
THE

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, March 19, 2010

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Good morning, Honourable Members, the Sitting of this Honourable House is resumed.

Yesterday evening when the Suspension was taken, we were on Order No. 5 in Committee of Supply. With that we shall now continue.

Mr. SPEAKER vacated the Chair. Mr. CHAIRMAN assumed the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (resumed)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Committee is now in Session. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, please allow me before I give my presentation to first exchange some pleasantries.

Sir, through you, I would want to wish the Honourable Member for St. Michael East happy birthday. Today is his birthday.

Mr. Chairman, last night I sat in this Honourable Chamber, very quietly observing the exchanges between two Parties, and I want to commend you for your sterling resilience, you having been thrust into the heat of battle at a time of the Estimates. In my view, you did a very good job in managing the process in this Honourable Chamber yesterday.

Mr. Chairman, I want to use this occasion to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Culture for bringing this document

entitled: "A National Policy for Cultural Industries in Barbados." Sir, this is not a territorial document. This is about the future of the cultural industries in Barbados. It is about the future of the cultural practitioners in Barbados: the artistes, dancers and patrons of cultural events.

Mr. Chairman, this Minister has brought what should have been before this Honourable Chamber a long time ago, and I want to commend him for having this document here before us. As I said, I have every confidence in the Minister and I was very impressed in the way in which he made his delivery last night.

Mr. Chairman, what is most interesting about this document is that in the Introduction to the entire National Policy for Cultural Industries in Barbados, and I would want to quote from the Introduction:

"Culture must be recognised as a way of life, not divorced from what people do on a daily basis in order to prosper, but instead, based on unique, sustainable values and ways of behaving that are shared and transmitted from generation to generation, to help people overcome the challenges of life. Barbadian culture includes a conception of God and an appreciation of the family, a belief that things will always get better, even after death, a constant thriving to be a decent person, enduring values such as respect for the Law, a positive attitude to work, a hunger for education and a love of song and dance. It is about how we learn, work, relax, eat, relate to each other and survive."

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: It is against that background that in yesterday's debate, we were looking at a number of items coming out of this document for discussion and, Sir, I turn to page 10 of the document which explains that the establishment of a Film and Media Commission to promote Barbados as a film destination for regional and

international production and, Sir, there was much talk about the money allocated to such a Commission to be established.

Mr. Chairman, I remember in 1994, before I came into this Honourable Chamber, when as a political amateur, you could say a neophyte at the time, when I was questioned by a journalist about the future of Barbados and what programmes I would have. Sir, I remember saying distinctly that one of the areas we must explore is that of establishing a film industry in Barbados. Sir, although \$80 000 has been allocated here, the fact is that the \$80 000 could help in the coordination and mobilisation of such a Commission, but there must be partnership and synergy across the length of Barbados to have this Film and Media Commission in Barbados established.

Mr. Chairman, the establishment of a national school for the performing arts. Sir, there was a lot of discussion about that, but I believe that not only should there be a national school for the performing arts, but I would like the Minister to consider putting in the word "Excellence". It should say: "National School of Excellence" for the Performing Arts because, in the cultural realm, we thrive to do our very best and produce our very best work.

In actual fact, Sir, the Minister does not have to worry too much about the cost attachment that was allocated, because at the University of the West Indies, there is the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination and all of this could be easily established in Barbados, just paying peripheral cost, what you call a vocational school in the arts programme, where at all instances in the vacation, whether it is Christmas, Easter, or Summer, that adaptation of a vocational school of arts would also fulfill the establishment of a national school and could be a precursor to it for the performing arts.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that against the background that at the St. Augustine University in Trinidad and Tobago, there is already a national school for the performing arts. It is not a very costly exercise. The major thing is tutorage, the directors, the producers, learning calligraphy and other aspects to that.

Mr. Chairman, I am also saying that this National School for the Performing Arts is one that I would really like to see happen. I really believe that we have already established a framework for it, because I believe this proposed school would have to partner with the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination.

Sir, we do not really have to create new things when they are already established. We are thinking about synergies and partnership for development.

Mr. Chairman, Goal 8 to the Millenium Development Goals talks about partnerships for development.

Mr. Chairman, as we go back down memory lane in Barbados, there was a centre called "Yoruba". Sir, Yoruba is a tribe in Africa, but Yoruba was an establishment in Fontabelle. It was established during the late 1960s, or the early 1970s, and it was part of the time that there was a very turbulent period in the Western world, particularly the Caribbean and North America.

Sir, Yoruba was headed by Elombe Mottley at the time. Sir, out of that were other organisations like BIWOU and the Black Power Movement was at its height then. You would remember people like Stokley Carmichael, Angela Davis and Benjamin Trotter in the Caribbean, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jessie Jackson and Harry Belafonte.

Mr. Chairman, in actual fact, at that time I remember there was a movement towards a serious black film industry in the United States of America and that film industry produced films like "Cotton Comes to Harlem", and many more that we, as young revolutionaries in Barbados, used to line up by the Empire Theatre to go and watch these black movies. Sir, there was a constant stream of black films coming out of North America and Jamaica.

Mr. Chairman, around that time the classic that is now being adapted - I am very glad for Jimmy Cliff, because he has just been put into the Hall of Fame, he produced the classic in the Caribbean that dealt with drugs and gangsterism, and that was a picture called "The Harder They Come". It is a classic that has gone that is a precursor to everything that is happening in the modern Caribbean in terms of shaping its culture.

Sir, I do not know the conversion of the currency, but Jamaica earns nearly \$1.1 billion in a film industry that they set up and most of those films are not set in Jamaica, they are set in the hotel section of Jamaica.

Sir, we too in Barbados could establish a very serious film industry. That is what it says here in a national policy for cultural industries in Barbados, and that is what is being proposed. The Minister has proposed it and all of us should come on board.

Mr. Chairman, I remember years ago Barbados had produced films such as "Island in the Sun", written by Irvine Burgie, and recently we had the Kite Flyer, which is another successful story. Sir, so many young people on the ground armed themselves with camera and a script that are doing wonderful work in terms of promoting this whole concept of a film industry. What the Prime Minister is proposing is to assist these young, budding film directors

and entrepreneurs to fully develop their craft and fully embrace the concept of a film industry in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, it would be remiss of me when we are talking about a film industry, and we are looking at the overall cultural development in Barbados, if I did not reminisce and go back even to by-days as an actor in Barbados, through the Pinelands Creative Workshop, which was founded by Mr. Ralph Walker and is now led by the creative genius, in my view, of Mr. Rodney Grant. Sir, not only is he a cultural practitioner, but also, in my view, a social practitioner.

Sir, in 1993, Mr. Frank DaSilva initiated something called the "Caribbean Grassroots Fusion". There was a storm in Trinidad. I was on an airplane and the airplane circled Piarco about four times before we could land waiting for clearance of the weather and, Sir, the turbulence in the air was something else. Mr. DaSilva could tell you that all of us on the plane thought we would die, but when we landed we had a meeting with the High Commissioner of Trinidad, at his residence and, Sir, I must tell you, that meeting produced the now still standing Caribbean Grassroots Fusion.

Mr. Chairman, I would really like to see that we have a meeting in Barbados, probably later this year, or next year, where all the grass-root artistes in the Caribbean could come together for a summit meeting in Barbados to form what is known as the "Caribbean Grassroots Fusion". This could possibly lead to Barbados hosting the CARIFESTA again. I really believe that CARIFESTA should be prominent on the cultural agenda for hosting in Barbados.

H/A60E/09.50 a.m. Sequence 2

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Obviously we cannot do it now because of the limited constraints and restraints, but the fact is, the artistes are different types of people, their mentality and approach to life is different. The artistes could make it happen through the Caribbean Grassroots Fusion.

In fact, I have been to several CARIFESTAS and I must say that Barbados, probably out of most of the Caribbean countries, has the correct infrastructure for hosting another CARIFESTA event.

It is against that background that I want to thank Mr. Frank DaSilva for really establishing this Caribbean Grassroots Fusion. The islands that are in this fusion are Antigua, Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Kitts, Grenada and St. Lucia, which brings me back to the point of Mr. Elombe Mottley when he was the Chief Executive Officer at the

National Cultural Foundation. Perhaps it was through his innovation, techniques and personality, that really made a difference at that time for the cultural organisations in the communities across Barbados.

Sir, I was listening with interest at the allocation to the Land Ship. The Land Ship is certainly deserving. I will come back later and speak more on the Land Ship, but the whole aspect of a technical theatre is critical. It is an industry within its own.

In the technical theatre, you look at areas of directors, stage managers, lighting, backstage management, and front house management. It is a complete industry within its own self. Every young person in Barbados believes that he is an entertainer of some sort. They gravitate more and more towards the Arts, whether it is singing.

I would like the Honourable Minister, in next year's Budget, because it might not be possible this year, to seriously consider the establishment of community recording studios across Barbados, particularly at the Resource Centres, simply because every young person in Barbados could sing, or dance, or has some kind of talent. Most of them believe that they can sing.

I am saying that with the establishment of these community recording studios, it gives every young person a chance to showcase their talent, to give them the opportunity. We could produce more Rihannas, et cetera.

I really want to reserve the second half of my intervention, to look at the establishment of a National Hall of Fame for the artistes. That is going to be a longer discussion.

I thank you very much, Sir.

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

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Head, and to say that I wish to congratulate the Minister of Community Development and Culture for really taking a quantum leap on behalf of this Democratic Labour Party Administration, with regard to the function of the whole issue of culture and community development to a higher level than what obtained in the past.

I wish to note the fact that the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, the Minister of Community Development and Culture, made the point that his Ministry and this Government, therefore, are committed to advancing the work of the Caribbean Lexicography Project at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, and I support this 100 per cent.

I remember, many of us Honourable Members in this Chamber, would have sat at the feet, as it were, students at that brilliant Caribbean Scholar, the late Dr. Richard Allsopp, reader at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, as he presented the Use of English Course. We would have learnt then, as several generations of students would have benefitted from his tutelage, that his life work, as indeed, this Caribbean Lexicography Project, which is a compilation, as it were, of Caribbean English Usage, with the influence of the local vernacular, be it the French Islands, Patois, the influence of French Creole on the English Language, within that setting, be it St. Lucia and Dominica, or in the Anglophone Caribbean territories, the former British colonies, where we had the influence of primarily our African heritage in the form of our vernacular, or dialect, be it Trinidad, Jamaica, Barbados, or what have you.

I remember as a young student at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies feeling a sense of pride being African, pride of being Barbadian and being West Indian, when the late Dr. Allsopp pointed out to us the African roots of our modern English expression. For example, we would have learnt that within our African heritage, the repetition of words for emphasis is integral. This is typified by, for example, the repetition of words, “don’t back back on me”, is a deliberate repetition of “back” to emphasise that backward movement.

Moreover, when we look at, for example, in Barbados we talk about “Yam your food” which means to eat your food quickly. In Jamaica they spell it, I think they put an “N” and say, “Yan your food”, meaning the same thing, straight from Africa.

Sir, this is all part of our heritage and this is why I congratulate the Minister and the Ministry of Community Development and Culture for making a tangible contribution in terms of financial support for this Caribbean Lexicography Project.

Sir, when we look at our food, we would have learnt that things like our Barbadian Conkies, in Antigua they refer to it as “Fuengi”.

In fact, I was privileged as a student leader to visit Nicaragua in Central America. While staying at the hotel we were given a meal, which was very similar to our conkies, wrapped in the same banana leaves. I understand persons who studied in Jamaica know what it is called up there, “Tie a leaf”, I understand.

In Nicaragua you had the same banana leaf and the food was slightly different to our conkie, but you see the same meal constitution. I think they put rice and other ingredients in it.

Recently, I was fortunate to represent the Government at the Orangisation of American States Ministers of Education, in Chita, Equador. There again, we were served a dish similar. So this gives us this African - In fact, I understand that there is a part of Nicaragua, on the Atlantic Coast called “Bloomfield”, which is populated to this day with English-speaking black people, who are the descendants of Africans, who would have populated the Caribbean basin and may have escaped and settled during slavery in that Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. In fact, while there, old West Indian Calypsos were being made popular in Bloomfield.

I am saying that this Caribbean Lexicography Project is pivotal in terms of engendering a sense of national pride, therefore, a high self-esteem among the people of African origin.

Sir, when you look at the late Oliver Headley, University officials lament the fact that a lot of his life-work has been lost with his passing, because it was not documented to that extent. As you know he was a pioneer in solar technology. We are now seeking to really dig up archives to ensure that such situations do not occur in future, where we can really document posterity for future generations, the scholarship of our Caribbean people.

HA60C 10.00 a.m. Sequence 3

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Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 04, 10.00 a.m.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: I look forward to this Caribbean Lexicography Project, living on beyond the passing of its pioneer, the late Dr. Richard Allsopp. May he rest in peace.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, I was fortunate, as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development over the last two academic years, to participate in the collaboration between the Pan African Affairs Commission and the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, in hosting the Annual African Awareness celebrations, where we went to the various schools and it was carried heavily in the media.

For example, students of different races and classes being proud to learn about the African Heritage of our people, wearing their Dashikies, Mr. Chairman, and not feeling that a Dashiki is inferior to a three-piece suit with a collar and tie. I understand from the Minister of Community Development and Culture that, within his Ministry, the Government is seeking to do research, in terms of developing a national dress.

I was just about three years old when we became independent, but I remember the early Independence Day celebrations in the 1970s, as a lad, I vaguely remember Barbadians of all walks of life, proudly wearing shirts with the Barbadian flag and memorabilia, be they small flags, bunting and so on, celebrating the Independence of this young Nation state.

I look forward to the Independence celebrations peaking and really reaching to the higher levels which obtained in the earlier days because we are still a young nation, and we should not get too accustomed to Independence to take it for granted.

We know that the last Barbados Labour Party Administration really down-played Independence celebrations because they were aware of the fact that it was the Democratic Labour Party under the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow who took Barbados into Independence, when the same Barbados Labour Party and others in the country were vehemently opposed to Barbados going into Independence.

The Democratic Labour Party narrowly lost that 1966 General Elections because the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow was adamant that Barbados could become independent, and could, therefore, shine in the international arena, even to the extent that there was a split in the Administration at the time, but the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow and his colleagues were determined and willing to risk retaining the Government to ensure that Barbados became Independent, went forward.

Mr. Chairman, we have a rich history as a young nation, and I note the fact that there is this sort of competition for time, in terms of the media, as we transition from Independence Day celebrations into Christmas. I know that many business entities may wish to start Christmas advertising early, but notwithstanding this, we should not do this to the detriment of our Independence celebration, so we should not just go through the motions, in terms of Independence Day celebrations, concentrating more on Christmas, trying to get that dollar from the consumer. We must recognise that the celebration of the Nation's Independence is critical to the psyche of the people.

Sir, I congratulate the Minister of Community Development and Culture for looking seriously at engaging the services of local designers. We have a Fashion Designing Associate Degree course at the Barbados Community College, so we have local entrepreneurs, small business people who are able to master their trade. I am sure that with the engagement of these young Barbadian entrepreneurs, in terms of fashion designing, that we can come up with very exciting national apparel, which would

really make the young people of our country proud to be Barbadians.

Mr. Chairman, we live in the day of technology and we have to accept the fact that there is cultural penetration, as we are exposed to the Internet and the television networks, so that coming out of the American experience, in terms of persons who are incarcerated not having a belt, and for security reasons, their trousers are dropping down their legs, this became a fad in the United States of America and we follow-patterned down here.

I urge our young people not to just follow a pattern, and because we see on the American media, people exposing what they should not expose, their under garments, that this is not necessarily part of the Barbadian experience and the West Indian culture, so I look forward to us really having this sense of national pride.

Mr. Chairman, for example, I really lament the fact that your humble servant proudly, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East and the former Honourable Member for St. Michael West and yourself, Mr. Chairman, on occasion, we proudly wear our Nehru, but there are some people who would say that you have to be in a collar and tie to be acceptable, to be formal. I frown on that and I respect those who wear their ties, but you must also respect those of us, who realise that in this tropical environment, a nicely tailored Nehru is totally acceptable. I make no apologies for that.

If someone decides to wear a Dashiki at a formal event, they are well groomed and well-presented, they should not be looked upon as some clown. These are realities that occur out there in some situations, in some bourgeois approaches to these situations, where the closer to Caucasian, Eurocentric or North American approach to dress, speech and other aspects of culture you are, the more acceptable you are, and if you are speaking in the Barbadian vernacular, that is to be frowned upon. You must speak the Queen's English at all times.

Of course, we must be as a people, literate and numerate, so we must command the use of the English Language. Certainly this is the internationally accepted language for business and communication. Nonetheless, we should never be ashamed of the people of our vernacular, as I mentioned, so that in the informal setting, be it in the performing arts in a play, et cetera, the vernacular is acceptable.

I would perhaps come again because we are only given 15-minute interventions here, so I just wanted to start the ball rolling in that regard. As I said, I totally congratulate the Minister of Community Development and Culture for really buying into the concept of "Barbadiana", things Barbadian. I look forward to the country as a whole

buying into this concept, and as I said, standing proud as Barbadian people.

In this regard, Mr. Chairman, I would encourage the Ministry of Community Development and Culture to guard safely and preciousely our West Indian collection of literature.

When you go to the National Library Service Headquarters, the main branch, recently reopened by this Democratic Labour Party Government after the Barbados Labour Party left the Carnegie Library closed for a number of years, you will notice that the West Indian collection is heavily guarded, in terms of being stored in cupboards, locked away and so on, because many of these publications may be out of print.

This again, is the representation of Barbadian culture, where Barbadian literary artistes have been able to chronicle and document for posterity, their pros, poetry, academic publications, or publications for light reading.

We need to encourage more Barbadians to put pen to paper. It takes discipline, but this is a tangible expression of our culture which can last for future generations. We have a very strong oral tradition. If you look at the fact that we have a very popular call-in programme, Barbadians like to speak and express themselves and I congratulate Barbadians for having this courage and self-confidence to express ourselves passionately and vociferously. We need to go a stage further, in terms of documenting our thoughts and our concerns.

The literary arts are important, and I know the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, for example, during Crop Over, has literary readings where they are looking at Crop Over, not just as the partying situation, which is important, but the development of the literary arts.

I know that people have come from far and wide and attended the readings, and have found them to be of a very high standard. This must be congratulated and it goes further.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 04, 10.10 a.m.

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Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I would have to come again to look at the issue of the film industry. We had Hush 1 and 2 and other high quality films. I reiterate that we can collaborate with people like superstar Rihanna. She has appeared in films overseas, and if she could make even a cameo appearance in a Barbadian film, it would help to stimulate interest in the local film industry, which could earn tremendous foreign exchange for our people.

Mr. Chairman, little children who actually lived in the slums in Mumbai were able to become rich and famous overnight by the presentation of their history in that blockbuster film out of India called "Slumdog Millionaire".

Sir, a similar drama in Barbados looking at our intrinsic Barbadian culture can really gain international acceptance, especially with the collaboration of our National Ambassador Rihanna, so there are tremendous possibilities.

Mr. Chairman, I know my time has expired, so I will come again, but in closing, for this instance, I would wish to reiterate my congratulations to the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central as he leads by example. You can see that he is passionate, and he is really sincere about his mandate. I congratulate him.

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I would not commence my participation in this very important Head with any quotation, or any biblical reference, but let us understand that the Bible itself emerged out of the cultural emphases of many people across the world.

Indeed, that reinvigorating experience that Saul went through when he was on his way to Damascus, which caused him to change his name to Paul and to serve God, and to help develop the whole notion of Christianity, could be recognised as a cultural experience.

We talk about culture sometimes very glibly, and we make the statement "that is we culture" or "that belongs to our culture", and everything that we see, or hear, or that moves on the face of the earth, or below the face of the earth, we say that is our culture. We must recognise that what can truly be pinpointed as our culture takes a very long time to evolve. In the evolution of what we refer to as our culture, we do that within the realm of the now, but the realm of the now progresses over time and becomes future and, therefore, we see the reconfiguration of culture over time.

Part of the culture of Barbados evolved out of the plantation reality that was Barbados, and therefore, the things we eat, how we respond, how we behave and how we serve our God are all part of that cultural reality.

There are some things we would like to reject and some things we would like to forget, but if we study the history, or let us call it the story, of a people, we would see the cultural nuances emerging and we study them as part of the history.

There are people who grow angry sometimes of the whole cultural trajectory of the coming together of people within the Barbadian situation. We try to create patterns of life. Essentially, culture is about the creation of patterns of life, things which would, or should give us a sense of belonging, a sense of being and a sense of purpose within a given space that we would refer to as our culture.

Mr. Chairman, the haphazard way in which we defy Law, I do not mean “and order”. I mean how we go and cross through pedestrian crossings, and by the way, we look to dart across the road knowing that we would survive by and large, because the driver is conscious, or should be conscious that a Barbadian is going to cross our road, is part of our culture. Not all aspects of an evolving culture is the best, but again, there are contestations.

What emerged yesterday afternoon as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East tried in her vain attempt to grab a national policy for the cultural industries in Barbados, is a demonstration of that contestation. It is not part of my own character, or my own personality to get involved in those levels of contestations, because it is to believe that within myself lies the only pool of knowledge relevant to anything within the world. In fact, I might not even be the creator now of anything. I might simply be the reinventor of many things.

Mr. Chairman, the kinds of behaviours that one gets from persons who want to always say: “I claim this, I claim that”, is a demonstration of a frailty within their character.

Mr. Chairman, I, therefore, would want to encourage those persons who want to constantly claim something as their own, that they must change that level of behaviour and refine their character within that context. This is going to be a long debate because I intend to speak several times today on this whole notion of culture.

The Honourable Member also wanted to claim that she was the harbinger of the cultural revival of Barbados, but let us truly go back. I think that politicians have to stop claiming everything as their own. It is a selfishness. We must credit Barbadians with their imagination.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is still relatively young and, therefore, she would not truly understand the dynamic reality that was Barbados, where the musical aspect of Barbadian culture emerged over time, through the struggles of the worker within the plantations, the folk songs that emerged as a result of the struggle of people working, even unable for survival and to feed themselves, and so they create a literature based on their storytelling, on their songs and on the rhythm that they fetch in the fields to make them survive, the pounding of the hoe on hard ground. The Honourable Member wants to claim that as well.

I know that I believe that sometimes we come back again and again because we have not in truth, and in fact, done the kinds of deeds that would have taken us into the spiritual light. May be the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is coming back again and again in order to do something great, so that the Honourable Member could flow into the spiritual light.

Mr. Chairman, let us remind persons that there was a time in this country - I long again for the time when all of our young men and women, and those who have musical talent, could re-emerge, because in our schools there are some brilliant musicians, singers and songwriters, who need to have expression in their work to make this country truly the musical renaissance capital of the Caribbean, that is possible. There are things that young musicians...

Mr. Chairman, Anthony Sargeant, a name I would not mind mentioning, because the Honourable Member for St. Thomas knows him very well, singlehandedly works across the school system as a Peripatetic teacher, moving and motivating young people to produce good music and to write.

Mr. Wayne Willock is another teacher from the Alleyne School who has done this, and there are many others across the system.

House A60E Sequence 5

10.20 a.m.

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Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I want to remind the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, as she grabs at popularity, and as she claims everything, that there were bands in this country that were developed, in many instances, by self-taught persons. There were musicians who used their ears to play. Some developed by reading the musical score. There are a lot of young people who play by musical score.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, a bass guitarist, if you show him a musical script, he does not understand anything, but if you give a guitar, you will hear beautiful music flowing from his bass guitar.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue, Honourable Member. Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate the

Honourable Member does not say what I am saying is wrong. He just says I am misleading the Honourable House. I do not know if I am misleading the Honourable House that he does not play the bass guitar, but I know that he does not read musical score.

Sir, there were bands and groups, there were Lord Radio and the Bimshire Boys, Wendy Alleyne and the Dynamics, the Electrons. There are names that the other Honourable Members would call. There was the Blue Rhythm Combo with its brass section, so that when you heard brass played, you had to move, but move decently. There was also the Troubadours International with some "Joneses" involved. We have the Escorts, the Dynamics, Harmony, Lunar Seven, Super Eight.

I have to mention the Super Eight from St. Philip because there are some Philipines who believe they must have everything too, but that is a weakness in their character. They mean to say that there are parts of Barbados that must not get anything.

Mr. Chairman, there was Flat Bush, Tropical Islanders, Creative Sounds, Tyrone and the Clouds, the Checkmates.

Mr. Chairman, we had great bands of musicians playing across Barbados. There was Desmond "Fowl" Weekes. We have had so many great Barbadian musicians, but they are not here anymore. Therefore, as part of that renaissance, we need to bring out the young people who have talent and line them up with those who write well, and to turn this country into the capital of great music in the Caribbean, if not in this part of the hemisphere. There is talent, beauty and potential, and we are selling ourselves short. That is what we are doing. There was a time when Barbados was the leader in the world, not only the leader within the Caribbean.

Mr. Chairman, as a piece of a historian - I am not a total historian, because I do not practise the craft - persons do not remember that when the whole theory of evolution developed, as Charles Darwin went to the Galapagos Islands, there was a Caucasian Barbadian doctor who travelled with him as part of that discovery. Sir, people do not understand these things.

We were the leading experimenters in the sugar cane industry across the world. We have forgotten these things. This small rock, and a friend of mine calls it Eden, all of these models came from Barbados, so why are we stepping back and bringing so much negativity into Barbados, when this country has a proud tradition of leadership. There are still countries in this Region, small emerging economies, who look to Barbados for guidance and leadership.

Let us get up and stand up to the plate. Do not let us squabble over who started to write a National Policy for Cultural Industries in Barbados. What is that about? This country has always had a Government. It is only that we change faces and persons get together in collections and call themselves political parties, but at the end of the day, Government is continuous, and if the Barbados Labour Party started a process and within it there are ideas that can be used and further developed, those ideas must be used and developed for the good of the people of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the Minister of Community Development and Culture for not being a spiteful individual and to throw away what has been placed there in some form, but to refine it and to refocus it and to bring it to the people of Barbados. A wheel is round, I do not know if you may want to have a rectangular wheel. It might work, if you are floating in the air and just want to see an object, therefore, we need to move away from these behaviours.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have three minutes more in which to conclude.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Sir, we have wasted some time on the people's business yesterday and I went home distressed. We need to move away, so let us stop walking about claiming that we are some kind of hero. The people have created their own heroes and I would hope that those heroes would be heroes who are filled with the cultural values that we want within this country, and not the embracing of every piece of smut, or garbage that comes from anywhere. We do not need it and I keep saying that.

We cannot be investing half billion dollars every year in Education, Health, Community Development and Culture, Social Care and then play third, fourth, and fifth fiddle for anybody else. We should not be embracing all and sundry. We have to be able to say no, you are hurting my eyes, you are hurting my feelings, you are destroying this little Eden called Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, I recognise the contestations and the value systems. We have to train our children how to deal with value clarification, as we try to rest those things that are good and right for the people of Barbados.

Sir, I know that sometimes I might come over as sounding conservative, but Honourable Members on This Side would know that I am not a conservative. I was bred in the true colours. It is only as you grow older you want to pass the passion on to the youth, but if you pass the passion on to the youth who went to Queen's College, you know that is almost like a wasted passion. They claim things that they should not claim.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say only last night a friend of mine, a lovely young lady, showed me a DVD being sold in Roebuck Street for \$5, where this country has brought now on board "Girls Gone Wild," that kind of nasty, raucous behaviour. Sir, I say we must lead, but there is a boat parked somewhere in the Shallow Basin where now anything goes. It is called the Buccaneer, where persons are recording and making movies of the kind of wild, wicked and disgusted behaviour there. It has to stop.

Mr. Chairman, young women are the carriers of the seed of the nation and they do not understand that when they are pregnant, that those little babies in their wombs feel everything. They are alive and, therefore, when those women are "cocking" up, wucking up and gyrating in the worst manner, what is this about? Why are we importing the most negative behaviours from other cultures and implanting them within our country? Sir, that is unnecessary and somebody has to keep a careful eye on the degeneration that is taking place among some of our young women. They are also dressing in their underwears with mesh, like catching fish. I do not understand it, they call it lace.

Sir, because they are on the sea water does not mean that they have to behave like that. Every species in the world has a mode of behaviour that reflects a certain level of decency, that cannot be part of the cultural value-system of Barbados. It is a destructive part of the value-system seeing these beautiful young women behaving in such a way.

10.30 a.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Hon. R. D. JONES: Sir, do not let only the body, the outer part, be beautiful, let the inner part be also beautiful because this is denigrating yourselves. Therefore, as we debate the whole notion of culture over the next few hours, days and years, as Leaders of this great country, we have to enforce a set of firm and high standards, because people need to be led. They do not need to be led astray, but to be purposefully led.

Mr. Chairman, I will return on this culture that we are talking about because there is a lot to be said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, just one moment. I take the opportunity at this time to refer further to the Rules after looking at them last night to avoid what we saw last night, so that people are clear on what are the responsibilities of the Chair. I also want to emphasise that while I sit in this Chair, I will enforce the Standing Orders rigorously without favour to any side.

Thank you.

I would now ask the Honourable Member for St. George South to proceed.

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak under this Head. Let me pledge to you my full support in your role and congratulate you on your position now as Chairman and wish you all the success. I will try my best to abide by the Rules which you have just articulated for us.

Mr. Chairman, I would like first to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Culture, not only for his presentation yesterday, when he outlined the matters under his Head, but also for bringing to this House the National Policy for Cultural Industries in Barbados, which were long awaited, but they say that nothing happens before its time.

Sir, it has been long awaited. We hear that it had a long history in the making but, indeed, timely now.

Mr. Chairman, this national policy document signals a commitment on the part of the Minister, on the part of his Ministry and on the part of this Democratic Labour Party Government to cultural development. In fact, if I may quote from that document at page 11, paragraph 2.8.5 says:

"Government recognises that in order to capitalise on the development opportunities inherent in the sustainable exploitation of our cultural industries, it is important that they no longer be categorised as belonging to a soft sector, nor relegated to the sideline of mainstream economic activity. Cultural industry must be elevated and treated as a dynamic catalyst for development of a diversified economy."

Mr. Chairman, coming on the heels of the discussion, we had over the previous days on tourism and on the vision that was outlined by our Prime Minister for the development of our society, as I have said earlier, this is very timely and signalling that cultural industries must be treated as a catalyst for the development of a diversified economy.

Mr. Chairman, it is not just Government's business. It is certainly not just the business of the Ministry of Community Development and Culture but, Sir, culture is everybody's business.

Mr. Chairman, our culture is who we are, what we do, how we speak and how we dress and, indeed, our culture binds us together. You can go anywhere in the world and you can identify a Barbadian, or in a wider context, you can identify a Caribbean person by some nuance in their behaviour, in their speech and in their

manner and you gravitate towards that person, because you recognise a kindred spirit.

Sir, that person may be Barbadian, or if you go far afield and you see a Trinidadian, a Jamaican, or somebody from the Caribbean, you gravitate towards that person because you recognise that there is a connection there, because we have certain cultural similarities.

Mr. Chairman, culture binds us together. It binds us to a place but, unfortunately, many of us, may be, through our educational system, were taught to abandon our culture. Indeed, sometimes culture is just used as an excuse for the negative. You would hear when people describe a certain manner of dance they would say “that is we culture”, or when there is something that they are not particularly proud of, the only way they can accept it is to say “that is part of we culture”.

Sir, the speaker before me spoke of culture as being the way we cross the road breaking the Law but, again, we tend sometimes to use culture as an excuse for doing things that may be a little bit unacceptable sometimes.

Mr. Chairman, sometimes we only appreciate our culture when we travel abroad. Sir, many people will tell you that they did not appreciate what it was to be Barbadian until they went overseas to study in England, or anywhere else, and then they appreciated what it was to be Barbadian, or some of them, on coming back home, only to realise the sweetness of being Barbadian, having been away from Barbados for so long and it is unfortunate that it may take us that period of absence but, Sir, they say that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Sir, it may only take that period of absence to make us realise who we are and what it really means to be a Barbadian.

Mr. Chairman, my mother is Trinidadian and so, I grew up with a mixture of culture, but it is only after I went away to study and came back that I truly appreciated what it is to be Barbadian.

I remember coming back home after studying overseas, and if you would pardon the expression, Mr. Chairman, I was out on the street and I heard somebody used the expression “jobby” and although it was never a term that I would have used, having heard that word, I suddenly felt very nostalgic because I was back home. I have never heard that word anywhere else on the face of the earth and having heard it here, I realised I was back home and, boy, was it good to be back at home.

Mr. Chairman, our culture is dynamic and it changes, and as it changes, it must embrace everyone within it. Sir, our culture is not just those of African heritage, but it embraces everyone who comes to reside in

our space and reside among us. Sir, it is dynamic and it moves forward, and we see our music evolving.

Sir, we see much about the film industry and we know that technology is involved as well, but while it evolves, the preservation of our history - this is spoken to in our national policy - the preservation of our history, of our past, of our foundation that must also be preserved.

H/A60E/10.40 a.m. Sequence 7

Friday, March 19, 2010

Dr. The Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: We must not just look to the future as we develop our cultural industries, embrace what is new and what is foreign, but we must also have a plan in place, as clearly outlined in this document, a plan for preserving our heritage. We must have a foundation. I dare say that we must pass that foundation to our children.

I am a product of our educational system here in Barbados, and I am very proud of the education afforded me free of cost, right through, here in Barbados. If it is one thing that I must say, there was not as much emphasis on our culture, on our history, of who we are.

In our schools we can learn about the Boston Tea Party and we can learn of the building of the Great Wall of China, but we do not know the history of our Barbados Parliament, for example. I would say that those things represent a failing grade to our education system. We must use the opportunity when we have our children in schools to remind them of who they are. Thankfully, on National Heroes Day, our students have the opportunity to learn about our National Heroes. Many schools provide students with projects and reading about the National Heroes, but without that, I dare say that many of our students would not even have the opportunity to know a little bit of our past.

I want to exhort even as we implement the national policy, and it embraces many stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, that we take a serious look at our history, making sure we are grounded in our history.

This document outlines on page 3, the development of our cultural industries, and it speaks to three categories: Arts and Culture, Design and Media. The Arts and Culture, we have performing Arts, Visual Arts, Literary Arts, Photography, Craft, Libraries, Museums, Galleries, Archives, Heritage Sites, Festivals and Arts supporting enterprises. Sir, I am reading this for a reason.

The Design is advertising, Web and Software, Graphics, Industrial Design, Fashion, Communication, Interior and Environmental.

Sir, under Media, there is Broadcast, including Radio, Television and Cable, Digital Media, including Software and Computer Services, Film and Video, Recorded Music and Publishing.

Sir, I read that list, while it is not exhaustive, it does show that there is something here for everyone. There is a lot of scope within the opportunities, especially for our young people.

Earlier in this Sitting we would have heard, when we spoke under the Second Reading, the discussion about the development of our society. I would have spoken about training and re-training, as our young people look for jobs. We spoke about unemployment. We spoke about the economic recession and the impact it is having on employment figures, but we have been encouraging our young people to train, not just young people, but specifically our young people to train for job opportunities, and we want them to think outside of the box.

I know that at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and the Barbados Community College, they offer a wide range of courses, in Cosmetology, Garment Making, Electrical Installation, Electronics, Animal Husbandry, Crop Husbandry, Office Administration, Architectural Drafting, Marine Diesel Engineering, a wide range of courses, but there is still more that can be done.

Sir, even as the stakeholders buy into this policy, we want to see that more courses are offered in the particular areas that speak to the cultural industry.

We know that there are young people out there who are gifted, creative and imaginative. Just watch what they do with the technology.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East said they all think that they are singers. Everybody just needs an opportunity to get before a microphone, or to get in front of the turntables and everybody's skills are coming out, but they have never been allowed by my generation, and earlier generations, to take that seriously. It has always been seen as a frivolous pursuit and a waste of time. You do that for a period, just as a release, but then you have to get back to the serious business. We need, as educators and policy makers, to accept that all of those things are serious.

Sir, as I read earlier, culture is not just seen as a softer side of our development, but it is taken seriously.

Rihanna, I am sure, that if she had told anyone that when she grew up, she went to Combermere, a good school as we would acknowledge, but if she told anyone that she was going to grow up and become a singer, I am sure that all of her teachers would have chastised her. They would have said, yes, you have a good voice and you can sing in

the choir. You can do that on weekends and in your pastime. I am sure nobody would have encouraged her, maybe some would have. I am sure that the teachers, in particular, and our education system, would not have seriously embraced that idea of someone like her thinking outside of the box, and making it in a different arena.

We have the Hal Lintons. Even Leah Marville, going outside. Again, that is in the cultural industry. Our Leah Marville, Miss Barbados. She has gone on and made a name for herself internationally, not just for her beauty, but because of what she is doing. Again, in the cultural industry she is doing television programming and that kind of thing.

Sir, again, thinking outside of the box, there are many areas I have mentioned here with scope for our young people, that they can think outside of the box. Our young people are chomping at the bit. They are ready to break out.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has three minutes.

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: They are ready to break out. They are ready to do things differently. Our people sit back, see what we are doing, they want work, they want to do something meaningful, but they do not necessarily want the same jobs that we have. We did not want the same jobs our parents had. Our parents did not want the same jobs our grandparents had. If they had, we would all still be in agriculture and working in the fields, but every generation wants to do something a little different. We cannot tie down our young people and say you will do what I did. You will take the job that I did.

I have not urged any of my children to become a doctor, and I certainly have not urged them to become a politician, because certainly, you have to want to do and you have to be keen on doing. Nobody can make you do that.

Sir, I have had classmates who did medicine and they were miserable every step of the way. I had one colleague who passed out every time he saw blood, and he was in medical school, because his father was a doctor. We cannot put that on our children. Our children want to break out of the box. They want to do things differently, and we have to allow them.

I hope that this national policy for the cultural industry allows our children the scope to think outside of the box, to create opportunities for themselves outside of the box.

Sir, the policy embraces other agencies. As I said, it signals Government's commitment. It says here under

Culture and Education, that education and re-education will be encouraged. They are looking at offering National Development Scholarships, or student loans in different areas of culture, Cultural and Arts Administration and Management, Sound Engineering and Lighting. We have so many young people who have a keen interest in Sound Production, Writing for Film and Television, Choreography, Theatre and Education and Conservation.

Sir, at the Barbados Music Awards, there was a nice piece of Michael Jackson, choreographed by a young student here in Barbados. They have the ideas. Government will provide the mechanisms, institutional framework and support for them, and will see to it that the expenditure is focussed on development as well, and the fiscal incentives are supported by the necessary legislation for our young people to move forward.

Sir, let me just support the comments that were made by the Honourable Member who spoke earlier about not abandoning our morals and values, but by embracing them. We set the framework for them. While we want them to adhere to certain values and so on, they must not abandon those, but embrace and develop their skills and the social and economic development of our nation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: Mr. Chairman, I enter this debate to support the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Culture. I think he is doing an excellent job.

HA60E 10.50 a.m. Sequence 8

Friday, March 19, 2010

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 09, 10.50 a.m.

His Honour K. St.C BEST: . . .

Sir, I would want to briefly begin by giving a short quotation:

“Good relationships, good business and good politics demand that we face the truth and grow through it, regardless of the pain involved. Good Leaders, particularly in times of change are those who are courageous enough to challenge us to be and do more.”

Sir, this quotation is only fitting. We are going through tough economic times. There will be pain, but we have good leadership from the Honourable Member for St. John, Prime Minister, who is courageous enough to

challenge us to do more, and do more for the development of Barbados.

Sir, one of the persons who has been asked to do more is the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, Minister of Community Development and Culture. He was courageous to take the National Policy of Culture and Industry of Barbados and dust off the cobweb and bring it before this Honourable House to indicate to Barbadians that there is a way forward in culture and that is the way we are going to go.

Sir, while we are on that point, culture takes on many facets and embraces various areas but, Sir, I would want to call for greater protection for the Barbadian musicians. In that regard, we need to look at the Copyright Act seriously, because it costs a lot of money to produce a song and a CD. Crop Over will soon be upon us and we know that sometimes before you really hear the song that they are bootlegging, and those persons who engage in that kind of conduct, make more money. We call it “pirating”.

We almost import a culture from Trinidad and Guyana where people go on the streets and those persons make so much money, much more money. Sir, do you know what really disturbs me? Our Legislation does not provide the artiste with the necessary protection, because in order to secure, the police will arrest and charge, but it is very difficult to secure a conviction, if you charge the person under the Copyright Act.

Sir, when you look at the Act, it calls for the registration by an agent, and when you check the register at Corporate Affairs, you will find that there is no registration.

Sir, what happens now, is that the persons who continue in this illegal activity, they say a small black man making business, but in the same way that they are trying to make a business illegal, the persons who have put out their hard earned money are suffering too, so they become poorer.

Sir, I am calling for a serious revamping of the Copyright Act to really protect the producers of music in Barbados.

I heard the Honourable Member speak about the various bands, the Checkmates and the Escorts, but there is a champion of a song called, “Walk Away From Love” by Shirley Stuart, who is a product of St. Thomas. There used to be clashes between the Checkmates and the Escorts and we used to travel the length and breadth of Barbados to listen to those guys.

I remember being in England and my sister asked me if I can really get that song for her because it is so

Barbadian, and it is like Rihanna in the world, “Walk Away From Love.”

Asides.

His Honour K. St.C BEST: Sir, we have to acknowledge and recognise, and I am saying that it is about time that we have a Hall of Fame for our musicians. We should be able to bring all of those persons who would have worked hard to build the music industry in Barbados and ask them to have a national concert.

Sir, some of them would have probably passed away, but I believe that you could get some of them back together. Sir, at that concert, we can start the framework for the establishment of the Hall of Fame, because we must reward persons, who have done well for the development of this country.

Sir, I really think that the way forward is for all of us - if we really want our culture and our society to develop - to put all our heads together and forget the political divide.

Sir, something that is beneficial to Barbados should not be drawn down the line, in the form of who brought it first. Sir, that should not be the thing. If something is good, why leave it away from society, when it can benefit the society at large.

The type of behaviour that I saw exhibited last night, was all because some person wants to claim all the glory. I believe that when you look at it, it said that the overview is taken verbatim, which means that exactly what was there before is here now.

Sir, people want to split hairs over who brought it and who have not brought it, but I believe that this document, having read it, sets the tone for where Barbados should be, as far as the cultural industry is concerned.

I believe the Minister of Community Development and Culture, along with all of us, and all of Barbados, will ensure that what is set out in this document would be of value to Barbados, and it is not just in black and white but it will be put to action.

With those brief words, I want to congratulate the Minister.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, first I want to congratulate those public servants and those outside the Public Service for developing this document, also to

congratulate them for their contribution to this document, which was laid before this House by the Minister of Community Development and Culture. I also want to congratulate him too for his sterling work and his dedication and commitment to Barbados and, of course, for the Minister who came to Parliament and laid this document before the House.

I must say that the Minister has really gotten a grip on culture. Over the years, we have had a number of controversies, even in terms of before the start of Crop Over, between the calypsonians and the other stakeholders in the industry.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 09, 11.00 a.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Hon. Miss M. A. LASHLEY: I can safely say that for the past two years, Crop Over has been free from controversy, I believe because of the management and the managerial skills of the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Chairman, I had asked earlier that the Honourable Minister look at staging or holding a national consultation with all the stakeholders in the entertainment industry, so that we can feel what they want to do further in the entertainment industry, what their interests would be, and what their view is in terms of the future of the entertainment industry and culture in Barbados.

I say that, Mr. Chairman, against the background of what was said earlier by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. I listened to him and he made the point, I had to get up on a point of order, that I am a musician by ear.

Mr. Chairman, be that as it may, most of the bands that the Honourable Member referred to, we called them the Spouge Bands of that era, the Dynamics, the Escorts, the Checkmates and the Inner Circle, were not formally trained in music, they played by ear. In fact, some of the most popular songs were actually arranged on the spot. I witnessed that in Trinidad.

When I was living close to Exodus Steel Band Pan Yard, I watched Pelham Goddard actually arrange a song on the spot using his ears. Mr. Chairman, most of the musicians of that era had no formal training in music.

Mr. Chairman, this brings me to this point. I know that the Honourable Minister and I normally have discussions on this. Spouge is Barbadian music and I believe that spouge can be revitalised. I believe that in the same way that we can have various relationships between various forms of music, the Americans took the reggae music and blended it with their own form of hip hop music

and out of that came numerous hit songs throughout the world.

I believe that the Minister, through his office, can probably get a word to Rihanna to see whether that international star can look at mixing some spouge in one of her songs because it is the Barbadian identity.

When I used to listen to music back in those days, I never was interested in any Elvis Presly, or any Dean Martin, I was interested in the latest Draytons Two album, raw spouge. I was interested in hearing “Drink Milk” and all of those songs.

Mr. Chairman, spouge passed away because we had conservatives of the day who believed that spouge was banjo music and should not be played in their house.

Mr. Chairman, there are only certain musicians that can play spouge because it is very technical in terms of the music form.

Mr. Chairman, I am wondering whether we have to bring back those spouge players and look at a way of redefining that art form in terms of marketing it, so that we can be identified through our music.

Mr. Chairman, I know that my time is limited, but I want to speak on another matter that again would have the interest of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

I recognise that the Youth Action Movement in Barbados is being led, or in some way being led by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. I have no problem with the Jamaican reggae artistes. I can talk about Mavado’s songs “Money Can’t Change Us” and “Hope and Pray”. I can talk about Luciano and Swizzler who sing conscious reggae music.

Mr. Chairman, I was a little appalled today when I read in the newspaper that we want to bring Mavado and Vybz Kartel to Barbados because they can relate to the fellows on the “block”.

Mr. Chairman, we have role models in Barbados. We have role models in the calypsonians such as Red Plastic Bag and John King. We could even use Richard Stoute, the Mighty Gabby and Buggie, an upcoming reggae artiste in Barbados, to go on the “block” and speak to these youths.

Mr. Chairman, in the same way how we are seeking to bring these artistes, Mavado, and Vybz Kartel, to speak to the youth on the “block”, let us get our local entertainers, “Red Plastic Bag”, John King, Richard Stoute and his teen

talent entertainers to go on the “block” and speak to these youth.

Mr. Chairman, there is no major violence in Barbados. I do not have a problem with Mavado, or Vybz Kartel. I represented Mavado in court when he was here. I was his attorney-at-Law. My view is that we have conscious fellows in Barbados singing, as the young people would say, conscious spiritual music that impacts on the moral and social fabric of this society that we can use.

Mr. Chairman, I am asking why cannot the Youth Action Movement utilise these local entertainers to speak to the guys on the “block”, or to the young people. I know that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East would accept my recommendation and would work on it.

Red Plastic Bag, the Mighty Gabby, Richard Stoute and John King are revered. They have made outstanding songs and have contributed greatly to the cultural development of this country and so we can utilise them.

Mr. Chairman, I want to go further. If we are seeking to build a creative economy and an entertainment industry, the radio stations must pull their weight. I have a problem with radio stations that believe that we must only play local music at Crop Over time.

Mr. Chairman, the day right after Kadooment, they go back to playing the North American music. In fact, the same night after they announce the results of the Road March Competition, they go right back into foreign music. To them, our Barbadian music is seasonal. How are we going to develop an entertainment industry when the outlet is the radio stations? Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the radio stations must pull their weight. I want to hear some more local music on the radio stations in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I must congratulate Andy Thornhill for Roots, Rocks, Reggae, because I listened to a whole session of Barbadian reggae music on a Sunday and then after he went off the radio, it went back into the foreign music.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that we must have respect for the local entertainers in this country and their art form.

House A60E Sequence 10

11.10 a.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, if we are serious about development, we must look at these outlets. I believe also that it goes further than this.

Sir, the Broadcasting Authority, the radio stations, must examine some of the lyrics in some of these songs that are played by local disc jockeys. If you listen to some of these songs, some of them carry negative messages. Sir, the rhythm and the beat might be good, but the message in those songs is wrong. We also hear all these “shout-outs” day in and day out on the radio, but the message that is being carried is wrong.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we have to look seriously at our entertainment industry. We are praising Rihanna, but Rihanna was not part of our entertainment industry. Rihanna did not come through the Richard Stoute Teen Talent, she did not come through any contests in Barbados. Sir, yes, she has managed to get a good chance, but I am talking about someone who came through the ranks, who came through Richard Stoute Teen Talent Contest, who went through the Junior Monarch, who went through all these contests. I am saying it is a standard that we must reach, but I believe it is time I want to see somebody who came from that background like the Richard Stoute Teen Talent Contest, or by the National Cultural Foundation, so that persons could reach the international market.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes more in which to conclude.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am making the point that our local radio stations have a duty to examine some of the lyrics in some of these songs that are played by local disc jockeys. Sir, I am watching and monitoring these stations very carefully, because even during Crop Over, and you want to hear a serious message being carried by calypsonians who sit down day in and night out, and write a serious social commentary, you do not hear 50 per cent of that social commentary during the Crop Over season.

In the days gone by, during the early 1980s and 1990s, you could bank on hearing a whole session of social commentaries, but now you are hearing other songs. Sir, yes, there is a place for those types of songs, but the other problem that I have with some of those songs is with the arrangements of some of those songs.

Sir, it seems as though suddenly one morning somebody gets up and pretends that he, or she, is now a musical arranger. He, or she, cannot play a guitar, he, or she cannot play a piano, but suddenly he, or she, is now a musical arranger, so that when you listen to the arrangement in some of those songs, in some of the most simple arrangements, there is no sort of creativity whatsoever.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that social commentary seems to be a dying art form in Barbados, and I am asking the Minister of Community Development and Culture to

have a look into this. I do not know if it is the cost of recording. I do not know if the fact is that it is no longer lucrative to go into social commentary. It might be more lucrative to go into the other “jump and wave” songs.

Sir, I have no problem with the “jump and wave”, but again, I am challenging the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East to go into the areas of St. Philip and speak to Red Plastic Bag, John King, or to Richard Stoute and Mighty Gabby, and get them to join his movement to go speak with the guys on the “blocks”, afterwards you could then look to bring in the other artistes.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I must say that this is a very exciting debate on this particular Head, and as my colleagues have already done, I will join them in congratulating the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Culture for the outstanding job he is doing. I would wish him to continue to press ahead with the agenda of his Ministry. I would want to say too that the Honourable Member certainly will have the support of this Minister in whatever ways we can support him.

Mr. Chairman, this discussion on culture is a continuation of a previous discussion we had, when the Honourable Member laid the Policy document. It is also in keeping with the Prime Minister’s position on this year’s Estimates, where the Prime Minister has emphasised that the discussion on Barbados at this stage is not simply a discussion on the economy, but it is a discussion on Barbados being a society.

Mr. Chairman, one of the important elements of any discussion on society has to be the element of culture, because culture is an important cog in the wheels of the social development of any nation.

I thoroughly enjoyed the speech of the Honourable Member who just took his seat who, in very lucid form, was able to tie a number of questions that I wanted answered relative to the whole journey of music and the context of cultural expression, putting people together in attracting a cultural message that is consistent with the position of the country.

Mr. Chairman, culture and any discussion on culture has to take into consideration that there are two different elements to culture. First of all, culture represents the sociocultural Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) of a society. It is that element of a society that gives the highest possible definition to whom we are and to where we are as a people.

Then, of course, our cultural discussion would be the side that gives rise to looking at expressions of culture.

We are who we are, not only because of the divine designation of us being a people, but we are who we are because of our own journey as a people, a journey that started with the continent of Africa, a journey that resulted in the disbursement of African people across the globe, a journey that subjected our people to a kind of living style that made us the subjects of the planter- class, a journey that called upon us as a people to find a stream of survival that mostly was found, or birth in how we express ourselves culturally. Therefore, while it was prohibited for our slave ancestors to talk and to engage in discussions, they found other ways of keeping connected as a people, they found other ways of getting their message across.

Mr. Chairman, many of the revolts started, not with a script, not with words, nor with an essay, but with just simple songs that carried a message in their own form. That caused our people to tie into one another and to move together in their journey.

Mr. Chairman, that is why this discussion must not end this evening. This discussion on culture has to be a continuous engagement of our people. I believe that one of the perils of our current society is that so many of our young people are not connected to the traditions of our culture and as a result, they have now given themselves as casualties of all types of influences that are causing a massive deterioration in the standards of how the Barbadian way expresses itself in its cultural mores and cultural expressions.

Mr. Chairman, an academy is not going to do it. I believe that all of the social systems of society - the mesosystems, the macrosystems, the microsystems and the epsosystems, all of these must come together and share this burden of returning this Barbadian society to the kind of society that it once used to be.

11.20 a.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Sir, modernisation of a community, of a society, of a country, should not mean the end of our cultural specificities and uniquenesses. The modernisation of a society should not mean that we should abandon those traditions that made us a strong and connected people.

The modernisation of a society and the pursuit of First World status should not mean that we have to adopt the practices of other societies because they are determined, as modern societies, at the expense of those unique features, perhaps, those features that make our

tourism product such a great product. Sir, it is that connection that we are in pursuit of here.

Mr. Chairman, let me say early that one of the symbols, the mechanisms, the tools that a struggling society holds on to as a point of survival is its cultural uniqueness.

Sir, very often when a society starts to crumble and the pressures of the external world begin to have its impact on the society, what causes that society to maintain its identity would be those cultural uniquenesses, if you will, that become our own.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that we have to examine this discussion on culture in that kind of way, understanding that culture can be defined as the blue print, the DNA of a society, and it should also be defined as the expressions of the vicissitudes of who we are, those virtues of who we were, both in practice and both in terms of how we live, how we move and how we have our being in our society.

Mr. Chairman, I enjoyed listening to the Honourable Member for St. Philip North because he talked about those elements.

Mr. Chairman, when I was growing up, those things that titillated our sensitivities in a society as children, were certain types of songs and they were not the songs of the north. They were the simple common songs that gave the greatest expression to who we were, who we were then and who we should be.

Sir, I remember following the Escorts and all the other bands that were mentioned. As a matter of fact, I will say that I do agree with the Honourable Member, that some of the sweetest music you would ever hear is music coming from what they call the ear musicians, the creativity and the innovation.

Mr. Chairman, I do not boast too much, but I learned to play the guitar and I played in a band for seven years. I learned to play the piano and I played in the Church choir for years. I also learned to play the organ and, in my early years, I never took a music class. It was only in college when you had to take a class in the fundamentals of music that I took a course. Sir, I did not remember much of it because, at the time, taking the course slowed me down from my creative genius in terms of music.

Mr. Chairman, I learned to play the guitar when a young man in my community of the "block" borrowed a guitar from a guy who came into the community to court a girl, who could play music and took that guitar and taught about 10 of us on the "block" how to play. Sir, that is how we learned and it was in past-time. When we came in from school, we went on the "block".

Mr. Chairman, the “block” is no different today from what it was then. I do not understand why we become so fixated on this thing about the “block”.

Sir, I remember growing up in Cane Garden in St. Andrew, down the hill from St. Thomas, and the “block” had two different populations, the older guys who came in from the plantations in the evening, who sat down and congregated, and then the younger guys who fetched the cigarettes and the white rum and so on, and then by a certain time, you had to go home. It did not matter how exciting it was. Sir, that was an important element of the community culture.

Mr. Chairman, as a matter of fact, I would argue that was the way how the mores and the values were passed on. If there is any breaking down in the culture of the “block”, it is because we have disconnected our youth from the older population and we have to find a way of bringing them back together, because that is the only way that cultural transmission occurs, when that connection is maintained and people rely on the people ahead of them to teach them where they should go.

Mr. Chairman, I remember there was a guy in my community, they used to call him “Big Boo”. Sir, “Big Boo” was one of the greatest basket plaiters you could find anywhere. He plaited dung baskets and a lot of those fancy baskets that you hardly see now, where the hawkers...

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Outside Moon town you will find one, I am told, but that was his craft. Sir, not only was he good at that, he was one of the village’s best draughtsmen, and he was also one of the village’s best stick-lickers.

Can you imagine that the art form of stick-licking is almost obsolete in Barbados, a craft that was so entertaining? They have replaced that now with guns and knives.

Sir, I remember growing up where that was an important part of the culture and every single year around Christmas, you would have them gathering in a certain location and they would lick sticks for the whole day.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have three minutes more.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I believe that those are the signatures of our culture that we have to bring back and play. I encourage the Honourable Minister not to be discouraged. We are not going to contend over who owns the script, or who does not own the script. Sir, at

the end of the day, it is not who owns the script, it is who really carries out the play.

Sir, we acknowledge those who have made their contribution. As a matter of fact, my Permanent Secretary always says that Government is a continuum and very often, it is not a politician who writes these things. It is the public servants, and once they are there, the life of their policy will continue and, especially, when it is in line with Government’s policy and the Government’s direction for the country.

Mr. Chairman, this should not be a controversial debate. This should be a debate where all of us pitch in our views and seek to help this country to mobilise this part of our living so that we can begin to really do something.

Sir, the creative and performing arts school will come, but I think the crisis today, Mr. Chairman, is how do you get the people of Barbados to hook back into what made us a unique society. We are not so unique anymore, because our young people become more interested in other cultural expression.

What the musicians are bringing here is just an expression of their culture. What is wrong with ours? Ours is just as rich, it is just as unique. It only needs a platform of consistency where we can continue to display what we used to display many years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I look through the programme for the Honourable Minister’s Ministry and I think that every single Ministry in the Government should be given a responsibility to carry out elements of this cultural policy. I think every single Ministry should have some part to play to make it an integrated process, where we all would be working together to achieve the same kind of outcome, and I am sure we will then be able to bequeath to the next generation a Barbados, that used to be like the Barbados before, but yet still modernised in all of its elements.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your generosity and I thank you for the opportunity.

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for allowing me my second intervention into this most important debate. Sir, the quality of this debate so far has been of such a high standard that I believe that the Minister who is responsible for the CBC television station should do two things now, stop TV and let us have a live broadcast on this debate that is happening in this Honourable Chamber.

H/A60E/11.30 a.m. Sequence 12

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Secondly to that, it might be critical for us to consider a separate station for political debates of this nature. This debate in this Honourable Chamber is certainly a national debate that will transcend the cultural landscape of Barbados for years to come.

Sir, all of the Honourable Members who spoke after me this morning, I was the first speaker, contributed wonderfully well to this debate. Their positions have been very clear and I clearly understand that.

The Honourable Member for St. George South was particularly fashionable in her debate. She was very good. My good friend, and family member, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, he also expounded wonderfully well on the dynamics of our own culture, bearing in mind he too is an expert musician, so I have to respect those views. I also have to respect the views of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. He also spoke to the issues with passion.

Sir, what is consistent so far, all of us have a fundamental belief, a fundamental mission to save Barbados from sliding further into the moral decadence that we are currently experiencing. Sir, the only difference between the Honourable Members and me is, we have the same mission, we are using different methodologies.

I believe when you have a serious problem, I am not going to take a plaster and put on the sore. I am going to deal with the immediate problem.

Sir, this is a wonderful event, no prejudices, open discussion, fair and frank, Honourable Members expressing how they feel.

Sir, one thing we are all clear on in this Honourable House, is that we have to take back our communities. We have to stop the gun violence in Barbados. We must promote peace in our communities across Barbados. We must put an end also to the "Gaza and Gully" syndrome, to the "Crips and the Bloods" in our society and our schools. We must put an end to these.

In retrospect, we will realise that almost every community in Barbados is an establishment of "Gaza and Gully", "Crips and Bloods". "Crips and Bloods" is more prevalent in the school system than the "Gaza and Gully", a community which was perpetrated, first of all, by the two artistes that we are talking about. Since that time, the lyrical content of the two artistes has changed tremendously.

In fact, three days ago, the Jamaica Government brought them together on a similar exercise with a Peace

Concert. I am saying that we are on a movement of peace. On March 26 and 27, if it happens, or when it happens, we are asking everybody in Barbados at that moment in time to wear green, for peace. It is a movement. It is a Peace Movement. It is not relegated to Barbados only. It is a Caribbean Movement.

There is a movement existing on the environmental front called "Green Peace". It is a ship that sails through the Caribbean. The Caribbean cannot only be contaminated by emissions, but it could also be contaminated by lyrical content, by what comes out of our mouths. I am talking about a movement. On March 26 and 27, we are all going out for peace. It is a Peace Movement.

I am calling on all of the community practitioners in Barbados, because we have a serious problem developing in the communities across Barbados. I feel strongly about this. Too many of us, when we get rich, we switch. We move away from the community. We do not return to part of a mentorship programme and process. We do not. We abandon the communities and until they get out of hand, then we talk about intervention approaches.

I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Philip North that we should use our local artistes out front, but the question is, are the youth on the "block" really listening to the artistes in Barbados.

The artistes in Barbados make some of the greatest sacrifices in terms of giving back to the communities. When there is a charitable event, you can call on the artistes.

Sir, I always believe that if I start a problem, there has to be a redemption phase for me. One of the Honourable Members spoke about Saul on the road to Damascus being reformed to Paul. I say that there is absolutely nothing wrong with reformation. There is absolutely nothing wrong with redemption, because the good Lord Jesus Christ said: "You call me Righteous, but only God is Righteous".

Sir, the woman at the well, we condemned her big time, and Jesus said: "Those of you without sin cast the first stone". I am saying that if these two persons are at the core of the problem, let us deal with the cause. Do not deal with the fete, because we are a society that love to deal with the fete. There were some marvelous contributions.

I am calling on all of the youth, whenever they are on the "block", in the communities in St. John, St. Lucy, St. Andrew, St. James, or all across Barbados, let us move towards a movement of peace.

Sir, I do not think anybody anticipated that this debate led by the Honourable Minister of Community

Development and Culture in Barbados, would have reached this level, an excellent debate.

I want to say that in the 1960s, when Martin Luther King moved in the Memphis and Alabama States in the deep South and fought off depression and segregation, I also want to say that the theme of that day will be; "We shall overcome." It is the same passion, the same movement we are going to push towards peace in Barbados, using all orthodox methodologies to arrive at a practical solution for the existing problems among the youth.

Sir, it is critical at this point and time because a lot of interesting points were developed, the re-emergence of the Empire Theatre, that we establish a National Hall of Fame for all the outstanding Barbadian artistes who have stood the test of time.

Sir, let me give you, with the time that I have remaining, some of those persons whom I consider to be the inductees in this artistic Hall of Fame for cultural artistes.

1. "Red Plastic Bag" - Ragga Ragga, internationally, not necessarily in this chronological sequence,
2. "Gabby", song of the century - Emmerton,
3. "Lord Radio" - I Say B
4. Joseph Niles.

All during the 1960s and 1970s when Joseph Niles released "The Royal Telephone", it was a sensational hit in Barbados at the time. Richard Stoute, a lot of people do not know that Richard Stoute won the Caribbean Soul King Competition, but he refined his craft and is the producer of a Teen Talent Show, that I really believe the Government should adopt seriously as another solution for the youth in Barbados. Also Wendy Alleyne, the "Queen of Song" in Barbados, John King, the classic - "How Many More". This touches at the root-cause of the youth. How many more must die? Where is the responsibility of the parents in Barbados, because in all of this, the parents cannot be exempted from the problems among the youth in Barbados. They cannot. In fact, tail wagging the dog, because the youth leading the parents now.

Sir, also Mike Grosvenor, who said:

"I am an independent man. I can stand on me own two feet.

I don't need your help, I know how to make ends meet."

HA60E 11.40 a.m. Sequence 13

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: I am an independent man too, for the time being.

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, Jackie Opel and that classic, "You Got to Pay." The Merryman in "Beautiful Barbados," another classic. The Draytons Two, Exodus, Sister Marshall in "Crumbs From the Table." Kid Site, a fantastic dub artiste. Obviously, Rihanna.

Sir, I want you to check today's newspaper. Interestingly enough, the headlines in the Advocate Newspaper are the newly appointed to the Senate, rightfully so, giving his own views on the show, but let me say right above there was Rihanna's new album released called, "Rude Boy." Check it and see.

Mr. Chairman, when we go into this Hall of Fame, we should also be inducting the St. John Folk Performers, Pinelands Creative Workshop, Country Theatre Workshop, Satch-Moore, Dancing Africa, Barbados Dance Theatre. Sir, in drama, Earl Warner, Anthony Hinkson, Darcy Boyce, Cynthia Wilson, the late Daphne Joseph-Hackett, the late Jeanette Layne-Clarke, the late Alfred Pragnell, Marvo Manning, the late Joe Tudor, Dame Olga Lope-Seale, Ms. Gollop at the National Cultural Foundation, Anthony Thompson, Winston Farrell, Victor Clifford, Annette Trotman, Tom Cross and his wife and Olutoye Waldron.

Sir, you know, we have a beautiful resource at CBC in Olutoye Waldron. These are just a few, not all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member, has three minutes to conclude.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, Olutoye Waldron writes and produces some of the best local films and scripts, such as Price of Progress, Bussae.

I did one called Niger Yard, which might not be sold. Every time a director casts me in a play or film, I get "killed".

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Sir, the fact of the matter is that we should really look at these things.

Mr. Chairman, did you know that Barbados was once considered the Folk Capital of the Caribbean when we had Barbadian songs like “Milly Gone to Brazil,” “Sly Mongoose” and “Conward is a Duppy.” Check Ms. McKaskie, we have a rich cultural heritage that is unequal. In fact, if you check with Elombe Mottley, he would tell you that it is controversial, where calypso really started, Barbados or Trinidad. It is accepted that it has been started in Trinidad, but the fact of the matter is, if you do your research carefully, you could see that is very much debatable.

Sir, I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Philip North. In the time when everybody was liking the Beatles, the Beach Boys and the Drifters, foisted upon at that time by the American culture, I was one about here keeping noise for the Merry-men and they used to laugh at me at that time. Sir, what we are seeing is not really a change. What we are seeing is an adaptation.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, on a Sunday when most people are at home resting and West Indies is not playing cricket to be distracted, in the CBC News Extra, this debate in the Honourable Chamber should be televised. As I said, I am working with the Honourable Member for St. James North on a production called “Yard Fowl,” which is a very interesting political saga. What I am doing is basically turning it into a love story drama, myself and Tony Thompson.

Mr. Chairman, as I take my seat, because I am going to come back again, I just want to reiterate my thanks to the Minister of Culture for taking Crop Over away from the controversy. It is a fact. Over the last two events, there was no controversy in Crop Over. Mr. Chairman, this is a wonderful debate that we have to continue.

Asides.

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

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

In this debate so far, almost every Honourable Member has spoken to the issue of culture. However, Sir, in the Estimates I understand that we are doing Culture and Community Development and with your leave, Sir, I want to start by looking at Community Development and then I will give you an undertaking, Sir, that I am going to link Community Development and Culture deliberately, especially in light of the excellent contributions which I have heard.

Mr. Chairman, there is no individual Honourable Member in this House present, who would tell you, or

anybody that they have any sacred right to be in here, but what they will tell you, Sir, is that they offered themselves to come here, out of a sense of patriotism, and out of a duty to serve a country which they love.

Sir, when we look at this country and where it has come, almost every single one of us down to the last person, is a product of a community of which we would have been proud, even as little children and teenagers. Sir, that is a fact and with your leave, Sir, I want to refer to page 201 of the Estimates under Head 56. I am going to make some points there.

The purpose of those points will be to make a call for the building of stronger communities. Sir, I expect to be supported in it by some Honourable Members, especially those Honourable Members who know the value of the quality service, which people have made to enrich their communities and uplift their communities.

For the year 2009/2010 as page 201 shows, the budgetary allocation for Community Development had been \$2 418 120 million and this year it has been cut to \$1 603 696 million, the biggest cut coming at Item 212: Operating Expenses, which have gone down, Sir, from \$985 620 to \$615 620. That is the Operating Expenses Vote, Sir. I am sure that the Minister will clarify what constraining factors have led to the decrease.

We in Opposition can say if we want to, we regret that the budgetary allocation for Community Development has been decreased. Sir, we could also say now that critical to the restoration of proper community living, is the careful spending of every single dollar allocated to Community Development.

Sir, we need to get back to a Barbados that was founded, not just on a family system that worked, but a Barbados that was founded on the quality community living that produced all of us in here. Sir, all of us in here are the products of our community and many of us were able to make direct contributions outside of politics to community living in Barbados.

Sir, I have not heard everybody, but one Honourable Member that I have heard today, mentioned something of enormous significance and he mentioned the norms and values that community living of the forties, fifties, sixties and seventies, offered.

Sir, as we investigate the restlessness among misguided youth, and not all youth are misguided, as we investigate deviance, we must come to the conclusion that there were certain strong norms that we used to embrace, which have somehow slipped.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 14, 11.50 a.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: That undesirable element is the evolution of impersonal relations in small villages. We are too tiny not to be our brothers' keeper. We are too tiny as a society to walk through a village head on high ignoring what is happening. There was a time when a village would take responsibility for ensuring that the young people walk the correct path.

There was a time when a village ensured that when mummy was not able to take little Judy to Sunday School, one of mummy's friends would make sure that Judy went to Sunday School. There was a time too in Barbados where people wanted to contribute to their communities in expectation of no financial reward. This is where the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has been consistent. From the time I have known her, she has always said that we in Barbados have benefitted from the voluntary work people offered in communities and that spirit of voluntarism ought not to be traded for the spirit of the material.

Sir, we must be concerned that there is the real phenomenon in Barbados of a measure of deviance. At one stage, or at one part of this thing called deviance, is the diminution in standards in the community. A lot of the deviance need not have been evident if social solidarity had been the overwhelming and the towering norm in the community. Mr. Chairman, I call for the spirit of social solidarity to be returned. It is not too late. There are some positives.

In the Ministry of Community Development, as it was constituted many years ago, we converted a number of underutilised community centres into resource centres. When I say we converted a number of underutilised community centres into resource centres, I mean that a Barbados Labour Party Government, interested in spreading technological skills in the community, and aware of the fact that many a community centre was not fully utilised, developed a system by which ordinary humble people were able to go to community centres and undergo training.

We in politics sometimes in our Constituencies develop little Constituency manifestos. We look around for areas of need, we highlight certain shortages and we offer a programme to our Constituencies. Many of us have sometimes offered programmes including building community centres. The question is: How are we going to answer those many critics who are saying that in this era, many community centres are underutilised. There are critics who would tell you so. In fact, there might be professionals who would tell you that many community centres are underutilised.

Mr. Chairman, I am not one for making communities contract into small cells. I grew up in Holetown, St. James, and my neighbours were Mount Standfast, well known to the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, The Garden, Lower Carlton and even parts of Road View.

Mr. Chairman, people from Road View and Lower Carlton had no difficulty going to Trent's Community Centre and Trent's pasture. Nowadays, when you go into a tiny community, two or three little boys would tell you, Honourable Member, you are in the House of Assembly, we want a pasture here, and when you check a 100 yards down the road, there is a pasture. They are not prepared to recognise that we are constrained, or the tremendous sacrifice it would take in the expansion of community activities. In any case, many of them are going after particular ideas and values that would not necessarily enrich them spiritually, or intellectually.

Sir, the Honourable Minister of Education and Resource Development and other Ministers have spoken, as we respond to the shifting moral values in Barbados, and as we are determined to arrest the decline of morals in Barbados and to restore the norms, then we can call on the purity of our culture and invoke it, and use that to hypnotize them back into the Barbados that we grew up in.

A well thought-out cultural policy that takes into account the reality of the Barbadian, spouse and whatever else, the reality of the West Indian and the Caribbean person, and the reality, as has been said, that we have a rich culture, should be so marketed as to divert deviant youth away from a lot of the foolishness they watch on national television.

Mr. Chairman, many of our youth have been corrupted through a lot of incisive programming produced on national television, which is not good for them. Sometimes you get the impression too, Mr. Chairman, that there are misplaced values. There are people who are too poor to pay the little games fee of \$10 that each school charges, but those same people are rich enough to provide certain things in their house for their children, which are not necessarily good for their children.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central spoke about a renaissance. I think that can be taken seriously and put into its proper context. We are not too late for a cultural renaissance where we promote Barbadian and Caribbean literature, where we identify personnel who have worked closely with the community and those elements of culture that relate strongly to the community and where we twinned the two.

The twinning of culture with community development, in my judgment, is a sensible thing to do. In fact, it has potential to go further because a strongly-built

community based on good cultural values could be a model for others outside to come and see, and to appreciate the good things we have to offer this country.

I thank you, Sir. I trust that I have been clear and I trust that Honourable Members accept that what I have said, I have said in perfect good faith.

I thank you, Sir.

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this Head to deal with an aspect that I heard mentioned by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East earlier, that is, the liming on the “block”.

Sir, too often in this society, we have heard too many people speaking about the “block” as if it is something negative, forgetting that many of us would have had the opportunity when we were young to spend many hours on the “block”. Sir, on the “block”, we would have been supervised by senior persons in the community and we ensured at that time that we behaved ourselves in a proper manner.

Today, Sir, when one goes on the “block”, you see young people supervising each other and we are now blaming the young people, forgetting that it is us who have neglected the young people, and that it is us who have left them on the “block” without the supervision that we received.

Another matter that we spoke about earlier today is the bad behaviour on the ZRs and minibuses, and the music that is being played on them. Sometimes we can be the biggest hypocrites in the world because we forget that on the ZRs and the minibuses there are not only school children, but big hard back men and women who are listening to the same music.

House A60E Sequence 15

12:00 noon

Friday, March 19, 2010

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, if the stance was taken by the senior people for that music not to be played on ZRs and minibuses, we would not have this problem today, but we must always find a scapegoat and we go to the vulnerable ones, the children of Barbados, and dump our problems on them. Sir, that is wrong.

The problem in relation to the ZRs and minibuses has nothing to do with the children of Barbados, but with

the hardback people of Barbados who have refused to take a stance on it. Sir, we expect the school children to stop taking the minibuses and ZRs, when we should have been telling parents that they must guide the behaviour of their children on the minibuses and ZRs.

Sir, I hope that we could correct that. Parents have to tell those drivers if they are not going to clean up their music, they will not be letting the children get in their vehicles. Mr. Chairman, do not fool yourself that the music you hear on the radio is the same music that is played in the minibuses and ZRs. There are some special tapes that I have been told about. Sir, when you hear these special tapes, the hair on your head would stand up straight.

Sir, I am saying that we have to understand that we now have to stop focussing on the school children and focus on the parents who take that same transportation. If we do, we will correct the problem. It is the same thing like stopping at places other than bus stops. We blame the drivers, but for whom are the drivers stopping? We need to ensure that we target the right people and that the message would be cleared up. If police would start reporting people for stopping buses at places other than bus stops, it would stop.

Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that ZRs and minibus drivers do not do wrong things. I am saying that if we want to look at the total problem, we have to look at the total picture and not a piece-meal approach. Sir, you know I have always been against this piece-meal approach to problem solving. I am saying that we have to appreciate that we have to give back to the communities that have done well for us.

Sir, very often I am told that I sold a business on the gold coast, St. James, to a white man. Sir, what the Honourable Member for St. Thomas did not tell this Honourable House, and both the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter have put this on record on more than one occasion, but the only fortunate thing is that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas keeps repeating it like a parrot, without understanding what the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter was saying.

Sir, the only thing white about the man was that his name was Vernon White. He was a very black man. Sir, I have allowed that charge to be on my back for many times without answering it, until the appropriate time. Sir, now that we are dealing with culture, I can now clarify it.

Mr. Chairman, the reason why the business on the gold coast was sold was that I wanted to get back to my roots. I never felt comfortable in the Constituency of the Honourable Member for St. James North, for my people to

come visit me, only for the sake of making money. Sir, that is why I took the business back to St. Lucy.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am now being told that I live at No. 12 Welches, St. Thomas but there was also a reason for that. What the Honourable Member for St. George North did not tell you was, that when he was the Personal Assistant...

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. Sir, I still live in Newbury Village where I was born. I do not live in the heights.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, when the Honourable Member was Personal Assistant, or when he was knocking around the Barbados Labour Party, he said that we owned land at Checker Hall, where the Cement Plant is now built. This land is more than 1 3/4 acres. Sir, this land was later acquired by the Barbados Labour Party and even though they gave land for land, we never got the opportunity to get a piece. Sir, all I could have done was to find a house spot, because I could not find any in St. Lucy, at No. 12 Welches Terrace, St. Thomas, which was five minutes away from Warrens where I worked.

Sir, I did not leave it there. So strong was my connection to the Constituency, that when Checker Hall Plantation had remaining lands to sell, they sold it to me and that is where I went back to. Mr. Chairman, not only that, so strong were my roots, I even went back to my birthplace to find a wife.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Yes, my wife was born in Alexandria, St. Lucy, and if you doubt me ask Rawle. That is part of my culture and that is why I can now explain it.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Yes, you can ask the Honourable Member for St. James North. He knows well and that is why I can now explain it.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: No, he did not give me my wife, and he gave her his sympathy when her

mother passed away. Sir, when people talk about culture and going back to their roots, if that is what I am guilty of, then I am guilty.

Sir, let me say this. I have no problem with going back to the people from whom I came and with whom I grew up. Sir, if you watch how I live, you would see that even though people may want me to behave in a different manner, I can be found in my cultural base on a daily basis, with the fisherfolks, the vendors, taxi drivers and all types of persons.

Sir, I will say this, I have always said that if there are two parties, one rice-and-stew party and the other a cocktail party, you know where you would always find me. You would find me at the rice-and-stew party because at least at the rice-and-stew party I am somebody, but at the cocktail party, I have to look for somebody.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am not even going to respond to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy because there are so many other substantive points that can be made. Sir, I am happy that the Honourable Member has a happy marriage and that he has two wonderful children. I want to congratulate him for being a family person.

Mr. Chairman, there are some aspects in relation to community development and culture on which I wish to touch. I would like to continue from where the Honourable Member for St. James North finished. Sir, I will make one or two statements in relation to the volunteerism of which we speak.

Sir, while Honourable Members on the Other Side spoke earlier about going on the "blocks", of course, in our time of development in the 1950s. and 1960s, we did not have community centres and other locations where we could have met. They were limited, or there were no provisions, therefore, people met in the villages where they lived. Sir, this is a continuation of our African culture where people in the village would meet in designated areas and shared knowledge, skills, stories and experiences. Therefore, the "block" of that time is not the "block" of today.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that volunteerism is significant. It always helps with generational links, which I believe it has to do with our advancement. Sir, there is nothing wrong with advancement, but why must we throw out what has served us well in the past, for something that is new? Why do we forget where we have come from, where we have gone and where we would wish to go?

Mr. Chairman, I am a strong believer in the oral tradition. We have a lot of senior persons living among us. Sir, the people in Barbados are living longer. A lot of it has to do with healthcare that has been provided over the years and the education that goes with it.

12.10 p.m.

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Miss. C. Y. FORDE: Therefore, we have a lot of senior persons in our communities, not only past professionals, meaning teachers, doctors, lawyers and so on but, indeed, a lot of midwives, a lot of housewives and a lot of persons who are very deeply steeped in our cultural traditions or mores, the value system and so on.

Sir, not only the Ministry of Culture but, indeed, every community should be doing it, exposing our youth in a very dynamic way to these persons in the communities, who are the history books and documenting the information which they share.

Mr. Chairman, I have an old friend whose mule cart we would hopped as little children in the 1960s. He is now about 106 years old. His vision is gone but, Mr. Chairman, he can tell you stories about history that he has carried in his head that cause you to want to sit because they captivate you. I did invite the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) at some time to carry that story, because I think it is significant for that information to be kept for research purposes, for further education of others, so that they can see from whence we have come. Therefore, the volunteerism, the oral traditions and so on, are important.

Mr. Chairman, I remember distinctly some time in 1996, or 1997, where the Ministry of Education, working in close association with the Ministry of Culture, sought to get school children to express themselves in writing. A lot of us assume that when children speak, especially if they speak well, that they translate what they speak in writing well and, therefore, a lot of our children are afraid to write stories. We call it composition, but when they heard the word composition, they became afraid.

What I have found is that education officers working with officers in the Ministry of Culture were able to take stories that Barbadian children wrote, have them properly compiled, and the Audio-Visual Aids Department sought to publish them and have them properly bound.

Sir, there are some of the best stories that I have had the privilege to read in many years. Our children expressing themselves about their neighbourhood, a family they love, a day in the life of an old shoe and things of that nature that helped our children to be able to become

creative and to express their creativity in writing. Mr. Chairman, I think that is something that needs to continue.

Mr. Chairman, I recognise that there will be some copyright issues and, therefore, that too could be ironed out, but there is nothing that blesses my heart more than recognising the skills and the preparation of our children in our primary schools and secondary schools to become authors.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to implore on class teachers to keep some of those writings so that years down the line they can reflect. I, certainly, have done it, and I have kept scripts of children that would otherwise been disposed of, and they are now working men and women with children and it blesses my heart. It also gives me a chance to reminisce and remember, or reflect on where I was when I worked with those children to help impart the knowledge and skills, and to share in the wonderful experience.

Mr. Chairman, all the talk that has come out of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East wanting to claim something is really very unreasonable and unfair. The Honourable Member only responded to it because the Honourable Minister said that for 12 years the Barbados Labour Party did nothing. Sir, that is where the talk came and while I am not going to dwell on that, I am happy to see that a number of the policies and the programmes continue and, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central said, it is to do with Government being a continuum.

Sir, it speaks volume of the maturity of our civil servants and the interest that our Minister would have in seeing what began as an idea, or a concept, now flourishes, and now become a policy that would impact on the lives of all of us.

Mr. Chairman, we are all Barbadians and, therefore, I share in whatever happens that would help to empower our people and, indeed, those who come among us.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of initiatives that the Barbados Labour Party would have pursued in the area of culture. Sir, again, I am not bashing the Government on that, but when I hear that for 14 years we have done nothing, I really have to correct it in my way.

I have examined the Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party for 2008, and I have only seen half a page of what would happen in culture, therefore, I am not criticising it in any negative way except to say that the Barbados Labour Party did have initiatives properly spelt out in the Manifesto of 2009, because we wanted to continue with the expansion and explosion of culture in our country.

Mr. Chairman, I spoke in a past discussion - I am not going to reflect on the gist of it - about the involvement of schools. I believe that Ministries need to continue to work together in order for us to be able to make the kind of impact that we are working towards and the objectives that we have outlined. Therefore, education needs to continue to work closely with culture.

Mr. Chairman, I have talked about the STREAM Programme among primary school children. I have talked about the CHECKS Programme with aspects of culture to do with stilt walking that is growing in a phenomenal way. Sir, our stilt walkers go to the Caribbean and other countries to perform and it is now a way of making money and people seeing it as a job.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to speak on just a few of the areas where the Barbados Labour Party saw culture, and how it could unfold to bring tremendous benefits to this island of ours. Sir, the Intellectual Property Bill that was piloted by the Barbados Labour Party, is significant to persons who are in culture to be able to benefit from whatever area they have developed, whether it is in the area of film, drama, or whatever. I believe that is significant.

Mr. Chairman, we thought that it was important to develop a creative centre and the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination is another Barbados Labour Party's project that we felt we must work towards. We determined that we would work with the family of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow to ensure that his statue is placed in Independence Square. We did not see that in any partisan way because we recognised the contribution of our late great leader. We already have one of the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams and others, as times goes by, will unfold. Therefore, we are not being biased, but we are trying to make sure that we satisfy and educate Barbadians rather than divide them down any political line.

Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Community College with the two-year programme in the Associate Degree in Fine Arts; the three-year Bachelor of Arts Fine Arts Programme at the Barbados Community College, specialising in studio and graphic arts; at the University of the West Indies, the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in film, dance and theatre; we have established the National Youth Steel Orchestra. We have established the Barbados National Youth Orchestra.

We have named the Amphitheatre at the Post Office, the Jackie Opel Amphitheatre, and every year, as part of the Community Independence Programme we go there.

Sir, that is another stage in helping young people in the various communities to volunteer, to spread knowledge and to interface with others to help with those generational links and, Sir, those are the kinds of things we are doing.

Mr. Chairman, the staff of the National Cultural Foundation and others must be highly commended for their resilience, for their consistency and for their hard work over the years in helping Barbadians to understand their culture. Sir, I think it is significant that they get that kind of praise.

I know that out of the culture and out of the sporting activities, and others within communities, where we see children blossoming, children who would, perhaps, have appeared introverted, or even other young individuals, they get a chance to be meaningfully engaged in the evenings, or wherever, simply because the cultural activities and the sporting activities have been introduced at the community level, and it helps them to be able to build their self-esteem.

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Miss C. Y. FORDE: It helps a lot with good discipline. You wait your turn when you are active in the performing arts. You work together with others. It is not your show. All of us are in it together, so the good discipline shows forth.

I spoke about the volunteerism. The respect for other people's opinions. There is a guy called "Pitch Up", who is a calypsonian. We know that people make laugh and sport, but "Pitch Up's" aspect of the calypso is creative and interesting. It might sound "samey-samey" sometimes, but it is interesting. I think that the respect must be there to help him continue to develop, and of course, the tolerance that comes with it as well.

I believe that our religious folk should play an integral part in our culture. I am not speaking to any specific denomination, but all persons in the area of religion should also play their role, that is why I welcome GospelFest every year. Some of them have their "Jump and Wave". You wave your flag, or whatever, for Jesus Christ. I think it is significant. It helps me too to get a better understanding of the culture that we speak of. It helps to season our people spiritually and morally as well.

I believe that the Church's involvement with calypso, where every year there is a group that leaves the Stadium and on to Spring Garden depicting aspects of their religion, sending some very powerful messages, not only to Barbados, but we know that our Crop Over is beamed all over the world. Therefore, the whole inculcation of our religion into aspects of our culture, I believe, will not only help to improve things, but our people will be able to better access the opportunities that are available.

Sir, in my final comment, I am not going to be calling the names of individuals. All of those persons who

have contributed to the development of culture and other aspects of development in Barbados, is significant. The only one I will want to single out today with your permission, is none other than “Cassius Clay”, a profound character who has so much talent, that unless you know him, or you have communication with him, or witness him performing, it is difficult to understand how one man could be so versatile.

I had the distinct privilege of going overseas with him once, and when we got to the dining area he became so frustrated with the long trip that, he just lifted one large table in his hand, balanced it by its leg on his mouth and walked through the hotel. Everybody at the desk was amazed to see the talent of this young ordinary man. We know he does fire eating. We know he has the “X Band”. We know he sang “Sweeter than a Snow Cone”, and so on. This man has rich talent and he has been extremely powerful in helping to spread the message of culture.

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: I want Barbadians to continue to work towards the development of their culture. In my time my mother would have said, “You are to go to school to be academically inclined. I do not want you to be going into the plantation to work.” We know what our parents would have told us, because they did not have that privilege and many of them suffered.

Things are unfolding in Barbados. Schools are not regarding it now as something to be listed on the extra curriculum programme, but incorporating and infusing it in the general life of the school. I believe that is what is helping a lot of our teachers and tutors to observe those with innate abilities and the exposure, that is now unfolding to help them to go into what would not now be the traditional areas, but we are getting persons practising sound engineering, stage lighting and film production. A lot of them are choreographing their own dances, plays and so on.

Therefore, I believe this is a good step forward and I trust that the Ministry of Culture, will continue to carry out its role in the communities breaking that cycle of young people who stay at home and playing with a video game, the rowdy behaviour, but instead, meaningfully engage them, so that at the end of it all, we can see the young bright stars coming to the fore, a lessening of pent up energies and anger that so many of our young people seem to have, and because they have not been trained to deal with conflict, they then retaliate in a manner that is usually negative.

If we get our people working on the ground, if we get our community workers carrying out their roles, I feel

that this country would be a better, brighter and safer society for all of us to live and enjoy.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress to Mr. SPEAKER and asked for leave to sit again and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.25 p.m.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 1.25 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

HA60E 12.30 p.m. Sequence 18

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Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 19, 1.33 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Suspension was taken, the House was on Order No. 5 and in Committee of Supply and to that, we shall now continue.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. James Paul, Chairman of Committees, assumed the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Committee of Supply is resumed.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise again for the third time in this debate because it is a very interesting debate. Sir, Emancipation Day, in my view, should mean a lot more to Barbadians. I am saying that against a background of the fact that there is very little activity on Emancipation Day in communities across Barbados.

What happens early on the morning of Emancipation Day, there are two marches. One from Bay Street to the final stop near Spring Garden. Two, a ceremony at the

Bussa statue in Haggatt Hall. I am saying, Sir, that the emancipation of our people is very important, and I really believe that all of the communities across Barbados should seriously get involved in organising a community-based event to celebrate Emancipation Day.

It is too critical an event for us as black people in recognising the freedoms and experiences, the whole issue of slavery and then the whole struggle, even here in Barbados by General Bussa, Nanny Gregg and others. Emancipation is very important and that is why again I am making the call for black history to be featured prominently in our educational system.

Identity precedes participation. We have to know whom we are as people. Perhaps, in reflecting on our consciousness and our awareness of whom we are, Sir, perhaps that could be at the root base of some of the problems that our youth are experiencing. There are too many borrowed cultures, particularly coming in from North America. In that sense, I agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. I heard him this morning. He was absolutely delightful to listen to this morning, Sir, in terms of his discourse of whom we are as African people.

I always relate the story, Sir, when I travelled to Ghana in November of last year, and had the experience of going into the dungeons of the slaves. Sir, they were right there on the West Coast of Ghana. It was an experience that I believe all of us as black people should really experience. I believe that all of us, once in our lifetime, should make a trip back home to the mother land. I really believe that an expedition of school children should leave Barbados and travel to Ghana and it should be organised. We could really go back home. When I say go back home, I mean to our origins.

Sir, some of us are very afraid to identify with our ancestors, but I believe that no matter where you came from, as long as you are a black man, you are an African. We have seriously to really change the mind set of our youth toward one that really brings them to identify with whom they are, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, when I spoke earlier, I talked about the Empire Theatre. I want to laud the Government's effort, in trying to get the Empire Theatre as a fixed place for the performing arts of Barbados. The walls within the Empire Theatre, should also become a Wall of Fame for the artistes that I mentioned before.

This brings me to a very important point that all communities across Barbados should have a place reserved for their cultural and community heroes. There are cultural practitioners and there are community practitioners. Obviously, in Barbados, a very serious feature has

developed from the perspective that it is only when you die and you pass away, that people speak good things about you. I really believe, Sir, that when you are alive, that should happen.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 19, 1.40 p.m.

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Sir, every community across Barbados should have a Hall of Fame, a Wall of Fame, even a Walk of Fame, to identify those persons who have made outstanding contributions to their respective communities.

Sir, everything that we do in Barbados, its genesis must be in the communities across Barbados. The community leaders have to become more professionally trained, because we have to adapt now to the technological changes that we are constantly faced with on a day-to-day basis.

Our youth are far more technologically savvy. They are more able to adjust to the technology even more than us older persons. They were born into the technological age, while we are now struggling to come to grips with the technological age.

Mr. Chairman, we also have a right to teach our youth about our history and our past experiences, the oral tradition. It is critically important that we pass on what we learn to the youth.

One of the best teachers, I saw him probably at his best this morning, and through you, Mr. Chairman, I could refer to him. There is a film called "To Sir With Love", which incidentally was written by a Caribbean writer E. R. Braithwaite. It was filmed in London and starred Sidney Poitier. When he spoke this morning he reminded me of Sidney Poitier in the film "To Sir With Love". He was very energetic and very passionate.

There was a particular scene in the play when the youth got "Sir" vexed and he went back upstairs in the teachers' quarters in a passion, but then he calmed himself and said: "You know what? I am looking at these as children, but they are adults", and he suddenly came to realise that he had to deal with the problem differently.

Before "To Sir With Love", Sidney Poitier starred as a student in a film called "Blackboard Jungle". That film spanned decades and decades. It shows that from "Blackboard Jungle", to "To Sir With Love" and now, that the struggle and the problems remained the same. The only thing that is constant is change. It is amazing to see how over a period of time the issues still surface as they are.

Sir, Barbados is an ageing society. I keep saying that the projection is that by the year 2020, more than half of our population would be over the age of 50, which reflects a very serious paradigm shift. One of the best investments we could have, we are always talking about our youth, is in our elderly, the two extremes of the society.

I am saying that because there are a number of senior citizens across Barbados who formed themselves into a group called the Senior Citizens' Drama Group of the National Assistance Board. There has been a little lapse in terms of their activity. The important thing there is that the average age within this drama group is 82 years old, which is an amazing thing.

They are given scripts of almost 200 pages. Each of them have a particular role to play. They have to memorise the lines. They have to know their blocking on stage. They have to behave like any professional actor. They performed in Trinidad and in North America. Every time that they perform in North America, they perform to sold out crowds, which means that there is a market for senior citizens drama. There is a total market in terms of the paradigm shift of how we are going to do things as we reflect towards our seniors and so, we have to really look at that seriously and prepare for them. I am saying that against the Madrid Conference in Spain "Towards a Society of All Ages".

Mr. Chairman, on mornings around 4:00 o'clock, I am sure that you are out of your bed at that time, many senior citizens are on the road exercising, keeping fit and living healthy lifestyles than even our young people. We take the youth for granted when we are young. The elderly people are far more conscious of their age and are getting more involved in cultural activities and sporting activities.

Sir, when we look at sporting activities, there have a lot of Masters' tournaments. They have Masters tournaments in cricket, Masters tournaments in soccer, and Masters tournaments - well you cannot call them Masters, you would have to call them Mistresses - in netball.

As Barbados moves toward a rapidly ageing society, we realise that there are a number of changes. If you check the radio DJs now, even "Lil Rick's" music has changed to what we called the "oldie goldie" style, or the old-fashioned reggae. He is not doing the Guinness Rush Hour anymore. He changed from that to Mackenson.

Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Minister was still on radio, he probably would be making more money now as a DJ than as a politician.

Mr. Chairman, in terms of the paradigm shift, what is happening is that more DJs are now organising back-in-time parties, just playing back-in-time music, reflecting the

music of the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and the 1980s, which is a serious market. The biggest one was recently held at the Wildey Gymnasium. Even the Plantation Theatre up in Maxwell is packed every weekend. Even Shades of Black is packed when they play back-in-time oldie goldies.

As a youth growing up you had to learn the One Step, Two Step, Quick Step, the Rumba, the Samba and the Foxtrot, if not you could not get a girl in Barbados. You had to be a dance fan. In fact, it is said that some of the best cricketers in Barbados, particularly Sir Garfield Sobers, was a very good dancer. Brian Lara also has good footwork.

Mr. Chairman, in reflecting on our culture, the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development was right this morning when he said that we have a unique way of doing things. He was talking about the fact that Barbadians have a special way of crossing even when they are crossing on the zebra crossings

Sir, in the 1960s, and the 1970s, we used to be a little more dangerous than that. We used to wait until a vehicle was coming and then dart across in front of it. In the United States of America, they call it "jay-walking". In Barbados we used to call it taking a quick one. Sir, we have to reflect on the cultural norms of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, we must be able to mount an exhibition on the cultural artifacts of Barbados. There was a time when, as poor people, we could not buy a paste kite. In those days, you had the White Hag, the Capella, the Diamond and all different shapes of kites, but we could not afford to buy them, so we had to become very innovative and it was at that time that we would go into the canefield and make something called a "trash bone" kite.

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: I would like to see a display possibly at the Grand Salle where we could look back at all of the things we are accustomed to from past Barbados. We used to make rollers and so many other things. We were so creative then. We cannot let that art form go.

Mr. Chairman, the other point that I want to make is the oral tradition. I believe that we must continue to work very closely with the University of the West Indies in terms of creating and solidating the memory bank, where we could tap on the memories of our seniors and store them for posterity.

The senior citizens of our country are the re-positors of the oral tradition. We could go to them rather than having to read a book to relive and recount their experiences, for instance, on Hurricane Janet. We could go

right back because many people forget that in 1966, when the Supremes came to Barbados, there was a little mini riot right over there in Independence Square.

House A60E Sequence 20

1.50 p.m.

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Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, people forget that prior to the Cubana bombing, BWIA showcase was blown out. There was a terrorist attack there, then those people went on to blow up the Cubana aircraft. Sir, there is a lady, who is still alive, who was supposed to be a passenger on that Cubana aircraft. She actually missed the plane, but she can recount the experience leading up to that.

Mr. Chairman, as I take my seat, the final point I want to make is in relation to memory banks. Sir, storing on the memories of our seniors is a very important programme for which we have to support the Minister. I want to drive home this point that the Minister is possibly one of the few Ministers of Community Development and Culture who would have averted any serious controversy so far at the start of Crop Over.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I rise to join this debate, as I listened all morning to the contributions of my colleagues, of the Opposition and of course, the very erudite contribution of the Honourable Member who just sat.

Sir, let me start by saying that I want particularly to congratulate the Minister of Community Development and Culture, not tongue-in-cheek like those on the Other Side would want to do, but genuinely to congratulate the Honourable Member for his presentation of the Estimates, the substantive document with which we are today dealing. I also want to congratulate him for his foresight and leadership in laying before this Parliament the National Policy for Cultural Industries in Barbados.

Sir, we have heard a lot said by Honourable Members on the Other Side about the document, although I must admit this morning there has almost been, as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central indicated, a Damascus transition as everyone wants to join in congratulating the Honourable Member in laying the document.

Sir, this document will become the standard-bearer for what we seek to do as a Government and as a people of Barbados. Therefore, we need to have that guiding hand, and that is what the Honourable Member is seeking to do.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to say that the petty squabble we encountered yesterday was just a demonstration of muscle, which will find its place probably somewhere else in the political divide in Barbados, but certainly not in here. It is appropriate, I believe, for other places, and I would urge Honourable Members Over There to reserve that kind of approach for when they are doing their Sunday evening shows.

Mr. Chairman, culture is very important. Yesterday we talked about tourism. We said that tourism is our business, let us play our part. Culture is our way of life, we must play our part. We play our part sometimes consciously and sometimes unconsciously.

Sir, it is a strange thing, this morning as I came to work, a number of events occurred. Sir, first of all, I saw a lady to whom I offered a ride. It ended up that she told me where she was going and so I made a slight diversion on to Golf Club Road, instead of my usual Highway 7 trek. I was looking forward to going down Highway 7, because I often like to reflect on the transition that occurs in the Barbadian architecture, as you move through Maxwell, Worthing, Hastings and then into what we now refer to as the Historic Garrison. It is like you are being transformed into a new realm of architecture.

Sir, I have a very strong interest in architecture. As a matter of fact, if I had not become a politician, I may have studied architecture and tried a career in that area.

Sir, we can feel that treasure which we have to preserve and every time we loose one of these historic buildings, it is like we have broken a part of the picture scape which belongs to this island Barbados. This point was made as we reviewed the submission of Barbados for the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, and as we listened to the contributions of those who made that submission possible - the historians, the curators - the ones who look after those very important factors which form the history of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, as I reflected on the Independence Arch, even the history of our Independence Arch is one that bears teaching. It needs to be remembered that, for instance, the Arch which now spans the southern end of the Chamberlain Bridge, was first erected for Independence Celebration in 1966. It was erected out of wood and, therefore, time took its toll on that Arch.

As we contemplated the 1987 celebration, and at this time reflected on the passing of the Right Excellent Errol

Walton Barrow, who was the architect of the Independence of Barbados, the decision was taken in June of that year to proceed with the erection of a permanent memorial to the Independence of Barbados, at a time of its 21st Independence Celebration, so to speak.

Sir, that permanent structure went through the full stages of design. The design I recall was won by a Grantley Romney, who I believe was not Barbadian, but was Trinidadian. The design is based upon a compilation of 21 stones: one central stone which is at the apex of the Arch and then 10 stones set about on both sides of that central stone representing the 21 years that we were celebrating at the time.

Sir, it is this kind of significance which makes Barbados so special, and allows us to be able to compete for interest, not only from historians and visitors, but for the interest of our young people. Sir, in truth and in fact, it is this kind of research and the availability of this kind of information, which gives our young people so much to work within our classroom adventures and then, of course, to exercise in further research.

The structural work of the Arch was done by a Barbadian engineer by the name of Robert Maycock, while Edghill Associates did the piling. These are things worth noting. This is all about Barbados.

Sir, the project was managed by our own Ministry of Transport and Works. I need to include these men and women there who did that work in our remembrance and acknowledgment today. Rayside Concrete poured the concrete for the Arch and the marble was obtained and the inscription was obtained from Gittens and Company. The marble is probably not local, but at the same time, you can see the high degree of local input to that creation.

Sir, on Independence Day, 1987, we were able to celebrate, in grand style, the 21st Anniversary of our Independence and a fitting acknowledgment to the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow and his great contribution, and to the Prime Minister of the day, now Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, present Ambassador to the Republic of China.

2.00 p.m.

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Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: We have all those remembrances and then, of course, on the eastern side of the arch stands the statue of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, again, a great moment in our recent history when our great leader would have been formally acknowledged in Independence Square in 2007 by a

Barbados Labour Party Administration and, Sir, the relevance is just there.

The point is, we are continuing to create a lasting memorial to what happened in Barbados, and our fathers and mothers before us did the same thing.

Mr. Chairman, I always listen with interest to the lectures of the late Dr. Colin Hudson, as he spoke about Barbados, and he would go back in total nostalgic terms to talk about the 17th Century and the 18th Century, not that he was around then. He had done the research and had captured the atmosphere. He talked about an industrial Barbados with some 360 independent windmills grinding sugar cane and producing sugar.

Sir, that is what formed the umbilical cord between Barbados and Great Britain. It is as a result of this relationship that we can boast the kind of tourism attraction which we have for the English tourists. Sir, that is why we can look forward to a genuine contribution from the English market once all things are equal.

Mr. Chairman, our Minister in 2010, has the challenge of ensuring that all these great historical relics be appropriately preserved. He spoke yesterday about the conservator and, again, he is working with some local artisans from the Ministry of Public Works and, Mr. Ronald Arthur, who is in charge of the building team at the Ministry, and his team, were out with him only yesterday looking at how we approach preservation, cleaning and restoration of our statues around Bridgetown, because we will lose them if they are not properly preserved.

Mr. Chairman, they have visited Sir Grantley Adams statue at Government Headquarters and the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow's statue, and his comment to me was that statue needs urgent attention, having been already battered severely by the vagaries of nature.

Sir, these are things of serious interest which we have to spend money and time on, and this is what we have to allocate funds in our Estimates for.

Mr. Chairman, we went over to the Montessori statue outside of the Carnegie Library. Again, we have the Montessori statue, we have the Synagogue, we have the Carnegie Library and we have the old Supreme Court in that area, and these are buildings all worth preserving, if we can somehow preserve these buildings, especially the Carnegie library.

Sir, sometimes a story gains its own momentum and I really would look forward to working with the Minister and having a look at that building in a serious way, to return it to its pristine state and, if possible, return it to being used as the National Public Library with all the

history it would bring along with it. Sir, this is a challenge that we look forward to.

Mr. Chairman, as we spread all over Barbados, we can go west, go down to Holetown and into Little Bristol, Speightstown, where I was born and nurtured on the hill in Mile-and-a-Quarter, east of that little City, and we can proceed on to Farley Hill.

Sir, again, it was a pity that we were not able to rescue that beautiful house before it fell to ruins, and Morgan Lewis in the north eastern corner of our island. Then we look all across the unspoilt national park - save for one dream - between St. Peter right across to the St. John coast.

Mr. Chairman, the only blur on that landscape, of course, is the brainchild of the Honourable Member, who sits on the Other Side now, when she conceived the national dump for a beautiful area like Greenland. Sir, we are charged with the responsibility of dealing with it and we will try to make the best of it.

Mr. Chairman, we come right around the coast to Codrington College, we come around to St. Philip, we come around to Christ Church and then we have the Concord at the Airport. It does have some visitors and when people have time they visit the Concord. I have been to it myself and there is something to learn. There is Mr. Butcher's old aircraft in there too, and then you come into the old great city of Silver Sands, and then Oistins.

Sir, then there are the boat builders of Silver Sands. There is still a Mr. Nurse there who made his living making fishing boats and a few young men from the area, and from St. Lawrence, who work with Mr. Nurse to continue to preserve that tradition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have two minutes more.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Sir, I am going to windup in Oistins, where very soon we will be celebrating again our Oistins' Fish Festival. Sir, this is a new festival in a lot of ways, but the Minister spoke, and the cultural policy speak to the opportunity of making these festivals and the celebration of these festivals, such an important part of the economic activity of Barbados, as we bring visitors in annually to make sure they have moments of tremendous interest and reflection.

Mr. Chairman, others spoke about the entertainers of Barbados and I want to reflect on a gentleman, who is now passed, Mr. Egbert Sayers from Oistins. Again, I think that Barbadians would like to remember Egbert for the tremendous work he did in entertainment, not only to visitors in the hotel sector, but as he thrilled many school

children in his exercise of his art form. It is soldiers like him that we must work for, and we must make sure we remember to make this Barbados the proud island state that it continues to be.

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, as I rise again to support this Head, I wish to highlight a few areas mentioned by the Minister of Community Development and Culture, that we have not dealt with in detail.

In the first instance, I would wish to congratulate his Ministry and himself for continuing to promote and organise what was called up to this year, the "Independence Festival Competition". This year because of the heavy concentration of events at Independence, it was moved to Errol Barrow Day and I understand the show was sold out at the Gymnasium.

Mr. Chairman, few entertainers have been able to fill the Gymnasium, which can house over 4 000 patrons, yet this indigenous Barbados working-class grassroots expression of culture in the form of community dance groups was able to bring a lot of young, vulnerable working-class and middle-class persons, who some people would want to write off as negative, but they came together using this positive energy in the form of creative dance, of all different types, Reggae, Hip Hop, and so on, and were able to fill the Gymnasium. They must be congratulated. This competition must grow from strength to strength.

H/A60E/ 2.10 p.m. Sequence 22

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Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Sir, I would wish to congratulate the Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central for a very exciting programme called the "National Lessons Assistance Programme (NLAP)". This is the brainchild of the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Culture, and this Democratic Labour Party Administration which seeks to empower working-class children of the 11-Plus age, as they prepare for the Common Entrance Examination, to give them extra tuition, compliment of the State, after school, to enable them not to be left behind by the realities of the day, such with the advent of the Internet and technology, many middle and upper-class children have a clear advantage over the vulnerable working-class children because they have the funds to pay special tutors to coach these children for the 11-Plus Examination.

Prior to this Administration's initiatives, these working-class children would be at a disadvantage, because their parents lack the funds to pay for extra tuition for their children. This is a very visionary initiative of this Democratic Labour Party Administration to seek to address these imbalances and level the playing field, as it were, by stepping in and providing taxpayer-funded private tuition for these vulnerable groups.

I think it is a very important initiative of this Democratic Labour Party Administration, similar to the provision of free education, taxpayer-funded education, from primary to tertiary, school meals and the Text Book Loan Scheme. This is a further advance. This is keeping with the philosophy of this Democratic Labour Party.

I must congratulate the Minister of Community Development and Culture for coming up with this very visionary programme which will be funded to the tune of \$63 000 in the upcoming financial year.

Sir, I have seen this in action while visiting my constituents in the Ribbits Land, uptown area, in the vicinity of Nelson Street. I was in the area of the St. Ambrose Church Hall and that Church, I must congratulate them. They actually have in place this programme already, where on evenings students of the Barbados Community College and University of the West Indies volunteer their services to give private tuition, but free of cost, to the children of that area and the classrooms are filled.

Sir, when you look at the fact that many households where there may be overcrowding in a wooden chattel house, the partition does not go up to the ceiling. So if someone is watching television, or listening to music, that noise pervades the entire household, making it difficult for that child to do homework after hours.

If they could go to a Community Centre, or a Church Hall, with the assistance of Government, in this National Lessons Assistance Programme, they can get that quiet time to study. Moreover tuition from trained adults, then that clearly would assist them to get to the school of their choice, so that we do not get this elitism, where people who come from affluent backgrounds would have a greater likelihood of getting to the school where other people would wish to attend.

Sir, of course, I make the point that whichever school one is able to attend at the secondary level, the teachers are similarly qualified, many with Masters, PhDs, within the newer secondary schools. I have taught at them and the children should apply themselves fully with the knowledge that they can get a sound education as well.

Sir, let me go further to also congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central and his team

at the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, for also pressing ahead in terms of instilling a sense of national identity and national pride in our African heritage, to the extent we have heard from the Minister in his introduction that in the next financial year, his Ministry will be focussing on an entire season of emancipation, which would include the provision of \$20 000 towards the celebration of July 26, as a day of national significance.

Sir, as you know, the previous Administration neglected this celebration, so that individual organisations outside of Government had to go at the Golden Square and make a modest celebration of the 1937 Riot of disturbances, whichever you wish to call it.

Sir, the French are very proud. They celebrate the Bastille Day - the French Revolution, yet there are too many people, because of the 1937 Riots, being a grass-roots spontaneous movement, who would seek to condemn those involved as criminals and so on, but they have been exonerated over time by the various Moyne Commissions and so forth, and we as a people must appreciate that the shedding of their blood and their tears, gave rise to the modern Trade Union Movement, the Adult Suffrage, which we may take for granted, but our forefathers in the 1930s, had to suffer.

Sir, prior to their expression on national discontent, there was serious prejudice in terms of the down-pressure of the working-class, where the rich got richer and the poor got poorer. Sir, these are very important national symbols that we as a people must embrace to ensure that we never return to those dark days prior to this movement.

Sir, I also wish to congratulate the Minister for again taking the initiative to ensure that at least 1 per cent of the cost of constructing new Government buildings will be pumped into renting, or purchasing Art of local origin to adorn the walls of various Government buildings.

Again, this would assist young entrepreneurs, persons like John Walcott and others, who have this natural talent of being able to paint. I really admire them because I did not get very far in Art.

I do not have that talent, but it really takes that creative genius to produce this wonderful Art work, and I hope that sculptures as well - we have had people like Karl Broodhagen, his son, Vergil, Courtney Devonish and others who have done tremendous sculptures. I look forward to this work being preserved as well for our posterity in our National Art Collection.

I also congratulate the Minister and the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, for committing to rehabilitate the Queen's Park Steel Shed and the Daphne Joseph-Hackett Theatre. Again, we have the Art Gallery

downstairs. The last Administration left those two buildings to ruin. There were just closed temporarily and temporarily ended up in years. Sir, the Steel Shed has been closed for years. In the early days before its rehabilitation it was used as part of the National Agricultural Exhibition.

Subsequently we have had it being used as a hall for hosting conferences and Calypso Tents and other shows. It is really a crying shame that the last Administration left that closed so long, but this Democratic Labour Party Administration has voted funds to ensure that the necessary repairs are put in place.

The Daphne Joseph-Hackett Theatre, the home of Theatre Arts, be it the Greenroom players, or the other groups, again can be used for local entertainment, because there is not enough nightlife in Bridgetown. "Laff It Off" has been used there. Victor Crawford, Spencer-Cross, the other talented persons, the rehabilitation of this Daphne Joseph-Hackett Theatre is long overdue. Also, it will add to the tourist product.

We said earlier that we need to appreciate the linkage between culture and tourism.

HA60E 2.20 p.m. Sequence 23

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Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 24, 2.30 p.m.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: In fact, you would know, Mr. Chairman, that your organisation has been able to really propel the Agrofest to a very large extent, and I know that the Ministry of Tourism is committed to assisting the Barbados Agricultural Society to expand this programme. Sir, when you look at the fact that this has a lot of tremendous national and cultural significance, all of the local agriculture, craft and textiles, it is a real showcase of things "Barbadiana."

Now, they have stretched to the pasture at Weymouth, where the Royal Barbados Police Force has been conducting each year, a very exciting tattoo. Sir, this can be promoted in the hotels tremendously, so that the Barbadian culture can be fully showcased. The tourists will come just as they come to see Crop Over, the Holetown Festival and the Oistins' Festival. They can come to the Annual Agriculture Exhibition, even tourists from the Caribbean.

Mr. Chairman, you and I know that we had a huge delegation from Trinidad. They do not have an Agrofest and they came in their numbers to observe and see if they can duplicate the one here.

The Caribbean market is a very powerful market, in terms of tourism and the Minister of Tourism has assured me that his Ministry is committed to assisting the Barbados Agricultural Society (BAS) financially in this regard.

The rehabilitation of Queen's Park in terms of the Steel Shed and the Daphne Joseph-Hackett Theatre, can add further value to the offerings, as part of the agricultural show.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have three more minute to conclude.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, if I go in terms of the last aspect of my presentation to add my two-cents worth to this issue of the dance hall and so on and so forth, I would wish to say that as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East mentioned, that in many of our dancing, wuk-up and so on and so forth, I am not saying we have to be vulgar, but this is part again of our African heritage. The whole issue of belly dancing and the use of limbo, is what these tourists come for, not that we are showcasing it just for them, but it is nothing to be ashamed of and I think we should be very careful.

There is a thin line to be drawn between looking at the negatives in terms of the vulgarity. I agree we should not be vulgar, but I make no apologies to say that I love to wuk-up. It is part of my African culture, the movement of the waist.

In other cultures, the Indians do their belly dancing and so on, and so forth, and so, we as people of African descent should never be ashamed of this expression of culture. In Brazil you have the samba schools where the young lads and lasses learn and perpetuate the samba dancing.

The Carnivals in Trinidad with their winding and so on and so forth, and we must be very careful not to think of everything European, that pure classical music is the only music that is acceptable, so that even within the Churches, Mr. Chairman, you will see that many of the newer Churches, and in fact, some of the traditional Churches are now getting involved in the use of the African drum, in terms of the liturgical dancing.

Once upon a time, you could not play calypso on a Sunday, because that was considered devil music - banja, but now we have modernised and realised that is foolishness.

As the Honourable Member for St. Philip mentioned, we have to separate the rhythm, the genre from the bad lyrics, so that I love dance hall, bashment and the African

heart beat rhythm of the drum and that must be separated from the negative lyrics.

Nowadays, you have some young Church groups using dance hall in a creative way with positive lyrics, uplifting the Lord. You have gospel performers, so we must be very careful not to alienate the young people of the country by suggesting that anything modern, in terms of the same reggae which has a lot of roots, for example, Jackie Opel.

The first time I spent Christmas outside of Barbados a few decades ago, I was in a big argument with my host in Jamaica because they swore that Jackie Opel was a Jamaican because he was so popular and, I think that Bob Marley and others emulated Jackie Opel who, of course, was from Green Park Lane in the heart of the City of Bridgetown. I just urge us to ensure that we do not alienate the young people to make them think that the actual rhythm is bad.

I am saying we must clean up the lyrics for sure on the ZR vans. Some young parents have complained to me that they are now getting petitions, because their little six-year-old daughter, or son, is in the van with them and the worst lyrics are being played on those ZRs, or minibuses, so this must be frowned upon and so, I totally support the need to clean up the lyrics, but do not be confused with the very positive artistic cultural expression of our heritage, in terms of the actual rhythm of the music.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for the City made two interesting observations. One is that Jackie Opel was reserved in Jamaica and how the Jamaicans wanted to claim Jackie Opel. The reason for this being that in those early days, the music of Jackie Opel was not only proclaimed in Jamaica, but he was regarded as one of the sons of the Jamaican people.

Sir, to this extent, it brings us to the point that the Caribbean is one landmass of islands, and we must treat it as really belonging to the Caribbean people.

Sir, a lot has been said today about culture. It is a way of life, a way of how we live and so on. I was listening to the radio on my way here and I heard a number of speeches about the culture of our people. I want to follow on and look at why I consider this Ministry to be a very important Ministry, even though it is very small in terms of the resources given to it.

I would think this is a Ministry that can promote new ideas and to bring new things into being, hence, the development of the community, is fundamental. I believe that the development of our community in Barbados is important to preserve our culture. It is important, not only to preserve our culture, but also to ensure that young people get a chance to get some of their ideas into practice.

I hope that in the coming months, we can see communities like the Valley in St. George, the Glebe Resource Centre, the ones in Drax Hall and throughout the community of Barbados in general. We hope that more and more resources can be put into these communities to help young people, and sometimes those persons who are young at heart, develop the talent and skills for which they are known.

I also believe that this Ministry which has the Pan African Commission, I know that a lot of work has been done by the Pan African Commission, in terms of mobilising persons to know what is happening in the continent of Africa to bridge the gap between the African way of life and our people. This brings me to the point that when we look at the culture of Barbados, when we look at what we have inherited, one must always salute what we have inherited out of Africa.

Mr. Chairman, a culture does not start overnight. It is something that is preserved over time. It is not only the music and what we write, what we eat but, of course, sometimes it is how we say things and we do things in a peculiar way. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the culture of the Caribbean has its genesis, not only in the people of the Caribbean, but in the history of Africa and Europe, because the Caribbean has a cosmopolitan of persons drawn from across the world. We have people from Asia, China, India and Europe.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 24, 2.30 p.m.

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Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we must see culture as when man first developed a civilisation. I remember doing Civilisation DOC with Mr. Anthony Phillips years ago and it is then that you are exposed to the culture of civilisation and how man himself is separated from the animals, what he does and how man can speak and pass on certain information, which other species cannot.

Mr. Chairman, man is the only animal that prays. Pray itself is also a cultural aspect of helping persons to know what God is all about, so man passes on knowledge, and this is important. This is why this particular Head is important, how communities can pass on knowledge and information to other generations.

We are hoping that a lot of programmes can be developed by the Ministry. I heard the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown say that there is a visionary idea that is coming from the Minister of how new lessons in the afternoon can be taught. Even though this is a good idea, I do not think it is visionary in terms that it is new, but it is a good idea in that it can help small communities and communities that are depressed to learn more of the things that they are learning in the school, and that they are not sure about, because this is what lessons are there to do, to help instill some discipline in the children. This idea is good. It is not a unique idea in the sense that it is not new, but I believe that it is good to help poor children.

Mr. Chairman, I have always been one who believes that lessons after school may not necessarily be the best thing, especially if you are teaching new concepts, so we have to watch that very carefully.

Mr. Chairman, I always believe that these community centres should be there to teach children new things about what is happening in their lives, what is happening in the community themselves and what is happening in other parts of the world. I firmly believe that the communities should bring out new ideas in people to help them to bring their thoughts together. They can do art in the afternoon. They can do other cultural skills and other things that can be done at that level.

Mr. Chairman, I see this Ministry as very important. The question is what happened over the last 14 years that had been something that I heard Honourable Members talk about. One has to understand that a culture does not start overnight. I want to point out this. A culture is something that you do not change overnight. The Democratic Labour Party cannot change a culture because it is something instilled in us. The Barbados Labour Party cannot change a culture.

Mr. Chairman, pudding and souse is a cultural aspect of the Barbadian way of life. Every Saturday you look forward to eating pudding and souse. It is cultural for Barbadians to talk about Cou Cou and Flying Fish, you cannot change that. A culture is nothing that can be changed in a generation. That is why I said that our culture as we know it, began with the development of civilisation, how man was able to do the things that he does to make him separate and distinct from other beings. Mr. Chairman, our culture is important to the preservation of what makes us truly Barbadian. It is there to preserve how we sing and dance. What we do to preserve the culture is important and, therefore, every effort should be made to preserve our culture and to develop industries.

Mr. Chairman, the art of developing industries is important, and therefore, the Government must harness themselves with the resources in order to help persons who

have talent to develop those industries and those businesses that they want to develop.

Cultural industries are important. The expression of thought, whether it is in the written form of a song. I believe that a number of persons have developed their talents and their skills and have put it into writing and into song.

We have today, Mr. Chairman, a lot of pirating going on, especially in the music industry. How we stop that is important. The Ministry must work hard to ensure that persons who have developed their ideas and their skills are rewarded from seeing their ideas grow into an industry.

Mr. Chairman, it is a big thing in Barbados today for persons, not only to burn music, but to pirate the music of local and international talents. We have to look at this. I understand it is a criminal offence for persons to do that, but that is a situation which is difficult to police. That is why persons say over and over again that it is very hard to develop the music industry in Barbados, and that it is better to develop the music industry abroad where they can get some reward from it. It is very hard to do so in the local industry because of the pirating that goes on in our country, and in most Caribbean countries, I believe all around the world because of the technology that is being used today.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Ministry could put new ideas into practice how we could stop this pirating. I know that some time ago, we passed the Copyright Act. I hope that more could be done with this because we pass these Laws in here, but then to police them is a problem.

Mr. Chairman I believe that this is an important Ministry. We would wait and see how the Minister in the next year will promote these new ideas and push forward the resources that he has. I believe that in the final analysis the programme that has been outlined had been one that came through time. A lot of them have been renewed, and I am looking forward to these new energies which the Minister is supposed to have.

I thank you.

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

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Thank you, Sir. Mr. Chairman, if I understand what transpired in this Honourable House last night, the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, the Minister, had done an opening presentation in which he outlined his Ministry's programme for the promotion of culture, but I seem to sense that the Minister was also suggesting that within the next coming weeks, this Honourable House is going to see a piece of legislation crafted, both to promote culture,

while at the same time, creating out of culture a kind of economic sector as part of his plan to do his bit in relation to restructuring or diversifying our economy.

House A60E Sequence 25

2.40 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East was careful to make a number of observations, including the fact that at Head 56, page 197 of the Estimates under 212: Operating Expenses, the figure allocated of \$80 000 seems small, certainly when compared with last year's figure of \$350 000. Further, under Non-Statutory Capital Expenditure at page 197, we see a decrease in the figure from \$3.875 million to \$1 100 000.

At the same time, in all fairness to the Honourable Minister, and bearing in mind that the Government has repeatedly said that it has had to make a number of cutbacks, what now has to happen is that there will be a prioritising of the list of programmes, and also the development of an inventory of deserving institutions.

I am at this point speaking of culture and I am going to speak consistently with the observations made by my friend, the Honourable Member for St. George North.

Sir, around 1992/1993, I had a certain conversation with the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East who, at that time, was very much a manager of a band. Here was a very young woman, recently returned from Europe and who had the clearest, possible vision for what she called the evolution and development of cultural industries. She obviously had it in mind that our traditional economy, based on agriculture, manufacturing and tourism, had reached a point where it needed an injection of new blood and an injection of stimuli designed to empower a certain category, while, at the same time, designed to expand business activity.

Sir, the Registrar of Corporate Affairs has been reporting that in the last three, or four years, the number of persons registering companies, for the most part, have been registering as persons who are practitioners of cultural activities.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members in this debate have been stressing the importance of culture. It was just stressed by the Honourable Member for St. George North and we in this great Barbados Labour Party remain committed to ensuring that our distinctive Caribbean and Barbadian culture is preserved.

Mr. Chairman, in it all, we in here know ourselves. There is an old saying, man know thyself, and man includes woman, except for when a contrary intention is expressed. We know what path we want to take, but we also live in a society where certain persons, much younger than ourselves, are drifting. Sir, these persons need anchors. Sir, what are the anchors?

The anchor could be a fireside chat by mum to child, the anchor could be the reading of a useful bedtime story, the anchor could be attendance at Sunday School, the anchor could be exposing the child, in a simple way, without complications, to our history and from where we came.

Sir, I remember my first exposure to history was torture. I was made to study the life of somebody called Margaret Beaufort. I made the error of calling her Margaret Beaufort. Sir, my mark would have been the same, whether or not I had made the error, but I had to do William of Normandy. I had to do the Battle of Hastings and in my childish innocence, much as I meant well and wanted to learn, I was confused. I caught myself around age 14, when West Indian history was exposed to me for the first time and then I developed a liking for history.

Sir, all along, religion was introduced to me as something to give me a moral footing in this world. I had a very bad experience a couple of months ago of going through a part of Barbados, in the company of a High Priest. The Priest stopped canvassing and began begging mothers to send their children to Sunday School and that he was going to look after the children properly. Sir, these mothers, in my presence, asked the Priest what was the value of going to Sunday School. I was shocked and the Priest became speechless too. Sir, those mothers went on to become mothers of new children, without having provided any anchor.

Mr. Chairman, our Deputy Prime Minister recently said that there were certain things that you cannot legislate. You cannot legislate that little children should say "good morning" to their teachers. You cannot legislate that somebody says "thank you" after somebody has been good to them. You cannot legislate that someone must say "may I help you?"

Sir, the learned and distinguished Attorney-General mentioned those things, obviously as norms, and we have to move away from what Emile Derkin call anomie, normlessness. We in here are the leaders of this country. There are those privileged to do direct leading. There are those of us here who are critics, but at the end of the day, we have to put an end to normlessness. We have to put an end to Derkin's anomie. We have to let little children know where we want them to go.

Sir, in it all, I regret that people like Marjorie Blackman are no longer active. I regret that our PAREDOS programme is not as energised as it used to be. Sir, in the same way that the Minister of Community Development and Culture can be generous enough to identify Gospelfest as a deserving cause, there are other causes that are deserving as well, which crave the injection of efforts by persons who are willing to make a sacrifice for Barbados and help guide our youth.

Mr. Chairman, in it all, we have to be careful to explain Caribbean music, Caribbean art and Caribbean craft. We have to be careful to explain them at the level of their aesthetic value. We have to be careful how we explain certain things in the environment in relation to how we interact with things in the environment. We also have to promote among our people a greater spirit of co-operation.

Mr. Chairman, there is an economic side to co-operation. If we look at the small man and the risk facing a single proprietor who is a business person, an unincorporated agency who is 100 per cent liable for his, or her liabilities, we have to ask ourselves: "Have we not come to a stage where we should promote greater co-operation among our own entrepreneurs?"

I am happy that the Ministry for which the goodly Honourable Member for St. Philip West is responsible, has been strengthened, and they now have the opportunity to look to the small man and to the part which the small man can play.

Sir, the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown is very well-placed to identify four, or five hundred entrepreneurs in a short space of time and using the resources of his Ministry and the skillful guidance of his Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, to promote entrepreneurship in a manner that would see themselves as not mere hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Mr. Chairman, why do some segments of this society feel that they have a total monopoly on business activities, and that we in here should be hewers of wood and drawers of water? Why would certain segments of society find themselves favoured by certain institutions which are not generous at all to people of our hue and colour?

One of the real risks facing the incipient and emerging black businessman is the fact of how to capitalize his business at the start and how to capitalise the business on an ongoing basis.

2.50 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: Sir, I want to issue a warning to all our emerging entrepreneurs to be careful with 100 per cent loan capital. Be careful with 100 per cent loan capital because, if you capitalise your business 100 per cent out of borrowings, you have no buffer and, in a matter of weeks, or months, if your inflows of income are not high enough, you can get into trouble. I hope that the technical services of the Ministries of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West and the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown by way of advisory services and support services, are promoted.

Mr. Chairman, I am not talking off topic. What I am actually talking about is that we are going to come to the stage where in anchoring our various segments, we need co-operation among our people, but we also need co-operation on their behalf by those entities that can empower them.

Sir, how many things in life are really separate, distinct and isolated from the other? It seems to me, there comes a time, when almost everything seems to be related to something and that is one of our challenges facing Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have two minutes more.

Mr. R. C. EASTMOND: In my conclusion, I want to make a call for there to be greater anchors for our youth, whether the anchor be religion, whether the anchor be education, or whether the anchor be involvement in the Boy's Scouts, Girl's Guides, or Cadets. There is a need in this country for a greater sense of discipline among young people.

Sir, young people who are disciplined can better resist temptation than young people who do not have that sense of discipline.

Mr. Chairman, we also have to encourage our young people to want to get active in their communities and build wholesome friendships that can last and that can be productive.

Sir, in ending it all, we as a Parliament, will continue to support any initiatives designed to carry this great country forward.

Long live Barbados, Sir, and thank you very much.

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to have a second bite of this debate on the Head that is before us. I want to start where the Honourable Member for St.

James North ended. He made two references in his speech to anchors for the youth. I must commend him for the quality and texture of his contribution, because a lot of the debate around the whole notion of culture, particularly this morning, strayed to the whole idea of anchors. Of course, you used the word specifically and other Members spoke of levels of behaviours, and I want to commend you for that.

Mr. Chairman, nevertheless, I want to disagree with the Honourable Member for St. George North who was making the point that none of the political parties can change, or influence culture. I think he has a misunderstanding of what is truly culture, truly him. He obviously believes that somehow culture is fixed in time and place, and people rotate around what is set up, or established as culture. In fact, that is not the case, because culture sometimes can be quite fluid. It is sort of a dynamic outflow of human interaction with his total environment.

Sir, man affects his total environment and the environment affects man, so you get, to some extent, a melting pot emerging out of that coming together, that interaction and that particular interface.

Mr. Chairman, it is correct, a moulding and a remoulding, a shaping and a reshaping, different con tortions and different forms emerge out of that.

Mr. Chairman, I have said earlier this morning that in that whole mix, one gets contestations. Sir, in this contestation, there is a struggle for being the dominant aspects of the culture. Sir, that is where we have certain difficulties in our emerging societies. Sir, all societies emerge and change over time, but the contestation is very much there.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this morning, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West - he was not on the Floor - briefly spoke to some songs and I did not know that he was a connoisseur of so many different genres of music. It just goes to show that, in fact, rather than the accusations made by the others on the Other Side, that he is not at all superficial, but he has great depth. He spoke of a lady called Ella Andell and I had to go to find her.

I am not one who spends an extremely long amount of time listening to the music of a lot of different people. In fact, even though I like music myself, there are names that sometimes miss me.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member also spoke of Gypsy and he spoke of Ras Shorti-I and, I want to use these three pieces to point to what I am talking about in the struggle within the cultural environment, to the minds and souls of our people generally, but more particularly, for the fight within the cultural contest for the souls of our young people. Sir, that is where the whole notion of what we

would refer to in this country as the minibus and ZR culture.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I am going to sing the song. I am sure that the quality of the technology we have in the Honourable Chamber would be able to carry the beauty of my voice.

Mr. Chairman, the point I am making has to do with the struggle and the contestation. Sir, a lot of persons in Barbados would want to refer to bad behaviour, indiscipline and fight against authority as part of our culture.

I do not understand that and when I read somewhere in the newspaper this week of one of the leaders of the private sector vehicles referring, in a very disparaging tone and manner, as to our condemnation, as Leaders in this society, about what has been happening and most likely some of what will continue to happen, unless we put the brakes on that aspect of revolving culture, which is negative.

Mr. Chairman, it is not the presence of a vehicle that is important, that is a mere object, a mere technology tool. It is a motor vehicle, but it is the encouragement, the anti-authority behaviour that is manifested in those spaces.

Mr. Chairman, in 1996, the Barbados Labour Party Government as a means of bringing some kind of control to that sector, placed an exorbitant amount of taxes on that. Sir, that was the wrong way of seeking to fight and to control by taxing them into compliance.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: It was something they brought up. I do not remember what it is called. Yes, it was \$15 000 and they cut it to \$7 500.

Mr. Chairman, you do not place taxes to bring about order within a given society. What was happening was that the drivers were flouting authority. They were saying that these are the Laws and that they should be obeyed, but none were being obeyed.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I remember the milk shakes, but sometimes this country forgets. You had names of all types slashed across the back and sides of buses, names like Midnight Assassin. Sir, we allowed the festering of that kind of behaviour within the culture.

H/A60E/3.00 p.m. Sequence 27

Friday, March 19, 2010

Hon. R. D. JONES: The music from the Juke Boxes, which they placed within these buses.

Somebody spoke earlier today of adults and children in the same place, but there were many persons who suffered as a means to get to work. They suffered the indignity, and if they raised their voices and said, can you lower the music down, they were berated in the most offensive manner. This is what we were caught up with within the country.

Sir, the ones we have to rescue, do not tell me that there are negative, but are we going to spend all of our time talking about the adults being negative, rather than those in the society who know better, who believe they have a different and a better path, or to seek to deal with the youth and place them on a different, or better path? In other words, giving them anchors, a certain form of safety and security as their minds and personalities mature, that they can then distill out as they grow older, the negativity and the rubbish which is being implanted within their minds.

Sir, some time ago "Ras Shorti-I" dealt with the song about white power, powerful lyrics. It is a song that I constantly remember as I go through life's journey. When he passed away in 2002, Hollis Liverpool, whom we know as "Chalk Dust", an intellectual, a profound intellectual who sang calypso, beautiful music. Dr. Hollis Liverpool, gave him his title. He said - and I want to quote from these notes which I have here - that he was at a concert in London in 2000, and he had with him the Fausto, Ana Ella Andelle Cruzo Barr. He said that none of them were able to move the audience as Calysonian Alberto did when he sang "Ras Shorti-I's" hit, "Watch Out My Children", and picking up straight off a universal message.

People had the experience of the decadence and the decay which the use of cocaine and another narcotics had on the devastation of the young people of the world. He said: "Alberto and I both agree afterwards, that calypso was not only a timeless composition, but it had to come from the pen of someone inspired by the Creator in the same manner as the Biblical writers".

Do you understand what I am saying, Honourable Member for St. Michael South East?

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: You are not setting me up to be body slammed.

"A closer look at the calypso revealed not only well-rhymed lyrics, but sober thinking leads us to righteousness,

happiness and spiritual bliss, but the lyrics contained that psychological mass that is so common to good calypso"

Sir, some of the rubbish I hear in Barbados masquerading as calypso, the Jump and Wave mentality, the bunch of filth.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Let me make my point. I do not want the Honourable Member for St. Philip North to be defensive in this mode. We are analysing a particular context, so it is the "jump and wave" mentality, the shake the leg, "wuk up". Not once did "Ras Shorti-I" mention the word "cocaine", and yet the message was so effectively communicated, the quality of writing and the message which came through to young people.

Sir, the imagery, the creative mind at work and at play with words, the ability to communicate. I just want to do a little piece of it. I am not going to sing, because I might be betrayed. Right now I have been speaking so long that to sing I might be betrayed that people might erupt in applause. He said at the end of the first verse: "We both watch each other in amazement, for we knew that song was the essence of good calypso and branded with the stamp of immortality." Through generations, even when the Great Lord comes again.

"Ras Shorti-I', please, you are young and your future is ahead of you. Right, or wrong, sweet, or sour depends on what you do. Taking the wrong direction will drain your constitution and promote tension, chaos and confusion, then corruption to the inner man, and that was not God's plan. Watch out my children. Watch out my children, I have a friend called Lucifer with a bag of white powder and the powder could be many colours, and he don't want to powder your face, but to bring shame and disgrace to the human race."

This is what we need to speak to our young people about. Get them to go through the analysis with you. Get them to see the beauty of the poetry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Hon. R. D. JONES: It was done in so many different languages, that is why it was so universal. This is how we have to reach our young people, and not take them necessarily into the "jump and wine" mentality. That is only one side, but there is another beautiful side that is important.

Sir, following on that same theme, and we are talking culture. I remember in the late 1970s, as a very young man, and in the early 1980s as calypso started to

blossom and as the great young men, skinny though they were, they looked slightly starved, they came from the East, men like John King, “Red Plastic Bag” and “Adonija”, many of those gaunt men bringing a reformation to the calypso genre in Barbados, and we had that revival and tens of thousands of Barbadians got up from where they were and were waving red, flocking to the Stadium wherever these people were in small places bringing the music, because there was a beauty to the music.

Then a new generation came, influenced by somebody else and discredited all that early emphasis and all of that beautiful work, the writing of Tony Waldron, and persons like those who brought back a sense of history, culture and feeling to the Calypso Art form within the country.

I am going to come back again.

Let me give you, as we speak again to culture and all the culture industries and products that we sell, and the limited vision that we have, hopefully will change as we roll out the cultural industry’s programme over time, because it is not going to be instantaneous. We have to rely on all bodies working together. This was an article written by a Dr. Quamay Nanatumba. He is a part-time lecture at Cypriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies at the University of the West Indies. He too was speaking about “Ras Shorti-I’s” music. He said:

“The stark reality is that when “Lord Shorti” introduced Soca music via his 1974 LP entitled “Endless Vibrations”, his lyrics were conceptualised within the context of love, hence the love circle. Sadly, some of today’s Soca lyrics...”, and may I add Reggae lyrics, dance hall lyrics “have completely transferred the love circle into today’s Soca’s public, pornographic sex circles as patrons get ready to “juck, juck, juck...” or should I say “wuk Up, wuk Up, Wuk UP” ...”The notion of wining, lewd pelvic gyrations and/or sexual intercourse orientations, real, or imagined, was non-existent in Lord Shorti-I’s original Soca music incarnation.”

This is what I call educating the people in a serious sensible way.

The primary focus of Lord Shorti-I’s Soca lyrics was a person’s first bringing, particularly the woman. Shorty’s message to the little people, and we know who the little people are. “As young people to be aware of a fellow called Lucifer and a bag of white powder who wanted to spread shame and disgrace to the human race.”

HA60E 3.10 p.m. Sequence 28

Friday, March 19, 2010

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 29, 3.10 p.m.

Hon. R. D. JONES: “Ras Shorti-I’s” circulars were not only steeped in finesse, class, taste, sophistication, imagination, but also what is most important, respect for women. He never envisaged that one would ever be demeaned, devalued, or defaced under the guise of his humane musical invention. Sadly, today’s soca lyrics have completely ripped out the very innate’s soul of “Ras Shorti-I’s” musical art form.

Indeed, they have changed and the sad tragedy is that some soca artistes, reggae artistes, dance hall artistes, R & B artistes, rap artistes are in denial to accept the reality that the immoral lyrics that represent the same bag of white powder, were prognosticated by Lord Ras Shorti-I and then Lucifer.

Sir, but like some of today’s, all of those artistes are usually to bring shame and disgrace to the face of morality, human sexuality and female human respect, dignity in all countries within the Caribbean space. Sir, that is what we are talking about.

Some soca artistes have not only literally created a human sexual monster of “Ras Shorti-I’s” original soca lyrics, but have also shamelessly bastardized them to the 9th degree. Some of the soca, reggae and all the others that I have mentioned, put raw, explicit, classless, tasteless sex, right into your face. Nothing is left to one’s imagination. They become socially accepted, albeit legal, norm for public pornographic behaviour with clothes on. I mentioned today what happens on the Buccaneer, some of that and this mention of it being African.

It is not being African at all because within the African tradition, within the African dance, where you hold the legs as you are on the Buccaneer of the lady right up and man goes under there and wuk-up as we call it, a strictly sexual display. Nobody can equate that with African culture. Nobody can equate that with the beauty of African dance. Nobody can equate that with African dance fertility, but this is what we have pervaded within our country, and we are talking about culture.

We have to get back to the drawing board and refashion our society in our image. That is the point I am making. Not in the image of somebody bred in another culture, or bred in another space, but to seriously fashion Barbados into what we want and what is truly ours.

Yes, we recognise we are involved in culture, but we have to look for what I said this morning, as the cultural values exhibited in our music, our dance, whatever we do, even in the architecture of our buildings. We have a lot of work to do, and I know the Honourable Member for St.

Michael South East, though enthusiastic about so many things, will buy into what I have just said.

I thank you, Sir.

Asides.

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

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member who just took his seat, gave a splendid delivery of a musical icon in the Caribbean. In actual fact, as you said, we knew him as "Lord Ras Shorti-I". He had an album called, "The Art of Making Love", which was done in a way that at the time it was done, it caused some kind of consternation with the Trinidadian public. This is before he changed to "Ras Shorti-I", when he resided in the mountains and hill-side of southern Trinidad. When "Ras Shorti-I" went through his transformation, he had about 10 children and all of them used to reside with him. They all turned out to be great musicians in Trinidad.

When I was a member of the Pinelands Creative Workshop, we did a production centred on exactly that. The song was called, "Watch Out My Children" and this was way back in 1997. We used that song as the centre theme for the production, "Watch Out My Children." They had a fellow called "Lucifer" with a bag of white power. The lyrics were very distinct. It was very clear and the message of itself sent a certain message to the young people across Barbados.

This is what I am talking about, using the art form for positive change, rather than negative change. There are a lot of positive artistes in the Caribbean, if you are talking about positive lyrics, Bob Marley, Luciano. There are quite a few artistes in the Caribbean that their music will live for immortality.

Sir, I want to come right back home as it relates to this whole issue of culture and the culture product, and the National Policy for Cultural Industries in Barbados. Perhaps one of the fastest growing industries or products within the cultural realm is that of gospel. I really believe that we should be able to fuse the element of gospel tourism.

There are so many, particularly in Gospelfest, groups that travel from North America all year round and come to Churches in Barbados. It is an area that we have to seriously look at, the whole area of Gospel as a transformation process towards the fragile minds of our youth.

I am sure that the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Culture would look at how best we can, in these desperate tourism times, come up with new innovations to keep pushing the whole aspect of gospel tourism.

I would like to see in Barbados, Sir, the Churches - the Nazarene, Pentecostal, Anglican, Roman Catholic - come together and have a national Church choir competition. If you watch the positive aspects of BET television, every Sunday, you have a whole set of choirs stretched across America, and now they are bringing all of them together in a competition style, and the best choir along the Eastern Seaboard of North America will get the President's Award.

Sir, in Barbados we have fantastic choirs in all the Churches, the Anglican, Pentecostal, Nazarene, Wesleyan. We have fantastic young people singing gospel. We cannot push from here that the perception cannot be that all of our young people are falling into that cycle, or morale. I am thinking that the majority of our young people are still living positive lives. In fact, a great majority of our young people are in the Churches now. The Churches now have even accepted dance as a form of spiritual rejoicing and giving thanks to God.

I am saying that this whole package of gospel tourism should be promoted, but more so, Sir, when we get to the whole aspect of the Church Choir competition, perhaps we could name the Church Choir after Bentley Callender.

Bentley Callender as we know, would have been the Choir master at St. Mary's Church. I learnt from the Leader of the Opposition that he was my father.

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Which is true, but the fact of the matter is that a lot of people, including the Mighty Gabby and others, have said that they would have learnt their singing from him.

My mother wanted me to learn to play the piano. I could not even run the scale, doh, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, doh on the piano. It was not my calling and that is the point. The fact is, I really believe that, in terms of immortalising those great persons that went before, we should do something to recognise their works and worth.

Sir, there was a time in our history when we had the big band period of Tommy, Dorsey and the Millers and so on from America. Sir, in Barbados, I believe that we have the best big band in the Caribbean and perhaps in the world, in the form of the Royal Barbados Police Force Band.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 29, 3.20 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: The Royal Barbados Police Force Band travels almost every year and captivates the minds and the hearts of those who listen to them. The Royal Barbados Police Force Band is one of the best bands, in my view, in the world. When you hear the Royal Barbados Police Force Band play, it is very captivating. I really believe that its leader, Dr. Christopher Atherley, should be given a National Award for the type of dedication and commitment he puts into the Royal Barbados Police Force Band.

The Royal Barbados Police Force Band travels throughout the length and breadth of Barbados, particularly on Sundays playing music as guest for any organisation that wants to raise funds. Perhaps, the Amphitheatre down in the Post Office should also...

We in Barbados had a culture called "Service of Song" and every Sunday people would travel throughout Barbados to put on a Service of Song. In that Service of Song, there were men and women who used to indulge in the art of speechifying. A person would get up and use the biggest words to thunderous applause from the audience watching. I really believe that this is part of our cultural heritage that we have to revisit.

Mr. Chairman, drama is another important element. There was a time in Barbados when the Esso Company used to sponsor a programme called the "Esso Drama Festival" where a number of grassroot community organisations would do the eliminations in the community, and then they would bring the best of them down to Queen's Park and then a process of elimination will continue at the semi-final stage, and then at the finals. Mr. Chairman, at the finals only the best production would be judged and points awarded.

Mr. Chairman, we did a play at the Esso Drama Festival entitled "Bulldozers" which was written by Anthony Hinkson, a very prolific Barbadian scriptwriter, and directed by Dorsie Boyce who is now with the National Cultural Foundation in a technical role. I really believe too that we have to look at his skills as a director because he is probably one of the best.

Mr. Chairman, "Bulldozers" examined the whole social mess at the time of the resiting of the residents from Emmerton to Clapham. I remember it well. It was the year Gabby released his song "Emmerton". At the ending of the production, when the bulldozers came and moved away and cleared out, and this is theatre style, the residents from Emmerton, and the tune "Emmerton" was played, almost

everyone in the Steel Shed literally stood in their seats and cried.

Mr. Chairman, that was a graphic way of portraying a very serious social issue at the time in terms of the removal, the resiting and the uprooting of people from one area to another. It examined the repercussions and the social problems that would have been associated with such a move. "Gabby" immortalized it in the song that they said was the best song for the century.

Mr. Chairman, I really believe that we should start another drama festival in Barbados and also develop writers through a writers' workshop programme.

One of the best known persons for keeping records in Barbados as it relates to our culture, is Mark Williams with his programme "Looking Back", which takes you way back into the annals of Barbadian history. He has a whole wealth of material stored. I really think that it is something that we seriously have to look at.

In this Honourable Chamber, there are a number of artistes in their own right. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North specialty is reggae music. All of us know him as an accomplished guitarist. He plays some serious base in the art form of reggae. St. Philip produces a lot of talent, not only on the political side. Next to him is a good percussionist in Dr. David Estwick. He would tell you that many times in his rehearsals as a band percussionist. You got to see the craft. What I am saying is that all of these elements of culture, particularly in the community, should continue and always be highlighted.

This brings me to the late Dr. Walter Rodney who wrote the book "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa". I believe that it should have been taken a little further how Europe underdeveloped Africa and the Caribbean.

Mr. Chairman, in terms of looking back and reflecting on our history, the whole issue of reparations and so on, would come into the fore, but the fact is that Europe also underdeveloped the Caribbean too. In fact, when we re-examine the slave trade and the route that was taken, which was known as the "Great Triangle", or popularly referred to as the "Middle Passage", we would see that when the ships left Ghana as a transshipment point, the arrival point was Barbados, and Barbados also acted as a transshipment point. In fact, when the English landed at Jamestown, they did not tell you that they had 10 slaves as part of the cargo in the ship that offloaded here in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, it is critical, in re-examining our history, that we seriously push the teaching of black history in the schools. The Minister of Education and Human Resource Development is very passionate about this. In his

discourses throughout the day in Parliament, you could see clearly that he understands his own history.

Mr. Chairman, if you do not understand your history, it is like a tree without its roots. Many of our young people are struggling to find an identity of who they are. If you ask them, they would tell you they are a Bajan, they are no African and that kind of thing. This is so important because, as I said this morning, no matter where you come from, there are so many beautiful shades of black. It is possibly the best pigmentation of skin on planet earth. I do not care where you come from, despite what colour you are, you are an African, you are an Afro Barbadian.

Mr. Chairman, this discussion on culture in Barbados is so healthy, we should be able to get CBC to rebroadcast it in a special package.

Mr. Chairman, I will take my seat and hope to rise again.

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I join this debate on this Head for the first time, not only to make it known that my support for the initiatives which the Honourable Minister has been embarking on in relation to the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, but also to explore and to discuss a number of the key areas of focus in relation to this very important Ministry.

Certainly, in relation to community development, which I believe we also touched on for the duration of the day, there are many facets of this area of our development that we need to capture and to harness. Certainly, this is another key Ministry that we in the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports, would have to work very closely with in relation to finding a way of getting to some of the key areas which impede our development at the community level.

House A60E Sequence 30

3.30 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, what I am keen on working on, in particular, is finding a way to reignite those communities, or youth groups, some of which have become dormant over the years. If we could find a way, either to create, or to recreate that network, I find that we would not only spend less money, but that we would find a way of allowing people at the community level to champion some of the solutions that are so vital to their own development within their various communities.

Mr. Chairman, one of the challenges we face is that far too many persons in our communities have become so busy, and when you talk to various people about becoming part of a community group and to start assisting, particularly assisting our young people in the various communities in finding ways to utilise their time, they offer many excuses.

Sir, most of the people who still remain very dynamic at the community level are those people who are moving on into the afternoon years of their life. Therefore, we need to find viable replacements for them. We need to start to train our young people to emerge as community leaders.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that in relation to the various programmes, I am sure the Minister of Community Development and Culture will be unfolding - we have to find ways in which we can connect our communities to our national goals. We speak of finding our way in this world and about earning valuable foreign exchange. What we need to do is to plough down further into the community and to use our community and youth groups as centres of entrepreneurial excellence in relation to growing that valuable foreign exchange.

Sir, without any excuses, the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports will become more dynamic in the quest to showing that there is still the avenue for entrepreneurial activity and entrepreneurial spirit among our young people.

Sir, we need to come face to face with the reality that while we may want to give as many people as possible jobs, that we have come to a threshold within the public sector, and that given the challenges we have in relation to our levels of expenditure...Sir, not only that, but moving forward the way that we have to harness the variant talents at the community level, is to find entrepreneurial enterprises towards which we can focus the energy of our young people.

Mr. Chairman, there are some very interesting international models and programmes that have worked for varying societies. I feel that one of the areas in which I want to move the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports, is that while we are training persons, and we have moved from Project OASIS to the other programmes which is basically re-engineering the talents of Barbadians, we have to aim to evolve a more holistic programme where we are going to rain persons, but we are going to move them into enterprises which they own, and from which they can earn valuable foreign exchange. Sir, that is a practicality that we can work hand-in-hand between the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, and the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports.

Sir, the whole question of using sports as a means of community development is something that cannot be underscored enough. Sports internationally is perhaps one of the most invigorating and exciting areas for entrepreneurial activity. We have many young men and women in our communities who are participating in sports at the community level, but whom we need to make champions in relation to transforming that interest and excitement into viable entrepreneurial activities, whether it happens at the national, or international level.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things I have championed in my Constituency is a document called the “Constituents Development Plan 2008 for Christ Church West Central.”

Sir, even before the last Election, this document had as its theme: “Rebuilding Our Communities.” This document encompasses a blue print, which was not created by this Honourable Member, but was created by the various constituents on whose doors I knocked, and who inputted into formulating a policy, an agenda for change in relation to how they can become more involved in terms of community dynamics.

Mr. Chairman, culture, in whatever way you may want to describe it, is a part of our very existence. One of the things I have already signalled in relation to the Ministry for which I have responsibility, is that our national camps that we have championed must become the fora at which our culture can be demonstrated. Therefore, I have already indicated that I want to see, within the context of our national camps, the presence of the National Cultural Foundation, the presence of persons who are involved in culture and who can enter the camps with a programme to transform the skills of our youngsters into recognising that there is a very strong cultural component that we need to harness. Sir, there are so many ways in which that can be done. We have dance and music, among others.

Sir, all of these activities, which are part of our culture as Barbadians, have been able to harness international professionals who operate at the level of dance and music in its various genres.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things that I would have conceptualised, even at the community level, and I did hear on the radio one Honourable Member of Parliament referring to the question of community recording studios, is that I hope to be able to say, in the not too distant future, that right in the heart of Silver Hill, within the soon-to-be refurbished Community Empowerment Centre, there will be a community recording studio.

Sir, I believe that at the heart of the community we have so many artistes who, because of lack of resources, are unable to enter a studio environment and record under the tutelage of professionals.

Sir, we need to move and transform the engine room for the development of music into the dynamics of community recording studios where persons who are talented can be asked, or requested to give back some of their talents right in the heart of their communities. Sir, I hope that Silver Hill would be able to boast of having such a community recording studio, right in the heart of Silver Hill, where it all happens.

Mr. Chairman, we have so many talented individuals, that is why I remain a firm believer in our young people. I believe that we underestimate the true talents and abilities of our young people, and that we ought to walk very carefully when we seek to generalise in relation to them.

Sir, I continue to encounter some of the most dynamic young people in Barbados, who not only know where they are going, but are enthusiastic about the vision for their future. Sir, all these young people really want is a structured system by which they can reach their true potentials.

I think the challenge going forward, certainly in relation to the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports, is to be able to reignite all of the community dynamics that are necessary to let our young people, in particular, know that we are there for them and moving hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, there are so many synergies that we can have in relation to delivering some of these services to our young people.

Mr. Chairman, I believe, and I hope to hear from the Minister responsible, that we would take another look at the dynamics of our Crop Over Festival. I am one who believe in decentralising Crop Over, and already we have started it in Christ Church West Central, where on an annual basis we have something called a “community Crop Over lime.” It is a calendar event.

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Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Sir, that is an example of seeking to bring a taste of Crop Over back into the community where it belongs. While we have the Grand Koodament, the Pick of the Crop and so on, it would be a wonderful idea to find a way of decentralising, not only through the Cavalcades, but through finding ways to make Crop Over felt in the community.

For example, there is nothing wrong with having community-based workshops where persons can be taught that very unique art of making costumes, so that rather than continuing the practice of importing costumes from various countries, because they can be mass produced, we need to

get back to the stage now of making costumes with our own hands.

Sir, once we infuse our national camps with the whole dynamics of culture and participating in not only the art and craft, but how you can take environmental friendly materials and transform them into art and creativity with a view to transforming our streets at Crop Over and Kadooment, I think we would have really created entrepreneurs where we can begin to export indigenous materials in relation to Carnival and Crop Over type costumes.

Mr. Chairman, there is a lot that we can achieve by finding a way to not only simplifying some of the concepts that we toss about in relation to community development and culture, but being led by that community bandwagon which is there just to be reignited, but finding a way to capture those groups that have gone asleep. Sir, many of them have gone asleep and I have begun to rekindle some of them in my Constituency and finding a way to tell people that they are better at achieving their goals as a group than as individuals. Sir, community groups and youth groups can become very dynamic forces.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have two minutes more.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sir, one of the things that I, certainly, would be moving the Ministry towards is finding viable community projects where the people at the community level can themselves help to fashion some of the solutions to their problems. Sir, there are so many areas in which that could happen, but we have to partner with community-based organisations.

Sir, Central Government can never aim, or expect to achieve the kind of societal transformation that is required in this new world order in Barbados. We have to partner with the community-based organisations and where none exists, we have to form them.

Mr. Chairman, one of the challenges that I would be issuing to the Youth Commissioners is to do exactly that. They should find community-based organisations and youth groups who themselves would have to have leaders and to challenge them to find their leadership qualities once again.

We can train them and we can provide the basis by which they can function, but creating a community network which is viable and attractive, and which is trained and harnessed, can be the bedrock by which we can transform our society from one of seeking work, to one of becoming entrepreneurs and believing again in our mind and collective abilities.

Mr. Chairman, I will probably come back again on this Head, but this is one of those Heads that could form the bedrock of a structured discussion, nationally, for empowering our people at a community level. We need it now, because our societies and our economies have changed. The dynamics of how we function have changed and we need to change with that, but we have to buttress it, create an economy that is now much more diversified and we need, at the community level, to inject a new kind of focus in relation to our productive sector that is fed by the broad community-based, whether it be tourism, or whatever activity that would now have to become the engines of our economic growth.

Mr. Chairman, I am much obliged to you.

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

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Mr. Chairman, I enter into this debate at this stage just to make a short contribution. I must say that I, certainly, like the direction that this debate has started to take as we approach the guillotine, so to speak.

Let me say, Mr. Chairman, as in other new sectors, because this whole question of the development of our cultural industry is an evolving one, and one of the challenges we experience, certainly, as I have said, is consistent with what happens in the international business sector and, that is, that there is no measurement of the contribution to GDP that cultural industries, or the international business sector make. Sir, the statistical information that is recorded and captured is such that the measurement of that contribution is unknown.

Mr. Chairman, certainly, within the international business sector, as I have indicated previously, we are looking towards utilising the EU Project under the 2008 Sugar Protocol, to have that measure done, and the infrastructure put in place that we can be measuring that contribution. Sir, it certainly is a direction that the cultural industries can take. I do not know to what extent that exercise could be done for the international business sector as well as the cultural industries, but it is important.

Mr. Chairman, it is important, because it presents an opportunity for us in doing that measurement to see how we can allocate scarce financial resources of a country as small as Barbados, to those areas of economic activity that would give us the best returns on our investment.

Mr. Chairman, when you think about the cultural industries, the investment that we need to make in terms of the return on that investment, foreign earnings et cetera, the percentage will be significant. It will be a hell of a lot more significant than the spend, let us say, in construction where

70 per cent of every dollar that you spend actually goes on imports.

Sir, within the cultural industry, every dollar that you spend, or the majority of the dollars that you spend in the development of that industry will redound to the benefit of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, that is important as we go forward, and that is why I believe it is important that we invest and continue to develop the infrastructure that would support the development of our cultural industry. I know that a lot of the players, the persons that are involved with the music industry, the film industry and so on...

Asides.

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: The Honourable Member for St. Philip North spoke this morning about the lack of support from the radio stations, but I could go on and talk about the lack of support within the banking system, because it is difficult for banks to be able to invest in what would be an intangible type investment.

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Hon. E. G. HUTSON: There is no way quantifying if you are going to a stakeholder. Let us say a young artiste, musician, or whatever. You do not know exactly how that talent is going to take off and so on, so it is going to be a difficult, or high-risk investment to the banking system, different to your investment of business which is buying and selling something. You have the stock, you have the other assets of that company to hold on to, to secure your loan if you are looking at it from the eyes of the public. It is some-something that I think, as we try to develop that aspect of our economy, we need obviously, as a Government, to see to what extent we could support that by State funds.

I heard the Honourable Member that spoke before me speak in terms of the development of recording studios within the community level, and it may be an area that we need to look at. I know that he is putting forward the view at the community level, but it may be something to be done at a national level. As I said, for every dollar we invest in that particular area, the return in terms of foreign exchange and so, will be a higher percentage than if we are investing in some of the other sectors where we have to import.

Sir, as I said, the shift, within the Ministry of International Business, we have negotiated several Double Taxation Treaties and so on. That gives an opportunity for our artistes, musicians, or persons in the industry, to

develop those economic activities that are centred around the development of our intellectual properties.

The existence of those Double Taxation Treaties allow those artistes that have developed and have been able to acquire an international recognition, to have their earnings from outside of Barbados in the major trading partners of the United States and Europe, and so on, to have their earnings not taxed in both jurisdictions, so that we get the double taxation effect.

One of the challenges we have, the whole question of royalties, even within the Caribbean, the Caribbean is a net exporter, so to speak, of royalties. Even Jamaica, we are talking about all the Reggae artistes over the years, and the Jamaicans still have to pay out more royalties than it receives, because those royalties and performing rights for people like Rihanna, Bob Marley and so on, those are being earned by first world countries. All persons who have developed that talent within the Caribbean, Barbados, Jamaica, whatever, but the income from their earnings is going into the United Kingdom and North American countries, while Caribbean countries have to pay those countries for that intellectual property.

Sir, it is an area that has to engage us as people and a region, how it can effectively reverse that. How we can ensure that our Region benefitted to the fullest extent to the intellectual properties, the patent and trademarks, and so on, of those persons within our particular Sub-Region.

Mr. Chairman, another area we have to look at is the whole question of how we will protect those intellectual property rights that are under the Copyright Act, from the whole question of piracy. It is certainly something that has been a challenge, and a challenge not only in Barbados, but across the Region.

I think that we in the Caribbean have always felt that downloading somebody's music, or just making a copy of a recording, or whatever, is innocent, but we fail to recognise, we are effectively stealing from our own brothers and sisters, from our own vulnerable persons within the communities when we practise those sort of habits.

It is an area that we certainly have to look at. I know that within the whole legislative programme of my Ministry, which has responsibility for the Copyright Act, and the various pieces of legislation, as it relates to intellectual property, it is an area that we are reviewing.

Now that we have the EPA, there are a number of International Conventions and Treaties that need amended legislation. Barbados need to have its legislation amended to come in harmony with some of these International Copyright Treaties, and so on. That is on the work

programme over the next two years. Certainly it will be an area that is going to be fundamental to the support of the cultural industries.

Sir, with those few words, I thank you very much for enabling me to make this contribution.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Sir, I want to take this opportunity - I think it would be remiss of me if I did not take the opportunity to say a few words. I am not sure if I am going to take up the full 15 minutes. I just wanted to associate myself with the comments of my colleagues, and certainly with Honourable Members of the Opposition who have spoken really well this morning on this matter. It has been a very rich debate thus far in relation to culture and cultural issues within the context of the Barbadian society.

Sir, you know that we have emerged from a rich and varied history in Barbados, having ourselves come out of a very turbulent and traumatised environment, history through slavery, the darker days of colonialism, and over time as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said, we have been able to maintain several of our traditions down through time, as the root, the centrepiece, the platform of our own cultural experience. Clearly we have lost a bit as well, particularly a lot of our own written history.

We have lost a lot of our varying tongues with which our foreparents would have brought from Africa, but having been subjected to the learning of the English Language, as we know it, would have lost their "Mother Tongue" and all those African dialects.

Sir, people are very amazing human beings. They have a capacity to learn and to retain. We have done so over time. We have also had the opportunity to develop new practises, to have a milieu, or college, if you will, of different cultures as we have mixed and mingled among ourselves.

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Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 34, 4.00 p.m.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Sir, therefore, as we look across the vistas of the Caribbean region, we see what we see within ourselves here in Barbados. Indeed, even as we look as far as North America, and certainly back in Africa, where we came from, we can see semblances of similarity between our cultures and our cultural practices.

Sir, if a culture is indeed the philosophical essence of a human existence, the way of doing things, or normative values, then we who exist within the society at present, must not only be the progenitors of that culture, but we also have to be the protectors of that culture for future generations.

When one considers the fact that down through the years, Barbados has been referred to in many respects as "Little England", it really is now, certainly in the post-Independence period, a tribute to those architects of our modern expression of culture, and I say modern expression because those cultural practices have been there for a number of years, latent as they were, dormant as they might have been, but certainly in the post-Independence period, would have emerged in a stronger, more vibrant and more colourful way to be practised, not in back rooms, or in yards, but certainly in the open, as an expression of our innate desire to maintain our human historiography as a people within this society.

It therefore, is incumbent on those of us who are called by special Election, or indeed, as we all are here by General Election, to the office of legislators and policymakers at the highest possible level, to work to maintain those cultural practices in a form and fashion that can stand the test of time.

Sir, that is why the Cultural Industries policy which will be followed by the Cultural Industries Bill later on, is so vitally important, because not only does it restate and reinforce our own belief at a policy level, in terms of where our culture is, where it has come from and where it ought to go, but it creates for us a scenario, a platform within which we can now project this culture.

Sir, this will not just be within the four corners of Barbados, but clearly beyond, to distant lands through the trade in services, and through our contact with persons overseas, so that they understand there is a Barbados brand, a culture, something that defines us from every other land on this planet.

I think that in as much as this cultural policy, and I remember when the officers came under the leadership of the Honourable Minister to the Social Policy Committee, we had an extremely rich discussion about culture and about what we are doing and ought to be doing to protect our culture.

Sir, as with any other thing within our society, our culture faces threats. It faces threats from penetration, cultural penetration, external forces, even internal forces that seek, not only to destroy, but to undermine and forever bury what is really ours. We have to be extremely mindful of this because we live in generally open metropolitan-type

societies, where we invite people and cultures from all over the world to mingle with us.

I am not a cultural exclusive. I do not believe that a culture can exist exclusively on its own in some corner of the world untouched by other cultures. Any such culture that does that will die. It will wither away. It will become benign and, therefore, would be unable to project itself in that manner. Sir, therefore, we have, of essence, to infuse new cultures into our own culture. This is how people learn, develop and grow.

Sir, we must begin the process of transformation, and transmutation of our cultural experience, to capture it in a way that projects, not only those things that are our longstanding tradition, but equally, Mr. Chairman, those things which we have been able to distill from other cultures to get us where we are, Sir.

Sir, we had a big discussion in this Parliament and outside of this House about the inference of music. Take for example, Jamaican music. There is this belief that you can place within the context of a musical expression, a certain level of deviance that becomes the hallmark of that musical expression. I think that is an extremely dangerous thing to do and I will tell you why it is dangerous.

There is no music form in the world, not even classical music that does not have some elements of deviance in it. A lot of people forget that in the 16th Century and the 17th Century, when classical music was at its height, that classical music was being used as an innate aphrodisiac for certain nefarious activities.

It was even used, Mr. Chairman, then and now by persons in the upper classes to distinguish themselves socially and economically from persons who were not in those classes, but because that was true, this has not come to characterise what is classical music.

Classical music is within the context of society, determined to be a wonderful thing that we all should learn.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: This is the point I am getting to and that is why my colleague from St. Philip West talked about the difference between the classical music versus...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Sir, it served to create the social stratification of the innate classicism that characterises our society.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Exactly. Purity, lines, order, breeding, disorder, but the persons who created and promoted classical music were all extremely socially deviant people, if you go back and read it very well, but that has not come to characterise that music.

However, in the context of the expression of popular culture that has come from the salt of the earth and permeated its way right up to a stage where we can now no longer ignore its existence, because of its influence on society, we have now seemed to take on this popular mantra to brand that music, as music that is deviant to the society, or that is the progenitor of deviance in the society. Mr. Chairman, that is absolute rubbish.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: The reality is this: Social deviance can be located within the context, if you are a good dialectician, understanding the scientific method of the dialectic. You will know that through the evolution of the class struggle, that social deviance gives its expression and draws its sustenance from the perceived division of the distribution of wealth, honour and social control within a society. Understand what I am telling you.

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Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, when two forces, in the context of the dialectic, are called upon to clash, then a higher state of existence must emerge. What we are going through now is just a phase within that struggle along the path to that higher exposition. It is what we call in the deep examination of social science, the cause and effect.

I think that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East made mention of the cause and effect, but we often say the symptom. What we are seeing now is a clash of a mainstream culture with what people termed, in derogatory terms, a sub-culture.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has three minutes.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I did not expect to take so long.

For my colleagues from Christ Church East Central and St. James North, it is like when you crack an egg and put it in a frying pan. The struggle between the heat of the

pan and the essence of the egg produce what you eat at the end, which is the synthesis. They fight for a time, but then they create a symbiotic relationship to produce an egg.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: No, it is not a surrender, it is a synthesis because you are talking about the struggle between equal opposites.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Yes, it is a point of equilibrium, because you are talking about the struggle between equal opposites. They are equal opposites, so neither will achieve victory over the other, but will produce an outcome, which is a higher level of outcome. Mr. Chairman, what you are having now in the Barbadian society is the struggle between popular culture and mainstream so-called sophisticated culture. These are now equal opposites that eventually will produce a synthesis for an even higher and better level of cultural expression. We must go through these permeations.

I really would like people, who make policy, people who implement policy and people who execute policy, to understand the fundamentals of human nature within the context of a post-colonial society, because we believe that on the attainment of Independence and the raising of the flag, that the struggle for decolonisation is over, but the very essence of the cultural expression that we have in this society is really a continuation of a higher stage of the struggle of the process of decolonisation within our society.

I know my time is up, but let me just conclude this part by saying this. The Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, made reference to certain songs within the context of calypso. If we look at those songs and juxtapose them against songs that we were taught in society, one would understand what I am saying. Only a few years ago, the Christian writers had to return to one of the most beautiful songs that we were taught at school when we were small that characterised our culture and brought us up in a particular way. That song, which is called "All Things Bright and Beautiful", goes like this:

"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, the rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, God made them high and lowly and ordered their estate".

We must understand the serious nature of those words that were taught to persons in this society, who have been infused with that thinking, that God Almighty created the rich and the poor and ordered their estate and, therefore, and by inverse logic, that those persons whose estates have

been ordered to be low should remain in that station forever. I reject that as part of my human experience and, therefore, as part of my cultural experience.

I will come back at another time on these matters. I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased about the quality of the intellectual pursuit that we call debate. I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West in further spreading that intellectual pursuit as we seek to debate, not necessarily fundamental differences in a given ideology, but in reality, the struggle for the assertion of what we need to have here in Barbados.

I want to take the song, which we all learnt as children, I call it, in the infancy of our ignorance as we sought to fashion a nation, which was essentially not under our control, but under the control of persons whose visions, viewpoints and conversations, were different to our own, so we have come full circle.

We now supposedly have control of our own destiny. Yes, there are still major contestations across the world, major demand for supremacy of resources, major demand for control of the mind and greater demand for the control of the culture of the world in every little small space, not only manifested by sometimes the hegemonic stance of the great neighbour to the North, but if we go around the world, also for control by those whose language we do not speak nor understand, and we are sending a few people Over There to learn their language, or to become even indoctrinated as they too spread their arms to control us. I do not call any particular race in this context.

We are, therefore, facing from inside now our own selves, the domination of a form of music which embeds within it certain cultural contradictions. Mr. Chairman, because we were fed a certain basin, as captured within the music, as alluded to by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, and may be others who are articulate in that way, does that mean that we should accept, because we are now masters of our own fate, or so-called masters of our own fate, or masters of our own destiny, the same level of bastardisation and pollution of our minds because we want to claim them as our own?

Mr. Chairman, in the same way that I would reject that mental penetration from outside within my psyche as a human person, is the same way that I would reject as well that penetration even from inside. That is where the battle is at, because we have to arrive at a given juncture at some point in time in our history, when we must stand up and say this is what we truly want.

Mr. Chairman, if captured within the musical expression as part of our culture, there is that noise and violence of the mind, then as we seek greater evolution as human beings, we too must reject that.

Mr. Chairman, it is not that, or that, but there is a third way. There must be a third way for persons who want to distill all of the various cultures that become part of the melting pot. This is what this debate is all about. Do we simply imbibe that which is handed on us, wrapped in beautiful leaves like our stew dumplings, or conkies, as we call them, or do we open the leaf and see what is made within there and ask for an explanation, or a description of what is given to us?

House A60E Sequence 35

4.20 p.m.

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Hon. R. D. JONES: May be that is why I do not eat at many houses, not because I do not trust people, but because I have to have knowledge of what is placed within what I consume. Therefore, just like we eat food for strength of our internal organs and for life, we also eat of music, we also eat of all the other cultural fares that are brought to us. Sir, it is those things that help to enhance our character and personality that truly make us who we are.

We are not perfect, if you want to take that position, and it is not an ideological position about being a conservative, a liberal, or being a rebel, or one caught up in the various challenges, we pass through various transitions in the evolution of our lives, but at the same time, we must understand that there is a certain change that takes place.

Mr. Chairman, we can argue about the egg and when we place it within a frying pan. Of course, to get a certain level of consistency within the egg, we have to add may be a bit of olive oil to the hot pan. If we drop the egg straight into the hot pan without creating a surface in between, we are going to get a slightly different texture. Sir, that is what is essentially happening, but there is also destruction of the egg as we place it in there, in order to feed ourselves.

There are persons who do not eat eggs because they might see the breaking of the egg and putting it in the frying pan as being destructive and I believe that this debate is about more than the breaking of the egg and the frying of the egg for consumption. It is about the destruction of certain firmly held values, postures and positions, and there is nothing wrong to hold a particular value, or posture, particularly one in the context of which has been fostered by our ancestry.

There are persons who want to corrupt certain ancestral values, even though those values are still evolving. There are still some that are fundamental, there are still certain values that make us whom we are. One such universal value is the right to respect each other. That should not be clouded by any frying of any egg with heat placed in a frying pan. It should never be changed.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: I understand it very well. I am an excellent cook. I might prefer to see a chicken born. I am not into scrambling up the society. As I said, it is a contestation, it is an argument and it is a debate and the process of it in what you call the synthesis, which emerges as the third way. There has to be a third way.

There are people who like to bump and wine on Kadooment. I prefer to watch the creativity of the manufacturing of the costumes and to watch the people parade beautifully without rascals jumping in the midst and disrupting it and throwing people on the ground and wining, bumping and grinding. I detest that. I want to see the creativity. I want to see the artistic mastery as you bend wire, stretch cloth, or paper, or whatever around it. That is what I prefer.

Sir, if another individual prefers winding and grinding on the hard rock, that is his preference, but it is also my right to argue that I believe that is wrong. That is where society evolves, that is where strength grows in a society, that is why this debate is so important, and I am glad in this particular debate you have a chance to flex your arms.

Sir, it is not a battle of minds, it is a search for the right way and, therefore, I respect those who make their contributions that are different to mine.

Sir, as I have always said, we have to be strong, even if we stand in the minority. There is a minority view and a minority voice, and if the majority truly respects intellectual discourse and democracy, they must also respect the minority voice, because otherwise, we are all lost. We cannot say because you are big and bad and you can slap me around often that you are right. In truth and in fact, you might be wrong because you have no respect for my chance to have a life within the given space.

Mr. Chairman, this society must engage in deep debate, because I suspect that this is a turning point in our country. May be this is the time for which we all have been called. May be this is the time for us all to be engaged in this particular debate. I do not have a quarrel with a man, or woman who goes and listens to a dub artiste. What I quarrel about is that man, or woman sits, without objection,

to some of the pollution contained within some of those lyrics.

Mr. Chairman, I am not throwing out everything out there. I came through the days of Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Burning Spare. I came through the days of “Old pirates, dey rob I, sold I to the merchant ship”, and so, I still know some of the lyrics. As young men and women in this country, we meditate and cogitate on those lyrics of liberation.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Well, you could call it rebel music. I call it uplifting music. Mr. Chairman, there is a different perspective that we bear.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes more in which to conclude.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, it is not a quarrel, but as I said, it is a struggle for an understanding and the emergence of a third way. Sir, the third way is what I seek. It is all well and good to have a singular view, or two-dimensional views, but I look for the third way. The third way to me is the important way for the salvation of the human kind. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I must commend the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central for this passion. I think the Honourable Member means well and he is clearly disturbed by what is going on, as we all are.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Sir, we are all disturbed by what is happening within the society, and we should all be disturbed by what we see in some instances. Yes, because we have seen an increase of what people call “ludity”. I call it exhibitionism. The process of exhibitionism has come about because of the way in which society has evolved.

My Honourable colleague has spoken about the days of the Burning Spare, Peter Tosh and Bob Marley, but I think that those are important days, but that they have to be taken within their context. These were radical non-conformist revolutionaries. These were songs of protest and rebellion. These were songs of liberalisation, but we are no longer in the liberalisation phase of the struggle, we are now in the ascension phase. You have to understand what is happening in the context of our own cultural movement.

The defiance in the lyrics you hear today in popular genre, whether it is dancehall, reggae, calypso, it is the attempt to assert and ascend the culture of this Region to an entirely different level. That is all I am saying. That is really the essence of what is taking place.

We are now at the phase of decolonisation where, as a people in the Caribbean, and certainly in Barbados, we are now asserting our culture. This is not now a fight for liberalisation, this is a fight for ascension. In other words, this is the battle of two major forces within the context of our society. What we are saying is, because both of these cultural expressions, or movements of culture, are basically equal, neither will win over the other, but that contestation will produce a result that is of a higher and more sustained and sustainable quality.

4.30 p.m.

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Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Sir, when I hear people in Barbados talk about what is happening now, have we forgotten Woodstock? Have we forgotten the “Baby Boomers” in the 1960s of which the Honourable Member would clearly have had a closer bird-eye view than me, because I was not getting ready to come out, but he was already on the surface, or beyond the surface.

Sir, when people talk about music, people used to take off their clothes and dance in the road. Sir, those people could not “wuk-up” because they did not know how to do it, but they got high and they took drugs.

Mr. Chairman, I was watching on CNN recently a documentary on Charles Mason. Mr. Chairman, did you watch that documentary on Charles Mason? Sir, Mason, who was of the Woodstock variety was able, through his tongue, to cajole the minds of some bright young people and cast them upon the society as murderers and, Sir, several of them are still in prison trying to be pardoned to get out.

Mr. Chairman, when we are talking about culture, there is always a base of culture with the bottom falling out in some parts of it and people would take advantage of that. Sir, look at what we have been able to do with calypso, with reggae and with dance hall.

Sir, right now, Caribbean cultural expressions in music have a greater influence on United States of America music culture than music out of Europe. Sir, Buju Banton, Mr. Vegas, Vybz Kartel and Movado have more influence on the United States of America’s musical scene than Spice Girls in England. Sir, that must tell you something.

Mr. Chairman, I am not giving an endorsement to lewdness, violence and crime. I am not giving an endorsement to that at all. What I am saying though, is that we give Jack his jacket and we understand that there is a way in which we can use popular music and popular cultural expression to infuse good wholesome messages to our young people.

Sir, I am saying that has to come with a firmly based and grounded cultural policy in a country. It is where that cultural policy is not clearly articulated, properly positioned and implemented, copiously monitored and evaluated, that bad influences can creep through the fissure and create mayhem within a society. Sir, that is what is happening and we have to understand that this is the level at which we have to address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, why is it that a song from Mavado can have more currency than a song from Luciano in this society? It has nothing to do with the two singers. It has to do with the values that are taught to those children in the homes, in the schools and in the Churches.

Sir, in our culture, everybody speaks about the people who are producing the music out of Jamaica, but a lot of people have not even trained their minds to what is taking place within the Caribbean and the Barbadian society, in particular, in the form of the prosperity gospel and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East can tell you about that.

Mr. Chairman, people come here, go on TBN and prey on the poor, speaking the gospel that is foreign to our own culture - I am a good Anglican - and, Sir, we laugh at the Anglicans and talk about their tradition.

Sir, they rush into all these Churches to hear people talk about how many suits they have and how many airplanes they can fly up and down. Sir, that is a form of cultural penetration that is taking place in this society but, Sir, nobody talks about them.

Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that they are all bad, because they are not all bad. There may only be a few of them that are bad, but the point is that with any kind of cultural expression, you will always find people that are good and people that are up to things that are not good.

Sir, once your cultural mores are clearly articulated and defined within the context of your society, then you have nothing to worry about, because the people who you teach them to, will remember them.

Mr. Chairman, I do not get caught up in this hot and sweaty debate about what we are seeing. We always like to pass the buck. Sir, we want to pass the buck to the minibuses

drivers without dealing with the situation, and that is why this Democratic Labour Party is going to deal with it.

Sir, minibus owners are the only people in the world who do not want to take responsibility for the behaviour of their employees.

I remember there was a famous case when I used to do "A" level Law about a lady who took a frock to a laundromat and was not told by the attendant, who took the dress from her, that the sequins on the dress could get damaged in the dry-cleaning process in the terms and conditions. They took the lady's dress, the sequins got torn off and the Court held that the employer was vicariously liable because they ought to have pointed out the terms and conditions under which...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: At least, I remember a little bit of something. Sir, you have minibus owners, who put anybody and everybody on the bus to drive. Sir, this is another point I am going to make for the Minister of Transport and Works, because we also have to be clear that the same minibus drivers are not switching the bad ones from minibuses to Transport Board buses too, so we have to be very careful about that.

Sir, I know the Minister of Transport and Works is keeping his eye on that, because he has raised it more than once as a matter that we have to address. I heard Sergeant Seibert Johnson repeating every morning like a parrot that buses and heavy duty vehicles are to be driven at 50 kilometers per hour.

Mr. Chairman, you take up a fellow, put him on a van, he does as he likes, plays music and then you claim you must lock up the driver, so that you can go and get another driver who will go and do the same thing.

Sir, I am saying that we have to hold the owners' feet to the fire and say to them that they have to take the responsibility in some way for the persons who are on your van and working, because they are all equally liable. Sir, that is what has to happen in this society.

Mr. Chairman, when we go around casting all this blame and saying that young people this and young people that, they are no worse. What we do have, are a few bad apples and we have to go into our public schools in a very aggressive way, all of them, so that we can understand that we are serious about protecting certain things in this society. Sir, we have to do that.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister of Education brooks no delay in this particular regard. Sir, we have to understand the context of the global society we are working

with as well, because it is more open, and it is more liberal and sex sells. You use sex to sell cigarettes, alcohol and cars. Sir, you have to have a half naked woman on top of a Mercedes in order to sell it. Sir, I never knew that because a Mercedes is a vehicle that should sell itself.

Sir, the simplest thing, the most ordinary things, you throw a little sex at it, whether clearly by distinction, or subtly and, therefore, this is what we are having in the society.

Mr. Chairman, we also copy it in our actions in many ways.

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Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Then we have to, therefore, contextualise ourselves within that society and know how we are going to move forward, but people in this country do not like to take responsibility for things for which they are responsible.

I saw a letter written in the Press by one Vic Fernandes of STARCOM Network News, saying that his radio station basically is not taking any responsibility for anything that is happening. Basically, that is what he was saying. Okay, let me tell you something. If you listen to what is happening, and that is why I tell you there is a double standard.

I was in a vehicle recently and I heard a song by a singer. I do not know his name, but the song was glorifying a sexual experience that the singer had with a young lady who was having her first sexual experience. I heard that song in a car, a private car. I never heard it before. I do not know who he is. Within less than 24 hours I heard the same song on 95.3 with one word changed in the song, to "go", I took her versatility, and you could work out what the original word was, graphic. I do not know who sings it. I do not follow that too much. That was being played on 95.3.

Sir, I am telling "Mr. Market Vendor": "Open your ears and listen to what is happening on your radio station because you do not know."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have two minutes.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I am telling the "Market Vendor", "open your ears and listen to what is being played on the radio station", because everybody wants to dump that. The young people know the words to the original song. They know the words to the original song, so changing up one or two lyrics and playing back the song is

not doing anything. Therefore, if we are going to set one standard, let us establish it and set it.

I am calling on the Broadcasting Authority to call all of them into a meeting as soon as is humanly possible and let them know what the story is, but you have to have a policy.

This thing about people saying that they play 60 per cent local music is a joke. It is a joke. A diet of the same thing over and over again to the extent now where, when you are in your motor vehicle, or at home and you want to listen to the radio station, your only refuge, believe it or not, is BBC. This is what you are getting now, but nobody wants to take responsibility for these things. Let us stand up as big men and women, as leaders and policy makers in this society, as the movers and shakers and set the example for people to come here.

I am not going to get myself tied up in Vybz Kartel and Mavado, the Gaza and Gully. I am not getting caught up in that, because that is just a side show, compared to what we know is happening in the context of our society. It is not only happening now. It has been happening every since.

Sir, for years we were talking about why it was that Barbadian society was allowing the very pristine cultural and religious period of Lent to be bastardised by fete here, fete there and fete all around. People say that if you say so you are a prude. Now it has reached a stage where everything is a fete, people start to complain.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Let us all take the responsibility as big men and women, analyse the thing seriously, have some national discourse and move on. That is why I am happy that this cultural policy, whoever wrote it, or whoever wants to take claim for writing it, this cultural industry's policy has come to this Parliament under the leadership of the Honourable Minister of Culture who himself is doing great.

Sir, do you know that Richard Stoute, my constituent, from Carters Road, Black Rock, has been producing a show for the past 35 years, and you know that nobody, successive Governments, or the private sector, has had the wisdom, or foresight to institutionalise that national institution?

I am saying that the day is coming shortly when that is going to happen, and it has to happen in the context of this society. Not because he is my constituent, but because it is the right thing to do. We can hold it up as an example, one of the small business enterprises that has been able to survive for 35 years. How many small, or large businesses

in the context of Barbadian society have been able to survive 30-somebody years? Name them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please wrap up.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: It is an example of a black businessman who has set out not to “big up”, as we would say in the popular parlance, himself, brought young people and gave them guidance, teaching them not only in cultural activities, but life itself, raising them to a different level to set them off in the society.

Finally, it is a fine example of how, at a community level, people can come together, to produce shows of quality that can be a true representation of our talent, our culture, our spirit, or being, and our national sense of pride and industry.

Therefore, I want to say that in the context of this debate, that is where we need to look to locate ourselves. Do not get side-tracked with the “Mavados” and “Pavados”, or whoever else. They will come, but as it was when I suffered pain when I stumped my toe as a boy, my mother used to say: “That too will pass”, and you will be better tomorrow, and I believe that we will be in the context of what we need to do and where we ought to go.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am just going back to the Head, a little bit, to ask a simple question. I am not going to speak. Amendment No.3, to the draft Estimates has just been circulated, and under Programme 276, I apologise if I am a little congested, but I think five days in this Chamber has done to me and many others, what it normally does, which is to seriously affect the sinuses in a way.

I just want to ask the Minister, the Amendment No. 3 provides for an Amendment to the Explanatory Note. The one difference is, really, to add the words “and for the construction of shops”. Now, the way in which it is written, the amount there was supposedly, under Special Projects, reduced from \$3.8 million this financial year to \$1.1 million in the coming financial year, and it is supposed to provide for the construction and design of Phase 2 of the Rock Hall Freedom Village Monument, the Empire Theatre and the construction of shops.

Sir, as I said, with the other Head, last night, the other programme of \$80 000, under the Creative Economy, with the best intention in the world, unless the Minister is

now a magician, the funds here will not extend to all of that.

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Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: In relation to these special projects and, certainly, in relation to the Empire Theatre, I was under the understanding that the Government was receiving assistance from the Chinese. Certainly, those were the announcements which have been made.

I know that the Cubans had done the original designs for us and that has been completed. Therefore, I am curious what aspect of the Empire Theatre’s Redevelopment is covered in these costings. I am curious what will be done in the Rock Hall Freedom Village Phase 2, but more important, given this recent amendment circulated, what is the construction of the shops that is being referred to here and where are these shops to be located and for what purposes? Do they relate to cultural activity and if so, what aspect of cultural activity? For whom are the shops being built? Sir, we really do not have enough information to say yea, or nay, so I am just asking a question.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, in my final submission on the Head, I would wish to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Michael, the Minister of Community Development and Culture for pressing ahead with the Community Technology Programme, which as you know, exposes the ordinary housewife and man and woman of the street, as it were, to the basics in computer literacy, at the various Community Centres, Bonnetts, Bush Hall and other places. This is very critical.

Sir, as we officially opened the St. Ambrose Primary School recently, and we toured the state-of-the-art computer laboratory with the wireless technology and so on, I immediately invited the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, to make this venue available to the Ministry of Community Development and Culture to promote and advance the Community Technology Programme.

Currently, the number of Community Centres which are available for this programme, given the need for security and other facilities, seating is limited, so that in St.

Michael, certainly there is none in the City presently, so I look forward to schools throughout the island being made available to promote and advance this aspect of exposing the masses to modern technology.

Sir, of course, we must ensure that the hardware, which is very expensive, is not vandalised, or stolen, so that there must be the community buy-in to have a sense of belonging to know that this is part of the investment of the State in the development of the human development of our country.

Sir, as a country, we should ensure that this property is not damaged, or destroyed because it takes it out of the pool and, therefore, it reduces the reach of this programme to the masses. I totally support this initiative.

I would go further, Mr. Chairman, to support and congratulate the Ministry of Community Development and Culture for pressing ahead in our bid to make Bridgetown and the Garrison designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As the Honourable Member for Christ Church South mentioned, there are many historic buildings in Bridgetown, which are necessary to be preserved.

Sir, the Cabinet, in our recent tour of this historic area, learnt that many of the original historic buildings in Bridgetown, no longer exist because as we modernise the infrastructure of our country, earlier generations did not take the necessary cognizance of the need to preserve this aspect of our history.

Sir, I understand that as part of our cultural industries proposed Legislation and our drive in this regard, our cultural policy, some incentives would be created to encourage people to preserve what they call the architectural vernacular of our country. This is to say that if you are renovating, as I understand it, we would not be disqualified in terms of our bid to be designated a World Heritage Site, if there is construction, but we must be sensitive to the need to preserve culture, the intrinsic architecture of our history.

Sir, incentives will be created to ensure that those people who do their necessary renovations to preserve that architecture would be necessarily and appropriately compensated, recognised, or encouraged.

We have heard of our Special Development Areas. In fact, Baxter's Road was made a Special Development Area, but the last Administration did not take this vision forward in a rapid way and so, for example, in that Baxter's Road area, Bay Street and other parts of the capital and urban Barbados, and in some rural areas, you find, for example, the traditional jealousy windows and the two

storey buildings with the overhanging balconies and this can be preserved, even in terms of reconstruction.

Mr. Chairman, just opposite to where I live in Reed Street, some young black entrepreneurs have bought a building at the top of Reed Street and they have ensured that the traditional architecture was maintained in their renovation of that property. They must be congratulated and I look forward to them being appropriately compensated, in terms of reimbursement as is part of the Special Development Area.

I believe that this is very important to keep Bridgetown and the Garrison really a treasure that we can display to tourists, as well as future generations of Barbadians with great pride. In fact, one entrepreneur, has mentioned to me recently that he has pioneered a tram which does not use the normal fossil fuels, and he is looking for a Barbadian living in the vicinity who can operate that tram in terms of conducting tours of Bridgetown for tourists and locals alike. This is something where heritage tourism can really be fully tapped into, to the benefit of the country as a whole.

I would also wish to congratulate the Minister of Community Development and Culture for taking the library services very seriously. One would note that under the Barbados Labour Party Administration, the workers of the National Library Service at the Carnegie Main Library had to practically threaten strike action, go on sick-out and go slow to force the Barbados Labour Party Administration, during their 14-year term to take the renovation of that building more seriously.

Mr. Chairman, what they did was simply to keep that building closed for a number of years. Sir, you can imagine in the headquarters, the main library of our public library service remained closed under the Barbados Labour Party Administration for a number of years and this is really unacceptable.

Sir, it took this Democratic Labour Party Minister of Development and Culture, the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, to take the bull by the horns, in collaboration with the Minister of Transport and Works, to ensure that a new state-of-the-art Public Library Headquarters at Independence Square was finally opened, under this Democratic Labour Party Administration.

Mr. Chairman, while talking about culture, this was very disgraceful in my view, given the fact that the Barbados Labour Party talked so much about how much they care about education.

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Hon. P. M. T. TODD: The Honourable Member for St. Peter talked in this debate about willing to take a tax for education, yet the Honourable Member for St. Peter was the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance under the Barbados Labour Party Administration over the last 14 years, and he stood by and allowed that travesty to occur where the headquarters of the National Library Service at Coleridge Street was left closed for a number of years.

Do you know how many students' academic advancement was negatively affected? It is one thing to say something, but one must look at your track record. Mr. Chairman, you would see that the Barbados Labour Party was found wanting.

Mr. Chairman, you had students preparing for Common Entrance, for CXC, for "O" levels, for CAPE and University Examinations, because we know that in many subject areas, be it History, Geography, or Science, you need to do research and many of these publications were only available in the Reference Section of the Main Library at Coleridge Street when it was there.

Mr. Chairman, I studied there for a number of years and I had to go upstairs in the back to get access to the books that I could not borrow, the microfilm, the microfiche, old periodicals and so on. Under the Barbados Labour Party, all of this was inaccessible to the general public and this was a crying shame.

Mr. Chairman, this Minister of Community Development and Culture, the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, and this Democratic Labour Party Administration, were cognisant of this, and today as we speak, we have this spanking new headquarters of the National Library Service with all of these modern services opened and available to the public at Independence Square, so we are not only talking the talk, we are walking the walk, and I congratulate him tremendously.

We have been taking the issue of the archives very seriously, as you would have heard recently and we are pressing ahead to ensure the preservation of our archives, be they the libraries, public buildings and public offices, so that the sensitive records that chronicle our history and our culture are not lost to degradation as a result of our humid climate where a lot of the paper can degenerate or can be destroyed due to the heat and temperature, or even by book worms and other pests.

Mr. Chairman, you need modern scientists with this skill in the preservation of valuable material. This Democratic Labour Party Administration is seriously committed to the preservation of our archives.

In closing, I would wish to say that we, as a people, must look at the fact that reggae... I remember learning, as

you may know, ska and rock steady. Some people argued that it got its genesis from the synthesis, as we heard from other speakers, of the African culture mixed with the North American Rhythm and Blues and Jazz, as American soldiers came over to Jamaica in the earlier part of the 20th Century. That gave rise to reggae and now, reggae has gone through a natural evolutionary process where the modern reggae artistes have moved up the tempo to some extent, and we now have the dance hall and so on, but it is the same African rich reggae music of the Caribbean people.

I agree with the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central that when you look, for example, at Rihanna. Bob Marley was able to pervade the entire world from Africa to North America to Europe with his reggae. That was sanitised with his European managers who took European artistes to try to mellow down the raw reggae to an internationally accepted standard, but that opened up new vistas to reggae and now, the new reggae artistes are capitalising on this, so it is nothing to be ashamed of.

Mr. Chairman, sometimes you hear some of our Barbadian personalities say that reggae is not Barbadian, but we are one Caribbean people and so we should embrace our brothers in Jamaica.

Right now, other Barbadians are producing the reggae as well as calypso. Allison Hinds and other leading calypsonians are just as popular in Jamaica with their calypsos. There is a real intersection of the various cultural expressions in the Region and we should not be so insular to say that is not Barbadian. We should look at it as one Caribbean, because we have a common history, a common experience.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have two minutes left.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yet again I reiterate the need to separate the issue of the lyrics from the actual rhythm, because we have very powerful rhythms, but when you have negative lyrics, we must frown upon this. What we should seek to do is to train our artistes to understand their sense of national responsibility to ensure that they do not engage in spreading and perpetuating these negative lyrics.

I understand that within the Caribbean Examination Council's (CXC) General Proficiency Syllabus in Music, there is an aspect of creativity involved where students are actually assessed in terms of being able to compose music. This would be very important in the development of our music industry here because years ago, many of the calypsonians had to rely on just one, or two arrangers, people like Mike Sealy. When he gets older and has to retire, there must be younger people to arrange the music so that you have this freshness as opposed to the inbreeding

and repetition of the same arranged music from year to year, with just the changing of lyrics and then the richness of our calypso for our Crop Over Festival is threatened.

Mr. Chairman, we would now have young CXC graduates who would be able to arrange good music, as was said from other speakers, merging the good aspects of other cultures. Of course, we must have a common core, that rich Caribbean, African heritage. Mr. Chairman, I believe that there is nothing to fear.

Mr. Chairman, this calypso music is like noise. You hear so much of the negative lyrics that people throw out the baby with the bath water. Once they hear that rhythm, they assume that it is bad. As I said, this could create serious alienation of the young people where they are trying to express themselves, but then they are not getting that respect from the older folks.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time has expired.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: I thank you. We do not need to have two societies. We have to understand each other and understand that what is considered contemporary now would be old-fashioned to future generations of young people, so the cycle will continue as we as a people move on and evolve in a logical way.

I thank you.

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

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting do now suspend until 5.25 p.m. today.

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

The question that this Sitting do now suspend until 5.25 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

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RESUMPTION

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to add my voice as a voice of support to my colleagues on This Side and to this Honourable House generally, in respect of the Head being debated in this Committee, that of Community Development and Culture.

I should like to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Culture for the steadiness and sobriety with which he has administered the affairs of his Ministry ever since he assumed responsibility for that portfolio.

I think that when the history of Parliament debates in this Session comes to be written, this debate on culture will go down as one of the best debates to have taken place in this Honourable Chamber. Of course, all debates on culture are important debates, whether they take place in Barbados, or elsewhere, because culture is at the heart of what we do, of how we live, or what we believe and how we relate to each other. In many respects, culture is like an elephant in that even though when you see it you know what it is, but to describe it is very difficult.

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Hon. F. J. STUART: I have always warmed to the definition of culture used by that great Martiniquan psychiatrist Franz Fanon in his path-breaking work "The Wretched of the Earth". Sir, he defined culture as that whole body of effort made by a people in the sphere of thought to describe, to justify and to praise the means by which they create themselves, and by which they keep themselves in existence. Sir, that definition, for me captures all of the important elements of what we know nowadays, as culture.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with George Lamming too, that there is now a consensus that one of the two words subjected to persistent abuse in public discourse is culture,

the other one being development and it is not unusual to hear the word “culture” being used as a synonym of popular entertainment. Sir, the Fanon definition, which I just gave, gives the lie to that misconception.

Mr. Chairman, if anthropologists are to be believed and I, certainly, have some time for anthropologists, ever since man was on this planet, he passed through a number of stages. The first stage was the stage which anthropologists call “savagery”, when man lived a nomadic life moving from place to place in search of food, and in search of shelter.

The second stage was a stage called “barbarism”, when man is supposed to have discovered agriculture and became settled, domesticated animals and began to produce food for his own subsistence and he was, in that respect, able to form what we now call a community, or in some respects, a society.

Mr. Chairman, it was not until man was able to form a community, or a society, that a concept of culture became possible. If man is moving from place to place in search of food and shelter, clearly, there was no time to assume any distinctive characteristics as a community of individuals, but once man became settled and discovered agriculture and domesticated animals, and was able to form a community, plant crops and to predict the seasons and so on, that is when culture became possible.

Sir, it is not without significance, therefore, that the earliest form of culture was agriculture, the means by which man was able to feed himself and to create himself through agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, so far as people living in the Caribbean are concerned, and so far as people living in Barbados are concerned, our cultural evolution cannot be separated from our history. Obviously, our history has been a history distinguished by and characterised by two cultures competing with one another for supremacy. I say that because once an island like Barbados was settled, and settled by Europeans, and then peopled by persons brought from Africa to provide labour, one had to reckon with the fact that the Europeans, when they came here, brought a culture, and the Africans, when they came here, brought a culture.

Therefore, you had two cultures competing with each other for supremacy in our environment. Obviously, the blacks in this society out-numbered the whites and the African element out-numbered the European element, but that out-numbering did not impart supremacy to the African strand of our culture, because even though out-numbered, the European element controlled force in the society, controlled the whole apparatus of force and

coercion that allowed them to impose their culture and their way of life on the entire society.

Whether it had to do with our beliefs, whether it had to do with our dress, whether it had to do with our diet, whatever it was, the standards to which we were made to subscribe were not the standards which our ancestors brought with them from Africa, but the standards which those who ruled, imposed on us.

Mr. Chairman, the question that has to be asked in the year 2010, in the month of March, is whether our society is still characterised by two cultures in contention and, Sir, there are two schools of thought in this regard. The anthropologist, Melville Herskovits wrote a very interesting book, still a classic, entitled “Myths of the Negro Past” and he set out with lucidity and with charm, the African survival in this part of the world and he proffered the view that even down to our time, we still have two cultures in contention.

Then, of course, there is the Jamaican sociologist and anthropologist, Orlando Patterson, who takes the other view which is that, yes, we started with two cultures here in the Caribbean in contention but, as of now, we are not Europeans, or Africans. We are West Indian people, that we have now merged together and those distinctions have become unimportant.

Mr. Chairman, we have two schools of thought on that, and because of those two schools of thought, there has been much confusion when we have tried to discuss issues of culture in Barbados, or elsewhere.

It is not without significance that not until now has any Government of Barbados thought that the time had come to lay, in this Parliament, a cultural policy for the country, because the whole issue of culture has tended to be very divisive as those who believe that one strand of our culture was superior to the other, contended for that school, and those who believe that we are now one have contended for that school.

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Hon. F. J. STUART: .

Barbados now, for the first time, has some indication where this Government stands on the issue of culture. It is a tribute to the present Minister of Community Development and Culture that history will have to record that he was at the controls when this national policy on culture was laid in this Parliament. I really want to congratulate him for that.

Sir, as long we are discussing culture, as long as we are discussing the way we live and the way we do things, we cannot separate our culture from our development. Now, I know that not since the 1970s has there been any serious discussion in the Caribbean in general, and certainly there has been no discussion in Barbados in particular, on the whole issue of development, not since the days of that great West Indian Economist and thinking of William Gilbert Demas, has this Region been discussing development, or any vision of the future for the Caribbean in terms of a particular developmental model.

Sir, what we have more safely opted to discuss is the whole issue of growth, how to get our economies to grow and we have preferred, therefore, to answer the question, how much, rather than to focus on the issue of development and ask the question, what sort and for whose benefit?

Sir, there is a close link between culture and development. That is not an issue which I can pursue in the few minutes available to me now, but it is certainly an issue to which we will have to revert at some stage, because since our education system is really the house in which most of our cultural products are stored, when we come to a full debate on education, we will have occasion to discuss the relationship between education, culture and development.

Sir, what has engaged us in recent times is this whole question of how culture has been used to promote, or to accentuate indiscipline in this society. Now, I say how culture has been used, not because there is anything wrong with our culture. Let me make that very clear.

All societies, however composed, have a culture, a way of life. All societies, according to Fanon have that body of thought that makes that effort in the sphere of thought, that allows them to justify and to praise the means by which they create themselves and keep themselves in existence.

All societies have not only a material culture in terms of the things that people make, the artifacts that people create, the homes that people build, the other manufacturers that can be attributed to people, but they also have a spiritual culture which has to do with what they believe, what they write, what they sing, and that kind of thing. It is in the realm of our spiritual culture, the spiritual dimension of our culture that many concerns have been raised in Barbados over the last few years.

It is not an exaggeration to say that we have been vulnerable as a people and as a region to easy penetration by other people's cultures, because in many respects, we have not been clear what our particular culture is. Therefore, we have not been able to defend as stoutly and as firmly as we should be able to do the way of life which

we have crafted for ourselves. This is why I think this debate is historic, because if we do not settle this issue and determine what kind of Barbados it is we want to create, we will continue to be vulnerable to noxious and toxic influences from other parts of the world, and the degeneration of this society will sooner, or later, become unstoppable.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Thank you, very much.

We have to define who we are and determine that we will emphasise with clarity and with conviction, that this is the course we want to pursue, and that course cannot be falling victim to every fad that comes our way, or to which we are exposed from outside of Barbados.

My colleagues on This Side of the House, I am sure that Honourable Members on the Other Side of the House, have in this debate given expression to their concern that we have too easily behaved like martinetts, just the disposal and at the manipulation of influences from outside of Barbados, and we are in this position because we are not as clear on who we are, and what we really represent as we should be as an Independent nation of 43 years.

A lot of this is explicable on the fact that 43 years is still a very short time in any nation's history. There are people in this Honourable Chamber on Both Sides of the House who have in their lifetime sung two National Anthems, "God Save Our Gracious Queen" and "In Plenty and In Time of Need".

I am sure my good friend, the Honourable Member for St. George North, and certainly the Honourable Member for St. James North, and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, I am not sure about the age of my friend the Honourable Member for St. Michael North, he has not lost maternal features as yet, so he may be too young for what I am saying. On This Side of the House we have others who are victims of that ambivalence.

We were nurtured in the standards of the metropolitan country, the mother country, and then we were thrust into Independence and had to relate to a new and different reality.

We are, therefore, bound to be slightly different from persons who were born in the post-Independence era and who only know Barbados as an independent nation, who are not as affected by European standards as we would have been, because of the time of our birth and upbringing, but I think the time has come when we are in a position to settle these issues, and until we settle them, I think we are going to be discussing the issues that we have to discuss

from day-to-day, the issues that some are in indiscipline and the issues that reflect themselves in sloppy standards in dress and sloppy standards in public behaviour.

Sir, this Government is committed to clarify this issue once for all.

SA60E 5.50 p.m. Sequence 44

Friday, March 19, 2010

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 45, 5.50 p.m.

Hon. F. J. STUART: I was quite pleased to listen to the speeches from This Side of the House. I was quite pleased to hear the Minister of Education take, as strong a stand as he took on the issue of the direction in which this society is travelling, so too, my colleague to my left, the Minister of Social Care, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West and others on This Side. I am sure the Honourable Members on the Other Side feel as strongly as most Barbadians do, about the direction in which this society is travelling.

We cannot use the word “culture” to conceal all of this. We cannot use the word “culture” as an excuse for all of this. As George Lamming said, there is no necessary connection between perverse national entertainment and culture. There are many more dimensions of a culture than popular entertainment. This country has to come face to face with the fact that it has to get its identity clear, be committed to a set of values, which we are all prepared to fight and to die for, if necessary, because our survival as a nation, depends severely on how conscious we are, of whom we are, and what our mission is, not only in Barbados, but in this Region and in the world.

We have as much right to be here, as any other country in the world and we have contributed uniquely to the treasury of human civilisation and that must continue, but we must never lose sight of the standards which we set for ourselves. We must not compromise our standards in the service of trying to be friends with others. As that famous Spanish revolutionary Delores Ibarruri once said: “The time has come for us to decide whether we want to die on our feet, or live on our knees”.

As far as I am concerned, the Government of which I am a part, is not prepared to live on its knees. Therefore, we intend to provide the leadership this society needs, and to ensure that the discipline for which this society has always been known, and that has brought us to where we are today, is restored and maintained well into the future.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Asides.

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

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all Honourable Members who participated in this debate. Certainly, this debate has brought to the fore, a deep intellectual discussion and debate.

Mr. Chairman, culture extracts from us, a robust, deep-seated and sometimes unexplored points of view, and it also assists us in examining subject areas totally removed from the mundane and the run-of-the-mill boring subjects that we sometimes embark on, and certainly, this debate, Mr. Chairman, has revealed the cornucopia of intellectual power on This Side, and on the Independent Bench, and to a lesser extent, the Opposition Bench.

Mr. Chairman, there has been a tinge of contention and acrimony at the start of this debate over whether who was the author of the National Cultural Policy. I certainly liken it to the writing of the Ten Commandments. I do this with some trepidation bordering certainly on blasphemy, but I will, nevertheless, embark on it.

When the Ten Commandments were written and handed down to Moses for the children of Israel, certainly if Moses had kept the Ten Commandments and did not reveal them to the children of Israel, there would certainly be no road map for the world to follow today. This is very much likening it to the situation with the National Cultural Policy, which was, yes, most likely conceptualised by the last Administration, written by the consultants and technocrats in the Ministry of Culture, but certainly kept well hidden away for close to 12 years, and I made the point yesterday.

Mr. Chairman, it fell on this Minister and this Government and the officials of the Ministry of Community Development and Culture to bring this policy to the fore. It is as simple and straightforward as that. They did not lay the policy in the House of Assembly, there was no final draft Legislation, there was no debating of the Bill and, certainly, there was no passing of the Bill, so it has fallen to this Administration to do all of these things, therefore, I say that it has fallen to us and we will pursue that noble goal.

Mr. Chairman, there were some issues raised by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the creative economy initiatives, and that was the reduction of some \$350 000 to what is now \$80 000 appearing in the Estimates.

The Honourable Member questioned how will we in the Ministry of Community Development and especially, she singled out me, as a matter of fact, likening me to a musician and how I will get the Art Integration Programme, the National School for the Performing Arts,

the Secretariat for the Film and Digital Media Commission, the strengthening of the Arts Council and the Barbados Craft Council done, and implement them with a mere \$80 000.

Mr. Chairman, the National Cultural Policy is a new initiative that this Government is embarking on and, certainly, all four of those items that I just mentioned are embedded in the National Cultural Policy. These are new waters that we are navigating, therefore, the funding for all of these items I just mentioned will certainly come from other sources, private investment, through philanthropic donations and also through the Creative Industry Fund.

I daresay, as the plans for the National Policy are rolled out, the Minister of Finance in his wisdom will, of course, add Supplementaries as we go along to the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, as we roll out the plans for the National Policy, and clearly articulate where we are taking the National Policy and Barbados.

Regarding the special projects, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is also questioning the reduction from \$3.87 million to \$1.3 million. Now the reduction was made, because in all of the Ministries, there are cut-backs. We are going through turbulent economic times and, therefore, the Ministry of Community Development and Culture has had to take some cuts in their Estimates, but this \$1.3 million will be spent wisely.

This \$1.3 million will be spent first of all on Phase 2 of the Rock Hall project, The Freedom Village in Rock Hall. \$400 000 of that money will be going towards the construction. It was said in the Explanatory Note that it is called “shops”, but it is really kiosks, and an Information, or Interpretive Centre, which was in the original plan.

Sir, the \$400 000 will go towards the construction of those shops, or kiosks, and I want to assure the residents of Rock Hall that the original plan was for some local entrepreneurs in that particular area to be given first choice, when it comes to the occupation of some of these kiosks.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 45, 6.00 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: That plan and promise was made then, and that plan and promise is still good. These kiosks will be offered to the residents of Rock Hall. We know that Rock Hall is the oldest free village and we would do them justice in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, a portion of Phase I, that is the bridge, is incomplete. The delay in the construction of the bridge is purely because we had done some soil testings

and found that the area where the bridge is supposed to be constructed is unstable.

We have, therefore, gone back out to tender. We were hoping that by now the tenders would have been in, but of course, this process is much slower than we anticipated, but I am sure that within a couple of months we would have all of that groundwork done, and we would go back to finishing Phase I and commence Phase 2, which, as I just explained to you, would be the building of the kiosks, or shops and the Information, or the Interpretive Centre.

Mr. Chairman, the other \$900 000 will go towards the payment for the construction of the Empire Theatre. We are on board and on partnership with the Chinese Government. They are doing grant-funding for the construction of the Empire Theatre, and so this \$900 000 would be refunded when that money is drawn down from the Chinese Government.

Mr. Chairman, there were some other issues that were raised by several Members from Both Sides of the aisle. The issue of CARIFESTA was raised, I believe, by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. It is an option that we are looking at. I believe that 2013 is the year for CARIFESTA after the next one. I believe the next one is slated to be held in the Bahamas. I believe that Barbados would be asked to host the 2013 event. As a matter of fact, I suspect we would have to make some application, whatever the process is.

The problem with the hosting of CARIFESTA is that there is a real dearth of theatrical and performance spaces in Barbados. We would certainly have to get those right before we even consider hosting CARIFESTA here in Barbados.

As you would remember, the last CARIFESTA that was held here, we had to provide a lot of make shift venues. On my visit to the last CARIFESTA in Guyana, there was an abundance of theatrical spaces in that country and, therefore, we would have to move assiduously to create the theatrical and performance venues here in Barbados if we were to make a bid to host CARIFESTA in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the question of the National Consultation for Cultural Stakeholders is another good idea, which came from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East. That certainly is a consideration that we would look at in the Ministry.

The issue was also raised about the question of spouge. I have always held a strong liking for spouge. As a matter of fact, I was raised in that era when Jackie Opel and other proponents of the spouge beat were very much

alive and well, and when recording studios and the recording of music was quite prolific.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the modern spouge beat has to be morphed, or refined into a contemporary beat that is acceptable to the world stage. Certainly, the kind of beat that we have in Barbados, which we accepted from the Draytons Two and other proponents of that particular beat, would have to be morphed into a more refined and acceptable beat that would be accepted on the world stage.

Mr. Chairman, reggae was a refinement of ska and rock steady and now we have a fine beat in reggae which is marketable to the world. This is where I believe we would have to go with the spouge beat.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West raised the subject of Richard Stoute. I too would want to add my congratulations, to and shower encomiums on Richard Stoute because I believe that were it not for Richard Stoute, the cultural and entertainment landscape in Barbados would be bereft. I think that Richard Stoute has provided the spawning ground for several of our local artistes and entertainers.

Certainly, if you look at most of the performers on the local entertainment scene, you would see that most of our calypsonians were former Richard Stoute Teen Talent contestants and winners in some cases, therefore, I believe that were it not for Richard Stoute and the Teen Talent competitions, Barbados would be the poorer for it, so I want to congratulate Richard Stoute.

Mr. Chairman, the suggestion made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West is a commendable one which I will take to heart as Minister of Community Development and Culture. We assisted Richard Stoute in a small way in the Ministry of Community Development and Culture. Nevertheless, I believe that more assistance could be offered to him. I do not like the idea of taking over private sector run entities, but I believe that some more assistance could be given to Richard Stoute, and certainly we would be looking at that in the future.

Mr. Chairman, it is a signal honour and achievement to be leading the Ministry of Community Development and Culture at this time of our development. Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the Permanent Secretary, the Deputy Permanent Secretary and all of the staff of the Ministry for their sterling work and stellar work in most instances. Mr. Chairman, if ever the time was right for the introduction of a Cultural Policy and its attendant legislation, it is now. This country's economy has been driven by the accepted engines of economic growth over the years, but for the first time, Barbados and by extension, Barbadians, now have

another new, exciting and potentially rewarding economic sector to pursue.

Mr. Chairman, it is patently clear to me that to most culture is inherently a vibrant and untapped endeavour waiting at the entrance of opportunity for an expectant people to welcome it with open arms.

Mr. Chairman, culture and the cultural expressions cannot be suppressed. It is an animal that unleashes itself and finds vent wherever there is an opening, or wherever there is an avenue for venting. It flourishes in an environment when all other areas of endeavour flounders on the rocks of what is progressive.

Mr. Chairman, in recent times, the measurements have been taken of all economic sectors, and the one economic sector that survived and flourished in these hard economic times was that of entertainment and culture.

Mr. Chairman, we have a remarkable opportunity in Barbados for the first time to change the cultural features of this land we call Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, let us not waste this opportunity. Let us grasp it with both hands. Culture and its expression must for all times be woven into the natural tapestry and fabric of this fair land we call Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 56 stand part.

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

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

House A60E Sequence 46

6.10 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. P. SINCKLER seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for 30 minutes, to be resumed at 6.45 p.m.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 6.45 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

6.15 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Honourable House is resumed.

RECOMMITTAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, I have with me the Accounts and Statements for the months of November 2009, and December 2009, as prepared by the Accountant General.

PAPERS

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) (Barbados Rally Club) Order, 2010.
2. The Annual Report of the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation for the year 2009.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

a. Resolution to grant the sum of \$38 125 167 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2009-2010 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 14, 2009-2010 which form the Schedule to the Resolution and the Explanatory Notes to Head 56 be amended as set out in Schedule II to the Resolution.

b. Resolution to grant the sum of \$148 976 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2009-2010 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 15, 2009-2010 which form the Schedule to the Resolution and that the Explanatory Notes to Head 54 be amended as set out in Schedule II to the Resolution.

H/A60E/6.50 p.m. Sequence 49

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before the Suspension was taken we were on Order No. 5, Committee of Supply and to that we shall now return.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. Paul, Chairman of Committees resumed the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is now in Committee of Supply. We have reached the time under which the guillotine will be called.

HEAD NO. 10 - GOVERNOR GENERAL - \$860 417

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 12 - PARLIAMENT - \$9 539 173

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I beg to move that Head 12 stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

(AS AMENDED) - \$82 829 503

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

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

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

HEAD NO. 15 - CABINET OFFICE - \$10 866 099

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15 stand part.

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

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

HEAD No. 16 - MINISTRY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

(AS AMENDED) - \$8 286 225

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 16 as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD No. 17 - OMBUDSMAN - \$483 892

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 17 stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 18 - AUDIT - \$961 399

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 18 stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 19 - TREASURY (AS AMENDED)

\$107 005 377

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 23 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

(AS AMENDED) - \$270 665 757

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 28 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(AS AMENDED) - \$33 086 211

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 28, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 29 - DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS -

\$493 133

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: I beg to move that Head 29 stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 30 - ATTORNEY GENERAL - \$76 674 683

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

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

HEAD No. 32 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AND FOREIGN TRADE (AS AMENDED) - \$56 363 938

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Sir, I beg to move that Head 32, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 38 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING

AND LANDS (AS AMENDED) - \$44 988 428

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 38, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 40 - MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

(AS AMENDED) - \$72 376 061

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 40, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD NO. 50 - POST OFFICE (AS AMENDED) -

\$30 035 853

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 50, as amended, stand part.

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

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

S60E 7.00 p.m. Sequence 49

Friday, March 19, 2010

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 50, 7.00 p.m.

HEAD 54 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT - \$291 281 507

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

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

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

HEAD 62 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY (AS AMENDED) -

\$244 981 738

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 62, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD 64 - MINISTRY OF YOUTH, FAMILY AND SPORTS (AS AMENDED) - \$56 635 313

Mr. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 64, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD 65 - MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND EMPOWERMENT, INNOVATION, TRADE, INDUSTRY

AND COMMERCE - \$52 998 167

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 65 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 66 - MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER RESOURCES AND DRAINAGE - \$128 435 774

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 66 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 67 - MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CARE, CONSTITUENCY EMPOWERMENT, URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(AS AMENDED) - \$74 440 551

HON. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 67, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD 68 - MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT (AS AMENDED) - \$24 252 654

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 68, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD 69 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (AS AMENDED) -

\$34 103 259

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 69, as amended, stand part.

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

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

HEAD 70 - MINISTRY OF LABOuR - \$20 086 427

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 70 stand part.

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

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

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2, as amended, was called and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

The Schedule, as amended, became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN, reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one money Resolution (as amended) in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Resolution was read a

third time and passed and cited as the Appropriations Act, 2010.

ORDER NO. 6

On the motion of Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply for grants of sums of money for the service of this island, Mr. J. D. PAUL in the Chair.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 50, 7.10 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

ORDER No. 6

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

(a)Resolution to grant the sum of \$38 125 167 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2009-2010 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 14, 2009-2010 which form the Schedule to the Resolution and that the Explanatory Notes to Head 56 be amended as set out in Schedule II to the Resolution.

HEAD 13 - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE -

\$2 725 167

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister's Office is seeking the sum of \$2 725 167 to supplement the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2009-2010. The sum of \$15 426 is required under Sub-programme 0144: Town and Country Planning Department, Account Code: 206 - Travel, which relates to travel to cover the additional cost of travelling for the period February to March, 2010.

An additional sum of \$2 709 741 is required under Programme 203: Information and Broadcasting Services, Subprogramme 0046: Operation of Government Information Services, Account Code: 212 - Operating Services, to cover the cost of parliamentary debates for the period January 2007, to November 2009, and other

broadcasting services provided by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Against that background, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13 stand part.

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

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to get some information. My understanding is that the sum to be paid to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, the operation of the Government Information Service, is to cover the broadcast of parliamentary debates. I assume this means radio and the television budget and the No-Confidence debate that would have been had, but then it indicates other broadcasting services. Could the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister please indicate how much is for Parliament, and then secondly what are the other broadcasting services being provided for by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and the cost of them?

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and the questions asked are legitimate.

Mr. Chairman, I do not have the file with me, but I can assure the Honourable Member that as soon as that information is to hand, I will make it available to her.

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

Hon. R. L. SEALY: We are in Committee of Supply and I am just making the observation that I think that the acting Prime Minister is doing the correct thing in sending for the further details for the Addendum. I have long felt, certainly for the time I have been in here, that the Addendum occasionally is too sketchy.

I recall my Opposition days and more than once having to ask for information. Unfortunately, the reaction was not as gracious as what we just had from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, so I sincerely hope...

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: No. Do not take it that way. Take it in the way in which it is offered.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The fact that he is smiling does not make it any less misleading.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am trying to say, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, but could you go to the point of order.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am saying that The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: How?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: It is untrue to say that the Addenda never provided information to Honourable Members in here. There have been occasions under both Governments where Addenda have been very sketchy and there have been other occasions where they have provided full information, so there was no need for him to make that point. It is also misleading the Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proceed, please.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: The Honourable Member is spitting in the air and it is falling back in her face. I am saying categorically that we had this challenge before. I am joining you and congratulating the Honourable Member for St. Michael South who sent for the file and we are going to have the information shared. I was going on to suggest that may be - because it is really not a partisan issue, this is the public's money - this is something that in the context of some of the other work that needs to be done in the Committees of the House, the Standing Orders Committee and so on, that we could look for ways of making sure that the Explanatory Notes and the Addendum can be a little more comprehensive, so that we do not necessarily have this situation repeating itself. My comments were made with the very best of intentions.

Mr. Chairman, it is however, a fact, and I confirmed it with the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, that this was an issue when we were in Opposition and so, I am glad to see the approach by the current leadership of the House in dealing with it in a more gracious and informative manner. That is all I was doing.

Mr. Chairman, I did not mean anything invidious to the Honourable Member. I know that the Honourable Member was the Leader of Government Business in those

days. I am just saying that we would like sketchy Addenda to be a thing of the past in the interest of all Members.

Obviously, the Members of Cabinet have the benefit of the discussions in Cabinet, but there is the Back Bench and there are the Members of the Opposition who obviously would want to have the information.

Mr. Chairman, I just add those remarks for all it is worth.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member has tried to perfect the art of smiling and making comments that have a backhanded effect. The reality is that there have been occasions when the response given by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has been given by previous Leaders of the House as well under different Administrations, so it is not fair to say that this is the first time there is a gracious response in that respect.

Mr. Chairman, in coming back to the substance of the matter, I think I am understanding that the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister may have the file and the breakdown may not be there and I appreciate that, but my concern relates to what are the range of services being paid for. I understand the legitimacy of Parliament having to pay the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation for the air time. I have always felt that to be a legitimate purpose.

House A60E Sequence 51

7.20 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Indeed, I had hoped that we would have a separate public broadcasting station at some time, because I am acutely aware as well that when we are being broadcast on television, everybody in Barbados does not want to watch Parliamentary debates and for those households that do not have Multi-Choice, or other options, it means that they are forced to watch it. Sir, the truth is, I do think that is a direction in which we still need to go.

It has been mitigated by the fact, and I am told for the most part, that our debates are broadcast on the Internet now, and those who have access to systems that can facilitate it. We had a Public Accounts Committee Workshop two weeks ago that was, in fact, broadcast live on the Internet for those who would have wanted to watch it. I do not think most Barbadians know that they can, in fact, tune in on the Internet to watch the video of these Parliamentary debates.

Mr. Chairman, in relation to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, I would want to know what are some of the other services for which we are paying. Sir, I am conscious of a news extra almost every night now, and therefore, I want to know whether that is part of the sums of money that Parliament is approving here today.

Sir, this is a legitimate question that the Honourable Acting Prime Minister may not have with him now, and I appreciate that, but I think that Honourable Members on Both Sides need to be aware what is the split and what are the range of services that are outside of Parliamentary debates that may necessitate a bill of this size.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I wish I had the information available to me. The information on the file does not provide the kind of breakdown that would have allowed me to supply this Honourable House with the information requested by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. Sir, as soon as that information becomes available, it can be made available to the Honourable Member.

Mr. Chairman, with that said, I beg to move that Head 13 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 19 -

TREASURY - \$600 000

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, this sum of \$600 000 is required to cover the cost of the purchase of three vehicles for judges of the Supreme Court. On the information available to me, there was an arrangement between the Government and Warrens Motors for the provision of cars for the judges and for the exchange of those cars when they were about to be retired, at no cost to Government.

Sir, as a result of economic conditions in the world today, apparently that arrangement has been changed and three cars are now up for change. The cost of those three cars come to some \$600 000. As is known, the provision of a car is a condition of services to judges of the High Court and within the context of the terms of the contract with judges of the High Court, it is absolutely necessary that this

sum be provided, so that the Government is not found to be in breach of that term of the contract.

Mr. Chairman, it is against that background that I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 23 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - \$4 800 000

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, the sum of

\$4 800 000 is being sought by the Ministry of Health in this Supplementary. The sum of \$4 500 000 is needed to pay the private pharmacies for drugs dispensed for the latter half of January and February this year. That is under Programme 363: Pharmaceutical Programme, Subprogramme 0383: Drug Service.

Sir, \$200 000 is required to facilitate the outfitting of the Ministry's new offices at the Frank Walcott Building. We are expected to move to that location in a few weeks' time. A further \$100 000 is required to adjust expenditure to correct Subprogramme 7045 - General Management, Coordination and Professional Services.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

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

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

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

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Chairman, I would want to ask a simple question. Sir, obviously it is clear that the Barbados Drug Service is using significantly more than was voted for in the last Estimates. I just wanted to ask the Minister if this last sum voted would cover all the expenditure, and for what exactly is that sum paying? Is it paying to bring the Barbados Drug Service completely up to date? Or would there still be some outstanding invoices coming in for the month of March?

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

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, this Supplementary will bring settlement to expenses for the period the latter half of January and February and the

March invoices, which normally would come late April, will then be settled thereafter.

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

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Chairman, following on from that, we can clearly see that what we have just voted in the Estimates is not enough to cover the Barbados Drug Service. Sir, when you add the total, the Barbados Drug Service has now been cut by about \$14 million and it means that the Minister would now be relying on more Supplementaries to come later, just to be able to supply the Barbados Drug Service.

I was wondering why it is that we have just passed the Estimates, knowing full-well that we have underestimated the cost of the Barbados Drug Service, when we should really have had it at the correct price, rather than \$41 million that was just voted.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he, knowing full-well that it is going to cost more than \$41 million, why is the Barbados Drug Service asked to have a cut again and people cannot get basic drugs for treatments such as diabetics, hypertension, angina, et cetera? Sir, we have a problem in this country where people cannot have access to cancer drugs, or for epileptic drugs.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I really hate to do this, I believe the Honourable Member ..

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please state your point of order.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is reflecting on what has just taken place. The Honourable Member knows full-well in the debate he cannot do that at this stage.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West, please continue.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Chairman, if we have a situation where \$48 million is not enough to cover the full year of drugs, and then we come to another situation where we are providing less, when people are not getting the drugs, when people need to rely more on the Barbados Drug Service than ever before because they have been losing their jobs, they have come to the end of their unemployment benefits, they are losing their insurance because they cannot pay the premiums, this is a time when

the Barbados Drug Service will need more money instead of less money.

Sir, I am very concerned about the matter. I think we need to get serious about this. If you are going to pay the pharmacists, pay them properly and on time, because we have to provide a good drug service for the people of Barbados and not a haphazard one. Sir, I am concerned about this and I would like to hear the Minister on this matter.

7.30 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

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

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Mr. Chairman, it is very sad that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West can stand here and make allegations that Barbadians are not receiving medication to dispense on the drug formula, because that is absolutely not true. As far as I know, the Honourable Member cannot provide any evidence of any Barbadian, who is qualified to receive medication, dispensed under the drug formulary in this country. Sir, that is not a correct statement.

Mr. Chairman, we have to be very careful in making these statements in here as Parliamentarians that we do not seek to inflame situations unnecessarily. Sir, the Barbados Drug Service in 1993-1994 was costing taxpayers about \$16 million per year. This year we are expected to spend almost \$53 million in total in the Barbados Drug Service. Yes, there is an increase, but it does not mean that we always have to be throwing more money behind these entities.

Mr. Chairman, I have already stated publicly in other places, as Minister of Health, that the Barbados Drug Service is in need of reform and that they need to restructure the Barbados Drug Service.

We have, to date, on November 20, 2009, met with the Barbados Drug Service and its management team and on November 25, 2009, we met with the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society and the Association of Pharmacy Owners.

Sir, on that same day, we also met with the distributors in Barbados. We also met with the Pharmacy Council, the Drug Tenders Committee and the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners.

Mr. Chairman, the former Administration had a proposal that, if implemented, would see Barbadians

paying for most of the medication in this country. We opted...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House and is telling...

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East were ordered to be expunged from the record by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, could you please state the point of order.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, the Honourable Member refers to the fact that the former Administration had a proposal to increase fees. The Honourable Member knows that no such proposal ever came to the Cabinet of Barbados and, therefore, it cannot be described as a proposal of the former Administration.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. James South, please continue.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Mr. Chairman, the proposal of the last Ministry of Health under the last Administration reflected that and the Ministry of Health's files will speak to that, but the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East would claim ignorance to these things.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House again. The Honourable Member is suggesting that the Minister of Health, acting as an Honourable Member of the Barbados Labour Party, approved fees. The Minister of Health could not approve any fees to bind the Drug Service, or to cause any Barbadian to pay anything, so he is misleading the House.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Mr. Chairman, I particularly stated that the proposals were there. I never stated that they were implemented and we all know the limitations of a Minister, so let us not play on words and get into childish games.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: I am very clear and I am very happy to bring to this House the copies of the documents. However, the reality about it is that we cannot continue with business as usual in the Barbados Drug Service and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West knows that only too well. Therefore, let us not be dismayed as what might be seen as a cut in the budget of the Barbados Drug Service.

What we have done as a responsible Ministry and, as a responsible Government, have consulted far and wide with all stakeholders, but that was not done by the former Administration.

Sir, rather than rush and impose our own personal views on the Barbados Drug Service in relation to stakeholders, we sought to consult far and wide, and the Ministry is currently evaluating all the proposals that are before it and, at the end of the day, I can guarantee Barbadians that we will have a Barbados Drug Service that is, certainly, a lot more efficient than we are currently having today, without compromising on the delivery of health care in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, let us accept that we do need the additional monies to tie us over in the next few weeks. I do not expect, however, that we will be in this position from next year because we will have a much better Barbados Drug Service, satisfying the needs and demands of the majority of Barbadians.

Mr. Chairman, with that I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please. Honourable Member, before you rise, I just want to attract your attention to Standing Order 28(4) which states:

“It shall be out of order to reflect on any vote of the House, or attempt to reconsider any specific matter for which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon the substantive motion for rescission.”

It seems to me as if you were comparing the Estimates. Anyhow, we will proceed.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I listened very carefully to what the Minister said and he is suggesting that he would not be in a similar position to come for any monies in future, because he expects to control the prices.

Sir, the first thing, we all know that the price of drugs will go up and that every year, when we come to Estimates the money voted for the Barbados Drug Service goes up. Therefore, there must be some other mechanism that is being contemplated by the Ministry of Health to be able to recoup funds from the public to make up the difference.

I am asking the Minister of Health if his Ministry is now contemplating some type of handling fee, user fee, or any such fee, to be passed on or asked of the public of Barbados to access the Barbados Drug Service?

Hon. D. O’N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to engage in a robust debate on the Barbados Drug Service, or any part of the health sector at any point in time, but I wish to say to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, an individual who is supposed to be an outstanding entrepreneur, that we all know as businessmen and businesswomen, that it is not always a case of charging more, as we also have to look at the input cost, we have to look at the inefficiencies and we have to look at better technology, so he has the assurance that we are considering a wide range of issues.

We have a situation where for obvious narrow political gains, one always likes to make some very reckless statements that try to get you on the front page of the newspaper. I would not be drawn into such.

Mr. Chairman, this is serious business. We inherited a situation where the former Administration really and truly did not pay the attention to the public health care system as they should have. When you had all the money in the world, you did not seek to put a leaner and meaner Barbados Drug Service in place.

The Barbados Drug Service increased four-fold under the former Administration, and if there is one thing you can be assured of, is that this Democratic Labour Party Administration will not let Barbadians not have access to medications that they need in this country.

H/A60E/7.40 p.m. Sequence 53

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Hon. D. O’N. INNISS: Just accept that we are looking at it in a very holistic manner. We have not completed the process as yet, a thorough analysis has to be done. I will not be forced, or rushed into a situation that is untenable. When that is concluded, you can have my assurance that this Chamber will be apprised thereafter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church West. Is this a new question, Sir?

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Sir, this is a response to the Minister’s statement.

I listened again very carefully to the Minister’s statement. Sir, this is the Committee of Supply. In the Committee of Supply - I am on my feet substantively, not on any point of order. This is Committee of Supply and we are entitled to ask substantial questions on what they

require us to vote and agree to. I am asking again, because the Minister very carefully spoke, but said nothing about the question that I asked. I asked a fair question, and the people of Barbados need to know the correct answer in order to budget for the future.

Sir, every person who has to take hypertension drugs, every person who has to take insulin drugs, every person who has to take epileptic drugs, every person that has a child under the age of 16, who has to get drugs, those are the people that fall into the Drug Service category. Those are the people who now have to pay a user fee, or handling fee to the Drug Service to access their daily, weekly, or monthly drugs. It would have a significant impact on their budget and their money. This is the important point that the Minister is skirting.

I am asking the Minister again, because I have a right to speak in here on this matter and the people of Barbados have to know how we are going to budget their money.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please.

Asides.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: ...filibustered all through the last few hours and now refusing to bring the truth to a real debate. This is the point.

Sir, the Minister has to be truthful and correct with the people of Barbados. He is paid to do that. He is not paid to skirt around the issues. The Minister needs to say if the Ministry of Health will institute handling fees, or user fees for the Drug Service of this country. The people of Barbados need to know, must know, and he is duty-bound to tell them tonight.

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

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I know it is getting late in the night, and there is some comedy, but the comedy came early, 7.45 p.m., therefore, I would have to attempt to correct the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. Sir, I need to do this because it is the Administration of the Barbados Labour Party in 1974, who proposed to charge a \$5 fee for every prescription written in Barbados. It is that Administration.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: I am sorry. I will correct myself. It was 1978. I remember when the former

Honourable Member for the LCity of Bridgetown was speaking about a universal health care system in Barbados.

When the former Honourable Member for the LCity of Bridgetown, the Honourable Dame Billie Miller, spoke to a universal health care system in Barbados, the plan was to have a charge of \$5 per prescription in Barbados.

I would also want to add this evening two factors. The factors are, and I would support the Honourable Member for St. James South, that it is improper to have a Barbados Drug Service which provides free medical care and provides free drugs for those persons the aged 65, those persons under the age of 16 and ...

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: That is not the Drug Service Act. You are going to confuse yourself.

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

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member is suggesting that the Barbados Labour Party in the year 1978, under some kind of drug service, attempted to put in place a handling fee of \$5. The Drug Service Act was enacted in 1980.

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

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: It is a wonderful explanation. The Honourable Member has not only trapped himself. He was misled by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, because we were getting drugs before 1980. I am trying to suggest to the Honourable Member that whatever was the legislation that allowed us to get drugs before 1980, there was a decision to charge a \$5 handling fee.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. You know the Law is very clear.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, please.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Section 3 of the Drug Service Act states - this is a piece of legislation passed in 1980, not in 1978. "There is to be established in Barbados a drug service to be known as the Barbados Drug Service", 1980.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proceed Honourable Member.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, I will go back to the point, what existed before. Nobody got drugs before

1980. Were we a backward country before 1980? Were we a banana republic before 1980, Sir? I am going to end that discussion, because it does not make sense. I will go on, Sir.

Sir, the point I am making is this. If a private pharmacy is dispensing drugs under the special drug dispensation arrangement, under the same Administration by the Honourable Member of St. Michael North East, the parameters are as follows:

Sir, if you are under 16, your drugs are free. If you are over 65 your drugs are free. If you have special conditions, which would be those conditions of chronic non-communicable diseases, we would have just added into that HIV/AIDS, as well as seizures medication, the drugs are free.

I want to ask Barbadians, through you Mr. Chairman, how could it be fair that the public pharmacies you go to for medication from a polyclinic, or the hospital, cannot charge a fee on top of the cost of the drugs, but the private pharmacies can charge a fee on the same drugs, for the same group of people who benefit from the same medication. You explain that one to me.

Sir, I will not back off the fact that Barbadians will ask themselves if you choose to go to a public pharmacy, you do not pay any handling fee.

SA60E 7.50 p.m. Sequence 54

Friday, March 19, 2010

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 55, 7.50 p.m.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, I want Barbadians who will go to the hospital and the polyclinics to use the Government's services for their medication dispensation. This is the point.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, that can only be what is reasonable, what is acceptable and what makes good sense.

Mr. Chairman, I stand by that and I would assume that the Honourable Member for St. James Central also stands by that because that is the right thing to do.

I am not going to be a hypocrite tonight, Sir, because the Honourable Member for Christ Church West now flew back to Barbados last night after eating some caviar last night, or night before, and he now would fly back out tomorrow, so he can go and utilise the Canadian system where he gets everything free. He is a multimillionaire, he

can get any drug free, Sir, and he is coming into Barbados to tell Barbadians that they should go and use a pharmacy in the private sector and pay money, and not use the public pharmacy that is owned by the Government where they do not have to pay any money.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Sir, I am saying that we have to listen to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West very well because tomorrow morning he is going back to Canada, and when he is back in Canada, he can go into the public clinic and get his medication free.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: He can get viagra free too, Sir.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, he is in Barbados and all I am saying is that I speak now as a physician who had the opportunity to practise, not only in the Public Service, but I have worked at the polyclinics, both at Randall Philips and the polyclinic at Black Rock. I have worked at the Cardiac Unit for about a year and a half and I have worked in private practice for about four years.

I know what is the system and I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that I support the Honourable Member for St. James South in his position to make sure that if there comes a time in this country that you have to charge a fee for handling, it is going to be a fee, Mr. Chairman, only to those persons who choose to go and use the private pharmacies, not the public pharmacies and I stand by that, Sir.

I would say that this is not a decision that has been made at this point in time by this Cabinet. It has not been brought to the House, or by the Cabinet by the Honourable Member, but I speak, Mr. Chairman, as an individual that will bring a number of years to this reality.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Philip West were ordered to be withdrawn and expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, in all honesty, I feel very strongly that the Barbados Drug Service has been spiraling out of financial control. I also feel that whom we need to protect are well protected already by the Drug Service structure. I feel as well, that there are special cases in Barbados, persons who suffer from special types of ailments like a multiple myeloma, those who suffer with sickle cells, those who suffer with certain types of ailments, for example, trigeminal neuralgia

and a whole lot of conditions that may need special medication. Those individuals right now the Drug Service cannot supply, because of the cost of the medication.

It can only be reasonable that if you choose not to use a public pharmacy, and you choose to go to a private pharmacy, that there should be a cost for that, that would allow the Barbados Drug Service to have the funds necessary to provide the services to those new groups of patients that they now cannot provide services for and those patients like multiple sclerosis, patients with spasmic-type conditions, and I would use conditions like trigeminal, what we call, spinal column degenerated diseases - I know that might confuse the Honourable Members on the Other Side.

The reality is that these are conditions that require very costly drugs. Sir, when you have those conditions, right now the Barbados Drug Service has a difficulty.

I am saying to the Minister, the Honourable Member for St. James South, do not be afraid, Barbadians are not stupid. If you have to explain to them that if they go to a polyclinic, or a hospital, they should utilise the public pharmacies so that it would reduce the cost to the Barbados Drug Service. This is the point I am making.

Sir, once you reduce the cost to the Barbados Drug Service by those persons who go to the hospital and those persons who go to a polyclinic, when those persons who are more than 65 and less than 16 years of age, can now provide an opportunity for those other members that the Barbados Drug Service which now cannot cater to, would have an opportunity to cater to, Mr. Chairman, this is what is reasonable and it does not take a rocket scientist to understand that is right. It is moral. It is the just thing to do and I stand this afternoon, Sir, behind that Honourable Member and the Minister of Health in the position that he takes, Mr. Chairman.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: I thank you very much, Sir.

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

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Chairman, a monkey was playing with a gun and shot itself in the foot.

Asides.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: It is obvious, Mr. Chairman, that handling fees have obviously attracted the attention of the Cabinet of this country. It is clear and you must remember there is a doctrine in this country called,

“collective responsibility”, and if the Honourable Member for St. Philip West could have clearly gotten up in here and told the people that he is in full agreement with a handling fee, I can clearly tell the people of Barbados look out for the handling fee, it is definitely coming.

Asides.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Budget your money and I am speaking clearly to the people of Barbados. Every single person in this country who has diabetes, hypertension, epilepsy, you are going to feel it in your pocket, because the handling fee is coming to impact on your spending power in this country. At a time when we were told that the Democratic Labour Party has come in to reduce the cost of living, it is increasing it for people in this country.

Asides.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Sir, that is a shame and that is sad, and that is what we have come to.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is suggesting that the public pharmacies can cater to the needs of the country. Not true. The public pharmacies do not stock the levels of drugs to be able to cater to the needs of the country. Sir, even if they were going to, these Estimates of what we saw here would be shambles, because they would need more money to be able to stock, transport and so on, but I am going further.

The public pharmacies do not have the opening hours that the private pharmacies have. The public pharmacies do not have the accessibility that the private pharmacies have. It means that after hours and on weekends, to a large extent, people are forced to go to the private pharmacies.

Sir, on top of everything else, not only do they not stock enough, many times people go to the public pharmacies and they are out of stock. Many times you go and you have to wait for two and three hours to get one drug.

Sir, if you are going to now overload the public pharmacies with thousands of people coming for drugs, you are not going to wait two and three hours, you are to go, put in your prescription and come back three, or four days later, because they are not going to be able to cope.

Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 55, 8.00 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

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

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The reason why he is misleading the House is because he does not understand that the reason why the Honourable Minister is inundated with requests to join the Barbados Drug Service is so, that the private pharmacies can be paid the handling fee to deal with those individuals who choose to go to a private pharmacy.

That is the problem that is now killing the Barbados Drug Service in Barbados. It is a matter of competition. You do not understand what you are talking about. A monkey should not play with a gun. You are being led down a path by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Honourable Member.

Asides.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Clearly the monkey has shot itself in the foot again. It is almost...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, please. I think that the language is unparliamentary. I would like you to rephrase it, please.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: I did not refer to a Member...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, but I still think really, please...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will deal with it on Both Sides. I will give you that, but just get going.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: I will continue. Clearly, Mr. Chairman, we are going to have a significant backlog at the public pharmacies, and a significant drain on the availability for the public institutions to be able to supply what is essentially half, or three quarters of the country with the necessary drugs to live. These are life and death drugs. This is not just food that you might change to different food. We are going to have life and death problems with stocking the public pharmacies with access to drugs, with the availability of drugs and with the ability for people to pay for the drugs.

On top of that, you are now going to be taking bread out of the private pharmacists mouths. Mr. Chairman, all of the private pharmacists in Barbados have to know and understand that the Democratic Labour Party

Administration is intent on ruining their businesses by taking away half, or three quarters of their input. I am very concerned about it because that means now...

Asides.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: It is interesting because we had a Minister who is now half of a Minister and instead of the Minister speaking, he now has a spokesman, so the former Minister has to speak for the Minister when the Minister should be speaking about the matter.

Mr. Chairman, I find it strange that all of a sudden now the private pharmacies in this country have to kiss goodbye to all of the income that they have been making from the Barbados Drug Service, because all of the patients now have to go to a public pharmacist to get their drugs. It is unfortunate.

I want the private pharmacists out there to understand that it is the intent of this Democratic Labour Party Administration to reduce their business, to take away their money and to see them go into bankruptcy. It is unfortunate.

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

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Mr. Chairman, I am very disappointed in that kind of stance taken by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. Clearly, his interest lies more in that of the private merchants in this country than it does in the average Barbadian. Currently, the Barbados Drug Service is spending \$13 million per year paying private pharmacists in this country to dispense medication on behalf of the Barbados Drug Service. That has nothing to do with the cost of the medication.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that we have an intelligent population in this country who clearly understands these issues. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West spends too much time in Canada and perhaps is more enthralled by the system up there, but we have to deal with reality here in Barbados. These lot of scare tactics, really and truly, add no value.

First off, let me make it abundantly clear that no proposal has as yet gone before this Cabinet of Barbados that I sit in. The Ministry of Health is deliberating over all the issues. We would not be bullied into any situation. If we have to take what may seem to be tough decisions in the eyes of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, we will do that. However, we are satisfied that we have an

intelligent population that understands the gravity of the situation and are prepared to work with us.

Mr. Chairman, it is not only the \$13 million a year we are spending with the private pharmacies to dispense the medication on behalf of the Barbados Drug Service. In 1993-1994, approximately 70 000 prescriptions were dispensed in the public system and 46 000 in the private setting. Today, 110 000 prescriptions are dispensed in the private setting and less than 50 000 in the public setting, so we have certainly seen it spun full circle the Other Side.

If there is no charge to any individual for dispensing the medication in the public setting, what is wrong with giving consideration to public patients in public settings receiving their medication from the public pharmacies?

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: I have a lot more confidence in our public officers than the Honourable Member for Christ Church West does. He has really offended and insulted public officers in Barbados here tonight.

Asides.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member has clearly had a little too much...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could you please state the point of order.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: ...to say he is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes, but could you...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am finishing, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you have not stated the point of order.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am finishing. Mr. Chairman, I said that the Honourable Member is misleading the House. I said so each time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay, go ahead.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I said that the Honourable Member has gone too far this time. He is accusing the Honourable Member for Christ Church West of attacking public officers when the Honourable Member never made any attack on public officers. The Honourable

Member spoke in defence of getting information from the Honourable Minister. The fact that the Honourable Member for St. Philip West has indicated that people should only go to public pharmacies...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are going into making a speech now?

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: ... cannot be interpreted as an attack from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West clearly identified some of the challenges that lie within the Barbados Drug Service. If the Barbados Drug Service has to dispense medication to Barbadians more in the public pharmacies, obviously they have to be well-stocked and adequately staffed, and obviously we would need to look at the issue of opening hours. Why can it be done in the private sector and not in the public sector as well? Why is it that we have no faith whatsoever in our public officers?

Mr. Chairman, I do not understand why the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who has spent all of his life in the private sector, cannot have an appreciation that we can get some things right in the public sector. He uses scare tactics that the private pharmacies would shut down and they would go bankrupt.

When the former Barbados Labour Party Government was spending \$700 million building a Prison, with all sorts of corrupt individuals who are now languishing in jail, you did not pay the pharmacists.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, please. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, you rise on a point of order, please state the point of order.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member yet again is misleading the Chamber. It causes me to believe that all of his statements are as untruthful as this last part. It is untrue to say that the Barbados Labour Party has spent \$700 million on a Prison. The financing charges that are yet to accrue over 25 years may be more than the \$248 million, and therefore, once again, he is as usual running scared. I do not know what the scare tactics are that he is accusing us of. He is running scared, if anybody is scared.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, it is really interesting to note that the Honourable Member for St.

Michael North East can only respond to comments made by the Honourable Member for St. John, the Prime Minister in his absence, but anyhow.

Mr. Chairman, let me continue.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber again. I rose on at least five, or six points of order when the Honourable Member for St. John was speaking and responded to him, not only then, but also on Monday too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order. Please move on.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is at the end of her tenure as Leader of that Party and, therefore, we understand her need to seek public scrutiny and attendants at all times, but we have more serious matters to discuss in this country. Your probation is up, you hold on.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, come on.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: For the Honourable Member for Christ Church West. I do not have meetings in Roebuck Street. Mr. Chairman, the reality about it, as I have stated, is that unlike the former Administration, this Democratic Labour Party Administration engages all stakeholders before we go and make firm decisions.

I have talked with all the pharmacy owners, the pharmacists and all the stakeholders, and many of the issues being raised today have been raised with them. As a matter of fact, you would be surprised to know that some of the things that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West objects to, have been put forward by the same private pharmacists that he wants to get in here and tell me that they would go bankrupt, et cetera.

House A60E Sequence 56

8.10 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: We are building a partnership. We do not see the private sector as our enemies. We believe that with a restructured Barbados Drug Service that focusses on efficiencies, one that looks at the range of items on the Formulary, one that looks at the opening hours of pharmacies in the public sector, one that works with doctors in terms of their prescriptions that they put out there, can lead to a situation where Barbadians can

have a Barbados Drug Service that allows them to get the medication they need, one that is sustainable.

Mr. Chairman, the former Administration was well-known for not paying the pharmacists, and it was not only at the end of the financial year. There was a time when for months the private pharmacies in this country, under the Barbados Labour Party, were not paid. Pharmacists had to take to the streets and you did not hear a pip squeak from the Honourable Members for Christ Church West, or St. Michael North East. Sir, of course, they were busy building a jail. They were busy looking to spend money building a highway, with some of the most corrupt and unethical individuals the world has ever seen. Their focus was not on the average black man in this country, but now all of a sudden, now they are Opposition, there is this concern for the poor person.

Sir, diabetes today is the number one health concern in this country. What did the Opposition do about it? We have launched a whole new set of initiatives such as prevention focus, looking at healthy lifestyles. These are things that are not costing taxpayers millions of dollars. The difference between the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party when it comes to healthcare, is that this Administration listens to others. We talk to people and are prepared to make decisions that do not necessarily have to cost us millions of dollars.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to a full, robust and healthy debate in respect of the public healthcare system in Barbados. It is long overdue. Everyday there are more and more demands being placed upon the public healthcare system, which I do not believe means that we always have to add more and more financial resources. It means that we need tighter management. We need to rid ourselves of a lot of the inefficiencies and duplications in the system. We are working with insurance companies to get them on board. We are working with the suppliers to look at better pricing for our medication.

Mr. Chairman, thanks to our initiative with the Clinton Foundation. We have gotten the price of HIV antiretroviral drugs down in Barbados and the Caribbean. You did not hear us come here and say that Barbadians who are HIV-positive have to pay for medication. We have sought to work with our partners to get the price down.

Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that the pharmacists, the pharmacy owners and the pharmacy suppliers, clearly understand the magnitude of the problem in this country, and that they are fully on board and working with us as partners to get it right. It is my intention also to take this debate into the wider domain.

Mr. Chairman, as I said before, Barbadians are not foolish and I would not wish the Barbados Labour Party to

continue to insult their intelligence. They did that leading up to the last Election and you saw what happened. This Government takes healthcare seriously. We will not run away from our duties and responsibilities to get it right.

Sir, this afternoon I participated in the opening of a cafeteria at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but let me say that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East who was Deputy Prime Minister under an Administration that claimed it had all the money in the world to get things right in this country, could not provide a cafeteria for the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, yet they say they care about poor people.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday we opened a high dependency unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Sir, with all the money in the world, the Barbados Labour Party was still cancelling elective surgeries almost every week at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. They talk about the Barbados Drug Service.

Sir, on Wednesday this week, they would have seen an upgraded pharmacy at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, people who were standing in line and poking all around can now take a number and sit and wait and be called. They can talk to the pharmacist with a level of privacy. That did not exist before because the Barbados Labour Party did not care about the poor people in this country.

Sir, I keep saying through you to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, in the few remaining weeks that she has as Leader of that Party, that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East really and truly has no moral authority to speak about healthcare.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who decided a few years ago that he was not going to become anymore involved in politics because the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter did not put him in the Cabinet as Minister of Health, as he thought he was going to get, has suddenly found his voice, but it is a bit too late. We know who the candidate for the Constituency of Christ Church West in the next Election will be, and it will not be him.

Mr. Chairman, while they are getting on with the wrangling and fighting within the Barbados Labour Party, we are serious about getting it right on all the facets of this country. As the Honourable Member for St. John stated at the beginning of the debate this week, despite the economic challenges in the country, the Democratic Labour Party Administration will not run away from its commitment to social development in this country.

Mr. Chairman, let us not be swayed by the rantings, ravings and behaviour that is tantamount to scare tactics. We are not going to be reckless. We are not going to be

penny-wise and pound-foolish. This is a Government that cares and we understand the issues.

Sir, in the fullness of time, I look forward to a full, healthy and robust debate on healthcare in this country. Sir, whether or not the Barbados Labour Party is in this Honourable House, we will debate it.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Chairman, it is clear. We have heard from the Minister that he has had consultations with the pharmacists. We have heard from the Honourable Member for St. Philip West that he supports the matter. In fact, we have essentially heard from the Minister, because he has even suggested that he is undertaking to upgrade the public pharmacies and to stock them and put people in place to be able to dispense the drugs. Sir, if we have all of this evidence, I will reiterate, it is clear to This Side that even though they are purporting and suggesting that the matter has not yet come to a conclusion, we know it has effectively come to a decision.

Mr. Chairman, if you are already going to upgrade the pharmacies, the Honourable Member said he has just upgraded one pharmacy, he is going to stock them, he is going to man the pharmacies, he has already had the meeting with the pharmacists. Why has the Honourable Member made a decision to take the pharmacists into his confidence, but has not yet taken the people of Barbados into his confidence? That is the issue. It is clear that the decision has been made. There are going to be handling fees in this country and people are going to have to line up for hours and days to get drugs in this country.

It is a sad day, Mr. Chairman, when a Government that came to power saying that they were going to cut cost of living, instead, is going to increase that cost of living and heap a series of handling fees and charges on people who go to access drugs at the Barbados Drug Service in this country. Sir, it is unfortunate. It is sad that we would have to hear about it by my trying to draw out the Honourable Members from the Government Benches. Instead, the Minister of Health should have had the courtesy to come to the public and tell us the truth, after knowing that he is making all of the preparations to institute the matter and then suggesting to us that it has not gone through Cabinet as yet, but the preparations are being made and people have made their decisions about it.

Mr. Chairman, I would love to think now that after we have exposed this debacle, that the Cabinet changes its mind and does not institute handling fees, but I guess that will never happen.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. Sir, it is unfortunate that we have had to come to this, but the Cabinet has not made any such decision and, therefore, the Cabinet cannot reverse a decision that it has never taken.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Mr. Chairman, I do not have to reiterate what I said, but it is clear that preparations are being made for handling fees in this country, based on what the Minister said, and on what the former Minister has said. Sir, whether Cabinet decision has been made, or not, or signed off on, or not, the point is that preparations are being made and the people of this country have to understand what is happening and what would be impacting on their pockets. The pharmacists have to understand what is going to happen to them.

8.20 p.m.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: The Minister said, clearly, that they paid \$13 million to private pharmacists, so that means that amount of money will be reduced. The private pharmacies of this country will be poorer by \$13 million.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West somehow behaves like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat. I, certainly, understand that given his persistent absence from this Chamber, that he wants to stamp some authority and recognise his presence here.

Mr. Chairman, I just wish to make the point, once again, that the Ministry of Health has not yet decided on how the Barbados Drug Service will be restructured. I cannot stop the Honourable Member for Christ Church West from using scarce tactics and talking about all these fees, et cetera, but we will not be pressured into making these kinds of decisions, we will not be penny-wise and pound- foolish.

Rest assured that this Administration has taken a holistic approach to resolving the myriads of challenges that confront us in the health care system. Certainly, there must be a judicious blend between the public sector and the private sector and that indeed, is a role for both to play.

In terms of upgrading the polyclinics, that is a matter that has to continue. Sir, the reality about it is that we have not stopped that.

Mr. Chairman, once again, let us be assured that this Administration will do what is right. We will do what is in the best interest of taxpayers and we will do what is in the best interest of patients in this country.

The Honourable Member for Christ Church West and his team have my assurance that we will come back to this Chamber, in due course, with a much fuller debate in respect of the Drug Service and health care matters.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

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

The question that Head 23 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative with division.

HEAD 38

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS - \$30 000 000.

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

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, this is in relation to bonds that were issued in tranches of \$30 million and \$20 million in September 1997 and December 1998. The Minister of Finance made the bond payment to the National Housing Corporation and as such, the Ministry of Housing and Lands is seeking a Supplementary of \$30 million to bring to account the repayment of the bond.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I will not be too long. I just want to make the point that, as the Minister said, this was in two tranches \$20 million and \$30 million respectively, between 1997 and 1998. It was one of Government's special housing programmes called "Settlement 2000", and it was supposed to generate over \$47 million in the General Workers' Loan Fund. The money was disbursed to more than 4 000 people. We were building 110 terrace units. We also did starter houses, which were under \$100 000. We believe that it is money well spent, but in those days, the demand was very great and we are satisfied that Government did the right thing in providing the money for "Settlement 2000".

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: I beg to move that Head 38 stand part.

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

The question that Head 38 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER 6(B)

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$148 976 AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2009-2010 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 15, 2009/2010, WHICH FORM THE

SCHEDULE TO THIS RESOLUTION AND THAT THE

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO HEAD 54 BE AMENDED
AS

SET OUT IN SCHEDULE II TO THIS RESOLUTION.

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

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

Sir, because of the length of time we were here today, the sum of \$148 976 as requested from the Ministry of Education is to cover a very simple matter. Sir, as seen in the Addendum, the sum is required to cover cost associated with extended retention of containers with furniture pending completion of the construction of the new Barbados Language Centre. Sir, because of that retention for the month of August 2007, until March 10, 2008, when the building should have been completed in August 2007, because of that retention we now have to pay a charge for that container.

I beg to move that Head 54 stand part and that Explanatory Memorandum to the Resolution be amended as set out.

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

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

On the motion of HON. C. P. SINCKLER, seconded by Hon. R. D. JONES, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Money Resolutions in Committee of Supply to Mr. SPEAKER and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, seconded by Hon. R. D. JONES, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

H/A60E/ 8.30 p.m. Sequence 58

Friday, March 19, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business.

Before I move the adjournment of the House, allow me, because we have had a long session this week, extended as it is with some excitement, at the end. I know that we all, including yourself, are tired and weary. I want to take this opportunity to thank Honourable Members on Both Sides of the House for their attention and dedication to the debate, particularly, of course, Honourable Members on This Side, for their excellent contributions over the space of the past week. In particular our debate on tourism and the Ministry of Culture and Community Development. I think we really took the debate to an exceedingly high level, particularly in relation pertaining to culture.

I want to thank as well the Members of the Opposition for their contributions, and for staying the course with us as we got through this difficult process. Of course, the Estimates is, if not, the single biggest item on the Parliamentary calendar. Without this process, the process of Government could not go on. This is even more important than the Budget, because we have to pass Appropriations in order for the financing of the country and the functioning of the Government.

I want to thank the Presiding Officers, both yourself and the Chairman of Committees. Of course, you, Mr. Speaker, are very experienced in this and have handled it with the usual aplomb and dignity.

The Chairman of Committees is new, the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central, and has done a fantastic job. I think he ought to be congratulated by Members on Both Sides. He was thrown in at the deep end, but he was able to swim to shore with us.

Sir, I want to, of course, thank the Clerk of Parliament, his Deputies and Marshalls for keeping us serviced in the Chamber. Of course their work is very important, and without them we would not have a smooth transition through the process. Equally as well the staff of Parliament, both administrative and ancillary staff, who provide for us to ensure that the Parliament runs and continues to run as it has always done efficiently.

I want to thank members of the Public Service who have been with us servicing the various Ministries. I want to add to that the contribution of the security officers, both members of the Royal Barbados Police Force and members of the Government Security who have kept us safe within the precinct of Parliament. I also want to thank the persons who provide the meals, because without meals we would have a very uncomfortable exercise here.

Therefore, as I wind up, I think we have been able to do a good turn on this session, and I hope that when we return we can continue the work of the people of Barbados.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish on the adjournment to also associate myself with the comments of the Leader of Government Business. This is his first time and I can well appreciate his attention to detail in respect of wanting to thank everybody. I shall not detail this House any further. Everyone wants to get home. All that is left for me to do, I think, is to wish all a blessed Easter and to hope that we come back in invigorated.

This year promises to be a difficult year for all. Therefore, the business of this House will be even more important than usual. I think there will be keen attention paid to what transpires in this Chamber over the next few months, given the difficult state the country finds itself in.

Sir, I wish you a blessed Easter. I would like to thank all of the Honourable Members on My Side as well and to say that I trust and hope that Both Sides would use the opportunity to rest and come back being reinvigorated.

I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me associate myself with comments from Both Sides of the House. Thank you very much for your assistance and cooperation. I am sure you will all have a good and well-rested Easter.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House stand adjourned until April, 20, 2010, at 10.00 a.m.

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

The question that the House be adjourned until April 20, 2010 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

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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 source opens without the convening sentence (Pursuant to the adjournment ... met at ...). The date is taken from the heading of the source.

Q3. Committee of Supply, Head 56, Hon. R. D. Jones. After a point of order by Hon. M. A. Lashley, the Chairman's words 'Please continue, Honourable Member.' run straight on, in the source, into 'Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate the ...', so that about 660 words of Hon. R. D. Jones's speech appear under the label 'Mr. CHAIRMAN'. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Committee of Supply, Head 56, speaker labels. Hon. M. A. Lashley's speech is labelled once as 'Hon. Miss M. A. LASHLEY', and the Leader of the Opposition once as 'Hon. Miss M. A. MOTLEY'. Speeches by His Honour K. St.C. Best and Hon. F. J. Stuart begin with the text '...' and '.' alone. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 5, report. After Head 56 the Chairman is recorded as reporting 'the passing of one Bill in Committee of Supply', although the remaining Heads were taken under the guillotine after the suspension. The measure is later described as 'one money Resolution (as amended)' that 'was read a third time and passed and cited as the Appropriations Act, 2010'. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 6(a), Head 23. The procedural sentence reads that the question 'was put and resolved in the affirmative with division', but no division or vote is recorded. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Chair labels. The Speaker tells Hon. P. M. T. Todd his time has expired while the House is in Committee, and in the House on the adjournment the Leader of the Opposition is called under the label 'Mr. CHAIRMAN'. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Take-slips. Many reporters' slip headings appear as take-slips or paragraphs (for example 'Estimates - House A60E, Sequence 09, 10.50 a.m.' and 'Friday, March 19, 2010'), and one reads 'HA60C' among A60E slips. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly resumed on Friday, 19th March, 2010, with Mr. Speaker in the Chair, and went back into Committee of Supply on Order No. 5, the Estimates, with Mr. J. D. Paul, the new Chairman of Committees, presiding. The morning and afternoon were taken up with Head 56, the Ministry of Community Development and Culture, and the National Cultural Policy laid by the Minister, Hon. S. D. Blackett. At the outset the Chairman said he would enforce the Standing Orders rigorously and without favour, after what had happened the night before.

Mr. H. F. Lashley spoke three times, on the proposed Film and Media Commission, a Hall of Fame in every community and the case for hosting CARIFESTA. Hon. P. M. T. Todd welcomed support for the Caribbean Lexicography Project of the late Dr. Richard Allsopp. Hon. R. D. Jones recalled self-taught bands such as Lord Radio and the Bimshire Boys, drawing a point of order from Hon. M. A. Lashley. Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer-Suckoo, His Honour K. St.C. Best, who proposed a Hall of Fame for musicians, Hon. M. A. Lashley, who said radio stations had a duty to examine lyrics, and Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe all supported the policy. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman blamed senior people for allowing such music on ZRs and minibuses; Miss C. Y. Forde urged that the knowledge of elderly people be recorded. The Committee was suspended until 1.25 p.m.

In the afternoon Hon. J. D. E. Boyce spoke of Oistins and its Fish Festival, Mr. G. A. Clarke of Jackie Opel, Hon. S. A. Lashley of reviving community groups and community Crop Over and Hon. E. G. Hutson of artistes' difficulty in getting bank finance. Hon. C. P. Sinckler and Hon. R. D. Jones debated classical and popular music, Mr. Sinckler praising Richard Stoute. The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, asked about the cut in the creative economy vote from \$350 000 to \$80 000 and in special projects, and what aspect of the Empire Theatre was covered. After a further suspension Hon. F. J. Stuart, quoting Franz Fanon's definition of culture, said this was the first Government to lay a cultural policy in Parliament.

Replying, Mr. Blackett said the special projects vote had been reduced from \$3.87 million to \$1.3 million because of cut-backs: \$400 000 would build kiosks at Rock Hall Freedom Village, to be offered first to local residents, and \$900 000 would go to the Empire Theatre, to be refunded from Chinese grant funding. He said

CARIFESTA would first require more theatrical and performance spaces. Head 56 was agreed to.

After the suspension the Speaker reported the Accounts and Statements for November and December 2009, Hon. F. J. Stuart laid two papers, and Hon. C. P. Sinckler gave notice of two Supplementary Resolutions. The guillotine then fell, and the remaining Heads, from Head 10 (Governor General) to Head 70, were agreed to without debate; the Appropriations Act, 2010 was passed.

On Order No. 6 the Committee considered Supplementary Estimates No. 14 of \$38 125 167. Under Head 13, \$2 725 167, mainly for CBC broadcasts of parliamentary debates from January 2007 to November

2009, Hon. F. J. Stuart undertook to supply the breakdown Miss Mottley sought. Head 19 provided \$600 000 for three cars for judges. Under Head 23, \$4 800 000, mostly \$4 500 000 owed to private pharmacies, Dr. W. F. Duguid asked whether \$48 million was enough for the Barbados Drug Service and warned of handling fees; the Minister of Health, Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, and Dr. the Hon. D. C. Estwick replied that the Drug Service was spiralling out of financial control and would be restructured. Head 38 provided \$30 million for bonds issued in 1997 and 1998, and Supplementary Estimates No. 15 of \$148 976 under Head 54 were also agreed to. After Easter greetings on the adjournment, the House was adjourned until April 20, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.