a little more clarity, and a little more confidence with the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I go back to what Parliament is being asked to do in this debate, that is, to approve the borrowing of this US\$200 million, and to approve the establishment of a Sinking Fund with a redemption of each issue of securities made under the External Loans Act, and for the monies necessary to maintain and service that fund.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution and to say from the outset, that here is another scenario again. Sir, even though we are here borrowing US\$200 million, it must be said from the outset that US\$100 million of this money is money that must be accounted for by the Barbados Labour Party.

3.30 p.m.

Friday, April 27, 2010

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, that is, even though we are putting to book US\$200 million, we are redeeming a debt incurred by the Barbados Labour Party in the year 2000. Mr. Speaker, they would say to you that the total payment of this loan is going to be about \$740 something million, but it must be said that half of this is money incurred by the Barbados Labour Party.

Sir, what is interesting also about this loan, is that we are dealing with two loans in one, one for them and one for us. Sir, even though we are borrowing over \$400 million, the total payment will not match the prison. Sir, this point must be repeated, that even though we are borrowing over BDS\$400 million, when we come to service this loan, the true cost of this loan will not match the prison.

Mr. Speaker, what is interesting about this is that when the Barbados Labour Party borrowed the \$100 million, they said it was for productive purposes. When I listened to the Deputy Prime Minister today, the same thing can be said, that it is to help with the foreign reserves, which means that the private sector would have foreign exchange to carry out their projects along with Government.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want anybody to come and say that we did not state the true cost of this loan, unlike the Barbados Labour Party, because in their day, all they said was that it was \$288 million and, at one stage, we heard that it was \$100 million, only to be corrected later to hear that the \$100 million should have been US\$120 million. Sir, today we are telling you up-front that it is US\$200 million of which we are repaying their loan of \$100 million.

Mr. Speaker, I heard this week on the call-in programme, and earlier elsewhere, by the Leader of the Opposition that we should speak about the £30 million that was borrowed. I have in front of me, which you would also have, the Estimates for 2009/2010, and at Appendix D, dealing with the Sinking Fund and so on, I am told that this was £30 million and that the nominal value at the time was \$78 million, but when we actually got that loan, it was \$120 million in our hands and, Sir, some of the most interesting things can be revealed by documents given to us by the Central Bank of Barbados.

Sir, I refer to a document called the "Economic and Financial Statistics by the Central Bank of Barbados" and, Sir, I take you to page 77. I also take you to the year 2009, at March, when the pound was \$2.83, which means that if we had to pay, that as much as they were telling you that the interest was 13.55 per cent, the true interest rate, at that

point in time, would have been 9.61 per cent. You would ask me how I arrived at that but, Sir, it is very simple.

Mr. Speaker, we borrowed at \$4 to the pound and the rate at that time was \$2.83, so you would have to take 13.55 divide it by 4 and multiply it by 2.836 and it would give you 9.61, which would be the effective interest rate.

When the Barbados Labour Party walks around telling you that the country will be saddled for 25 years with an interest rate of \$15 000 600, it cannot be true because, there was only one year that the pound ever went back to \$4.00, and that was in 2007, which meant that the only time that we paid the maximum interest rate on that loan outside of when we borrowed it, would have been 2007. Sir, every single year, the effective interest rate on that loan fell. It never went up.

Sir, you know that on a hire purchase you normally hear that you are borrowing at 10 per cent, but the effective rate is 21 per cent. Sir, at no time with this Euro loan did it go past the stated rate. It was under at all times, which meant that the total cost of this loan which should have been \$234 million in interest, will never reach \$234 million, but we would have paid far less.

When people speak about a loan being a bad loan, and then they seek only to deal with the interest rate, they have to also deal with the depreciation of the currency at the time to find out what was the principal amount that the interest rate would have to be calculated on. You cannot calculate at the nominal value at the start of the time, or what we would call the historical value, you have to calculate at the rate on the date of payment.

Sir, people who do not know better continue to argue as if the interest rate had to be calculated at \$120 million when the pound was \$4.00, but you cannot do that, Sir, you have to calculate the payment at the rate at the point in time.

Mr. Speaker, I advise my comrades to turn to page 77 of the Central Bank of Barbados Economic and Financial Statistics, because it makes rather interesting reading.

Sir, if the Barbados Labour Party wants to talk about bad loans, they need also to turn to that same page and look at what rate they borrowed the Japanese loan at, and recognise that unlike the pound, there was an appreciation on the Japanese loan, which meant that it doubled. In other words, if we were to pay \$10 million in interest, we ended up paying \$20 million in interest, which was the reversal. Sir, when they come in here and speak, as if they are speaking on good authority, they must ensure they bring statistics and facts to back up what they are saying.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that they have failed on every occasion, because whenever they open their mouths, they tell you that the Euro loan was a bad loan, and they are only citing interest at 13.555 per cent when, in truth and in fact, it never was the true effective rate paid by the people of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I think that even though we borrowed this loan in a crisis, we have done well, because what we ended up with for ourselves, is a premium because we gained more than what we had to pay.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot quote the exact page in Hansard, but I have always said in this Parliament that floating loans should only be sought when the rates are at their highest, and they should never be sought when the currency you are dealing with is not trading well on the market. Sir, for the simple reason, if a currency is not trading well and you borrow, there is a possibility that there will be some appreciation, making your service payment much higher, but when the reverse is true, when the currency is high, there is always the possibility that there would be a fluctuation and a drop with the possibility of having to pay smaller payment.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the Barbados Labour Party has no grounding. They do not have a foot to stand on in these issues, and they have convinced me that they did not know what they were doing when they were borrowing on the international market, and they just accepted what was given to them without the understanding of the currency market.

I have always said to them that they should always seek advice from the Central Bank of Barbados, because I am a strong believer that we should really have somebody employed in the Central Bank of Barbados dealing with currencies alone, advising Government when to, and when not to. I have always said to them that they should stick to fixed loans and never borrow on the floating market, because they do not understand the effects of borrowing on the floating market.

H/A62/3.40 p.m. Sequence 28

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

His Excellency D. St. E. KELLMAN: Sir, I am saying today that we will hear a lot about these loans and the total cost, but nobody will tell us the true cost of the loans. It has already been stated in here.

I am saying we also have to recognise two common factors. In 1991, the Euro loan borrowed by the Barbados Labour Party created problems because of the Japanese loan payments. People forgot that even though we did well in the 1980s, the money that we earned in the 1980s, serviced the loans borrowed by the Barbados Labour Party in 1986, to 1994. This point must always be remembered

that they borrowed bad money and we then had to use the money earned by us to service their loans. If you could have made that statement five years ago and get away with it, you cannot make it this year and get away with it, because the evidence is here again.

Sir, we are now borrowing again in bad economic times. What are we doing? We are borrowing again to pay debt committed by the Barbados Labour Party. We did it in the 1990s, now we have to do it in 2010. It seems to be a recurring decimal for them to borrow money badly, therefore, whatever little growth we get and whatever economic activity created by us, that money is used to service the debt for them, even though they might have done it badly.

I am saying today that we will have to tell the public about these things. We cannot sit back idly and let them march up and down, giving the impression that for 14 years, they have managed the economy so well, but when you look at the evidence, it must be guilty as charged, because this is the evidence.

Sir, do you know what is worse about this loan? People would say that Government is continuous, but the evidence is, there should be a Sinking Fund to liquidate this debt. We only have \$59 million and the requirement is \$200 million. We are \$141 million short. Sir, when they say that they left a Sinking Fund, do not be fooled that they left a Sinking Fund full of money. They left a Sinking Fund empty of money and, of course, as I said before, as usual we had to look for money to prop up their Sinking Fund, and they have the gall to talk about CLICO's Sinking Fund, that there was shortfall. They had a shortfall too.

Sir, we need to apply judicial management to them too, because if their statutory fund, which is the equivalent of a Sinking Fund, is short, and CLICO's is short, how can they be cursing CLICO when they are just as guilty?

Sir, the evidence is here that they are short, and short big. Sir, they have big, deep, empty pockets.

Sir, at the end of the day whether they have left the debt, or not, we accept it and we will find the money to pay it. In 1961, when they left the problems, we found the solutions. In 1986, when they left all the Japanese loans, we had to find the money too. In 2008, when they left all the debt, we now in 2010, have to service those debts. What is hurtful, when I look around, I cannot see the matching projects to generate any foreign exchange to service these debts.

I went to the Prison to see how much money it would generate, after committing the country to over \$700 million, and I saw no foreign exchange. I went to the Highway and I saw no foreign exchange there either. I even

went down to the Judicial Centre and I saw no foreign exchange. Worse, I went to Kensington Oval and I saw bare losses. What I saw was a ship sailing with all the money out of Barbados and the poor people without any.

Sir, when they say that they have accumulated large assets, they have accumulated non-productive assets. What we have to do now, as a country, is to find money to build some productive assets to help this economy and service the debt left by the Barbados Labour Party, since they made no provision to service the debt they accumulated for this country.

People would ask how can a country be in a crisis. If you have no productive sector, what do you expect? Sir, for 14 years, when everybody would have expected them with 14 years of growth to have a productive sector that is producing, we saw the opposite to that. I am saying this evening that we will rally together to ensure we do those things that are wise, and that are in the interest of the people of Barbados.

We are also telling Barbadians that the same way we did it in 1961, the same way we did it after 1986, we will clean up what they have left for us in 2008. We will clean up the mess. We know it will create a little pain, but at the end of the day, you will have a better wicket to bat on as we left for them in 1994.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. A. D. BRAWAITHE: Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of the Twenty/20 season, I will just take my four overs, because I believe that is what is allocated in this season.

Sir, in supporting this Resolution, I just want to take a different tact to my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, and to the acting Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. I just want to bring some understanding of not only why we are where we are today, but in particular, to remind you, in case it has not occurred to you and Barbadians, why, in fact, over the last couple of weeks we have had such an attack on the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. He is not here to defend himself, so I thought I would use the opportunity to take a couple of minutes on his behalf.

Sir, the Other Side has not forgiven the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, for fighting so hard to bring the truth to Barbadians about the economy as it was in 2006 and 2007, and to be proven right today. They have not forgiven him.

Sir, I remember in 2007, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West wrote a three-part article in the Sunday Sun. It was well-structured. It was logical with respect to the economy, and I could not understand why the Government of the day was saying that he is clearly wrong. I could not understand why even some of the university academics were saying he was clearly wrong. Sir, he was attacking Standard and Poor's in terms of how they judged the Barbados economy. He was attacking the International Monetary Fund in terms of how they gauged the Barbados economy. I must take the opportunity to apologise to him. I had my doubts about whether he was accurate, given the burden of the number of persons and institutions who seemed to be suggesting that he was wrong. Sir, today we are here because the Honourable Member for St. Philip West was correct, and sadly, very correct.

Sir, in 2007, the International Monetary Fund said our economy had been growing on a solid base, and the outlook for the year was generally favourable, but in the meantime, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West was saying that our economy was badly structured. The Government was spending too much and the expenditure was too great.

Asides.

HA62 3.50 p.m. Sequence 29

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House A62, Sequence 30, 3.50 p.m.

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE: . . .

Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West was making the point that we had to re-look our economy. We had to restructure our economy. We had to look at the engines of growth and try to reposition them. As I have said before, he continued to be attacked by Members on the Other Side.

Sir, with respect to the IMF, I was heartened slightly in 2008, that finally after one of their consultations, they recognised that the Honourable Member for St. Philip West's perception with respect to our debts was correct. Sir, what had been happening was that, believe it or not, we have all come to realise that these international agencies were rating us and ignoring the large amount of debt that we had, off balance sheet.

Sir, they did not take in the debt at the Prison that we have heard so much about. They did not take into consideration the debt at the ABC Highway. They did not take into consideration the debt at the Judicial Centre and that is what the Honourable Member for St. Philip West was continually saying that, in fact, our debt position was

far worse than the Government of the day would have us believe.

Sir, Lo, and Behold, not only did the IMF finally realise and recognise the position of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, but last year the Honourable Member for St. Peter in his contribution to the Budget debate - I remember it clearly - began by saying this is one of the most important debates in the history of Barbados. Moreover, Sir, he made the point, similar to what the Honourable Member for St. Philip West was saying in 2007, that Barbados needs to reposition its economy and restructure its economy.

Sir, all of us on This Side looked in dismay because we were trying to figure out what was the Government of the day doing for 14 years, when all of a sudden, there was an epiphany in 2009, that in fact, what he had been saying for so many years was correct. As I said, Sir, that is why we are here today.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today because, not only does our economy need restructuring, but unfortunately what has happened post 2008, is that due to a series of circumstances, we as a Government have not been afforded the fiscal space to re-engineer the economy like we would wish.

Sir, with respect to tourism, one of our bigger engines of growth, we understand the need to diversify but, unfortunately, in my opinion - and this is just a guesstimate - it will probably take us five to 10 years to position tourism on the track that we would like it to be, where the plant is so well diversified, that we are positioned to withstand any fiscal shocks in the future. Sir, we are working towards that, and we understand the issues with respect to tourism.

Again, another point that we made in a debate earlier this year, Sir, and I say this against a background that I believe there is an article in one of our newspapers, if not today, yesterday, with respect to a study conducted on behalf of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association, where one of the things they were lamenting on with respect to service in Barbados, was service in certain Government departments.

One of the things that we have said in a recent debate is that the former Administration of the Barbados Labour Party between 1995, and 2007, spent lots of money on the reform of the Civil Service. In fact, the only real reform that they did was in 2007, Sir, when they rushed to appoint as many public officers as possible, in the hope that it would redound to their benefit the following year, with respect to a translation into votes.

If there are still areas of our Civil Service that need to be reformed and are impacting negatively on our tourism plant, then in fact, my position is that it is a reflection on the last Administration. Sir, it only goes to show that we were right, in terms of saying that they were never serious about the reform of the Civil Service.

Sir, we accept that there is still room for the modernisation of the Civil Service, and we are working towards that, because we want to ensure that all Barbadians, once again, recognise that tourism is our business, even if it requires us to go back into the schools, like when I was at school.

I remember when I was at junior school, Sir, in fact that we had a tourism day and as junior school students, we were taught how important tourism was to us, so if we have to start there, then we should.

Sir, we, as a country must understand the difference between service and servitude. There is nothing wrong with giving the best service possible to our guests when they are here. Sir, come next week, I am going to the airport to collect one of my clients. Sir, if he comes with one bag, I am going to ask him if I can help him. If he comes with two bags, I am going to ask him if I can help him.

I do not believe that is servitude because, Sir, he enables me to pay for my kids, so there is a significant difference between service and servitude, and we must provide the environment that our people understand that. Sir, they must understand that at the end of the day, if we do not give good service, then we would end up forever borrowing money to provide the services that we require.

Unfortunately, we do not have the fiscal root. Unfortunately, tourism is down. Unfortunately, manufacturing is down. Unfortunately, international business is down. Sir, what we must do as a Government for now is to be steady. We have no choice, but to borrow a little, watch our spending and that is what this loan is about.

This loan is about us recognising that in order for us to have a bit of fiscal space, we must borrow the money to do it. We are not borrowing to spend recklessly. We are going to support our foreign reserves, and we are going to pay off an existing loan. Sir, not only that, we are actually borrowing at a lower rate to pay off an existing loan.

In other words, Sir, even in this borrowing, we are actually going to save the taxpayers of Barbados, you and me, about US\$2 million. There is wisdom in that, Sir, and I believe in the long term, when we go back to market, we are actually going to find, as a Government...and we should consider that, because US\$200 million is not a large loan.

There are actually companies that borrow \$200 million. It is probably cheaper to go to the market to borrow US\$500 million, than it is to borrow US\$100 million, or US\$200 million, because we are competing with individual companies. We are probably going to have to look at where we are fiscally, and our loans generally, and try to work out whether, or not it is better to have one large loan and consolidate what we have because in the end, Sir, it will be cheaper. The numbers may seem large. If we speak about a loan of \$500 million, it may seem large, but in the international context, it is actually not a lot. I am saying that it may actually work out cheaper for us as a country in the long term, so it is an area that we are going to have to look at, Sir.

Sir, I am continually asking the question whether, or not we are doing all that we can do at this point in time to help us along, as a country? I am still of the opinion that as of today, Sir, we are on the right track. We are where we are because of the world situation.

As I said before, there is not a lot of fiscal room. There are one, or two areas that, maybe, we can look at. For example, the Other Side would have you believe there are issues in terms of our fast tracking projects into Barbados.

The reality is that we are not the cause of the delay of any projects. The reality, Sir, is that in this present environment, we have had lots of people coming to us as a Government saying that we want to do A, B, and C, but, Sir, there is a due diligence process.

House A62, Sequence 30, 4.00 p.m.

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Mr. A. D. BRATHWAITE: We want to ensure that when people come into this country, we do not end up like the 3S situation.

Sir, if we are slow and steady, it is because we understand where we want to go and we understand our responsibility to the reputation of Barbados.

Sir, there is no doubt that we have all of the incentive regulations in place in terms of if you are bringing investments into Barbados. As a Government, we are trying to ensure that the incentives are particularly geared to persons who are not only bringing foreign exchange into the country, but also to projects, like my friend from St. Lucy would say, that would also generate foreign exchange.

Sir, that is important, because at the end of the day, it is the foreign exchange that would drive us. If we do not earn foreign exchange, we cannot continue to service our

debts, or to pay for the things that you and I need for our day-to-day sustenance.

In closing, Sir, we are where we are today because we have been left with little fiscal room. Sir, I could go on, but I do not want to regurgitate what has led us to where we are.

Sir, I just thought that for the record, I will remind Barbadians that the Honourable Member for St. Philip West is being deliberately targetted because he is not being forgiven by the Barbados Labour Party for proving them wrong.

For the last four years when he was out there singing to all who would listen in 2006-2007, that the economy was heading in the wrong direction, they laughed at him and said that he did not know anything about economics, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West had taught him, but that his head was hard and all kinds of things they said.

Sir, in 2010, we recognise that in fact the Honourable Member for St. Philip West and the Democratic Labour Party were right about the Barbados economy. Sir, we are not proud of it because if it, had been restructured when we were telling the Government it needed restructuring, we probably would be better off today.

Mr. Speaker, I am urging Barbadians to continue to work with us, because we need time, and we need the world economy to pick up again so that our services, our manufactured goods, and our financial services, are required, so that more people can come to Barbados. Sir, until that happens, we must remain slow and steady. If it means that we have to go to the market from time to time, then as a country we would have to go to market from time to time, but we will do it prudently.

We will look for the best opportunities in terms of loans, and we will ensure that whenever anyone looks at any of our decisions on hindsight, that in fact all they can say is that we understand why the Government in 2010, or 2011, went to the market and yes, we could see the wisdom of their measures.

With those words, Sir, I think I have reached the end of my four overs, and I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I think that all that needs to be said on this Resolution has already been

said. I am deeply indebted to the two Honourable Members who contributed to the debate on this Resolution.

The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is always on the ball and always zeros in on the pertinent issues relating to matters of this kind. I think that he made a valuable contribution to this debate in drawing the line of distinction between the Democratic Labour Party's approach to these issues and that of the Barbados Labour Party over the years. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy demonstrated cogently that on any objective evaluation of the two approaches, the approach of the Democratic Labour Party has been right.

Of course, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South reinforced all that was said by the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, and issued some pertinent words of caution that makes sense to the Government, having regard to the kind of world in which we live that we must hasten slowly when we are dealing with matters of this kind, because Barbados has a reputation to protect, and we have to make sure that when we act, we act prudently and that the best interest of Barbados is served at all times.

I am deeply indebted to these Honourable Members and that said, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 04, 2010 at 10.00 a.m. in the morning.

In inviting you to do so, Mr. Speaker, I think that it would be remiss of me not to say that tomorrow we celebrate, recognise and honour our National Heroes who have been elevated as special Barbadians, both those who have made their contributions and moved on to a higher calling, and also our one remaining living National Hero, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers.

On This Side, we would want to say to all Barbadians that we trust that they would use tomorrow as a day of reflection, and also a celebration for the outstanding quality of work and sacrifice which these outstanding men and women have made to Barbados which have seen us move from a colony of slaves through to an independent nation that stands tall in the collection of nations across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that tomorrow would be a safe day for all, and that we can enjoy and again, as I said, celebrate the work of those National Heroes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me, of course, say that I endorse those sentiments. I also want to say that it has come to my attention that today is actually the birthday of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. He actually seems surprised, so let me, on behalf of the House, wish you all the very best.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Thanks for reminding me of my birthday, Mr. Speaker. I suppose, because I still feel like age 25...

Mr. SPEAKER: And look it too.

Hon. F. J. STUART: But I am grateful to the House for the congratulations extended to me on this occasion. This birthday of course is special in another sense, because I share a birthday with the Democratic Labour Party, which was also formed on April 27, so I am not on This Side by accident, Mr. Speaker.

I certainly want to join the Honourable Leader of the House in the sentiments which he expressed about National Heroes Day. I think it is very important that Barbadians reflect on the contribution made by our National Heroes to the development of this country. These are men and women who made huge sacrifices of time, energy and affection, and who have left an example which we can all proudly follow.

House A62 Sequence 31 4.20 p.m.

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Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, the one surviving National Hero, as the Honourable House indicated, is a man who has brought joy to so many millions of people across the world by the display of his cricketing prowess, and we are especially privileged to still have him around. We hope we have him around for a very long time.

Of course, the Honourable Leader of this Honourable House could have also said that before we meet again on the workers' day, May Day, will be celebrated on May 1, and that no praise is too high, or can be too high for the contributions made by the workers of Barbados to the development of this country.

Mr. Speaker, we tend to take for granted the sacrifices of the workers, and the battles that they had to fight to get to where they are now. Of course, some of the National Heroes whose memories we celebrate tomorrow were strategic partners to the workers in that struggle for a better life. What we enjoy today did not happen by

accident, it has happened as a result of the sacrifices, not only of our National Heroes, but with our National Heroes in association with the workers of Barbados.

I think it needs to be borne in mind that even though, in some respects, some of our National Heroes were born in reasonably privileged circumstances, they walked away from those circumstances and through their lot with they casting their buckets down with the workers of Barbados is an example that all of us should want to follow.

Of course, all of us following it is a little too optimistic, it is a little impractically idealistic, but most of us should commit ourselves to leaving the security of our own prepared positions, and casting our lot in with those who are less fortunate, and who can benefit from our concerns and from our commitment.

Mr. Speaker, with that said, let me thank you again for your congratulations on this special day for me. I look forward to being around for some considerable time yet, given the state of youthfulness which I still continue to feel.

I am obliged to you.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 04, 2010, at 10.00 a.m.

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

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

4.15 p.m.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Opening. The convening sentence reads ‘the House of Assembly met on Tuesday, April 27, 2010’ and gives no time of meeting. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 5, speech of Hon. F. J. Stuart. His quotation from the Hansard of 29th May, 2007 (‘The question that Order 9 be removed from the Order Paper was put and resolved...’) is set in italic in the source, like a procedural line. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 5, figures. Hon. R. L. Sealy is reported as saying that business directly connected to Cricket World Cup 2007 was ‘26 people and \$73.6 million’, and later that ‘we are probably not going to see 26 000 people’; Hon. R. D. Jones gives the original sum as ‘US\$14 772 000’ and later as ‘\$14 772 00’. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Speech labels and calls. Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley is once labelled ‘MOTLEY’ and Mr. A. D. Brathwaite once ‘BRAWAITHE’; one speech by Mr. A. D. Brathwaite consists only of ‘. . .’. Mr. Speaker calls Hon. R. L. Sealy as ‘the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central’ (later ‘St. Michael South Central’) and Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley once as ‘the Honourable Member for St. Michael North’. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Take-slips. Several reporters’ take-slips carry unexpected details: one reads ‘H/A62/2.00 p.m. Sequence 23’ between slips for 2.40 and 3.00 p.m.; one is dated ‘Friday, April 27, 2010’; the last reads ‘(32)4.15 p.m.’ after one for 4.20 p.m.; and two (‘11.20 a.m. Sequence 8’, ‘Sequence 13 12.10 p.m.’) appear as paragraphs within speeches. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Personal Explanations / Privilege. Within Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley’s reading of Standing Order 76 the line ‘”76. PRIVILEGE’ is set in the source as a heading. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 27th April, 2010, with Mr. Speaker in the Chair. The Minutes of 20th April were confirmed on the motion of Hon. C. P. Sinckler, and Mr. Speaker announced receipt of the Auditor General’s Report for 2009.

Mr. Speaker declined to let Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley give a personal explanation, saying that Members who ‘boycotted’ a Sitting without acquainting the House under Standing Order 72(1) were not respecting the Chair. He also refused her request under Standing Order 18 to move the adjournment on a matter of urgent public importance concerning the Minister of Finance, holding that it failed the test of urgency. Her repeated attempts to seek clarification on points of privilege were ruled out of order. Mr. G. W. Payne then rose on Standing Order 76, referring to a Member who had ‘pulled a gun’ at the last Sitting, and was ordered to leave. When Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley moved, seconded by Mr. D. D. Marshall, that the matter of privileges be addressed as one of urgency, Mr. Speaker ordered her and Mr. G. W. Payne to withdraw for the remainder of the day under Standing Order 40.2 and directed the Marshals to remove them.

Mr. D. D. Marshall was then allowed to raise a matter of privilege under Standing Order 76. He stated that on the evening of Friday, 19th March, during the Estimates debate, the Member for St. Philip West had threatened to slap him and, at the curtain of the Chamber, had removed a firearm from his ankle holster, so that he feared for his life; he moved that the Member’s conduct be referred to the Committee of Privileges. Mr. Speaker reserved his finding until the Member for St. Philip West had been heard.

The Minister of Tourism, Hon. R. L. Sealy, moved the Resolution to approve the Government’s guarantee of a US\$10 500 000 loan to the Barbados Tourism Authority from the Bank of Nova Scotia for passenger transport services by Carnival Cruise Lines. He explained that the Authority had chartered the Carnival Destiny as accommodation for Cricket World Cup 2007, requiring an 85 per cent utilisation rate; that the Letter of Credit had been called; and that a Resolution laid on 17th November, 2006 had been withdrawn in 2007. His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman said the only legacy of 2007 was debt, Hon. R. D. Jones said the original figure had been US\$14 772 000 and that an Air India charter had brought 385 people for \$653 587, and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce put the cost at BDS\$21 million. Hon. P. M. T. Todd and Hon. S. A. Lashley also supported it. The Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. F. J. Stuart, read from the Hansard of 29th May, 2007, when the earlier Resolution had been removed from the Order Paper, and the Resolution was passed.

Order No. 7 was withdrawn and replaced by a Resolution dated 27th April, 2010. The Deputy Prime Minister, as Acting Prime Minister, moved it to approve borrowing of up to US\$200 million on the international capital market through Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and a Sinking Fund for its redemption: US\$100 million would redeem a bond raised in 2000 and due in June, for which the Sinking Fund held only about US\$30 million, and the rest would support the foreign reserves; the term had been

reduced from 30 years to up to 12 years. His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman and Mr. A. D. Brathwaite supported it, and the Resolution was passed.

On the adjournment Hon. C. P. Sinckler noted that the National Heroes would be honoured the next day and Mr. Speaker wished the Deputy Prime Minister a happy birthday. The House was adjourned until Tuesday, 4th May, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.