
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, February 08, 2011.

PRESENT

His Honour MICHAEL A. CARRINGTON, B.A., LL.B. (Speaker)
His Honour KENNETH ST.C. BEST, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. FREUNDEL J. STUART, B.A., LL.M. (Prime Minister and Minister of National Security)
Rt. Hon. OWEN S. ARTHUR M.Sc. (Econ.) (Leader of the Opposition)
Mr. GEORGE W. PAYNE, Q. C.
Mr. RAWLE C. EASTMOND, B.A. (Hons.), Dip.Ed., LL.B. (Hons.) (Lond.), LL.M. (Leic.), J.P.
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P.
Mr. R. St.C TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. DENIS ST.E. KELLMAN (Minister of the Environment, Water Resource Management and Drainage)
Mr. HAMILTON F. LASHLEY
Hon. Miss MIA A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B.
Miss CYNTHIA Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.
Hon. RONALD D. JONES, J.P., B. A. (Hons.) M. A. (Ed.) (Minister of Education and Human Resource Development)
Dr. the Hon. DAVID C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B.,B.S. (Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Industry and Small Business Development)
Mr. DALE D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B (Hons.), L.E.C.
Hon. JOHN D. E. BOYCE, B.C.H., MRAC, (Minister of Transport and Works; Leader of Government Business)
Hon. E. GEORGE HUTSON, F.C.C.A., C.A.

(Minister of International Business and International Transport) Hon. STEVEN D. BLACKETT (Minister of the Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, Urban and Community Development)

Mr. JAMES D. PAUL, B.Sc.(Chairman of Committees)

Mr. ADRIEL D. BRATHWAITE, LL.B. (Hons.) (Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Hon. STEPHEN A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.

(Minister of Family, Youth Affairs and Sports; Culture)

Hon. PATRICK M. T. TODD, B.Sc.

(Minister of State, Ministry of Housing, Lands, Urban and Rural Development, with responsibility for Urban and Rural Development)

Hon. DONVILLE O'N. INNIS, Dip., B.Sc., M.B.A.

(Minister of Health)

Hon. CHRISTOPHER P. SINCKLER, B.A., M.Sc.

(Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Dr. the Hon. ESTHER R. BYER-SUCKOO, M.B.,B.S.

(Minister of Labour)

Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: This House is now in Session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, February 01, 2011. Burlesque

Hon. John D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that these Minutes of the last meeting, February 01, 2011, be deferred.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the question that Minutes of the last meeting, February 01, 2010, be deferred.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me draw to your attention that you would have received correspondence from Cabinet office, dated January 24, 2011, with respect to the return of the Writ for the St. John by-election. It has been drawn to my attention that, in fact, there has been an error in that piece of correspondence, the date, so essentially, the letter should have read:

“...I am to inform you that on Saturday, 21st, January, 2011...” as opposed to Saturday, 22nd January, 2011.”

Let the record stand corrected in that regard.

NOTICES TO QUESTIONS

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give Notice of two questions:

(11) To ask the Minister of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth: (a) Can the Minister state whether Camp Odyssey, held in the summer of 2009, incurred such a high cost as to render it a heavy burden on the taxpayers of Barbados? (b) Will the Minister please indicate: (i) the overall cost of the project; and (ii) a breakdown of such cost? (12) To the Minister of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth: (1) Is the Minister aware that Rock Hall, St. Thomas has been designated a Heritage Site by the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)? (a) If the Minister is aware, can the Minister state what development, if any, has taken place since that designation? (2) Is the Minister aware that the Freedom Village Monument is a popular location for visitors on a daily basis? (a) If the Minister is aware, will the Minister state what plans there are, if any, to advance and carry forward the project to ensure that the project becomes a viable heritage/tourism income earner?

Notice of these questions were given on February 01, 2011.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. D. O. INNIS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the following Bill be read a first time:

1. Barbados National Drug Formulary (Validation) Bill, 2011.

Hon. Dr. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that, Sir.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 11 – RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND.

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

On the separate motions Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by the Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grants of sums of money for the service of this Island. Mr. JAMES D. PAUL, Chairman of Committees, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$28 482 692 FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES, 2010-2011, AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO.9/2010-2011, WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION AND THAT THE EXPLANATORY NOTES TO HEAD 40 BE AMENDED AS SET OUT IN SCHEDULE NO. 2 TO THE RESOLUTION.

HEAD 23 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH - \$15 504 637.

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

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sir, in respect this Supplementary Head 23, the Ministry of Health, there are several items here that we are seeking a Supplementary for, starting with Programme 40, Direction of Policy Formulation Technical Management Services in the sum of \$240 606. Mr. Chairman, and members of the Chamber, this relates primarily to work that would have been given to me to be done coming out of Hurricane Tomas and its effect on health care facilities throughout the island. Sir, as one would appreciate the Ministry of Health currently has physical facilities located in almost every parish in Barbados and right after the Hurricane Tomas situation we would have undertaken a tour. Sir, as soon as the Disaster Emergency Management Agency gave the all-clear, officers from the Ministry of Health took out to the streets of Barbados to undertake a survey of all the health care institutions to ensure that they were intact.

Mr. Chairman, let me say that I must give credit to the officers of the Ministry of Health who, over the years, have ensured that the facilities are equipped with standby generators, hurricane shutters et cetera, that in the event of a disaster, the facilities of the Ministry of Health can continue to function and, Hurricane Tomas, really shows us where we are strong and where we are, certainly, weak. Whilst there was not a lot of damage done, there was some damage that needs to be dealt with and, certainly, would not have been budgeted for in this area.

Mr. Chairman, \$90 660 is being requested for work to be done arising from Hurricane Tomas coming out of the Maurice Byer Polyclinic in St. Peter for the roof over the Records Department, tiles of patios, replacing doors and door frames.

Sir, at the Edgar Cochrane Polyclinic, some \$3 000 for repairs to the electrical main cable.

Sir, at the Randall Phillips Polyclinic repairs to a transfer switch.

Sir, at the St. Philip Polyclinic, repairs to a transfer switch as well.

At the St. John's Outpatient Clinic the supply and installation of windows is necessary.

At the Warrens Polyclinic works to be done on the transfer switch.

At the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic, some slight damage to the concrete roof over the Records Department.

At the Glebe Polyclinic in St. George, repairs to the fencing and to replace the sky lights at that facility.

Mr. Chairman, our District Hospitals also had some very minor damage. At the Gordon Cummins Facility in St. Thomas, repairs are to be done to the fencing there.

At St. Lucy, we need to remove the asbestos sheets to the dump and replace them with permaclad sheets.

At the St. Philip District Hospital, replace windows at Block B and sheeting on some of the administrative building and four other smaller facilities where there are works to be effected on the roof, fencing and cable therein.

Mr. Chairman, some of the funds, the sum of \$234 089, Subprogramme 045, Account 4212, in terms of Operating Expenses, the Ministry of Health, based on the Headquarters (4:50) Agreement with the Pan American Health Organisation, there is the sum of \$97 000 relating to charges for electrical services at that facility that were not made known at March 2010 and for which the Ministry of Health is to settle.

Mr. Chairman, also with respect to the Nursing Examination, students under our Nursing Council of Barbados, there are arrears in fees for nursing examinations at March 31, 2010 of \$83 000, that also needs to be addressed. (5:24)

Mr. Chairman, during this current financial year, the Ministry of Health and Barbados, on the whole, would have had to deal with respiratory viruses, particularly at our District Hospitals, particularly in the months of July and September as well as an outbreak of dengue fever in the island and this resulted in the need of additional services of doctors and laboratory technicians, in particular, and we are requesting some \$132 698, inclusive of National Insurance contributions to assist therein as well as demographical services required by the Minister of Health at the various polyclinics throughout the island.

Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$1 000 209 relates to work at the St. John's Polyclinic. We have had many discussions, in and out of this Chamber, on this particular issue but I am pleased to report to the Chamber today that we are requesting in the Minister of Health the sum of \$709 000 to cover consultant fees that are due to those professions, namely, in terms of architectural engineering, quantity surveying and mechanical engineering services that were required to revisit the plan for the St. John's Polyclinic to make necessary changes and to do the necessary costing, engineering and other services relating thereto.

Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful that these professionals have been able to hold on this long awaiting payment from the Minister of Health and I really want to thank them for being our partners in this particular exercise. Sir, \$709 000 is requested to settle these arrears to the Minister of Health along with a sum of \$500 000 to commence work at the St. John's Polyclinic in the Glebe, St. John, this current financial year.

Mr. Chairman, let me say in respect to this polyclinic briefly, that it is much needed. Sir, currently, all of the primary care facilities under the Minister of Health are under immense pressure and this will continue if we do not seek to address some of the physical challenges we have, and that is why it is important that the St. John's Polyclinic comes back on stream and that we, as a Government, work with a sense of haste and purpose to bring it to completion and to have it functioning, not just for the people of St. John but, certainly, for all of those who have to use the public health care system, particularly the primary care aspect of it in Barbados, so we do look forward to that being dealt with this year.

Mr. Chairman, we also have a small sum due to the Sir Winston Scott Polyclinic, the Maternal and Child Care Programme in terms of additional charges for, utilities, supplies and materials. We are speaking \$105 143 to be dealt with there.

Mr. Chairman, the bulk of the request in this Supplementary relates to the Barbados Drug Service, Programme 363 - Pharmaceutical Services. This is not unusual at this time of the year in that the Ministry of Health would return to Parliament for a Supplementary to address the financial commitments of the Barbados Drug Service. The challenge often times is that you cannot predict the usage of the service. We normally would have budgeted about \$35 million to \$40 million and if needs be come back for a Supplementary. We are gracious and appreciative of the Ministry for Finance giving support to this.

Mr. Chairman, we are requesting \$13 000 300 to ensure that there is a constant supply of drugs to the public pharmacies and patients through the Special Benefit Scheme right through the financial year, March 31, 2011.

Mr. Chairman, I just the opportunity to remind the Chamber that currently the Ministry of Health is spending about \$3 million, on average, on reimbursements to the Special Benefits Scheme in the Barbados Drug Service and \$1.2 million per month in terms of purchase of drugs through their programme. We, certainly, expect that new policies being introduced effective April 1st, would have seek to contain the Barbados Drug Service, which is now spiral to as much as \$53 million per year without

compromising the quality of health care being delivered in Barbados.

Sir, we are satisfied that the policy being proposed, and to be implemented April 1st will enhance sustainability to the Barbados Drug Service, reduce wastage from patients hoarding their medication, increase rational prescribing with assessment with the cost implication for the patient of additional medication, and bring some benefits to the private participating pharmacy due to an improved cashflow as they would receive some cash upfront for dispensing the medication.

Sir, while this Supplementary relates to this current financial year in terms of the changes, let me say to you, Mr. Chairman and to Members, that the Barbados Drug Service will continue with the sensitisation programme in respect to these new policy changes, and on Friday of this week there will be a meeting between the Barbados Drug Service and doctors in Barbados. They have all been invited, I believe by now, to a meeting with the Barbados Drug Service to discuss the implementation of these new policies, and that will be followed next Wednesday, I believe, with a meeting between the Barbados Drug Service and the private pharmacy owners in Barbados to fine-tune the implementation.

The Ministry of Health has put together a team of public officers who provided a strategic plan looking at the implementation of these policies, the critical success factors, and I am satisfied that they are working diligently with a sense of purpose and commitment to ensure that come April 1st the new policies are rolled out as smooth as possible.

Sir, the other area relates to the HIV AIDS Prevention and Control Projects and Programmes Seminar 1, Utility Strategist, and that primarily relates to the ...Empowerment Society Centre in terms of utility charges. The sum that relates to the Vector Control Department, as I mentioned earlier, with the challenge of Dengue Fever, has caused us to step up our Baiting Programme in the Ministry of Health and hence \$97 433 is requested to assist the Environment Department in the delivery of its service.

Mr. Chairman, we also had an unfortunate situation with the Elaine Scantlebury Facility in Bellplaine, St. Andrew, this is the home to those who are physically challenged and mentally challenged, under the care of the Ministry of Health. That facility has been in a bad state of repair for quite a while and we took the decision in the Ministry of Health to effect repairs at the St. Lucy District Hospital so that we can relocate the residents and staff from the Elaine Scantlebury Centre in Belleplaine to the St. Lucy District Hospital, St. Lucy, and provide them with a much better standard of accommodation, and by extension care.

Mr. Chairman, these are the basic departments within Head 23 that the Ministry of Health is seeking Supplementary for.

I am obliged to you.

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

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, the Opposition wishes to place on record that we do have a number of concerns about the items in the Supplementary. I suppose as good a place to start as would be the matter of the St. John Polyclinic. Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt, in our mind, that bringing this Supplementary here today while the Ministry is clearly not in a state of proper preparation for the Polyclinic speaks to the fact that they are continuing a canvass of the St. John constituency, even though they have won the seat. It is no dispute that not a single penny was provided in the Estimates for the current year. What we are being asked now is to agree to a Supplementary which provides \$709 000 for the payment of consultants, and there can be no issue with that, Sir. The consultants have worked and they are entitled to be paid. However, we are being told that the remaining \$500 000 is for the commencement of work at the St. John Polyclinic.

Sir, this Chamber has not been brought into the Minister's confidence. We have not been told whether or not the tender has been awarded. It appears to be public knowledge, the Honourable Member for St. James South spoke on it on the public platform in St. John and said that fifteen people collected tenders, ten responded and it was being the subject of several stories in the Press. Sir, what we do not know is whether or not those tenders have been evaluated. We do not know to whom the tender has been awarded, and it strikes me that as a matter of good governance and common sense that this Chamber should be informed on whether the tendering process has been completed and what the conclusion of the tendering process is or has been.

Sir, to ask us to provide a Supplementary for only \$500 000 begs the question on what is this \$500 000 to be spent. Is the Ministry expecting to enter into a contract, having completed the tendering process, then it occurs to Honourable Members on this side that the provision that would be sought for as a Supplementary could perhaps be by way of mobilisation fee. There are any number of possibilities, but we have a bold statement that \$500 000 is being sought to commence the work at the St. John Polyclinic.

Sir, there are a few weeks left in this financial year and I have no doubt that \$500 000 could well be spent but I would imagine that it must be spent pursuant to a contractual arrangement that has been entered into by the

Crown with a particular contractor. Sir, we have to say that to tell this Chamber they want \$500 000 to start the Polyclinic forces us to ask to whom is it intended to be paid. Is it for more consultant fees? Is it for work preparatory to the actual construction? Or is this \$500 000 intended to be paid to the person who has been successful in the tender? If so, can the Minister state to the Chamber who the tender has been awarded to? If the tender has not been awarded, then to say to this Chamber that this money is required to start work on the St. John Polyclinic borders on disrespectful. Sir, the Chamber is entitled to know the full details of this \$500 000.

Sir, I believe it is important to say in this Chamber that while much has been said about the St. John Polyclinic, the Barbados Labour Party did make certain decisions in relation to the Polyclinic. We have checked our records, and I have gone back to my Cabinet Papers and other papers. In September 2007, the Planning and Priority - Sir, we addressed the Polyclinic previously.

In fact, in February 2007, the Ministry of Health commissioned and paid Maycock Associates to prepare a Report to assess the structural integrity of the building that is partially completed. In September 2007 the Planning and Priorities Committee agreed that the Polyclinic would be completed. They agreed also that the original architects, quantity surveyors, mechanical, electrical and structural engineers would be rehired to completed the construction of the Polyclinic.

Sir, we have just discovered that \$709 000 is being asked for to pay consultants and we ask this Chamber whether or not the consultants who are receiving this \$709 000 include any of the consultants who had worked previously on the project. Sir, we also agreed that provision would have been made in the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Estimates for the completion of the work.

Sir, we also agreed, that provision would have been made in the 2008/09/10 Estimates for the completion of the work so it is clear from what I have just said to this Chamber that the Barbados Labour Party did not at all abandon the polyclinic, but we have to ask the Honourable Minister what is the current total floor area of the polyclinic and we have to ask the Honourable Member to tell this Chamber what the polyclinic is going to be used for, Sir.

We call it the polyclinic but the fact of the matter is that our information is that the area proposed for the polyclinic now is near one acre of floor space. The busiest polyclinics in Barbados have but a fraction of that floor space, the polyclinic in Warrens and the polyclinic in Black Rock so we want to know what this acre or near acre of floor space is going to be used for. If it is for a polyclinic only, then one wonders about the efficiency of the operation.

Sir, an acre of floor space is probably the size of this Parliamentary complex so if it is that this space is going to be apportioned across other Government departments, we want to know what these Government departments are intended to be, and also what arrangements are going to be put in place for the operation of those various agencies.

Mr. Chairman, we also have concerns about the state of the Drug Service. We see in the Chamber, as we expected at the outset of the financial year, the Government has come to say that we want more money for the Barbados Drug Service. We are quite sure, Sir, that because of the Government's constraints, there are going to be cuts next year but the Minister has not taken us into his confidence. Sir, what we do know is that already individuals, even though the handling fee, the user fee that has been proposed, it has not taken effect yet, and we know that the medical profession has expressed concerns about it. We know, Sir, that patients have expressed concerns about it. We know, Sir, that pharmacists have expressed concerns about it.

Sir, appears to us that the situation of the Barbados Drug Service is in a state of confusion. Decisions have been made, Mr. Speaker, to remove drugs from the formulary, but a meeting is taking place tonight to discuss the matter with the doctors, after the decision has been made.

Asides.

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Well, if not tonight, it will take place soon enough.

Sir, drugs like histal, zyrtec, crestor, a whole set of drugs that are commonly used by patients in this country, will no longer be available free of cost to patients. In fact, we understand that it is well over 100 drugs. Sir, we all know that baralgin is something that nearly every household in Barbados will have as well as histal.

Mr. Chairman, the issue is this. What is the Government's plan in circumstances where well over 100 of the most commonly prescribed drugs are now being removed from the formulary, such that Barbadians now have to pay the full cost of those drugs? I am not a doctor but in a situation where we all have constituents who are

already bearing a huge burden, taxpayers who can barely get by from day to day and people who have lost their jobs are now being told that they now have to pay the full cost of more than 100 items of medication.

There are other issues that I believe this Government clearly has not thought about. Sir, in a situation where the plan is that individuals will be shunted towards the public pharmacies, we have to ask, whether the public pharmacies are able to handle the increased workload that they will have to contend with, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, if somebody falls ill on a Sunday morning and they need to get a prescription, they can go to any private pharmacy here in Barbados. Will they be able to go to the public pharmacy on a Sunday morning? We are told that the public pharmacies do not open on Sundays. Will the Minister tell us whether there is a plan to cause public pharmacies to function almost 24/7 so that Barbadians who cannot afford to pay will have access to the drugs that they need under the Barbados Drug Service?

Mr. Chairman, you know, one of the things that occurs to us, which the Government has not thought out, Sir, is the likely disenfranchisement of a lot of small pharmacies in this country. The reality is that people who cannot afford to pay the handling fee, who cannot afford to handle the high cost that will now be presented to them, will be diverted to the public pharmacy. The Minister and others on that side are on record as saying that is what they intend.

Sir, will the pharmacies be able to handle the deluge of people who will descend upon them to have prescriptions filled, and how long will individuals have to wait in the public pharmacies before the prescriptions can be filled? We understand that there is a tremendous backlog of individuals on a day when they go to fill their prescriptions. They have to wait hours and hours. Sir, what is the programme that is going to be put in place to improve the waiting times, in a situation where the waiting times are already a source of difficulty?

Equally, Sir, what is to happen to the many small pharmacists who have built up relationships with customers, with patients, who will now likely have to go out of business because patients will be going to the public pharmacies to get their prescriptions filled?

We have seen this Government take approaches which have served to drive small entrepreneurs out of business. We have seen it in the construction sector and it should not really have come as a surprise to us that it will now be visited on the pharmacy sector. Is it the Minister's intention that additional pharmacists will be hired to work at the Government pharmacies so as to make those pharmacies more efficient? Sir, these are but a few of the issues that we have in relation to the Supplementary.

We also want to know how the Minister will ensure that the frequent shortages of drugs that currently arise at the Government pharmacies will be averted when, again, a tremendous increase in the numbers of people seeking prescriptions at those pharmacies when that happens?

Sir, we are concerned because we are being told that this money is to make sure that we have drugs available, but what we are not being told, Sir, are the mechanisms that this Minister intends to put in place to secure a seamless transition to the new regime that has been proposed by the Minister of Finance in this Chamber, in relation to the Drug Service. What is the plan of the Minister?

Sir, these things do not resolve themselves by happenstance. The solution does not present itself to the Government pharmacists one day in April. We demand and the people of Barbados demand that this Minister and the Government show that there is a plan in place to deal with the issues that will arise. It may be the Minister's position that if you need increased pharmacists in the Government pharmacies so that when the private pharmacies shut down, they would employ the pharmacists. This may be but we also know that it does not work so, Sir.

There is a specific number of establishment posts provided for pharmacists so is it the Minister's intention, Sir, that the Ministry of the Civil Service will increase the numbers of Government pharmacists so that the Minister can say to the people of this country that they will need another 20 or 30 pharmacists and once that happens, Sir, provisions are being made in the Estimates.

Sir, in relation to the outpatient clinics, in my constituency, there is a very small outpatient clinic and I would love to be able to build a brand-new polyclinic in St. Joseph. I am aware that there was a plan for such a polyclinic at what I still choose to call the Tamarind Hall Centre, the Government called it something else but St. Joseph people still call it Tamarind Hall, but that plan had to be put on the backburner.

What we do have in St. Joseph is a very small outpatient clinic and there was a pharmacy in Horse Hill that was in a building that really was not suitable. That pharmacy has been moved now to the clinic but the reality

is that when a large number of individuals in St. Joseph, who are now being told that they have to go to a public pharmacy show up in Horse Hill to try to get prescriptions from that very tiny pharmacy, it is more than likely that they will not be served because the pharmacy that exists is too small and the stocks are relatively low because it is an outpatient facility.

Sir, on behalf of my constituents, if we are going to have to like this or lump it, then we want to know what provision is going to be made to strengthen the arrangements for the pharmacy in the constituency of St. Joseph so that our outpatients do not have to journey to town, to Warrens and so on to get treatment. It is an important issue and it is an issue that I am asking the Honourable Member to address.

Sir, the fact is that the Minister is running to put a polyclinic in St. John but we understand that there is a crying need for a polyclinic in St. James South and we want to ask the Minister, with the large population base covering all of St. James, whether in his mind, in any of the wild imaginings, he is going to devote the kind of attention that he is devoting to St. John to his own constituents in St. James.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

His Excellency the Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is clear that two weeks ago the tune was different but today we are hearing a different tune. Two or more weeks ago we were hearing of the importance of a polyclinic in St. John, now we are hearing today that it should be in St. James South. It is no wonder sometimes people treat politicians the way they do.

Mr. Chairman, when you do not give the hospital money, they curse you and now that you are giving the hospital \$50 million, they are still cursing you for giving the hospital money. You cannot please them, Sir. In the days when the honey was flowing nobody knew how important the hospital was, nobody knew about a polyclinic for St. James South or nobody knew that the polyclinic in that faithful servant called Joseph was inadequate.

Sir, now that the country is supposed to be in a crisis we are expected to do everything that they did not do when they had money coming through their ears. All they could find to do with the money was to create a new hospital called overruns. They had enough money even to build an airport and a seaport and they did not do it but they would expect us, now that the world is in a crisis, to operate differently. Sir, I am happy that the Ministry of Health can still come, even though they claim that we do not have any

money, for \$15 million this morning to help the poor people in Barbados to get medical care, and that is the most important thing. I have heard all of the criticisms but I am not aware that there is not any medication for any ailment in this country. For every ailment in this country there is medication to match that ailment but you see just because when the money was plentiful you could not get medication, it is expected today that we are supposed to behave the same way.

Sir, what they are actually saying, if they had their own way, is that they would not come for a supplementary for \$15 million for the poor people of Barbados. What is really hurting them is to see that we have kept our promise to the people of St. John and that we have included money in this Estimate so that the polyclinic can be constructed.

Asides.

His Excellency the Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Once you get a supplementary automatically it goes into the Estimates. All we are doing is supplementing the Estimates. It means that it is in the Estimates. Mr. Chairman, what you are seeing is a wholesale approach to medical care in this country. Everything that has been affected, money has been placed to assist in correcting the particular problem.

Sir, once the people of Barbados can go to an institution and get the medical care or get their medicine that is the most important thing. I heard somebody saying just now, Sir, that we should make sure that the drugs are in place. If they are in the public institutions, they are in place. I am also hearing criticisms that there is a small fee when you go to the private pharmacies but they are behaving as if that was the only choice. It is up to the patients to decide where they want to go. If you were saying that you cannot go to the public pharmacies that you have to go to the private pharmacies, I would support the argument but the patients have a choice. Sir, you would not hear that you should not go to private lawyers, that you should go to legal aid, you would not hear that argument and that is choice. Sir, I am saying that the citizens of Barbados have a right whether they want to go to lawyers or to legal aid. It is the same way with medication, they have a choice. Barbados is a democracy and it about choice. I do not see anything here that stopped anybody from making that choice.

I am also happy to see that the Minister has recognised that we have asbestos on the roof in St. Lucy and he has put in some money for it. It is not only for St. Lucy, he has done it even for St. Peter. There was a time in here where if you were on the other side you would have heard we cannot do that work because you are not on the Government side. I remember well in here a former Prime Minister having to tell a Minister that you cannot make that

statement when I was told no roads for St. Lucy. When I was told no roads for St. Lucy, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South got up in this House and said that is not possible because no Minister can say that nobody cannot get anything that the rules do not allow that to happen.

Asides.

His Excellency Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: You ask the Honourable Member for St. Michael North who said that. He was in here when it happened and you were too.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member must not make fun of this Parliament. Nobody has ever said that people in St. Lucy should not get service. Nobody from that side or this side has ever said that and he must not say these things.

His Excellency the Hon. D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, the reason the Honourable Member got up is because the Honourable Member wants me to tell the House that the same Honourable Member reversed his decision over housing in this country, that is what he wants me to say but I will not name the person because that Honourable Member wants me to name the person, he knows that I will not defend him. I am not getting involved in any infighting on that side, so do not put me in it. I am dealing with a statement that I know to be true and I am staying by that.

The Honourable Member wants me to say that the same Honourable Member has reversed his decision over housing in this country. That is what the Honourable Member wants me to say but I would not name the person. Sir, that Honourable Member wants me to name the person but the Honourable Member knows that I will not defend him, neither am I getting involved in any in-fighting on that side. Do not put me in it, I am dealing with a statement I know to be true and I am staying with that statement.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. George North wants me to come here and curse his own members but I am not getting involved in that, that is his work so to do.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the health care of this country is important, and as has always been said, the health of a country is the wealth of that country. Sir, this Government has demonstrated its capacity to appreciate that particular point

by putting this money into the Estimates. Sir, there are many country that would love to be able to vote \$15 million, furthermore to bring an Estimate for \$15 million. Sir, when you consider it, this \$15 million is substantial, this is \$15 million to spend between now and the end of March, so you could understand the type of money and the worth of this money at this time.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want people walking about telling others that this Government is not a caring Government, and that we are not looking after the health care of this country. Sir, when one looks at the vote of more than \$15 million, it is clear that this is a caring Government and that all those empty charges have now been answered, especially with this Supplementary. Sir, this is only part thereof. Further, when one looks at the total vote, one would recognise how much money we are prepared to put to health, to ensure that the people of Barbados are well-taken off. Sir, even in hard times in this world, not only are we prepared to vote money, we are prepared to bring the necessary supplementaries to ensure that the citizens of Barbados at taken care of.

Mr. Chairman, we heard about what happened and we also knew what happened previously, we are aware that in good times the health care of this country was not treated the way that it should have been treated. I am telling you, when one looks at the amount of money we are now spending, one would see that we are spending just as much money or more than what was spent when the honey was flowing. I am saying that the people of Barbados should recognise that we will continue to look after their interest, that we will not spend money on overruns but that we will ensure that this country is well-served.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this important Bill today, it is important because we are voting money to help the Barbados Drug Service and to provide service for the polyclinic in St. John. Sir, I do not have any difficulty with this Government providing and improving the health services of the people of this country.

Mr. Chairman, much has been said about the polyclinic in St. John, and I have always supported the establishment of polyclinics in rural parishes. I believe that the polyclinic in St. John will go a step further in providing a good quality health service for the people of St. John, upper St. George, St. Phillip and the surrounding parishes. Sir, however, the Government has to decide if that space is too large. Sir, I have seen it. I think what we need is for Government to say what plans and what type of services would be provided at that polyclinic in St. John.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that since 1989/1990, a number of technical reports have been provided to the

Ministry of Health. In fact, in 1989, a number of reports were done by Lashley Associates, Toppin Associates and another mechanical and engineering consultant. These reports provided a detailed update on the cost at that time. Sir, therefore, the Minister needs to tell us how many consultants have been involved, since 1992 up to today, in providing the service for this polyclinic. The Honourable Member said that more than \$700 000 will be required to pay the fees of these consultants therefore the Honourable Member needs to tell us to what time period this dates back.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we need to look carefully at that clinic, we need to make sure that we do not have a plan that would be abandoned in the next few years. Sir, it is alright to come to Parliament to vote for money, which we are doing today to provide the fund but would that project be abandoned in the next few years? Sir, that we do not need, we need the Government to look at a systematic and sensible programme, with the correct floor space area and with the correct service for that polyclinic. If that floor space is too large, then Government should decrease it. I do not believe that Government should continue with a programme that is not in keeping with what Government can afford. If Government knows that we are living in hard times and that the St. John Polyclinic would cost another \$50 million, then Government needs to looks sensibly at the services which the clinic will be providing.

Mr. Chairman, as I said before, there is a need for that service but at what cost. I think we need to look at the size of the clinic and at the services that will be provided for the people of St. John. Sir, if indeed that floor space is too large, then the Minister and his team could come and correctly adjust the floor space.

Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on the Barbados Drug Service. I believe the Barbados Drug Service has been providing a wonderful service to the people of Barbados since its inception. There are a number of persons, especially the elderly, who rely heavily on the Barbados Drug Service for free drugs. Therefore, any effort to abandon, curtail, reduce or interfere with the Barbados Drug Service should be properly looked at. I believe that the Ministry of Health cannot come and arbitrarily cut the drugs that mostly the elderly demand at this time.

I think there needs to be a proper assessment of the Barbados Drug Service. I am one who believes that there are a number of persons who may very well be receiving repeated drugs, as has been mentioned by many doctors, that sometimes a patient may be given two or three different types of drugs for the same sickness. I have said that Government has to spend money in ensuring that the service is properly computerised, to ensure that if a person receives a particular type of medicine say, for example, for a chronic diseases, that patient must not get the same

medicine from two different doctors. Therefore, the Barbados Drug Service needs to be computerised.

Mr. Chairman, in most developed societies, patients going to the health service receive an identification card, so that when they go to a doctor and their identification number is punched into the computer, that identification number comes up, so that the doctor, hospital, dispenser or clinic would know that patient's history. Sir, I think that Government, at this juncture, needs to look at the administration of the drug service and bring it into modern times. I believe this is what needs to be done. I believe further that the reputation of drugs should be cut out and I believe that the fees that are charge, that we need to look at that properly.

Mr. Chairman, another area of concern is the reciprocal health agreement that the Government has with some of the developed countries. For example, we have a reciprocal agreement with the United Kingdom (UK) and persons coming from the UK can obtain drugs and service if they fall sick, have an emergency, or if they are here as a visitor. Sir, I wonder if there is any other provision for this reciprocal agreement with countries like Canada and the USA.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister is on record, and the Ministry and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital have been asking people to provide an identification card when they turn up at the health service. Sir, I think it is a dangerous practice, that we have to be able to provide the service first, especially if it is an emergency. Sir, we have to look at that because if we have a reciprocal agreement . .

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is greatly misleading the House and I really hate to interrupt his stride. Sir, it is quite clear, and we have made it clear time and time again, that all individuals, regardless of nationality and regardless of circumstances, are provided with health care in Barbados in emergency cases. The policy of the Ministry of Health is that those who are not Barbadian citizens or permanent residents of Barbados will not be provided with free health care but, in case of emergency, all individuals are covered. Sir, nobody asks you if you have had a heart attack to show your identification card first. Sir, that is not true.

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: I am sure if the Government is really thinking these instant policies through. I am saying that this whole notion of providing an identification card is really sending the wrong signal. We have reciprocal agreement with the United Kingdom so why can the Government not introduce reciprocal agreements with

CARICOM countries and with all countries, especially major countries that send their people here, like Canada and the United States of America. Sir, I am saying that Government must sit down and study this through.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. Sir, again, reciprocal services in terms of the UK and Barbados relates to emergency services. Sir, in Barbados, like in all other enlightened countries emergency services are provided to all individuals and no asks for identification first. Sir, I think there is misunderstanding of conception on the part of the Honourable Member for St. George North about reciprocal arrangements and so on because emergency care is provided to all.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has not set out what is an emergency. Can the Minister set out what is an emergency? What is the detail of an emergency.

Asides.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: I am hearing him say, not Viagra. Sir, what is an emergency? I am saying that the Government needs to clearly set out the type of reciprocal agreement...

Dr. the Hon. E.R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Minister of Health is not the person who will determine what an emergency is. The Triag Unit (4:09) at the hospital or at the polyclinic consisting, usually, of trained nurses and doctors determine what an emergency is.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. George North, continue.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, all I am saying to Government that the Prime Minister and his Cabinet need to sit down and look at the reciprocal agreement that was in place with the United Kingdom and see if a similar agreement cannot be put in place for CARICOM countries. Sir, I am saying that it needs to be put in place.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: (4:44) Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I do not think he is listening to what I am saying. The reciprocal arrangement in the UK speaks to emergency care, situations that are deemed by a physician to life threatening. There is no need to put any arrangement in place like that for Canadians or Americans. Sir, as long as you are in Barbados and you have provided with the care.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister needs to spell out the policy clearly. Sir, many people in CARICOM come here and the Minister is now saying that they have to provide a special identification card. He made

the point that the four-digit figure on your identification card does not entitle you for health care at the hospital. Sir, the Minister said that, so that persons from CARICOM countries, especially, are treated in the worse way by this new administration. Sir, you must understand this because the Minister is not at the hospital every day, and he cannot see every case. Sir, I am saying to you that the officials there are demanding the identification card. I am saying that there are persons working in this country from CARICOM countries, that they pay taxes and national insurance and they are entitled to it because the Host Agreement under the EURO-K Agreement states that reciprocal agreements, that is, that if you treat a person from Barbados, which is the host country, you have to treat the visitor or the person who is working here in the same way.

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I will speak again because I have been visiting the hospital in the last couple of weeks and I have seen the conditions that exist at the hospital. The Minister needs to look at the Eye Ward and see that in any one day there are hundreds upon thousands of people visiting that hospital and it is now in a shameful condition and, Sir, we need to look at that. Sir, the Government needs to spend some money because it is a fact that most Barbadians will suffer from eye problems as they get older and, therefore, we need to spend some money in that unit. Sir, people have now moved from the Lions Eye Care Centre and are now on Ward 3C or on one of those "C" Wards, and people are overflowing in a corner.

Asides.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: I have been taking a lady there in recent times, and it is a condition that I would not want for myself. Sir, I am saying that the Government needs to spend money sensibly in providing a consultant to see how they can improve the hospital because the Government is not clear if they are going to build a hospital or if they are going to refurbish the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Asides.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Sir, they are not clear, and the Government needs to send a clear signal about what they are going to do about the hospital. What is the Government going to do about the hospital? Sir, I want the Government to tell us, especially the Minister, if he is going to put a reciprocal agreement in place for CARICOM and all other countries, especially those countries that provide tourists here in large numbers.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. D.O'N. INNIS: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I wish to start where the Honourable Member for St. George North just ended. I could well understand his need to visit what he calls the Eye Ward but the Eye Ward is on Bay Street, that old derelict building. It is the Ophthalmology Department that we are talking about. Sir, it is where people who are visibly impaired and have challenged would go and, clearly, the Honourable Member for St. George North cannot see what has been happening in health care in this country in reforms and thus he will spend some time there. (9:05)

Mr. Speaker, I need to just take a few minutes and clarify a few things that have been raised before. Sir, in terms of the St. John's Polyclinic, the Barbados Labour Party Manifesto of 1986 promised that polyclinic would have been built but for 14 years nothing has been done after we started it in the late early 80s or early 90s. I think we have gone through a by-election and a lot of has been said about the politicking there and the people of Barbados like the people of St. John did, took a clear understanding that the Barbados Labour Party when it came to the St. John's Polyclinic has no clue. I do not know why there is this interest in the Barbados Labour Party in seeing nothing happen in St. John but the Honourable Member for St. John, recently elected, will certainly address these issues. The reality about it is that there are clear guidelines for deciding on such matters in the Ministry of Health, as there is in the Government on the whole. It has not changed because we were elected. There are clear processes to be followed and they have been followed. The matter went out to tender. The Tenders Committee evaluated them and they made a recommendation that ADC Builders and Contracting Firm should be awarded the contract. The Ministry of Health has accepted that and we are pressing ahead with that matter.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNIS: You asked about the size. Now had the Honourable Member for St. George North retained the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East as his leader, he would have known that she would be very much aware of the size and the drawings for the polyclinic. It is not my fault that the Honourable Member for St. Peter hardly attends the Chamber and does not know what is happening in the country on the whole.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNIS: It is a shame, and the Honourable Member for St. Andrew has little interest anyhow, except when it comes to lunch time.

Mr. Chairman, the reality about it is that when we took over Government in 2008 we re engaged the same consultants that were around for a while. We asked what, we consulted with the then Honourable Member for St. John, the late Prime Minister Mr. Thompson and the constituents in St. John and asked them what they would you like to see in this facility.

The St. John Polyclinic, which work will commence in a few weeks, is much more than just a health care centre. St. John has limitations. We do not need to go and put up buildings all over the place in St. John. It is pristine land. Therefore, within that new facility in St. John will be a state-of-the-art polyclinic, including doctors offices, the paramedical services which do not abound in other places like podiatry, mental health services and family planning services. Sir, a whole range of health services are being provided for in that facility.

Sir, beyond that, there is the opportunity now for social agencies to be located in comfortable surroundings, the Welfare Department, Constituency Council and the National Assistants Board, which were not in existence when the Barbados Labour Party was in office. All of them can now find a comfortable place to be located to service the people of St. John and constituents of the Honourable Member for St. George North as well.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: I am going to come to that.

We also have in that facility, a gym. We cannot talk about preventive aspects of health, it is not always about the clinical and curative interventions, it is about having a gym that people can come and exercise and relax, and a modern library so we are catering to the people of St. John like they have never been catered to for 14 years under your regime.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph who spoke and then followed his leader out of the Chamber for their strategy meeting to deal with the St. Michael North East candidate this weekend, would well know he should be ashamed to speak about the healthcare facility in Horse Hill St. Joseph because he did not do anything for 14 years as a Member of Parliament and as a Member of the Cabinet, in respect of that St. Joseph outpatient clinic.

This administration in the last few months had to go in there and renovate that facility. We were on the brink of closing it and condemning it, when the Eric Holder Complex was designed and constructed, and I note that he takes offence in it being called the Eric Holder Complex.

He must learn to respect authority in this country. He cannot name a building what he wishes it to be named.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: The Honourable Member for St. Joseph. Your outgoing Deputy Leader.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph will well know that when plans were put to him to include a healthcare facility at the then Tamarind Hall location, now the Eric Holder Complex, he said no. He objected to it. He did not care then about the residents of St. Joseph and their healthcare and certainly cannot care about it now. What he ought to do is to sit back, relax and let us get on with the business of taking care of the health of his constituents in St. Joseph, so that when elections are called, they will get rid of him, whether it will be the other Marshall or some other Marshall.

Asides.

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph, I am sure never stated that the people of St. Joseph should not receive the new facility and the project at Tamarind Hall was started by the Barbados Labour Party.

Asides.

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

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. When I was elected to Parliament in the year 2003, the designs for the Tamarind Hall Centre were completed. They did not have in that design, a polyclinic. There was a proposal for a polyclinic and a daycare centre in the original master plan. The decision was taken prior to my joining Cabinet that we would go with the four facilities and then provide the polyclinic and the daycare centre on the same site at a subsequent time so for the Honourable Member to say that I said no to a polyclinic when it was presented to me is a total untruth.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, let me restate my point. The Barbados Labour Party which was in office during the time that facility was designed and constructed had all the opportunities to include a modern healthcare facility there and they did not do it. I submit to you that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, had he been an enlightened and caring MP, would have addressed it then,

particularly since it came under the Ministry of Home Affairs. He did not do it so that is only a red herring.

We are taking care of the people in St. Joseph and we had to close the pharmacy area recently, retrofit it and it will be reopened this month to serve the people of St. Joseph.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Sir, when people are coming to Lower Estate to bring news, tell them to bring you the facts.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: We know that and we will invite Rommel Marshall to attend.

Mr. Chairman, in respect of the Barbados Drug Service formulary changes, I mean we are not an uncaring Government, we are not irresponsible. As Minister of Health, I do not wake up one morning and say that I am going to do this and do that. The difference between this administration and the former one is that we consult far and wide and any decisions we make in the Ministry of Health as Minister, I can stand up and defend anywhere.

The changes to the Barbados Drug Formulary, were based on consultation. We brought in a Pan American Health Organisation Consultant, who reviewed the entire formulary and what goes into deciding on a formulary. Then as Minister, I put together a Formulary Committee, as the Drug Services Act, Cap. 40 requires and that Committee was approved by Cabinet.

Mr. Chairman, that Formulary Committee comprised of 14 individuals, seven of whom are doctors and I believe they are Members of BAMP, and BAMP, by virtue of an organisation has representation on that Committee. Therefore, for BAMP, RAMP or anybody else to come and say that they were not consulted or involved is deliberately misleading the country. There were consultations far and wide so I am not going to get dragged into these little issues. The reality about it is that the public of Barbados must know that we have consulted far and wide. Sir, this is a serious matter.

Sir, in terms of the formulary changes, all of the illnesses currently covered will continue to be provided with the medication.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: It may not be what one or two doctors want, who are able to call a newspaper and get an article written. It may not be what is in their best interest.

The interest of the Government of Barbados is the interest of the masses in this society, hypertension, diabetes, some of the cancers, the major chronic illnesses continue to be adequately covered under the new drug formulary.

We will not be so irresponsible as a Government to deny our people access to medication and then have to spend more money with them in hospital care. We will not be penny-wise and pound foolish but there are some people in this society who do not like change and rather than sit down and understand what is going on, they like to run hither and thither hot and sweaty and then make some rather unfortunate comments. We will not be so irresponsible as a Government and all of them are covered.

I have heard the concerns raised and I directed the Barbados Drug Service to meet with the doctors, the pharmacists and all other stakeholders. Let me say that the pharmacists and the pharmacy owners are also represented on the Drug Formulary Committee. It is not I as Minister. I do not know much about these medications. The Honourable Member for St. George North will be surprised that I do not know about Sialis Viagra. I do not know about these things.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: The reality about it, Mr. Chairman, is that all of the stakeholders have been consulted and the formulary has been prepared and signed off on. Therefore, there are discussions with all stakeholders, in terms of rollout and addressing any of the other outstanding concerns we may have.

This is a Ministry and a Government that consult far and wide. We listen to our people. We are not high handed and dictatorial. M. Chairman, the reality is, all of the stakeholders have been consulted and a formulary has been prepared and signed off. Therefore, there are discussions with all stakeholders in terms of roll-out and addressing any of the other outstanding concerns that they may have. This is a Ministry and a Government that consult far and wide. We listen to our people. We are not high-handed and dictatorial. Therefore, the Barbados Drug Service will say what they did in 14 years in terms of health care in this country.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: They got rid of the four top people at one time at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is now settling down and getting on with its work.

Sir, the Honourable Member for st. George North, even before he went into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, would have seen that the roof over the main entrance has

been changed. The windows have been changed. If you felt that you were waiting too long, you could have gone into the new cafeteria and gotten a mail, and if your bladder was full you could have used the new bathroom facilities that are provided there.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: You would have realised that the lights have not gone out there lately. On top of that you could have peeped around the corner and seen that a new sub-station is being constructed there to provide adequate supply for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

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

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Sir, for 14 years and all the money in the world, these little niggling things were not addressed and allowed to fester, placing the whole hospital system at risk in this country. Now that we are seeking to address these issues, rather than an ounce of support you can always get criticism, but that is expected from a headless and rudderless Opposition Party. We are getting on with the business of health care reform in this country. We will take our people onboard. We will not be so irresponsible as to cause disruption in this country. Mr. Chairman, there will be times when I am sure in this debate - I will come back and defend the stewardship of the Ministry and this Government in terms of health care.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

His Honour K.St.C. Best: Mr. Chairman, I want to support this Money Resolution. In this Chamber today, Sir, it appears to me that there is a new wave coming from the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. Every time the Government of this country decides to spend some money to look after the welfare and the people of this country, he says that they are using the money as a form of canvassing. I will say again that I want the Government of Barbados to continue to canvass every day and every night to ensure that the citizens of this country are well-taken care of.

Sir, the health care of this country has improved from what existed under the last administration. It is strange to hear the Honourable Member for St. Joseph say that only in 2007, 2008 and 2009 Cabinet took the opportunity to appoint a Planning Committee to look at the St. John Polyclinic.

Asides.

His Honour K.St.C. Best: He said that in 2008/2009 they put together a Planning Committee to look after the St. Joseph Hospital. Then he said February 2007. Sir, that is exactly what he said in this chamber.

Sir, how can a Government say that they were so caring and were in power since 1994 but only decided in 2007, almost at the end of their tenure, to really decide that they are going to look at the St. John Polyclinic?

Sir, you heard the Honourable Member speak about the area of the floor space. St. John abound and about St. Philip, St. George, St. Joseph, and is very close to St. Andrew. Sir, when you look at St. Andrew there is no health care facility in St. Andrew. They promised to have a multipurpose complex in St. Andrew, including a fire station, a polyclinic and all sorts of facilities for the people of St. Andrew and the surrounding districts. Yet today the centre in St. Andrew has deteriorated so much, that this Government now has to relocate those persons who were occupying the premises at Belleplaine.

Sir, I am wondering where was the Honourable Member for St. Joseph from 2003, when he entered Parliament, until today's date. Where was he?

Asides.

His Honour K.St.C. Best: Sir, on another point. Sir, even though we continue to build new projects, we must look carefully at the whole question of maintenance. It makes no sense spending so much money to construct new buildings without a proper maintenance programme. I believe that in this state-of-the-art polyclinic at St. John we should have a proper security system, a system that would monitor vandalism. Sir, if you travel to the hospital, as soon as you have new structures in place, a couple of months after they are vandalised. I believe that same way that some members of the private sector have cameras to capture persons who are vandalising their property, Government needs to do the same. It is absolutely necessary for Government to do the same.

Sir, it is okay to talk about the whole question of a handling fee. The Government of the day has provided an alternative. Persons have the right to go to the private pharmacy or the Government pharmacy. This Government recognised that there will be an increase in the numbers at the public pharmacy, and I am sure that this Government will put systems in place to ensure that persons who go there will be well looked after. Sir, it is a fact that you will have long lines. Even now there are long lines of people because sometimes people feel more comfortable at the Government pharmacy than at the private pharmacy.

Sir, one of the things we need to do is to look at the whole question of educating our citizens to live a better

lifestyle. If the citizens of this country practice a better lifestyle, it means that the amount of money that we spend on drugs will be greatly reduced and the cost of drugs will be reduced.

Sir, I believe there are circumstances where patients go to one doctor today and get a set of medication. Then tomorrow they go to another doctor. I believe that the doctors should work hand in hand. We should have a system in place that when automatically on the presentation of your ID, the doctor would be aware of the details of your previous prescription. Sir, we will be able to reduce the instances where a person has six or seven different medications at home to treat the same ailment. I believe that will greatly reduce the cost of health care in this country.

I think that kudos must go to the Minister of Health for the excellent job he is doing in providing a better health service for the Barbados public.

Mr. Chairman, we come here today and would like to play politics. The citizens of Barbados are not concerned about B or D when it comes to health care, they are concerned about the Government of the day which provides health care for all their citizens.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas talking about persons dying in the Accident and Emergency Department. Persons did not start dying in the Accident and Emergency Department in 2008, it had been happening before and it will happen after. Sir, I am sure that if the Honourable Member is really paying attention to what is happening in this country she would understand that the Minister of Health has indicated that money is being provided to extend the Accident and Emergency Department. He has made it clear that very shortly there would be no shortage of nurses in this country.

Sir, if the Honourable Member for St. Thomas was really following, she would recognise that the majority of last set of nurses who did the exams passed. There was a time under...

Asides.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: Yes, I passed the law, thank God and I will continue to pass all the exams.

Sir, they are also making provision for more students to enter the nursing programme at the Barbados Community College. I am sure, Sir, that with that in mind, it is quite clear that the health care of this country will be greatly increased and the persons who hollow and shout and criticise would one day recognise that Barbados has a wonderful health service and this Government would ensure that it continues to invest in this way.

I am saying that we need to continue to fight the fight and the cause of all the citizens of this country when it comes to health care, and we can only do that. I am glad that they have a gym within the thing and I would hope that the people from St. Joseph and St. John and everyone would use that facility to ensure that we have a healthier Barbados in this day and age.

With those few words, I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, allow me to enter this debate very briefly, I do not intend to be too long, on this particular Resolution seeking a supplementary for the Ministry of Health in relation to a number of matters, most of which are matters over which we have and can have no particular quarrel at this time. Indeed, when the matter came to the Ministry of Finance, we immediately sought to get this Resolution through to allow for the continued efficient functioning of the health care system in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I think it would be remiss of me if I did not say in all seriousness that we have to recognise the outstanding work which this Minister of Health has done since taking up the portfolio. We can trade words or barbs across the pit of the Honourable House of Assembly Floor but the reality is that, as was said in the Other Place by someone from the Other Place, when we took office in Barbados we found the health care system under some considerable strain and stresses. Sir, both the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, who is not here at the moment, but if he were here he would say very clearly what the position was, and the current Minister of Health, the Honourable Member for St. James South, had to literally wrestle to the ground a very difficult situation in which perhaps the greatest threat or the principal threat would have been the low morale of the vast majority of the professionals in the public health care system. That low morale became almost all-pervasive in the system from Health Inspectors to Nursing Aides to Nurses to Doctors and to Hospital Management. It simply accorded with the lack of consistent and clear political leadership in the Ministry of Health. It was almost as if there was an inertia, a paralysis of analysis, a pause on a practical commonsense approach to addressing the very complicated in some instances but also at the other extreme very simple issues in relation to the hospital.

Sir, that manifestation would have manifested itself acutely in the management of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Sir, one would wonder exactly where the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would have been in the 14 years that the previous Government was in office when it was brought to this Honourable Chamber, under the guise

of logic and argumentation, that we should change the system at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital from a Government department, because that was the problem you know. The problem was that it was a Government department, that it was buried in the bureaucracy of the public service, that it was inefficient and that the management was being held back from taking decisions that were critical for the transformation of that institution and therefore you had to create a statutory board.

Sir, even though members on the Opposition side at the time warned them and raised concerns about that snake oil salesman approach to solving many of the deep bureaucratic issues and problems that exist in Barbados, Parliament decided to acquiesce and allow the Minister the time to approach these issues in relation to the hospital but we have now come to learn, when we came to office, that really was not the problem.

Indeed, I have heard only recently some people making the point that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is this and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is that. Sir, do you know that at the height of the last Administration the last Queen Elizabeth Hospital Board which served under that Administration could not even find itself time to meet. There were members of the Board who did not go to Board meetings because they were fed up with the leadership of the Board and with the leadership of the Minister who consistently meddled in the affairs of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Sir, we have two Ministers, and this one in particular, who has come to office, who has put a Board in place and has tried to allow that Board the professional space to function as a Board.

Sir, we have seen substantial changes being made not only in terms of the management picking, as we would say in a horseracing parlance, horses for courses, putting the appropriately qualified people in the correct positions and allowing those persons to take decisions that are in the interest of the hospital not in the interest of the political party that is in Government at the particular time. That was the greatest level of manifestation of the problem.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: We do not want to discuss these matters, Mr. Chairman, because the reality is that under the last Government the previous Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital could not get his Board to meet. At least this Chairman can get his Board to meet every month and more, and that is the point.

Mr. Chairman, we will not become involved in that because the reality is that today, under the Democratic Labour Party Government, we have a health sector that has a clear vision of where we want to take the country in relation to health care. We have made and will continue to

make the appropriate management on managerial changes, to ensure that these strengthen the talents available for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the health sector as a whole and that we continue to look at the issue of the polyclinic.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to get involved in any back and forth with the Opposition on the St. John polyclinic, they have no political credibility in relation to the St. John polyclinic. Sir, rather than giving up that ghost, rather than leaving it alone and talking about something else on which they have some purchase and running ground, the Opposition continues as though they are trying to get a monkey off their backs. Sir, they had every intention, even though it was hidden from everybody else, except to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, not to build that polyclinic, even though it would have served some members of his constituency. Sir, the Honourable Member did not care about that.

Mr. Chairman, I do not have anything against the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, I rather like the Honourable Member.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I know that the Honourable Members does not like me but I like him because I am amazed at his flexibility and alacrity.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, the jumping-jack approach to politics I like because it gives me some amusement. Sir, the point of the matter is this, I heard the Honourable Member making a statement in here that we are a sovereign country and an independent government and that Government is a continuum. Sir, could you believe that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph got up in here, even though he attended the function at the old Tamarind Hall when we renamed the facility after Eric Holder, Attorney-General of the United States of America, an illustrious descendant of Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph was running up and down behind the gentleman trying to get an introduction. Sir, the Honourable Member now comes to this Honourable House, and I feel in a very distasteful way, is saying that we renamed the facility after somebody but that he still calls it Tamarind Hall. Sir, for the Honourable Member to speak in this manner is disrespectful and degrading to that gentleman.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, the other issue is that the Attorney-General of the United States of America is a descendent from St. Joseph, and that is precisely why we name the property after the Honourable Attorney-General. It is not in good form to do these things. Sir, the Honourable Member should apologise.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House by giving this the impression that the former Attorney-General, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, is anti- his own constituents, by objecting to us naming a descendant from St. Joseph, someone having roots in St. Joseph, for us giving him that privilege to have that name on that building.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, we have to be serious, we are a serious Government and Government, in its generic sense, cannot allow these kinds of situations to continue. It is disrespectful, coming from a former Attorney-General, someone who held a constitutional post in this country.

Mr. Chairman, the Opposition comes and gives a lot of political pallava about the St. John Polyclinic. They had no intention of doing it, just like they had no intention of doing the St. Joseph Hospital in St. Peter. They never had any intention of doing it and so the people of St. John saw through all of that, the people of St. John know better than that. Sir, they had never intended to repair the St. John Polyclinic, to spite the former Honourable Member for St. John and the Democratic Labour Party. That is precisely what that was about. Sir, it seems to be stuck in the 'craws' of Honourable Members of the Barbados Labour Party that this Government intends to do that polyclinic.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, it seems to have stuck in their 'craws' and we are going to unblock their 'craws' because we are going to do the polyclinic. That is a commitment from the Democratic Labour Party, not only to the people of St. John but to the people of St. Joseph too. Sir, when, as Attorney-General and as a senior Member of the Government, the Honourable Member had the opportunity to force and enforce repairs to the polyclinic, he had no interest in it. The Honourable Members was busy trying to get the Judicial Hall, which they wanted to name after the former Chief Justice, opened. The Honourable Member was not interested in the people of St. Joseph.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: The Honourable Member was busy trying to get that situation with Mr. Barrack

sorted out, he was not interested in any polyclinic. Mr. Chairman, for the Honourable Members to come here and try to give the impression that they have some kind of interest for the polyclinic in St. John, that they looked at it and have examined it, Sir, we do not want to hear that. Sir, we are going to do what we have to do, to put matters right in relation to that because as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy always says, there must be a fair and balanced distribution of the resources of this country for all constituencies, whether those constituencies are represented by Government or Opposition. Therefore, when the Honourable Member for St. George North paved every road that he could find in St. George North, without paving those roads in the constituency of St. George South, which belonged to his own party Member.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, it was to such an extent that the former Honourable Member for St. George South had to retire in shame. The Honourable Member for St. George South was forced out of Parliament, the Honourable Member said he felt like an outside child in his own Government because the Honourable Member next door to him would not fix any roads in his constituency. Sir, that is not going to happen in this Government, we are going to give everybody what they want but we are going to do the polyclinic first.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, your time has expired.

Hon. Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this matter and I thank the good people of St. John for giving me the opportunity to do so. Mr. Chairman, it is clear that in the nature of these sorts of debates that beauty lies in the eye of the beholder and that persons will seek to gleam what they want to see and what they want to gleam and will do from their perspective.

Mr. Chairman, from the perspective of the people of St. John, whom I have the honour to represent in this Honourable Chamber, we see a Government that is trying, it is trying against all odds to honour its promises to the people of Barbados and in particular to the people of St. John. Mr. Chairman, in this economic environment, it would be a bitter pill for the people of St. John to swallow, if it were suggested that the St. John Polyclinic could not be attended to at all, at this time. We would be disappointed and we would have been dejected but the people of St. John, whom I know very well, would have understood the reason. We would have understood that perhaps we had really and truly missed our chance a decade ago when things were plentiful.

We have been following the saga of the St. John Polyclinic for the better part of two decades and during that

time we were aware of the situation between 1987 and 1994, and so we were confident that once things improved, as they did in the 1990s and toward the turn of the century that St. John's moment would finally come.

Mr. Chairman, then we heard about the GEMS Project being funded over and over again to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, so St. John thought that their moment was coming. We then heard about Greenland, conceived and funded over and over again to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars and we thought that a little consideration would be given to St. John now.

Mr. Chairman, then there was EduTech and we were sure that a few million dollars would be put aside for us and just as creative ways were found to finance the \$700 million prison, we thought that creative ways would be found to sort out St. John and the polyclinic but, alas, Mr. Chairman, nothing took place in those times of plenty.

Sir, when money was in abundance and the economy was rolling along, that was really the best time to start building the St. John's Polyclinic but, Sir, year after year, Estimates after Estimates and Supplementary after Supplementary nothing happened. Sir, it is in the backdrop of that 14 years of wishing and hoping, all in vain, I would add, that we acknowledge the efforts of this Minister of Finance, this Minister of Health and this Prime Minister to get the St. John Polyclinic a step further toward fruition. Mr. Chairman, the other side is saying that it is not enough but the people of St. John are saying, "This is a step in the right direction".

Mr. Chairman, apart from being a political football of enormous proportions, the St. John's Polyclinic represents real living hope, not only for the people of St. John but for the eastern districts as a whole. Sir, sometimes I wonder about this title "the St. John's Polyclinic". Perhaps, maybe if that were not the name, some of the members from the other side would support this venture a bit more when you consider its geographical location and the fact that it services not only St. John but St. Joseph, St. Philip, St. George, people from St. Thomas and those from St. Andrew. Sir, I see no reason why none of these parishes will make use of this facility.

Mr. Chairman, on a serious note, I do welcome the attempt of this Government to bring this project to a reality finally, and as was just stated by the Minister of Health, the concept of the St. John's Polyclinic has evolved into something much larger than just the polyclinic itself, in a traditional sense. It is going to be a multi-services facility and it will fit perfectly into my concept of community care, as I have outlined during the by-election on many nights. I am expecting that it will have what is called "trans-generational initiatives", bringing persons of all ages together as the lower level of this facility not just the health

facilities but there is a recreational area, an educational area, a sporting area and it can also cater to cultural needs.

Mr. Chairman, I am also expecting that the St. John's Constituency Council will be housed in this facility. I look forward to it incorporating, at some point, a facility for the elderly where they can come to spend their days. They can be dropped off by their relatives who can be comforted knowing that their senior people are in a facility for the day where there is medical care close by, if necessary. Sir, this is most comforting while you are spending your day at work.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome this show of intent on the part of the Government to remove the St. John's Polyclinic from its status of neutral and putting it into drive finally. It is my fervent hope that as soon as economic conditions improve that more substantial sums of money will be allotted for this facility to see it come to fruition. I, certainly, endorse the comments of the Minister of Health. It is unfortunate though that even on these issues there can still be a major political divide. These initiatives have to be viewed in the context of the challenges confronting the Government and the advice of many to contain spending and to cut out social services and concessions. I believe though that it speaks to the embedded philosophy of a Government when in times such as these, it is prepared to forge ahead against all odds to maintain and even reinforce the social protective net.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy today to say on behalf of the people of St. John that we are content to see that the Government has started, and is prepared to make that step to see the St. John's Polyclinic completed. We know that it is not going to start and finish tomorrow or the day after tomorrow but we are happy to see that it is "off the ground" so to speak.

Mr. Chairman, on that note, I will take my seat.

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

Hon.F.J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I rise to make a very brief intervention in this debate, which intervention I must begin by congratulating the Honourable Member for St. John for one of the finest maiden speeches I have heard in this Parliament. Sir, her exemplary calm and impressive eloquence must certainly reinforce the faith of the people of St. John in the decision they took on January 20, 2010. Her speech today sends a very clear signal of what we can expect in this Parliament not only from her, as MP for St. John, but from the people of St. John themselves whose aspirations and whose hopes she embodies. So I really want to congratulate her and to let her know that today she has really written her name on history's page.

Sir, I have listened to a lot of what was said in this debate up until now, and I have to repeat that whenever I listen to publicists of the Barbados Labour Party, and I do listen on very rare occasion, I have to confess, I am reinforced in my view that on January 15, 2008, and I have said this before, the Barbados Labour Party not only lost office but it also lost its sense of shame. I cannot believe that a Party that left the health sector in which the Barbados Labour Party left it, could be coming to this Chamber and trying to sermonise to the people of Barbados, trying to lecture the Democratic Labour Party on what should happen in the health sector. Sir, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was clearly decapitated by one Minister of Health, in alliance with the then Prime Minister, and we were all told that once we got rid of the four top people of the hospital all will be sweetness and light. Those four top people had to take recourse to the courts of law to get their reputations protected. The courts of law awarded them substantial damages which the Government took an almighty long time to pay, and to add froth to frenzy and to add farce burlesque, one of the very people, who was designated as a problem at the hospital, and who was one of those four, was sent back there to occupy the top position at the hospital. These are the people who are now lecturing the Democratic Labour Party on what we should do in health. Sir, fourteen years in office, three two-thirds majorities, the largest revenue intake for any Government in the entire history of Barbados, dating back to 1627, and we still inherited a health sector and a Queen Elizabeth Hospital where very little was done.

Sir, I am indebted to the Honourable Member for St. John for itemising the instances on which the hopes of the people of St. John could have been properly raised in respect of the promised polyclinic, but the Barbados Labour Party decided that they should be shunted aside and priority given to other things.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph indulging today with archeological instincts, rummaged into the debris of the Barbados Labour Party and came up with some piece of paper that they had planned to do in September 2007. Sir, September 2007 was around the time when the Barbados Labour Party was on its political death bed. The Government was on its death bed with a death rattle in its throat. That was when they thought that they would look at the polyclinic issue in St. John. Sir, they had not made up their minds as to what they really thought about this polyclinic.

Sir, I sat on the other side of the House, next to the then Honourable Member for St. John, who was Leader of the Opposition, I was Deputy Leader, and week after week in this Parliament between 1994 and 1999 he was calling on the new Government to have a look at the plans for the polyclinic in St. John and to do something about it. They scoffed at him and they set their face against doing

anything about that polyclinic and kept faith their spite for fourteen years. I know what I was about because I also tried to engage the then Minister of Public Works and Housing on a housing project in St. Philip, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, at the time, he still is, and he made it very clear to me that he was doing nothing in the constituency of St. Philip South as long as I was MP. If the people of St. Philip South wanted anything done, they would have to get rid of me as MP, or wait until the Democratic Labour Party came back to office. That happened.

Sir, I am not moved by anything that I am hearing coming from the other side on this issue. All the crocodile tears that they are doing today, they make no impact on me because I know what happened from this side of the House when that administration was in office.

Mr. Chairman, the Government, and I want to repeat this, is committed to pursuing to completion the polyclinic in St. John.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South is grossly misleading this House. The Honourable Member is an attorney-at-law and practiced as an attorney-at-law. I will recall instances where I had any discussions with the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member practiced a different category of law to the area which I practice. I have had no reason whatsoever to communicate with the Honourable Member in my area of practice. The Honourable Member has been like a hopping ball in this Parliament in the sense that he has never been able to retain a seat and retain a seat in this Place. In his first session as a hopping ball...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could you please get to the point of order?

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: I will get to the point of order.

Sir, in his first stint in hopping ball, I never had any discussions with the Honourable Member on any subject whatsoever. I have heard the Honourable Member repeat this statement in other places. This is the first time he has mentioned it in this House. I have never had any discussions with the Honourable Member on housing with respect to St. Philip, or any matter pertaining to his representation. That is the reason why the people of St. Philip finished with him and the people of St. Michael South will deal with him in the next election. You have to tell the truth. I do not want to engage the Honourable Member for St. Andrew on this. In fact, all Honourable Members of the House between 1994 and 1999 at a certain stage, I think it was around 1996, were told to identify

areas in their constituency where there were lands that could be acquired by the Government for housing. We were written a letter. I still have a copy of the letter. We were told that if you have identified any areas of land you could write and inform the Ministry so that follow-up action could be taken.

I wrote a letter to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. I made that letter a document of the Chamber in the other place and the Honourable Member for St. Andrew acknowledged on these premises to me between 1994 and 1999 that he received the letter but he was going to do nothing about it for the reason I just gave to this Chamber.

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

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. In the response from the Honourable Member for St. Andrew or the Minister of Housing at the time, did he indicate that he would do nothing for St. Philip South? This is what you are saying. I have never made any indication in terms that you say, so you are misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I asked you to state the point of order but you did not state it.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. F.J. STUART: The letter was not even accorded the basic courtesy of a written response. The response was given to me going down the steps of this Chamber by the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. I have said this on political platforms, I have said it here in the other place and I have said it in here.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. If the Honourable Member insists on repeating this, I am saying that the Honourable Member is misleading the House. No such discussion ever took place between me and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South. He was not in these Chambers that long, in and out and he will be out next time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I rule that is not a point of order.

Please proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. F.J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, the people in St. John can now look forward to getting their polyclinic as the Honourable Member for St. John has indicated. It will take

some time but we are making a start and a purposeful start to ensure that we bring this project to completion.

The other issue that was raised, Mr. Chairman, has to do with the Barbados Drug Service and the drug formulary. The Barbados Drug Service came into existence around, I believe, 1983. The Legislation came into effect in the year 1983. The Act was passed in 1980 but was proclaimed on the 8th September 1983 and makes provision for a Drug Formulary Committee, which Committee advises the Minister on what drug should or should not be on the formulary. There is always going to be debate on what drugs are on the formulary and what drugs are not on the formulary because in an ideal world, everybody wants to get their drugs free or as cheaply as possible.

I have discussed with the Minister, for example, there is an ever growing constituency of persons in Barbados now suffering with multiple sclerosis. They spend on drugs per month \$2 500 because the drugs they have to take are very expensive and we will have to look to see how best we can alleviate the distress which they experience because multiple sclerosis, like all other illnesses can attack people who are rich or people who are poor.

While the rich may be able to look after themselves comfortably, \$2 500 per month is really oppressive, in relation to a poor person but that constituency of persons is getting much larger. This is something that is causing the Government some concern and we will have to see how best we could deal with that. We cannot make any promises at this stage but it is not an issue that we can ignore.

There will always be debate as to what should be on the formulary or what should not be but a caring Government always has to keep an eagle eye out, with a view to ensuring that the most vulnerable people in those categories are properly taken care of, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Health for the sterling contribution he has been making to the pursuit and the actualisation of health policy in Barbados, for the sterling work he is doing as Minister and I feel no hesitation in supporting this request under Head 23.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Chairman.

Asides.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

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

The question that this Sitting do now suspend until 2.45 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

HEAD 40

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12 128 055

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, as I rise to discuss Head 40, and as part of this \$28 million supplementary, the \$12 million that is being asked for by the Ministry of Transport and Works is properly described in the Addendum to the Supplementary. However, I want also to spend some time in speaking with the Barbadian public about some of the issues of this contract. We know, for instance, that the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project cannot be a success, unless we embrace the communities whom the project seeks to serve. Therefore, by way of the way we do business, we need to assure the Barbadian public of our support and our availability.

Mr. Chairman, this availability was demonstrated in the implementation instance on 28th December, when we held a town hall meeting at Queens College, St. James. Sir, all of the affected areas were invited. This meeting was well-represented, a number of the communities came and were able to put forward ideas in respect to how this project will roll out.

Mr. Chairman, let me first deal with the \$12 128 055 of the \$43 million the contract represents. The entire contract for the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project is in the tune of \$43 672 016.52. Sir, it is anticipated that this project will be financed over three fiscal years, utilising the normal budgetary process, hence why we are here this afternoon discussing this

supplementary. Sir, the Addendum to Head 40 is set out as follows:

(a) Mobilisation fee \$2 700 000; (b) Payment to Utility Companies \$1 337 000;

Mr. Chairman, many Barbadians may not be aware of the cost that is incurred in road works, in satisfying utility changes. From time to time, as we expand our road network, we sometimes are required to move existing services, either electrical, natural gas or water. This cost, for the time being, falls to the Ministry of Transport and Works. It is something which as Minister, I intend to initiate some discussion on because in some instances it can be an extremely high cost, especially in today's world where fibre optic cables are involved and also very high voltage power cables supplied by the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited or LIME. Sir, gone are the days when these costs were just a matter of excavating and replacing a pipe or a piece of conduit, nowadays the kind of technological intervention required adds up to considerable sums of money.

Mr. Chairman, the Addendum to Head 40 continues:

(c) Payment to lighting contractors for materials - \$700 000;

Sir, that will be for improvements in lighting standards such as in light posts, bases, et cetera.

(d) Cost of importation of aggregate - \$330 000; (e) Completion of a Link Road - \$1 444 854; Sir, that link road, if we have the opportunity,

will be described in more detail as we continue.

Mr. Chairman, the Addendum continues:

(e) 60 per cent completion of both Darcy Scott and Jackson Roundabouts - \$2 988 045; (f) Completion of Exit Road west of the Shell Service Station - \$821 850;

(g) Value Added Tax - \$1 806 306

Total \$12 128 055

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Transport and Works acknowledges that as we continue to grapple with the unabated development of Barbados, we obviously have to face the reality of an increased density of vehicular traffic around our city centres, both the existing traditional city centres, as well as the budding city centre, or as some may argue, the established city centre of Warrens. Sir, in truth and fact, the Warren Town Centre is now probably the second largest town centre in Barbados. Sir, in a lot of ways it is linked to Bridgetown, and in the widest

definition could be included as part of the Bridgetown City Centre area.

Mr. Chairman, we anticipate that this development will go unabated and we are certain that within the next 16 to 18 months two major office blocks will come on stream. These are going to be largely populated by offices of Government. Obviously, parking facilities for vehicles, indeed, ingress and egress of these offices will be important. To the casual observer, and I have certainly spent some time looking at the traffic movements at Warrens during the off-peak hours, as it is now, it can be described as satisfactory but during the peak hours, there is no question that there is a need to improve the flow of traffic.

Mr. Chairman, I want to refer for a moment to the fact that we are often inundated with ideas as to how best we can solve traffic congestion in Barbados. It is a topic that is well ventilated and well contributed to. We take all these comments for what they are worth, we examine them, but at the end of the investigation, we have to take a final decision. This decision falls to the technicians and the technical experts at the Ministry of Transport and Works, along with the design consultants of professional engineering services. Mr. Chairman, the design consultants have come up with a solution which basically introduces a completely rotary flow of traffic throughout the Warrens area.

Mr. Chairman, once we understand what we are trying to achieve, I think that the Barbadian driving public will subscribe to the solution being put forward. We will reduce to a minimum or entirely all the cross-turns across traffic lanes that now interfere with the flow of traffic at the entrance to some supermarkets in the Warrens areas, to the petrol station, to the entrance to the Simpson's Complex; on the Green Hill Road, the cross-turns that interfere with the flow of traffic at Manor Lodge, Lodge Hill and Jackson will be essentially eliminated. We know the situation outside the plaza in Jackson where it is almost impossible on an evening after work around 4.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. to exit the plaza and try to get on to the Jackson Main Road. Sir, if we start in that corner, for instance, Sir, the idea will be to introduce a roundabout at the One Accord area and that will satisfy the traffic coming from St. Thomas. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is familiar with that area and she lives in that area so she knows exactly the kind of problems that we encounter there. Sir, that solution would allow again, as I have said, elimination of the cross turns which now affects the free flow of traffic.

Mr. Chairman, we continue then down to the Everton Weekes Roundabout with some widening of the road to have two dedicated lanes to join the ABC Highway and to carry on, through the Everton Weekes Roundabout, which is going to be minorly modified down Green Hill, as far as the Manor Lodge Complex where again, there will be

a rotary solution. There will be some level of acquisition in that area in order to satisfy the minimal dimension of an adequate roundabout. Mr. Chairman, those who use the area would have noticed already that there has been some level of expansion between the Everton Weekes Roundabout and the Manor Lodge area. Indeed, I was very hearkened to see finally that we have got the new bus shed erected at Warrens. I really want to congratulate the team for that bus shed and I will explain for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. The old bus shelter had to be removed because of the widening of the road and we have now provided an excellent shelter which has been highly appreciated ...

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: The Honourable Member does not catch a bus. I have never seen her in a bus any where, Mr. Chairman, so I do not know what it is she is getting so miserable about.

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: You do not catch the bus. Sir, I am talking about the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. She does not catch the bus.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. (3:20) I do take buses, including buses that are mini buses, owned by one of the Honourable Members on the other side. I also make sure that there is caution when I am in the bus because I believe that human beings should be properly and safely transported. Sir, I do take buses but the Honourable Member for Christ Church South would not know because he is a little middle-class young man who has never driven in a bus now so he would not understand the plight of persons of my type.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to let the Honourable Member interrupt my presentation. The Honourable Member is a license owner of Suzuki Vitara and she does not know anything about bus shelter. Sir, therefore, the bus shelter is part of the programme in the expansion which I turn "the pedestrian care areas" of this contract. Sir, you would notice that in the design, we have paid very close attention to the location, for instance, of pedestrian crossing. There will be continued discussion on whether a pedestrian crossing should be located away from a roundabout or, as they are, a couple of metres into the roundabout, and the argument by the technical people, and Honourable Members on the other side is that, in actual fact, it is the slowest point at which the vehicle is traveling. Sir, I buy the argument. It is the slowest point at which any vehicle will be traveling on a roadway intersection and, therefore, they have to make a technical decision.

Mr. Chairman, of course, one of the features of the completed ABC Highway will be an overhead pedestrian crossing in the local of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation station and Parkinson School at the Pine. Sir, we will have the pedestrian crossing and we will have adequate sidewalks on all these roads so that persons who are walking can enjoy tremendous safety in negotiating the Warrens area.

Mr. Chairman, an underpass is proposed between what would be the Chefette and the Simpson area but the details of this are still under view. There is, of course, a school of thought that underpasses are dangerous, that they encourage crime, loitering, et cetera, but I believe that the technical people are looking at special design parameters including extreme lighting and safety precautions that would render this underpass, which should not be more than the width of the road or just over the width of the roadway, which would render this underpass much safer. Sir, that is another area of pedestrian care.

Mr. Chairman, of course, when this is all done, it is envisaged we will have a much smoother flow of traffic. As you traverse then away from the Warren Centre itself and move toward the north of the island, up Highway 2A, we will introduce a roundabout, first of all, in the area of Automotive Art. Sir, that roundabout was contemplated for

some time now and, again, this will be part of the final solution in the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project.

Mr. Chairman, finally, a new roundabout will be placed at the Redman's Junction. Again, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas as well as the Honourable Member for St. James Central have keenly taken part in the discussions on this Redman Village Roundabout. We have taken note of all the suggestions of the Members of Parliament and, of course, the residents, especially, Sir, at the town hall meeting, the voices of the people of Welches Terrace were raised and we made sure and noted their concerns, and it is proposed, as part of the solution, to look at the possibility of taking that small road, I call it, which runs across the village of Welches Terrace on the plateau of the little gully almost, and taking it out into the area where there used to be a petrol station one time, on the eastern side of the Redman Village intersection.

Mr. Chairman, the point being that the traffic lights at Redmans Village have always been reviewed as whether they actually assist or whether they do not assist, of course, there are questions on either side but the introduction of this rotary solution at Redmans Village will render that junction much quicker to manoeuvre and much easier and safer also to manoeuvre.

Mr. Chairman, let me repeat that all precautions will be made by way of pedestrian care to include crossing properly lit, crossing properly marked and to introduce adequate sidewalk capacity and, of course, bus laybys. Sir, we believe that the entire project will redound to the overall benefit of the movement of traffic in that area. It would be interesting to hear what the other side has to say about this Resolution, because we know the record of the Barbados Labour Party with road construction. I am not going to go there. I am going to allow the Members on that side to have their turn to contribute to this discussion. When they speak and I wrap up, I will speak accordingly.

The people of Barbados have tried them. Their record is an open book to all Barbadians. We will make sure that all the reminders that may be necessary whether they come from Barbados Free Press, whether they come from Crininfo on the World Cup Final, or whether it is just a picture of the Honourable Member for St. George North and a Mr...

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: ...from left to right, President of 3S Barbados SR, Jonathan Dannus, Minister of Public Works, Gline Clarke, and Co-leader of the Barbados Labour Party, Minister of Finance, Clyde Mascoll. We will deal with that, if necessary when the time comes.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, there are very important considerations about this contract. We have made it clear in our discussion with the contractor, C.O. Williams Construction that these are the deliverables, which are not negotiable.

Sir, the Ministry of Finance has decided to go ahead with this project not only as a solution to the Warrens traffic congestion, but also as part of our programme to ensure some level of employment in the construction sector. When we approved a \$43 million contract, we expect the contractor, besides the deliverables, which are on time delivery, to also bear in mind that we expect the contractor to maintain adequate employment of staff, because that is part of the contribution of the Government of Barbados towards the question of employment in Barbados. It is a question which we have made clear to the contractor and we will be trying our level best to make sure that these factors are in the forefront of the execution of this project. That is extremely important and we will be making sure that as part of the strategy.

Sir, the Government of Barbados is the largest employer in Barbados. If the Government of Barbados does not do construction, if the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Water Resources

do not do construction and developmental work in Barbados, we would not have an economy.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, the point is, we have to make sure that our contractor understand their side of the bargain, and we reserve the right to come and ask questions about how we are being served in this regard. I think the contractor also understands that this is something that we will be also monitoring with them as time goes along.

Sir, the question of traffic congestion in Barbados, however, will not be solved in its entirety by any three-year contract to build wider roads or to introduce any number of round-a-about solutions. The question of the congestion in Barbados has to be taken as a holistic project in which all of the associated means of transport are taken into review. We therefore have to include this question in what will be termed the Transport Master Plan of the Ministry, which is being looked at now. It must include the re-examination of the priorities and the way our public transport system works. Indeed, we have established the Transport Authority, and they are now properly located. The law was passed under the former administration. They had a couple of Board Meetings, about two. I do not mean five or six. I mean two, a couple of Board Meetings.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: However, the Act of the Transport Authority allows them to produce for the Government of Barbados every five years a Master Plan on public transport. We will be seeking to discuss with them the complete tenet of a traffic solution which sees an adequate integration in Barbados of the public and private sector transport system.

It must also examine road safety. We have established at the Ministry of Transport a National Road Safety Committee, which we are recommending to the Cabinet of Barbados be headed by the Prime Minister, along with the highest level of representation in the transport sector. This Road Safety Committee will discuss and inform the Government and the Ministry of Transport and Works and the Transport Authority around solutions which can see tremendous improvement in safety. Sir, we are now part of the programme, the worldwide programme, in terms of the declaration, the Declarative Road Safety, which starts this year. The aim of this is to see a 50 per cent reduction worldwide in traffic accidents.

I am happy to report that as we start to collection information for presentation at the ensuing debates and discussion, which we will no doubt feature in this regard, we are able to report a significant reduction in the incidents

of road deaths in Barbados. Though, as I have said in this Chamber many times before, one road is unacceptable to me and to this Government. The fact that we are seeing this decline is indeed a tremendous testimony to the work that is taking place at the Ministry of Transport, and the officers of the Traffic Management Department as they seek to improve our road markings or road signage, and all the related safety features of our Barbados road network.

Sir, any person who does not agree that there has been a mark improvement - I forgive the pun, but there has been a mark improvement in the road marking and the road signage in Barbados. That has redound to our benefit and the statistic, which I can available to the Honourable Member and the House, from the Caribbean Statistics Association of Roads on traffic safety statistic and particularly the annual road traffic deaths demonstrate that Barbados not only leads the Caribbean in this regard, but our graph is on the decline. Sir, I am happy about this.

Sir, there are going to be more opportunities, as I said, to come back during this short discussion, and I hope that what I have been able to set out for Barbadians this evening, at least serves to demonstrate how their monies are going to be spent and what we expect out of the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. George North. Honourable Members should bear in mind that we have the cut off at to 2.45 p.m., but we still have another matter. I would like really, if you can, conclude this matter by 2.40 p.m.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I want to say from the outset that this side support the Resolution. We believe that there is always an opportunity for Government to provide work for its people. The Minister in his submission said that it is not a traffic management solution, it is just a matter of finding work for the private sector to do.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber, and if I have to spend the next twenty minutes checking Hansard as to what I said.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: The Minister in his summation said that it is not a traffic management solution it is just a matter of finding work for the private sector to do.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House and if I have to, I will spend the next 20 minutes checking Hansard as to what I said. I know I said that along with being a traffic management solution, it also provided

employment so the Honourable Member cannot get up and say that I said it is not a traffic management solution. The Honourable Member is taking leave of his senses.

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I repeat what I said. The summation of the Minister's contribution, and also his reference to the fact that it is not really a traffic solution, it is finding work for people to do.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The Honourable Member cannot continue down this road. He is misleading the House. It was a few fleeting moments ago when I spoke in English as is required in this Chamber and said to the people of Barbados that along with being a traffic improvement solution, this project will see employment come to Barbadians. I insist, Sir, that the Honourable Member strikes that thinking from his mind, without taking his head off, of course, and let this debate continue in a sane manner.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I will give the Minister the benefit of the doubt that according to him, it is partially a traffic management solution and partially finding work for people to do. There is nothing wrong in saying that we are going to find work, and the job of the Ministry is to find work for people. Sir, my conclusion and the conclusion of most right thinking Barbadians, is that this is not a traffic management solution.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, I daresay that when this ABC Highway was first conceptualised, in the 80s by an Honourable Gentleman called Tom Adams, when he opened up Barbados to show the world that there is a linkage between the airport, the seaport and to open up the economic bedrock of this country, the ABC Highway was indeed formed, and new ground was formed in the Warrens area. Sir, for the very first time, we see a Government putting six roundabouts in one small area.

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

His Ex. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by saying that new ground was found in Warrens. If so, Sir, I would like six acres because I would like to plant some food on this new ground. What I could tell you is that what would have been found in Warrens is some new concrete, without a direction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member. Please proceed.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I would want to say that the concept of a new town in Warrens was conceptualised since the 80s.

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

His Ex. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the impression, Sir, that there can be a new town in Warrens and that cannot be correct. It is an extension Bridgetown to Warrens. The same way that Bridgetown has been extended to Hastings and Wildey, it is the same thing that is happening to Warrens. It is an extension.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I now see why the Cabinet is so confused. The Barbados Cabinet is the most confused Cabinet because they have additional confusion now. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy is only causing confusion in this Parliament. He is a confused person.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the six roundabouts that are planned by Government, a roundabout at One Accord Plaza, a roundabout at Everton Walcott, a roundabout at Automotive Art, a roundabout at Redman Village junction, a roundabout at Simpson Motors...

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House when he speaks to six roundabouts. Sir, he is confused because when he presented the night on television to Barbadians about the proposed flyovers, he said it is going to be two or three or four or five or six and he has not stopped saying or, yet. I am not confused about this. The specific numbers of roundabouts are clear in the document and you should refer to that.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that there will be a roundabout at One Accord Plaza, according to the Minister, a three-legged roundabout. One at Everton Walcott - modified, one at Automotive Art this is number three, one at Redman Junction number four, one at Simpson Motors number five, and you have one at KFC number six.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Public Works led by the Honourable Minister is really playing ludo with the people of Barbados, you are going from home right around. It is a ludo game. It is not a traffic management solution. We believe that the Government of Barbados needs to take advice, not necessarily from themselves. They are advising themselves.

We had a Town Hall meeting like the Minister at Warrens too. When we sought to open up the flyover at

Warrens, there was a Town Hall Meeting as well, so Town Hall meetings are nothing new to the Ministry. The Ministry has always held Town Hall Meetings and large numbers of people have always come out to these meetings and they have ventilated their views.

I believe if the Minister and the Ministry wanted to find work for anybody, any contractor, they could have simply recognised that ten roundabouts across the islands were approved by the Ministry, a roundabout at Combermere, a roundabout at the Stadium, a roundabout at Grove, St. George, and a roundabout at Windsor. There were roundabouts across Barbados but I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that this will not help to ease the traffic flow in Barbados. There will still be congestions. People will still have to get up on mornings at 5.00 a.m. and 6.00 a.m. to meet the traffic and start from there. I am saying it will not help the people coming from Christ Church.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House again and I am beginning to believe he cannot help it. The point I want to make is that when the Honourable Member for St. George North comes in here and speaks about roundabouts were planned and money allocated for, you would think that they had money put down for any roundabouts. They did not have money for the roundabouts that we are building now. Again, these are ideas and things the Honourable Member has in his head.

Nobody has left any money, as I am aware, to build no Grove roundabout, or any other roundabout, or Lancaster roundabout. We had to come to this House of Assembly last year and get a Supplementary to build the roundabout at Lancaster, which is now completed, marked, lit and providing safe transit for Barbadian, something that the Honourable twins, the two stumpy twins from the other side could not achieve with the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter. They could not get the roundabout at Lancaster approved under Mr. Owen Arthur. This is that problem and that is what is sticking in their craws, Sir.

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, all I am saying is - and the Minister knows - that there were 10 roundabouts that were designed in the last administration. We went out to tender and a number of private engineers developed those roundabouts, including the roundabout at Orange Hill. They were designed by this side.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber and I am not going to allow him to confuse me or the people of Barbados. There was no money left to build any roundabouts. As a matter of fact, there was no money left.

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, this is the Parliament of Barbados and me, as an Honourable Member will not come in here and say to Members that Cabinet was asked in 2007 to approve a number of roundabouts - I think about ten - which they did and money was provided for them and therefore there is a Cabinet Paper. Sir, the Members can check the Cabinet Paper and they can go to the records and see that they were designed.

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The only thing they considered was naming the roundabouts after the Honourable Member for St. George North. The one by Cheffette was to be called the Gline Clarke Roundabout. There was another one to be named after the Honourable Member for St. Andrew on the north of the island but that was too far out to sea so he did not accept that. In all seriousness, there was no money, I repeat there was no money, left to construct any roundabouts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, we have noted it.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I want to go on because we cannot educate the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. Mr. Chairman, we must understand in this country that there is a need to provide economic benefit to the majority of people. I want to ask the Minister, when he gets up, if the new solution at Warrens is a two-year or a three-year solution and how did the Ministry arrived at this suggestion, if they look at the traffic count, where are the studies that were done and if they look at a ten-year programme where they would not have to come back and chop and change again because what I am seeing in Warrens is a chopping and changing of what they are doing. I am saying that this will not ease the traffic flow within the Warrens area, it will not ease the traffic flow in the greater Bridgetown area and it will not ease the traffic flow across Barbados and that we will still be in the same position as we were before. I want to find out from the Minister if the Ministry did not...

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member has a way of misleading the Chamber and trying to get out there with a lot of confused messages. This project is clearly named, and I would like to ask the Honourable Member to read it, the Warrens Traffic Safety Improvement Project. I do not see anything about greater Bridgetown on this. The Honourable Member has to stop trying to mislead by innuendo the people of Barbados. This is strictly Warrens.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, as I indicated, we are going to finish in 20 minutes so please wrap up.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I understand the strategy of the Government. The strategy of the Government is that we must not speak, so every time I get up they will interrupt me.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. We do not want the Honourable Member not to speak, we want him to tell the truth, that is all.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I will tell the truth, Mr. Chairman. I am saying that this Warrens Safety Project will not solve the problems around Warrens, it will not solve the Green Hill congestion...

His Excellency the Hon. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because in one breath the Honourable Member is speaking about the Warrens Project and in the other corner of his mouth he is speaking about the greater Bridgetown project. I want to know from him, Sir, and this House will like to know, whether it is the Warrens Project or the greater Bridgetown project because he said...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, one moment. The point of order is what? Are you enquiring?

His Excellency the Hon. D. St. E. KELLMAN: That the Honourable Member is misleading the House, that the project can be called two things at one time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay, so you have stated the point. Thank you.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I understand that I only have a few minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have a minute in which to wrap up.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Right. This traffic solution that the Minister has advised himself on will not solve the problem in the Warrens area. I believe that there is still a need to look at the flyovers. I believe that this will help solve the problem not only for one or two years but will show that Barbados is serious about managing its traffic. When you look at countries around the developing world you would see that despite the round road roundabout that there is a need to look at bridges to move traffic either up or down.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House to get in this House and tell the general public of Barbados and this House that the Minister advised himself. Clearly, the Minister has clearly indicated...

Asides.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: I know what occupation my mother had, a hawker.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, what is your point of order?

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: Mr. Chairman, there was a Steering Committee in place and there were consultations with the Chief Town Planner, the Ministry of Housing and Lands and all of the other persons, so to say in this Honourable House that the Minister advised himself is incorrect.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Honourable Member, your time has expired.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I would just want to wrap up by saying that we believe that there needs to be greater consultation not only with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport but to look at other solutions around the world and to see to what extent... It will not solve the problem overnight, it will help to move traffic faster and help to ease the congestion in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, we have come to the end of the time allotted for the consideration of this supplementary. It is with regret that I do not have anyone to thank for their contribution because the attempt by the Honourable Member for St. George North cannot be considered as serious. I hope that in the fullness of time we will have an opportunity to revisit the entire discussion of road traffic management in Barbados and at that time we would be able to hear from the Honourable Member and his other colleagues as I would like to hear from my colleagues, on matters that they would like to have discussed in terms of road traffic.

Sir, it is with regret that we have to truncate this discussion, however, I want the people of Barbados to be aware of the reasons for the supplementary and the kind of information and decision-making that informed the supplementary. I believe that at least I have been able to get that message over. Indeed, we will continue to work to improve road safety in Barbados and the entire road network itself whenever we have the allowable funds.

With that, Sir, I beg to move that Head 40 stand part.

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

The question that Head 40 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I also beg to move that the Explanatory Notes to Head 40 be amended as set out in the Schedule.

Hon. R. D. JONES: 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

\$850 000

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Sir, I do not propose to be very long on this matter but I think as a matter of public...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time has expired.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: The time has expired? You want me to stand part. Man, I want to talk about this. You are not going to give me a chance to talk about GEMS.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, time has expired.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Man, I was now going to curse the Labour Party. Anyway. Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 62 stand part.

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that Head 62 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

On the separate motions of the Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded Hon. Dr. D. C. ESTWICK, the Money Resolution was read a first and second time and passed.

ORDER NO. 8 – SECOND READING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION AND TRUST
SERVICE PROVIDERS BILL, 2010.

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

Hon. E. GEORGE HUTSON: Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me this afternoon to move the passing of the International Corporate and Trust Service Providers Bill, 2010, to regulate international corporate and trust service providers in this country. Mr. Speaker, this Bill has been in discussion in the various ministries of Government for some time and recognises the need for the providers of services to the International Business Sector in Barbados, for those professionals to be appropriately regulated and governed.

Mr. Speaker, I believe on the last occasion we met, there was extended discussion as to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, which, as you know, is an associate member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). At that time, we discussed the issues of money laundering, the financing of terrorists acts and the whole question of the international efforts to ensure that jurisdictions such as Barbados and countries in general... Sir, the laundering of money not only speaks to the international and financial centres but speaks generally to countries across the globe. Sir, during that debate and given the significant role in which the financial sector plays in Barbados, we discussed and recognised the need for Barbados to maintain its integrity and to ensure that it is a properly regulated jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the question of direct foreign investment into Barbados is a critical part of the development of our economy and that persons, for various reasons in the international sector will try to hide some of the activities that may confront or come in conflict with the law, for example, the laundering of funds and the financing of terrorist acts. Sir, those activities can take the form of property transactions therefore we find there is the need to ensure that those persons who provide service to the industry are able to do the various due diligence checks, to ensure that the integrity of Barbados is maintained.

Mr. Speaker, the intention of the International Corporate and Trust Services Providers Bill, 2010, is to provide for the licensing and regulation of persons who:

(a) act on behalf of companies and society that apply for licences to operate as international business companies and international societies; and (b) perform services related to the regulation of international trusts.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill sets out the following:

Part 1, Clauses 1 and 2:

“provide for the short title and the definition of terms used in the Bill, respectively;”

Clause 3:

“allows for its application to persons who provide international services for profit. Clause 2 defines the relevant international services as services related to the licensing of international business companies, foreign sales corporations and international societies, and to the registration of international trusts.” Clause 4 states the objectives of the Bill, which are to: (a) promote and maintain high standards of conduct, ethics, and competence in the provision of international services; (b) ensure that international services providers adhere to modern, internationally accepted standards of best practices.

The Bill further outlines a number of other objectives.

Sir, at that Clause 5, the Director of international Business subject to the general direction and control of the Minister to be the person responsible for the administration of the legislation and the monitoring and examination of the businesses of international service providers to determine whether international service providers are compliant with the legislation and the receipt and the investigation of complaints by clients of the international service providers.

Mr. Speaker, that is important because we want to make sure because, as I have said, our international service providers are going to be practising and carrying out their responsibilities under the Act with the whole question of exhibiting high standards of ethics and good governance within their own practices, so the Director of International Business is directed to be able to administer that and to supervise the practices of the various international service providers.

Mr. Chairman, Part 2 of the Bill speaks to the whole question of the licencing requirements of international service providers. Clause 6 and Clause 7 speak to the fact that persons are prevented from carrying out international services without first obtaining a licence from the Director of International Business and, Mr. Speaker, there are penalties imposed within the legislation for failure to obtain a licence within the Act. Sir, those penalties are in the vicinity of \$5 000.

Mr. Speaker, at Clause 7 it provides for the international service provider having applied for a licence and for the Director to be satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to provide the international services, that the service provider also has the financial standing necessary to operate that business as a service provider, is or has a representative who is resident in Barbados and is not an international entity. Sir, this speaks to the qualifications of those persons carrying out international business.

Mr. Speaker, there is a provision within the Act for persons who are currently carrying out services at the time that this Act comes into force, for those persons to be grandfathered into the licencing process, and those persons have a six-month period in order to ensure that they comply with the Act.

Sir, Clause 8 provides for the licences to be valid for a period of one year and that will be renewed annually at a fee to be determined by the Minister of International Business within the regulations of the Act.

Sir, in Clause 9, the Director has the power to refuse to issue or renew a licence if it is in the public's interest.

Sir, Clause 10 addresses details in terms of the loss, defacing and destroying of licences, and Clause 11 relates to the fact that the service provider needs to display his licence within public, which is similar to the provisions that cover other legislation such as the Value Added Tax Act.

Sir, at Clause 12, the service providers are required to notify the Director of International Business as to any material changes, for example, in the case where there are changes in directors of the service provider activity of their company. Sir, Clause 13 provides for the surrender of licences as appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, in Part 3 of the Act, the duties of the international service providers are covered and, at Clause 14, it imposes a duty on the international service provider to keep records in respect of his business, including records on clients. I would add that those records are required to be kept for a period in the event that a person ceases to be a client, one is expected to maintain those records for a minimum period of some five years.

Mr. Speaker, Clause 15 requires the international service providers whose revenue exceed \$1 million to have his accounts audited by an auditor qualified under Section 1.53 of the Companies Act. We would recall that this is a provision that might have to be amended to \$2 million given the change that is proposed in the Budget to the Companies Act where companies under \$2 million will be exempt from having a statutory audit.

Mr. Speaker, at Clause 16, there is provision for an international service provider to deliver to the Director such records and/or information as the Director of International Business may require for the provision of proper administration and enforcement of the legislation. Sir, this speaks to the provisions within the Act to enable the Director of International Business to examine those clients' records that the service providers are supposed to maintain.

Mr. Speaker, I believe within the Code of Practice which service providers will be expected to adhere to, that Code of Practice will require that the international service providers retain a registrar of its clients. The Code of Practice will also speak to the requirement by the international service provider to know his clients and to be able to identify and verify the identity of all the clients that he has, and where his clients, companies or societies, under the Act, the beneficial owner of the companies and societies, as the case may be.

The international service provider shall in respect of all of its clients have a duly executed and written agreement with the client for the provision of international services, ensuring that the agreement includes provisions for the calculating and charging, revision and recovery of fees, payment to the client of interest related to money on his client account and the condition of termination of service for any consequential refund of fees.

Sir, the Code of Practice as set out in the Act, as I said, is intended to ensure we have a best practice situation among persons providing the international services to our international clientele.

Sir, the Director of International Business therefore has the responsibility under the legislation to go into the practices of the international service providers to ensure that those functions that they are suppose to undertake are, in fact, being undertaken.

For example, the maintenance of a separate client account, which is one of the requirements that is within the Code of Best Practice. Sir, I believe that this should not be a challenge to the professionals in Barbados. I believe that the legal profession is required to maintain their clients' accounts separate from their own practice funds. Sir, the accountants have, for years, been maintaining separate client accounts. So this should not present any challenge to the current profession as we know it. Nevertheless, we have to ensure that we are not taking it for granted and those accounts are being maintained.

Sir, also in terms of best practice, the international service provider who ceased to provide services to a client should notify the Director of International Business as soon as practical, giving the clients written notice of the fact that they are no longer clients, preserving the records, as I said, for a period of over five years, or preserving the record of the client until the records are transferred to a successor service provider in the event that the client is moving from one service provider to the next, and to cooperate with the client and any successor service provider to ensure smooth transition of business from one client to the next. I think that in the existing environment in Barbados, generally, it occurs, so the transition to this legislation should be smooth.

The international service provider in terms of his best practice will be responsible for taking steps to avoid that there is any conflict of interest with and among his or her clientele. Where there is a conflict, as soon as practical, they must give the clients written notice of the conflict, and unless the client agrees that the international service provider can continue to provide services to both of them, unless that is expressly agreed by the client, the service provider concerned is expected to cease to provide the services to both clients. I think that is only reasonable considering the need to establish that the service providers are persons of high integrity and practice in business.

Sir, the Director of International Business is expected to ensure that our service providers follow those principles.

Sir, at Part 3, the duties of the international services provider, set out through Clause 23 the responsibilities of the international service provider. That provides for the international service provider to deliver to the Director, such records and information as the Director will require for the purposes of administering and enforcing the legislation. It imposes a duty on the international service provider to notify the Director of occurrences with certain events. For example, where the international service provider or an employer or Director of the international service provider is convicted of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty of a Director, or a Director is disqualified from holding such office, a merger or takeover involved in the international service provider's business, that is intended or the International Service Provider is unable to continue to operate his business for any particular reason. These things should be reported to the Director of International Business. Sir, Clause 19 requires the International Service provider to notify the Director where one of his clients is charged or convicted of an offence, or where an international entity ceases to be one of its clients. Sir, Clause 20 requires the international service provider to have professional indemnity, the insurance of his business. Sir, this, of course, as you know, will cover any losses to the clients should the client encounter a loss as a result of any incompetence on behalf of the international service provider. Sir, the service provider may at times be handling funds of his client. The indemnity insurance covers any possibility of there being a misappropriation of those funds by the service practitioner.

Sir, Clause 21 provides for the international service provider to comply with the code of conduct which we spoke about a few moments ago. Sir, Clause 22 provides for the international service provider from operating his business in a manner that is detrimental to the interest of the public or clients. Clause 23 requires the provider to ensure that any promotional material, any advertising that he publishes is not damaging to the good reputation of Barbados and is fair and accurate.

Sir, the administration in the Bill is covered at Part IV, and it empowers the Director to conduct examinations into the affairs of the licencing, which I alluded to earlier, at Clause 25 and 26. Clause 27 provides for what action can be taken by the Director in instances where the licensee is in contravention of the legislation, or a term or condition of his licence.

Sir, there are a number of areas where there may be breaches within the legislation by the service provider. This clause allows the Director to introduce a number of fines in the event there is a judgement, and it allows for the revoking of the licence if the nature of the offence so requires. I know that there has been some representation made in respect to the fact that there should be a Tribunal, which is not covered within these existing provisions but representation has been made by the international business sector that there should be a Tribunal which would give service providers recourse, in the event that the rulings or the decisions by the Director of International Business are not agreed upon, or if they have any objections to those provisions.

Sir, at clauses 28, 29 and 30 relate to certain offences such as pretending to be a licensee, fraudulent and procurement of the licence or the submitting of false and misleading information, in respect of information that is required to be provided to the IBU under the terms of this Bill.

Sir, in the event that persons may pursue or may incur differences, there are some penalties within the Act. At section 26 there are a number of measures that can be enforced by the Director under this Act. Mr. Speaker, most of those penalties are fines of \$50 000 or imprisonment for two years and they are covered at sections 28 and 29 of the Legislation.

Mr. Speaker, at clause 31, the Act provides for the Director of International Business to maintain a register of licences of issued, renewed, suspended, surrendered or revoked and at clause 32, it empowers the Director to make guidelines, in respect to the standards to be observed and the measures to be implemented by international service providers.

Mr. Speaker, clause 33 empowers the Minister to make Regulations to give effect to the Legislation and at clause 34 provides for sums collected under the Legislation to be lodged in the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. Speaker, clause 35, makes transitional provision, as I said, for persons to be grand fathered into the Legislation and at clause 36, exemptions from the application of the Legislation to persons licenced under the Financial Institutions Act, or the International Financial Services Act.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, this Legislation speaks to the regulation of the financial service providers. It creates the environment, where persons providing international services to companies operating within the international sector, to be properly regulated by the Director of International Business.

It also provides for the numbers of provisions to deal with the rights of the International Business Director, in terms of what she can do and the penalties that will be enforced if there is a breach of the Legislation. It speaks to the Code of Conduct that will be expected of persons operating within the international business sector. At all times, Mr. Speaker, I think it speaks to the integrity and the best practice of good governance of persons operating within the international business sector.

Mr. Speaker, with those words, I want to recommend the Legislation to this Honourable Chamber and I ask that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I do not at all share the optimism of the Honourable Member, the Minister responsible for international business, who just concluded his presentation. We are certainly grateful for him for taking us through various clauses but with the greatest of respect, Sir, I do feel that the Honourable Minister has swallowed this particular initiative, hook, line and sinker, without paying any careful attention to the impact of this particular Bill to the International Financial Services Sector.

Sir, we had the benefit of debating anti money laundering Legislation last week and in that debate, as it proceeded in its limited way, we did touch on issues relating to regulatory framework, super-national organisations, international bodies and so on. We all well recognise that all of these agencies are focussed on financial centres, with laser-like precision. Mr. Speaker, they do not hesitate to determine or to deem any particular domicile or jurisdiction to run afoul of one of the many regulations or many recommendations that they have chosen to implement.

We accept, Sir, that any financial services centre must operate to the highest standards, if it is to create and maintain a solid reputation. We accept, Sir, that a respectable financial services centre must try to instill in its professional service providers, the need to meet their clients' demands to the highest possible level.

We accept too, Sir, that service providers are obligated to meet the highest prudential standards and so at the outset, we accept as a fundamental principle that there should be some kind of regulation. Sir, what kind of regulation do we want? What kind of regulation is this Bill offering? What is the mischief that this Bill is targeted at removing?

We agree that you have to create the right environment for legitimate business but we must insist, Sir, that in creating that right environment, we do so hobble our service providers that they find themselves unable to function in today's competitive marketplace.

Sir, the issue of regulation of international, corporate and trust service providers has received differing levels of treatment in different territories. It is difficult to say, Mr. Speaker, that there is one single standard that is to be applied. My personal view is that any regulator must adopt an approach that is called the light touch approach. What it means is that you must regulate but you must allow market forces to support that regulatory environment, you must allow individuals to be self-regulating and you must allow trade bodies and associations to regulate its members, that is the light touch approach. Mr. Speaker, I fear that this particular Bill does not take that approach in relation to service providers in Barbados.

Let me at the outset, Mr. Speaker, state a position in this matter. In my view, this Bill ought not to relate to attorneys-at-law nor members of the accounting profession. The reason for that, Sir, is that both of those bodies already have significant self-regulatory mechanisms in place which apply to their members. In the case of Bar, Sir, we do have a Disciplinary Committee, you have the powers of the High Court and the powers of the Court of Appeal to suspend members and in the accounting profession they also have their regulatory standards that their members must meet. It therefore seems to me that in a situation where you already have a statutory or regulatory framework governing the principal agencies who appear now to fall under this regulatory umbrella that we are acting in a way that is perhaps redundant.

Mr. Speaker, if an attorney-at-law breaches any of the rules that govern his or her conduct vis-à-vis one of their clients, that client has recourse in the law and in the statute governing the legal profession. The accounting profession is similarly inclined toward self-discipline. Mr. Speaker, I therefore believe that it is unnecessary to seek to regulate attorneys and accountants under the umbrella of this Bill.

There are individuals who established themselves as service providers but who are not subject to the Bar statutes and who are not subject to the accounting profession rules and regulations. The fact of the matter is that just about

anybody can determine that they are going to get involved in international business. By anybody, Sir, I do not mean to be pejorative, I simply mean an individual who is not a lawyer or who is not an accountant. Those individuals, by virtue of the fact that they do not fall within any other regulatory regime, are the individuals that this particular legislation should cover but instead it seeks to rope in attorneys and accountants, and I think that is misguided.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, I would like us to question really where this Bill is taking us. I have said that we must not huddle our professionals, it is a competitive environment that they are operating in. I am sure that Honourable Members on the other side who have been involved with international business could well tell you that a difference in \$1 000 in a fee would determine if an individual who has an IBC worth many, many millions of dollars would decide whether or not to come to Barbados. It is often that sensitive to price.

Mr. Speaker, if this legislation is passed, in my view it will send the cost of doing international business skyrocketing and it will effectively put Barbados into an even more uncompetitive bracket. Mr. Speaker, let us examine exactly what is proposed. For this purpose I invite you as a trained lawyer to look with me at a transaction which would require the incorporation of a company, the application for an IBC licence and then subsequent work to meet that company's transaction needs.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at this legislation, we see that it says at Clause 6 that no person shall provide an international service except in accordance with a licence that is issued pursuant to this Act. Now, when we look at the definition of international service, we see that international service means an international corporate service or an international trust service. Mr. Speaker, when we get to the meat of the matter, international corporate service means a service related to the licensing of a company or a society to operate as an international entity, other than an international trust. It means, Sir, a service relating to the licensing.

What that tells us, Mr. Speaker, is that the incorporation of the company does not trigger a requirement for a licence under this legislation. The services provided subsequently, the advisory services advising the entity on its financing arrangements, advising the entity on share transfers and on complex structures, a company that wants to borrow US\$400 or US\$500 million, you can advise on any of those things and none of that work triggers a requirement for a licence under this Bill. All that triggers a requirement for a licence is that it must be a service related to the licensing of the company. Mr. Speaker, with an international business company, it is a company that is incorporated just like any other company and then you apply for the licence.

Mr. Speaker, the application for a licence requires you to submit information to the Director of International Business and to send a cheque. They may have some questions and you write back with the answers, nothing more. The point I am making, Sir, is that this provision therefore does not get to the heart of the matter. It only requires a licence for a very narrowly circumscribed set of activities, and therefore it means that an individual who might only incorporate and license two or three IBCs a year must get a licence under this Bill and must meet all of the requirements under this Bill. That is what we are talking about when we talk about increasing the cost of doing business. A person would argue that it would not matter so much to one of the big accounting firms or to one of the big law firms, but an individual who may be a lawyer who may only register a single IBC in a year now finds himself subject to this particular statute. This statute requires the submission of accounts and a whole raft of stuff, all of which will serve to increase the cost of doing business.

Sir, in order to get a licence, even to apply for one IBC licence in a year, you are required under Section 20 to purchase and maintain a policy of professional indemnity insurance. Sir, I know that Honourable Members on that side have had to purchase - well I should not put it in that way - I believe that Honourable Members on that side have purchased professional indemnity insurance, whether they are lawyers or accountants. Professional indemnity insurance is such a huge business expense that immediately a person who is only registering one IBC may well have to face insurance premiums of \$45 000 and \$50 000 per year. The revenue for the licensing of that IBC will be so low or could be so far below the amount of money you have to spend in an insurance premium on an annual basis that you are immediately thrust into the red simply to meet these requirements. Where is it taking us, Sir?

Mr. Speaker, I also take issue with the provision in relation to international trust. Sir, you see, a person related to the registration of an international trust must also be licensed.

Sir, I do not claim to know it all, but having been involved in establishing international trusts, and I believe that the Attorney-General would agree with me, there is no requirement for the registration of an international trust, under the International Trust Act, so that when we say that an international trust service means a service relating to the registration of an international trust, I am not sure what this legislation is trying to tell us. They are saying that you have to have a licence if you intend to do something that is not done at all under the Act. Therefore, I am at a total loss.

Mr. Speaker, I will concede that under the International Trust Act, a trustee is obligated to file, with the Director, information relating to the name of the settler,

the name of the protector and financial information but with the trust deed itself there is no requirement to register.

Mr. Speaker, if the other side argues that the filing of that information with the regulatory authority is the registration, then let us take it to its natural conclusion. It is therefore requiring an individual, who offers himself as a trustee, to seek a licence under this particular legislation, if only because he is obligated by the Act to file information with the Director.

Sir, under our statute, anybody could offer themselves as trustees, including lawyers, accountants, doctors. That is the nature of it, but because you have the name of the settler, the financial circumstances of the company and the name of the protector, if that is registration, then it is tantamount to saying that every trustee must apply to get a licence and without that they cannot be a trustee. Sir, that will throw the entire trust sector on its head because there are eminent Barbadians, many of whom have been knighted, both here and by Her Majesty, who are sought after as individuals of some gravitas, to serve as trustees for international trusts but you are now going to be saying to these individuals that they have to go get a licence under this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as a licensee under this legislation, then we trigger Section 20 and you also have to go get professional indemnity insurance. It will immediately mean that all of those fine Barbadians who offer themselves as trustees of these very prestigious trusts will pull away. Why should they have to have professional indemnity insurance to serve as a trustee? If you tell me that the trust is worth US\$300 million, can you imagine the size of the premium they would be asked to pay? I understand that in order to get professional indemnity insurance totaling \$500 million, the premium is nearly \$100 000, so imagine if as a professional trustee you had to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that the regulatory framework that is proposed in respect of trusts is at best confusing and at worse is going to serve to destroy any potentials that Barbados has for getting any serious recognition as a domicile for international trusts.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned as to the powers of the Director under this legislation. It is interesting that the Barbados Business International Association (BIBA), on 17th January, wrote the Minister who has responsibility for International Business, with various recommendations. Sir, one of those recommendations suggested that even though International Business Companies (IBCs) were not covered by the Financial Services Commission, that the notion of the regulator under that particular commission should apply to this legislation. Sir, it might have been incongruous, because the International Business Companies (IBCs) are not subject to the Financial Services Commission

legislation and therefore you could hardly ask for the regulator to regulate International Business Companies (IBCs), you cannot approbate and reprobate at the same time.

Sir, the fact is that it stems from a deep-seated fear of the members of the Barbados International Business Association, of the notion that the Director of International Business Sector, whoever he or she may be, can wield such authority over licensees that effectively, without any recourse, without any right of appeal, except in very limited circumstances, the Director is able to shut you down. Now, what does that mean? Well, even if as a lawyer, I am grand-fathered in it, it is only a limited grandfather clause because I must comply within six months, otherwise I cannot be involved in international business.

Mr. Speaker, under this Bill the Director has the responsibility to determine if you, anybody else or I happen to be a fit and proper. Sir, the legislation does say that the Director should consider the educational qualifications and a variety of other stuff. It also says that the Director must be satisfied that an individual has financial standing necessary to operate the business.

Mr. Speaker, that is so subjective, it boggles the mind. I do not know what financial standing anybody has to have to write a letter to the Director of International Business and say, please issue an International Business Companies (IBCs) licence in respect of this company, but no, Sir, all of a sudden you have to satisfy the Director that you have the necessary financial standing. What does that mean for an individual who has just got admitted to the Bar, who would like to get involved in this sector but is 'scrutining' and cannot even afford to pay the increase Bar fees - compliments of this administration? Is it that the individual must be worth \$100 000? Is it that they must be worth \$1 million? Are you discriminating against new entrants to the profession who, having an opportunity to do this, would like to become involved in International Business? That is certainly what it seems like to us on this side, that by giving the Director the power to determine if she would license you or not, has way too big a stick to wield, and it gives all of the Barbados International Business Association members pause.

Mr. Speaker, except in relation to her power to cancel your licence, there is no right of appeal, so the Director can determine that she does not find you to be fit and proper, nor that you have the financial standing, and refuse to give you a licence but that under this statute you cannot appeal to anybody. You are not given a right of appeal in this statute therefore you would then have to go to the Administration of Justice Act to write asking her for her reasons within 14 days for denying you, then you

would have to go to court. This is a long, drawn-out and costly process.

Mr. Speaker, I have to repeat, the notion of regulation must hold at its heart that we must regulate only insofar as it is necessary to reach the standard that we want, but the idea of a Director of International Business dispensing with the equivalent of largesse, through licenses, is one that every right-thinking member of this administration, every right-thinking Member of Parliament and every individual should frown upon. The Financial Services Commission has a series of checks and balances enshrined in its legislation to prevent the abuse of power but the Director of International Business now has a statutory big stick that he or she would be able to wield and to beat individuals in the sector, for whatever reason he or she deems fit. Those are things that give us concern.

Is it not subjective, Sir, when you say that the director can revoke your licence if it is necessary to protect the good reputation of Barbados? Try as I might, Sir, I have a notion what that is intended to mean but I cannot visualise, I cannot quite work out what it is that this statute intends to convey. What are the norms that we are establishing when we say that the licence can be revoked if it is necessary to protect the good reputation of Barbados? Sir, that is so vague and imprecise, in my view, and should not find its way into any serious legislation because the Director, wielding her big stick will be able to determine whether my licence can be revoked in the interest of protecting Barbados' good reputation. Sir, what are the things that I will have to do to fall short of this. Mr. Speaker, we are very concerned about the subjective nature of the standards that have been set out in this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I do not even expect that members of the Government will agree with me. I am sure the Attorney-General will not agree with me but he is obligated to say, in my view, to the country what his views are of the subjective nature of this statute. Sir, it bothers me and it bothers the members of BIBA. In fact, the members of the Barbados International Financial Services on the 27th of August last year wrote the Minister and said that the international service provider should have recourse to a tribunal or a panel because they are uncomfortable with the notion that the Director will have so much sway over the sector.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation requires that an international service provider whose revenue is over \$1 million must ensure that the accounts of the business are audited annually. Sir, the statute says \$1 million and if it is to be amended, so be it but the point is, Sir, that it now places a requirement on accountants, lawyers and other people - I am a lawyer - it places an obligation if you register one IBC and charge a fee of \$3 000 but the vast majority of your fee income, Mr. Speaker, comes from

litigation. Let us say that you bring in \$1.5 million a year in litigation fee...

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: I am sure he does. He is an eminent lawyer, we were trained together and we worked together too. Sir, if you bring in \$1.5 million in fees and only \$3 000 comes from and IBC, you realise what you have to do? You have now to file audited financial statements with the Director of International Business over a paltry, single IBC licence.

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: I am sure the Honourable Member for St. James South has already worked out the mechanisms that he will use when he returns to practice in the very near future. He already has it worked out. Sir, we have to realistic, this is putting an obligation on entities and individuals that does not now exist. Sir, law firms whose annual revenue exceed \$1 million or \$2 million, as is amended, are not now under any obligation to file audited financial statements. Sir, accounting firms are not now under any statutory obligation to file audited financial statements but Lord help you, if you file licence fees for two IBCs and you have to pay the cost of auditing. Sir, when I talk about increasing the cost of business, this is what they are going to be imposing on individuals. Sir, you know what will happen? What will happen is that professionals will say, I am not sending up to the Director of International Business my audited financial statements, it is none of her business, so if I am going to do one IBC, I am going to set up a company and do the one IBC but, again Sir, that is additional cost.

Mr. Speaker, what is it about a regulatory environment for the sector that requires the Director of International Business to know what is an individual's gross revenue. How does that assist her in determining if you should get a licence renewed or not? Again, Sir, the carve-out in this legislation only relates to licensing, so you can get \$100 000 in fees from advising on a share structure, you can work on a financing, you can work on air craft leases, all of these things for IBCs, you do not need a licence or you do not have to submit anything but that simple magical fact of sending a letter to the Director of International Business brings you within this routine. Sir, that is short-sighted and it will serve to run people out of the financial services sector, and it will serve to increase the cost of those who remain.

Mr. Speaker, I also have concerns about the International Business Unit. It is to my certain knowledge that there have been many instances of IBCs licence waiting over one year for renewal, Sir, unprecedented. I believe, Sir, that I have had to seek the assistance of a

particular Minister to get a renewal shaken out of the International Business Unit that has been in there for well over a year but the Minister heard our cry, spoke to the individuals and without any more, Sir, the licence was renewed the same afternoon. I am grateful to the member for that.

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: No, no, no, I mean the Honourable Member for St. James South. Sir, that was not a matter of politics, that was a matter of doing business in Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: I believe that the role of any Minister responsible for international business is to ensure that the clients are satisfied, not the service providers. Sir, that the clients are satisfied, and he very nobly rose to the occasion and assisted, not George Walton Payne and Company, but assisted the client. I compliment the Minister for that. I do not compliment for anything else but I compliment him for that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, the point is that it took over a year to get the IBC licence renewed. Sir, the staff of the International Business Unit has not been increased. They have not been given any bigger vote. They still have to do all the things that they were supposed to do all along that they were doing, and taking a year to do but now we are putting on them the responsibility of licensing and monitoring service providers. Sir, audited accounts are going to be sent in, what are they going to do with them, Sir, put them in a box and watch them.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you recollect when you first came to practice - it might have been a little before your time - there was a requirement that you had to file various things in the Companies Registry and they would be filed at the Companies Registry and put in a pile, pile after pile, gathering dust and gathering vermin. Sir, for what purpose? Sir, now we are going to put this legislation in place, people are going to file all these things and what is the Director of International Business going to do with all of them? Sir, even if she had in mind that she should do something with them, does she have the requisite staff to be able to take on board the hugely increased burden that is here, especially in this difficult financial environment where Government has to deal with the burgeoning cost of running Government.

Sir, what is the Minister's plan? Sir, I will be grateful to hear, because you cannot expect to have a licencing regime and a monitoring regime where you have to check so many compliance issues for service providers

and not double the size of the unit, before they run to implement this legislation.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph is misleading this Honourable House in creating the impression that the challenges of the International Business Unit started only after 2008. Sir, he was the Minister responsible for international business, at some point in time, I will recall. Indeed, much of what he said a couple minutes ago, I think, obtained when he was Minister and obtained after he left the Ministry.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please continue.

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Sir, I defy. I do not even challenge. I will defy the Honourable Member who just spoke to give me a single instance where a renewal had to wait a year. I defy him. I will take my seat if he is prepared to answer that challenge.

Asides.

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, this legislation was posited when I was Minister, and many of the criticisms that I have offered today, constructive, I hope there are, are issues that I felt strongly about when I was Minister, and I believe the files in the Ministry would show that there was discussion, and serious discussion, and, in fact, I believe the Bar Association and the accountants, in various consultations, recommended that they be exempt from these provisions, that they were already been subject to many regulatory strictures which they must comply. Many of them, in the case of the accountants are international standards which they must meet. So they have asked to be exempt from this, but it has gone on deaf ears.

Sir, I fear that this Bill, well-intention, though it may be, will serve to unnecessarily complicate the lives and practices of service providers. It will increase the cost of doing business, if only because of the many things that now have to be prepared and filed on an annual basis, chasing people to file accounts and all that kind of stuff, and then paying the high cost of insurance premiums. It is going to increase the cost of doing business and make Barbados uncompetitive.

Sir, I believe that what this Government should be doing is focusing on dealing with the issue of how we maintain a financial services environment in Barbados after the WTO restrictions kick in, finally. We are regulating service providers for an industry that this Government has told us but what is their plan for ensuring that it will be around in five years time. I wonder what is the point of all of this. Sir, we have made it clear that the entire financial services industry is under threat, and if nothing is done, it

will have to fall by the wayside because of our WTO obligations.

Sir, we are seeking to put this in place to regulate an industry that unless they intervene, we are not likely to have in another five years.

Asides.

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: We opened your eyes, I believe. I am sure that the Honourable Members on that side who can walk on water will be able to find a solution, but until they find a solution, this particular piece of legislation is nothing more than a form of statutory time-wasting and, therefore, we would urge that this Bill not be pushed through, that they take some time out for further consultations, that they consider seriously ring-fencing the regime and leaving out the accountants and lawyers, and consider the serious impact that this will have on the cost of doing business. Barbados' financial services sector is at risk already, and this now, as well intentioned as it is, will cause us greater and more serious harm.

I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney General.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Sir, I am always amazed at the ability of my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, from Lower Estate, St. George, to speak privately correctly but publicly using his political persona, to go completely opposite the position that he knows is the correct position. Sir, I am amazed.

Sir, I will admit, however, that there were one or two issues raised by the Honourable Member that we can relook at some point in time in the future. Let me hasten to add that this Bill receives my support and at this point in time of our history we can ill-afford to spend another five years, because the Honourable Member said that when he was Minister that this Bill was then circulated, we can ill-afford to spend another five years.

Sir, one thing about this country, we are good at establishing committees that meet on Saturday mornings over Black Pudding and Souse, as in the case of the Mutual Fund Committee. We are good at establishing committees that meet on Friday afternoons and Monday evenings, et cetera, and to spend years before we actually get things done. That is one of our problems as a country. That is why in terms of international business, I believe we are not as far along the path as we should be. Sir, should I say, to be charitable, our openness, in terms of welcoming the many views and therefore spending more time hammering views as opposed to actually putting things in place so that we can move along with our business. Sir, we will never be able to please everybody with any piece of legislation.

Sir, let me begin with the accountants and the lawyers whose brief, obviously, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph walked in here with this afternoon. So let us look to see what are the objects of this Act.

Sir, Clause 4 says:

(a) Promote and maintain high standards of conduct, ethics and competence in the provision of international services. (b) Ensure that international service providers adhere to modern, internationally acceptable standards of best practice.

Sir, I am an attorney-at-law. I have been for twenty-odd years. In fact, I believe I am a senior to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, at the Bar.

Asides.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Sir, there is nothing in the Legal Profession Act that tells me, there is nothing in the Bar Association that tells me I should have the standard of due diligence that internationally we are required to in the international business sector, nothing whatsoever. So the average lawyer in Barbados, if he goes into his law firm, and I will not challenge you on this because you are probably one of the exemptions, I am sure you are not going to find a copy of anyone's passport so that you can identify who the client is. You may have his name and address but you will only have a copy of his passport. Sir, you would hardly have evidence that he says where he is supposed to live. You will hardly have any kind of utility bill. You would hardly have any kind of reference for him, other than the fact that he walked through your door and said he wants X,Y or Z done. This is why I say you can stop here, in terms of acceptable standards of best practice, and that is what we are trying to enforce here. We want to ensure that when one looks at Barbados from on high, internationally, that we have certain minimum standards.

Sir, let me say to any attorney or accountant in Barbados, who wants to provide international corporate services, they should do like what I did. I established an entity that provides that service, and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph does the same thing. The practice of their law firm is separate from their corporate practice. He knows that. Why make this into such a big thing. If you want to practice law, you practice law.

Sir, let me say to any attorney or accountant in Barbados who wants to provide international corporate services that they should do like what I did. Sir, I established an entity that provides that service and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph does the same thing. The practice of their law firm is separate from their corporate practice and he knows that.

Why make this into such a big thing? If you want to practice law, you practice law. If you want to get involved in the international business sector, as we are seeing here, you set up the entity and you hire the correct personnel that can ensure that you can discharge the responsibilities that this piece of Legislation wants us to discharge.

Sir, let me give you an illustration which I have probably given. Many years ago I came across a company that had about \$50 million in assets. The director was an accountant, the other director was a retired gentleman and this company in my eyes was carrying on mutual fund business, \$50 million, Sir, and when I asked the directors if they were comfortable with what was going on in the company, Sir, they were. I was not, Sir.

The company is no longer in Barbados because I insisted that the company had to adhere to the laws of Barbados because it was taking individuals' money and managing it or go elsewhere. The point I am making is that same individual whom you would say that in fact you would be running him out of business because he only has two or three companies, can cause just as much damage to Barbados as any bank or any trust company. Sir, if we have an individual like that who is not regulated, the international community is not going to say, well he is a poor man and he only manage three companies. They are going to say that a Barbados company was used for fraud, as a result of which millions or billions of dollars of investor money as taken, a Barbados entity, managed from Barbados. Sir, we have to protect our reputation, we have to establish the minimum standards and that is what we are trying to do here.

Sir, we all know what is happening to the accountants, and let me educate the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. In fact, Sir, the accounting profession itself is what is taking the accountants from being involved in this business.

Asides.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Sir, not Barbados. The accounting profession itself and the Honourable Member, if he uses his memory a little bit would remember that, Sir.

This Legislation really and truly does not really impact upon accountants or the accounting profession, like the Honourable Member would suggest. It may impact upon the lawyers who, in fact, want to incorporate companies and maybe even sign the formation into the International Business Unit, but they do not want to be regulated like we want them to be regulated here.

Sir, I am saying for the final time with respect to the lawyers, Sir, adhere to our standards here because Barbados is bigger than any law firm. Barbados is bigger

than George Walton Payne's Company or any other law firm which may not want to adhere to what we are trying to accomplish here with respect to this Legislation.

Sir, I do not deny that there may be some increase cost but in every jurisdiction, where there had been regulation of this nature, there had been some attendant increase cost. Sir, I must also admit that in some jurisdictions it has also resulted in some of the smaller entities being pushed out of business. Again, Sir, one must accept what is for the greater good and we really have not gone to the length of some jurisdictions.

For example, some jurisdictions have insisted that automatically, if you are an entity involved in international business like this, that you have a compliance officer. A compliance officer automatically meant that are adding \$100 plus to your labour cost. We have not gone in that direction.

Yes, we are insisting that you have indemnity insurance but again, if one looks to the international market, if one looks to what one expects to find in Barbados, when one looks at the service provider, it is not an unusual request. We really do not exist in a vacuum. I am not saying, Sir, that we should incorporate everything the international community says that we should but we certainly cannot get away from having certain international minimum standards.

Sir, the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes recently did a report that suggested there were some issues with respect to Barbados' tax transparency. I will not spend a lot of time on this because I suspect that other Members on this side may have a few things to say about it, although I have not seen the appropriate nod as yet from the Member that I am looking at, Sir.

We also, Sir, as I said last week, had certain challenges with respect to the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and out of that, Sir, one of the things we did say is that we will ensure that our service providers are regulated. Thus, this piece of Legislation is with us today.

The Honourable Member for St. Joseph was right when he said one thing. We had a situation where anybody could have been involved in this business, where anyone could incorporate a company and basically submit the information.

The Director of International Business, the International Business Unit, Sir, without the necessary teeth has been, for the last couple of years, holding the industry together in terms of ensuring that we adhere to the minimum best practices that I mentioned before. At some point in time, Sir, no doubt they would have been

challenged. We want to ensure that it is clear what their powers are, and it is clear what the responsibilities of the industry are, with respect to the provision of these services.

Sir, what is required in terms of someone carrying on business in this industry? There is nothing unusual in terms of ensuring that, in fact, when one looks through a service provider, that they are fit and proper persons because you are having individuals who potentially could be managing millions of dollars for international clients, may be even local clients so, certainly, you want to ensure that they are fit and proper persons.

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

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is suggesting that an individual managing dollars, whether it is millions or hundreds would, by virtue of that fact be subject to this Act. Sir, that is not the case. What triggers your requirement to be licenced under this Act has nothing to do with managing money. It is nothing more than that you apply for a IBC licence. The Honourable Member should look at the relevant definition.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well. Difference of interpretation.

Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Sir, I understand what the Honourable Member for St. Joseph has been getting at for quite some time. The reality is that the Member used the illustration of an aircraft doing financing, et cetera, and made the differentiation between what he considers to be the legal services and what the service provider here does, in terms of the application for the licence.

Certainly, Sir, it is my experience that in fact there is no service provider, that all he does is submit the application for the licence to the International Business Unit and does no more. Indeed, Sir, if what the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is saying that in fact, we have a situation where there are companies or individuals in Barbados that are doing the actual day to day management and that they are allowing others to just submit their licences. Then, Sir, I would have to say to the Minister that we must take a closer look at that because what we are trying to do is to manage our risk.

Sir, I will confess that lots of the risk is actually in the day-to-day management. If the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is correct, then we would have to look at it but I am suggesting to you, Sir, that in fact my experience and the experience of the International Business Unit is that the service provider usually does more than just the

application. In fact, they are the ones who provide directors, they are the ones who provide the accounting services, they are the ones who provide the telephone, the fax and all the other things that our clients ask of us from time to time. They are the ones who do all of that, Sir. In case that there is an element of truth, I would say that certainly the International Business Unit should have a look to see whether or not there are cases where there are individuals who are involved in the day-to-day management and who may fall outside this piece of legislation. I will concede that point, Sir.

Sir, I heard lots about the increased cost and about the powers of the Director. You could call the Director the Regulator, you could call the Director whatever you want to call the Director, the fact is that there must be some individual or some body that you go to that regulate the industry in terms of what are the requirements. Ironically, the only thing I saw with respect to the Director was whether or not the Director should not be replaced by the word Regulator. They were not so concerned about the power, they were concerned about whether or not we should change the Director to Regulator because of the fact that we were having the FSC on board at some point in time.

Asides.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Well, they probably sent you a different letter.

Sir, let us go back to the issue of cost because I do not wish the users of our services to believe that this piece of legislation is going to run people out of business. Sir, if I use my previous business, the only additional cost, which I have looked at two years ago, would in fact be the cost of the insurance. Sir, that should be the only additional cost because anyone who is involved in this industry should in fact had been adhering to these standards quite some time ago. We are not imposing new standards. The International Business Unit is not imposing new standards. What they are doing is codifying the standards so that it is clear what is expected of anyone who wants to get involved in the industry.

Sir, let me deal with the issue of international trust for a couple of minutes. One of the things that we have had in Barbados for quite some time is that we have had individuals - I heard the Honourable Member for St. Joseph speaking about these individuals saying how magnificent they are, et cetera, who lacked trust experience and expertise and who were acting as trustees in circumstances who, if they had known better, probably would never have consented to be a trustee of a trust like they were doing particularly for the type of fees they were charging.

Sir, that was one of the areas where there has been a risk to Barbados' reputation. We have had individual trustees, and we even had one corporate trustee here, who in fact basically in name agreed to be a trustee and allowed the transactions to be all done in Canada, the result of which is that when one looks in international journeys, one saw a Barbados trustee...In fact what we saw, was the whole structure being compromised because of the fact that the so-called trustee that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph spoke about actually did nothing in Barbados. Again, if we encourage, as we want to do, professionals who have the requisite expertise to provide the services, it lessens the chance of us having structures being attacked externally and lessens the chance of Barbados' reputation being damaged internationally. Sir, remember that all we actually have here is our reputation. It only needs one bad apple to destroy 50/60 years of hard work.

As I said, Sir, it is what is the greater good. The greater good is the protection of the industry, which now, I believe, probably contributes about 6 per cent of our GDP. It is the protection of our greater good, that is what we are trying to do. We are trying to ensure that we protect over 3 000 jobs by establishing the minimum standards and by ensuring that we have the correct regulatory regime.

Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph actually must give us some credit, we are just not going to place a regulatory regime in place and not ensure that there are proper systems and personnel in place to manage it. The Barbados Labour Party would have done that, not this Government. We have already looked at that and we will ensure that the International Business Unit has the requisite personnel in place. We have had this discussion. I am sure that when the Minister wraps up he will tell you that we had these discussions because it is not a case of where we are saying that we only want you to file information with us and place it in a box somewhere like the Honourable Member for St. Joseph said and do nothing with it because it means nothing to us. We intend to police service providers. We intend to ensure that they adhere to these standards. Having the legislation in place is only half the battle, the other half of the battle is ensuring that the legislation is complied with because it is only in the compliance with the legislation that we can continue to protect Barbados' reputation.

Sir, with respect to the appeal under the Act, in case there is an issue with respect to a disagreement with the Director, I will concede that we probably will have to look at that again. I will undertake with the assistance of the requisite Minister that we will look at that.

Sir, I go back to something that I said earlier, which is, that if we wanted perfection, it would mean that we would never have this piece of legislation before this House this afternoon. Moreover, what tends to happen, and

we all know this, is that in fact it is not until you have a piece of legislation enacted and it is working that you then see whether or not there are any changes required. If we have to come back to this or any other Act then we will, there is nothing unusual about it. Sir, there is no piece of legislation in Barbados that I have dealt with that has never been amended because times change so it is unfair for the member to suggest or even create the impression that in fact there is an issue in terms of if we enact this today then it is the end of the world. If we find that there are things that need to be improved on, we will improve them.

Sir, in the ideal world we will always bring a piece of legislation that is perfect but this is not an ideal world. Certainly on this side as much as we would like to be perfect, we are human beings and we can make mistakes but collectively we hope that when we put our heads together that certainly we will come up with what is best for Barbados and at this point in time this piece of legislation. We have promised it and we are delivering it as promised albeit we are delivering it two weeks later than we had promised.

Sir, even the industry itself would tell you that this legislation has been long in coming and that they themselves have been under pressure because internationally people have been saying to them tell us how are you regulated because individuals coming into Barbados to do business want to do business in a well-regulated jurisdiction and with individuals and entities that are regulated and properly regulated so this is as much a shield as it is a sword if I could use an expression for the benefit of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

In other words, Sir, this piece of legislation also enables the same service providers that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph spoke about to say I am part of a regulatory regime that deals with the minimum standard that we have and therefore Mr. Client you could feel more comfortable or you could feel comfortable using my services because this is the minimal standards that I have which are the minimal standards that most international players or most international service providers like us in Barbados have.

Sir, before I close, let me go back to the issue of Barbados being attacked by these various agencies internationally. Sir, there are two schools of thought with respect to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are some Honourable Members on this side who have taken the position that we cannot always yield to international pressure, which, of course, is a position I endorse. Sir, the reality though is that sometimes in order to win a war, you actually have to give some ground. I am saying that in particular, in dealing with these multinational agencies.

Sir, the G-20 Countries are mighty countries and when little Barbados goes before them, we may be as right as Jesus Christ was when he came, the fact is that if they want to crucify us, as they want to at this point in time, they will do so. If it therefore means that we need to surrender a little to continue to fight, then we have to do so.

Mr. Speaker, just earlier this year I saw there is yet another book on money laundering. I do not remember the author of the book but he actually said that presently the laws to the "onshore countries" is one thousand billion dollar a year. Sir, when he uses money like that, particularly in this environment when most countries are under attack, you could see how the United Kingdom Government, the French Government, the European countries as a whole could find somewhere else to focus their attention, other than focusing their attention on their actual troubles at home, so little Barbados is an easy target.

Sir, I have said consistently that none of the major scandals that has happened to the financial markets in the world has happened as a result of any of these so-called financial centres, they have all happened as a result of onshore activities; they have all happened as a result of what happened in New York and in London, they did not happen because of Barbados but this is a fight that we have to continue to fight and we as a Government have to recognise that. Sir, we have to ensure that we have the requisite personnel in place to continuously fight these battles with the international communities. Sir, it is not enough to go into the international community without armour, that armour is that we have to have the correct regulatory regime in place. Sir, this legislation today is a necessary part of our armour and we need to get the accountants who were mentioned and the attorneys whose brief the Honourable Member for St. Joseph walked in here with on board because this piece of legislation is for the benefit of all Barbadians. I thank you.

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

Hon. D. O. INNIS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give support to this Bill and to speak to it for a few minutes. As I listened to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, let me say that I usually do not agree with him and that today is no exception, the reality about it is that this piece of legislation has been in the works for many years. As a matter of fact, I served as a Member of the Committee reviewing this measure almost ten years ago, when I believe Senator Lynette Murray was Minister in charge of that Ministry. Sir, back then, as it is now, we recognised the importance of bringing a sense of decency and a level playing field to this whole situation, as we bring service providers on board and as we codify the practices and standards that one ought to expect for those who provide services to the International Business Sector.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say, as I would have said time and time again, that the International Business Sector is of extreme importance to the economy of Barbados and to us as a society. We oftentimes talk about it and hear people talking about it but perhaps the average person is not well-cued in as to what is the International Business Sector and therefore we continue to have a great misunderstanding and a lack of appreciation to that sector. Oftentimes, it is referred to as international business companies, trust companies, mutual fund companies, those entities that are licensed under some regime in Barbados but providing a service exclusively for a market or clientele outside of Barbados' jurisdictional space.

Sir, if you look at that narrow definition, one would therefore believe that it is mainly those entities licensed under the Ministry of International Business, the Financial Services Commission or some other entity. Sir, I dare say that it is larger than that, there has been in the last decade or so a movement towards using regular Barbados companies to conduct international business, those that the Honourable Members for St. Joseph knows very well and those of which the Honourable Member for St. Philip South is well-aware are normally not captured as one debate nor discuss as matters of international business. I think the plan in going forward is to find a way of identifying and capturing their contribution to this economy as well.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the International Business Sector, if you look strictly at those who are licensed under a specific piece of Act of Parliament, they would be considered to be contributing approximately 2/3rd or 66 per cent of the corporation tax collected by the Inland Revenue Department. Sir, if you factor in those that are regular Barbados companies, those that are not licensed under any regime but are engaged in international business, it is considerably more. Therefore, any sector that makes such a large contribution to this economy must be recognised, respected and protected.

Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Attorney-General has just mentioned, our approach is to find a mechanism that allows us both the sword and the shield, to develop this industry for the benefit of all. Sir, apart from the direct corporation tax collected from the sector... Sir, in terms of employment generation, the International Business Sector, however we define it, currently contributes to about 4 000 jobs directly and indirectly hundreds more jobs. These are often high or well-paying jobs, involving professionals principally and many others such as managers, who are then able to earn the kind of income that allows them to make investments and hire other people in terms of going forward.

Mr. Speaker, the International Business Sector is really one of great importance to this country. I am of the

view that the Central Bank of Barbados and the Inland Revenue Department ought to be in a position to indicate to us the kind of contribution this sector is making to the economy, in a more definitive manner. For example, as I mentioned, the regular Barbados companies that are not normally captured, when they file their tax returns, the Inland Revenue Department ought to be able to tell whether or not these companies are engaged in international business, based on the tax exemption they receive and the actual tax filing. Certainly from the Central Bank of Barbados perspective, those regular Barbados companies that have to apply for permission to open an account in a foreign currency of their choice, will get that permission from the Central Bank of Barbados. Therefore, they ought to capture it.

Mr. Speaker, I am hearing that there are efforts afoot, through the Europeans and some other entities, to engage in an activity or a research programme that should allow us to better define an International Business Sector and better capture its contribution to the economy of Barbados. Sir, I look forward with a sense of eagerness to this being done. I think that once such a professional research and deep analysis is done, then the planners and society at large will have a far greater appreciation of the International Business Sector and its contribution to this economy.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill before us looks at the issue of regulating service providers, and there is a clear definition as to service providers. Sir, I note the concerns and objections of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph with respect of attorneys and accountants being caught up in this piece of legislation and are listed as service providers. Mr. Speaker, there is a school of thought in this society, as perhaps as in other societies, that lawyers can do anything under the sun. Mr. Speaker, let me make the point, if we are to have a well-regulated and disciplined International Business Sector, attorneys-at-law who engage in providing services for the International Business Sector should be regulated like any other service provider in the sector. I do not know that the Bar Association has a code of practice or mechanism that effectively governs attorneys in relation to the delivery of services for the International Business Sector.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know that the Bar Association has any code of practices or any mechanism that really governs attorneys effectively when it comes to their delivery of services for the international business sector and, Sir, anybody who thinks that, perhaps, can accept any fodder that fools will accept. I do not have that faith in the Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am not an attorney-at-law and, therefore, I know that my friends in this Chamber and elsewhere, who are attorneys would, certainly, not be too

harsh in their response. Let me say that the Bar Association cannot do for the international business sector what the Ministry of International Business can do, and will do, via this legislation. The Honourable Member for St. Philip South would have said and I agree with it, that attorneys in Barbados are not known to collect copies of passports of clients. Sir, due diligence is not something that is the norm among that profession.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, who is currently reviewing his advice he is getting via Blackberry Messenger, must note and respond to those who are communicating with that the Bar Association does not have the policies or the programmes in place to well manage and govern attorneys who get into international business as service providers.

Mr. Speaker, secondly, any attorney of repute, who is engaged in providing services to international clientele in the international marketplace, should already have systems in place that this legislation only makes things easier. Sir, the only additional cost should be the cost of paying a licence fee, which is nominal. Sir, many of them, I believe, should have already had some kind of insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I know there will be a hue and cry about the small attorneys and the younger attorneys getting involved in it but if you see it as a business, you will go and find the capital to make that investment, or you will partner with others who are already in the business because, as the learned Attorney-General would have pointed out, all it takes is for one bad apple to spoil the entire bunch, all it takes is for one small entity, one fly-by-night entity, who decides to fly under the radar and circumvent the rules, to cause the entire reputation of Barbados as a domicile of choice for international business to go through the window and, Sir, that is not something we can afford.

Mr. Speaker, with nearly 70 per cent of our corporation tax at stake and with nearly 4 000 jobs at stake, Barbados certainly, has to stay on the forefront and the vanguard and be the eternal watchman of this particular industry and those operate within it.

Mr. Speaker, the accounting profession would have had their challenges and, certainly, they should not see this as a big issue today. I believe through the Sarbanes-Oxley ruling a few years ago, sought to say to the accounting profession that you cannot serve God and man at the same time, so, therefore, many of them would have had to separate their traditional accounting and audit work from their work as service providers to international clientele. You found too many instances where there were actions that could be conclude as a sense of collusion or a sense of attempting to serve both God and man at the same time and the profession, quite rightfully, in a measure of self-

regulating, took a position that has to change. I do not know that the Bar Association would do that because let me say that in this society there is a certain school of thought that attorneys-at-law are untouchable and they must do whatever they wish to do.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: That is a different thing. I am Minister of Health today. Mr. Speaker, you have to have a heart for these things. Sir, I do not think that the concerns of the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, in respect of attorneys and accountants, is one that you need lose sleep over. I think that we are talking here about creating a cadre of professionals call international service providers whose background and training may be in law, it may be in accounting, it may be in corporate services, it may in management, it may be in finance, it may be in taxation or whatever area but the bottom line is that regardless of your core competence, they ought to be a codified set of standards, rules and regulations that ensure that the service you are providing is provided at the optimum level, that you are always mindful of the fact that your actions can tarnish and destroy the reputation of Barbados or enhance it and that some regulatory body has to have the authority to deal with these matters over time.

Mr. Speaker, the final point I would like to touch on in this particular Bill and relating to it, general speaking, because I think the Honourable Member for St. Philip South has done an excellent job in terms of putting everything in context with the regulations and the Honourable Member for St. James Central, as Minister responsible for this area would, certainly, have gone through it Clause by Clause pointing out the general area. Sir, let me just say in closing that the international business sector is too important to this economy for us not to treat it as everybody's business as we do in tourism and for all to get on board.

Mr. Speaker, certainly, I want to see the professionals who operate within the sector doing much more and not just to be the ones sitting back and collecting fees but also getting involved in the marketing and promotion of Barbados as a domicile of choice. Sir, as much as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph speaks, I do not see any travel abroad in promoting Barbados as a domicile of choice. Sir, out of the \$999 000 in fees collected last year by his firm in this particular sector - you get skirt under the \$1 million threshold for audit purposes - I do not see any of that being invested on going on road shows in Canada, in the United Kingdom or any jurisdiction promoting the sector and publishing flyers or whatever to get the message out there.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Sir, let me make this point, and this is advice I have always given to young attorneys or accountants who enter the profession. (7:17) You do not need to do try it on your own, you can go and partner with an international law firm, an international accounting firm or whatever and find ways in which you can develop your business and expand it globally. I think that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is aware of this strategy to be employed.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that this Bill has finally reached this stage and it shows that we are a Government that works. This has been in the works now for many years. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Joseph thanked me earlier for helping getting and IBC licence that he was waiting on, that was in the Ministry of International Business for about one year, and I know that is true. I was able to get that licence for him within my first month as Minister in that area which means it had to be sitting in there for 11 months when his Government was in office and he was waiting on it. Sir, I am always happy to work with.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that after nearly 10 years of discussion, 10 years of talking to all the stakeholders like BIBA and all the professional bodies, et cetera, that we have reached this stage where we can have this piece of legislation here.

Sir, it may not be perfect and we may have to come back later on and tweet it a bit. We may have to make a few adjustments as the marketplaces change but the reality about it is that we are taking the bold initiative to bring this to Parliament today to get it done and, Sir, it is being done in the interest of protecting and developing the international business sector.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I fully support it.

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

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Mr. Speaker, I want to bring a conclusion to the debate on this particular legislation to thank those Honourable Members who have made contributions to this debate in terms of clarifying some of the issues and challenges that we face in drafting this particular piece of legislation. I want to reinforce the point made by the Honourable Attorney-General, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South to the effect that we only need to have one problem with one of the service providers, for the entire reputation of Barbados as a jurisdiction and so on to be tarnished.

Sir, there are challenges that we all know in respect of the International Business Unit, primarily, as it relates to our human resource issues and so on. I want to just share

with this Honourable Chamber that there is ongoing, as we speak, a EU-FUNDED project which recognises the challenges facing the IBU, as well as the Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office (CAIPO) Division of the Ministry. That project which we expect to be concluded within the next two to three months, having just been started, I think, at the beginning of December, that project will address a number of the issues facing the unit, and certainly in terms of the challenges that it, has including CAIRO, in enhancing the systems and procedures within those two units, to enhance the delivery of service to the business community.

Sir, as the Honorable Member for St. James South pointed out as well, there is also the Youth-funded project which will have device mechanisms, or propose mechanisms, that will allow us to determine the contribution of the International Business Sector to the economy of Barbados. This is something that we have in different environments, and so on. We have been stressing over the years that we need to be able to quantify that and to drive a lot of the decision making as it relates to our International Business Sector.

Sir, the international sector, as we know, impacts substantially on the tourism numbers. There are several persons coming into Barbados to do International Business, to have their Directors' meetings and so on. Many of them travel with their families and many of them will stay at the top-end hotels in Barbados. They use the top-end restaurants in Barbados. Sir, there are several of them who live in Sandy Lane, within my constituency, and in St. James North, where persons have established residences in Barbados. They have invested substantially in villas, all along the West Coast, and so on. It is necessary and critical for that contribution to be determined. That study is intended to evaluate the contribution by the International Business Sector to the economy.

Mr. Speaker, we have made the point over and over of the significance of the International Business Sector to the economy and we need to continue to regulate all the service providers providing services in the International Business Sector. I do not understand why the Honorable Member for St. Joseph wanted to have the accountants and lawyers ring-fenced out of this particular piece of legislation, particularly since there are several corporate structures that accountants and attorneys have devised to manage their International Business and Corporate Service provisions through different vehicles.

Sir, I think it is appropriate that we include all the service providers. There are concerns that, I believe valid concerns, and I alluded to them before in terms of the right to appeal some of the decisions that may be taken by the Director of International Business. We will certainly have a

look at those suggestions in terms of a tribunal or the equivalent to deal with any issues as they surface.

We are to also have representation in respect of embracing all the service providers on the island. That is something that is still being discussed at the level of the Ministry, and other Government Ministries are involved, because we recognize that such a decision will impact substantially on a lot of our local domestic companies, particularly those small domestic companies and some of those service providers who are not providing any service within the International Business Sector, those small practitioners.

We are conscious of trying not to create a situation where we have problems or hardship being experienced by those professionals. Certainly as we come up with models that can please as many persons as possible, those amendments would be made to the legislation as is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words I ask that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Sitting be suspended until 5.15 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Houses be suspended until 5.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

4.51 p.m.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BEST, His Honour K. St.C. (St. Michael East)
BOYCE, Hon. J.D.E. (Christ Church South)
BRATHWAITE, Hon. A.D. (St. Philip South)
BYER-SUCKOO, Hon. Dr. E. R. (St. George South)
CLARKE, Mr. G.A. (St. George North)
FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
HUTSON, Hon. E. GEORGE (St. James Central)
INNIS, Hon. D.O'N. (St. James South)
JONES, Hon. R. D. (Christ Church East Central)
KELLMAN, His Ex. D. St.E.
KELLMAN, His Excellency the Hon. D. St. E. (St. Lucy)
MARSHALL, Mr. D.D. (St. Joseph)
PAYNE, Mr. G.W. (St. Andrew)
SINCKLER, Hon. C. P. (St. Michael North West)
STUART, Hon. F.J. (St. Michael South)
THOMPSON, Hon. Mrs. M-J. M.
TODD, Hon. P. M. T. (City of Bridgetown)

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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. Dates in the text. The source gives ‘Saturday, 21st January, 2011’ (21 January 2011 was a Friday). The weekday and date do not agree; printed as in the source.

Q3. Opening. The convening sentence is incomplete in the source (‘met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, February 08, 2011.’). Printed as in the source.

Q4. Minutes. The Speaker’s announcement ends with the stray word ‘Burlesque’; the Speaker then puts the question on the Minutes of ‘February 01, 2010’ (the mover says February 01, 2011); and the seconder addresses ‘Mr. Chairman’. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Committee of Supply, Head 23, His Honour K. St.C. Best’s speech. The source gives His Honour K. St.C. Best’s speech (about 1,000 words) as part of the Chairman’s call ‘The Honourable Member for St. Michael East’, with his name written into the text (‘His Honour K.St.C. Best: Mr. Chairman, I want to support this Money Resolution ...’), so it prints under Mr. CHAIRMAN’s label. Printed as in the source; please check.

Q6. Committee of Supply, Head 23, Hon. F. J. Stuart’s speech. Hon. F. J. Stuart refers to the decision the people of St. John ‘took on January 20, 2010’; the by-election was held on 20th January, 2011. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Committee of Supply, stray time codes. Time codes such as ‘(4:50)’ in Hon. D. O’N. Inniss’s opening, ‘(4:44)’ in a point of order, and ‘(3:20)’ in Miss C. Y. Forde’s point of order are embedded in the text. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Order No. 8, heading. The heading reads ‘INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION AND TRUST SERVICE PROVIDERS BILL, 2010’; the Minister moves the ‘International Corporate and Trust Service Providers Bill, 2010’. Printed as in the source.

Q9. Close of the record. The record ends with the second reading of the International Corporate and Trust Service Providers Bill, 2010 agreed to and the Sitting suspended until 5.15 p.m. (take-slip H83 4.51 p.m.,

Sequence 33). The Committee stage, third reading and adjournment are not recorded. Please confirm whether the file is complete.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 8th February, 2011 at 10.15 a.m., with Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood. The Minutes of 1st February, 2011 were deferred. The Speaker corrected the Cabinet Office letter on the St. John by-election writ to read Saturday, 21st January, 2011, rather than 22nd. Miss C. Y. Forde gave notice of two questions on the cost of Camp Oddey in 2009, and the Minister of Health, Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, moved the first reading of the Barbados National Drug Formulary (Validation) Bill, 2011. Standing Orders were suspended.

On Order No. 11 the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. James D. Paul, Chairman of Committees, in the Chair, on the Resolution to grant \$28 482 692 under Supplementary Estimates No. 9/2010–2011. Under Head 23, Ministry of Health (\$15 504 637), Hon. D. O’N. Inniss explained items including hurricane repairs at polyclinics after Hurricane Tomas, \$97 000 for electricity under the headquarters agreement with the Pan American Health Organisation, \$83 000 in nursing examination fees, \$709 000 in consultants’ fees and \$500 000 to begin work on the St. John Polyclinic, and about \$13 million for drugs, the Barbados Drug Service having risen to as much as \$53 million a year.

Mr. D. D. Marshall said the Ministry was not ready for the polyclinic and that the House had not been told whether the tender had been awarded. His Excellency the Hon. D. St.E. Kellman and Mr. G. A. Clarke followed, Mr. Clarke asking what counted as an emergency under reciprocal health arrangements, with frequent points of order. Hon. D. O’N. Inniss replied that the formulary had been prepared after consultation with all stakeholders. His Honour K. St.C. Best asked why the previous Government had waited until 2007 to plan the polyclinic; Hon. C. P. Sinckler supported the Resolution; Hon. Mrs. M-J. M. Thompson, in her maiden speech, said the people of St. John saw a Government honouring its promises; and Hon. F. J. Stuart congratulated her, in an exchange of points of order with Mr. G. W. Payne. Progress was reported and the Sitting was suspended until 2.45 p.m.

On Head 40, Ministry of Transport and Works (\$12 128 055), Hon. J. D. E. Boyce explained the Warrens

Traffic Safety Improvement Project, the town hall meeting at Queen's College on 28th December and the deliverables required of the contractor, C. O. Williams Construction. Mr. G. A. Clarke said the project would not solve congestion at Warrens and called for wider consultation; he was met by repeated points of order from the Minister, His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman and His Honour K. St.C. Best. Head 40 and the amendment to its Explanatory Notes were agreed to. Time having expired, Hon. C. P. Sinckler moved Head 62, Ministry of Finance, Investment, Telecommunications and Energy (\$850 000), without debate. The Money Resolution was reported and passed.

Hon. E. G. Hutson moved the second reading of the International Corporate and Trust Service Providers Bill, 2010, to regulate providers in the international business sector in line with the Financial Action Task Force recommendations. Mr. D. D. Marshall argued that the Bill had been adopted 'hook, line and sinker' and that accountants and lawyers should be kept outside it. The Attorney General, Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, and Hon. D. O'N. Inniss, who had served on a review committee almost ten years before, supported it. In reply the Minister described an EU-funded project for the International Business Unit and undertook to consider a tribunal to hear appeals. The second reading was agreed to and the Sitting was suspended until 5.15 p.m.; the record ends there.