
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met on Tuesday, February 15, 2011.

PRESENT

PRESENT

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

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

Mr. G.W. PAYNE, Q.C. Mr. R. C. EASTMOND,
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. H. F. LASHLEY

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

Hon. D. ST.E. KELLMAN

(Minister of Environment, Water Resource
Management and Drainage.

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

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

Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B.,B.S.
(Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Industry and
Small Business Development) Mr. D. D. MARSHALL,
Q.C., LL.B (Hons.), L.E.C.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.)

(Minister of Housing and Lands, Urban and Rural
Development) Dr. W. F. DUGUID, B.D.S. (Comm.),
F.D.S., FDRCS. J.P.

Hon. R. L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.

(Minister of Tourism)

Hon. F. J. STUART, B.A., LL.M.

(Prime Minister and Minister of National Security)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, B.C.H., MRAC,

(Minister of Transport and Works)(Leader of the
House) (Leader of the House).

Hon. E. G. HUTSON, F.C.C.A., C.A.

(Minister of International Business and International
Transport)

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT

(Minister of Social Care, Constituency
Empowerment and Rural and Urban Development) Mr. J.
D. PAUL, B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees) Mr. A. D.
BRATHWAITE, LL.B. (Hons.) (Attorney-General and
Minister of Home Affairs) Mr. S. A. LASHLEY, B.Sc.,
LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Youth, Culture, Sports
and Family)

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

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

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

(Minister of Health)

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

(Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs) Dr. the
Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO, M.B.,B.S.

(Minister of Labour)

Mrs. M-J.M. THOMPSON, B.A. M.Sc.(Phy. Ed)

*Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan
Harewood. Absent: Dr. the Hon. DENIS S. LOWE, Dip.
Theology, B.A., M.Ed., Ed.D. Rt. Hon. O.S. ARTHUR,
M.Sc. (Econ.) (Leader of the Opposition) Hon. R. D.
JONES, J.P., B. A. (Hons.) M. A. (Ed.) (Minister of
Education and Human Resource Development).*

MR. SPEAKER: This House is now in Session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, February
1, 2011 and Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move
that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of
Assembly for its meeting of Tuesday, February 1, 2011 and
Tuesday, February 8, 2011, which Minutes have been
circulated, be taken as read. Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: I
beg to second that, Sir.

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

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

PAPERS

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

1. Financial Statements of Caribbean Aircraft handling Company Limited Company Limited for the year ended March 31, 2006.
2. Consolidated Financial Statements of Caribbean Aircraft handling Company Limited Company Limited for the year ended March 31, 2006.
3. Non-Consolidated Financial Statements of Caribbean Aircraft handling Company Limited Company Limited for the year ended March 31, 2006.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to give notice of the following:

1. Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to move that the following Bill be read a first time.

1. Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

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

WITHDRAWAL OF BILLS

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: I beg to move that the following Bill be withdrawn.

1. Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2010.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Sir, that Standing Orders, 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. H.F. Lashley be appointed temporary Chairman of Committees.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the Order of the day.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 10 – BARBADOS NATIONAL DRUG FORMULARY (VALIDATION) BILL, 2011.

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

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Mr. Speaker, thank you. This Bill seeks to validate the publication of the editions of the Barbados National Drug Formulary, which was not approved by order of the Minister, as requested by Section 5 of the Drug Service Act.

Mr. Speaker, this pretty much covers the formularies and actions related thereof from the period of March 19, 1991, until this point in time and it is important that we seek the law which stipulates that such matters be done here in Parliament. Sir, it is regrettable that we have to bring this validation here today almost some 20 years later. I do not expect this to be any much of a debate because it is merely to confirm what has transpired over the last 20 years. We have had some good discussions in here thus far and I expect there will be many more, going forward, with respect to health care and the Barbados Drug Service.

Mr. Chairman, just to let you know that we are currently working on the 30th Edition. This validation Bill really and truly covers the 13th Edition to about the 28th Edition of the formulary and we are currently working on getting the 30th Edition completed and ready for the approval of Cabinet and then Parliament, so that we can move on from there.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the Bill was validated, the 13th to 28th Editions, and all actions of the Drug Service relating to the Formulary for the period March 1991 until the current period.

Sir, I beg that this Bill be read a second time.

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

Mr. Speaker, The Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. W.F. Duguid: Mr. Speaker, obviously I would support the validation of the Formulary for the period mentioned by the Minister. Basically for the benefit of the country, I want to make it clear so that the people understand exactly what the Drug Formulary is, because sometimes we speak of the Drug Formulary, but the people do not understand what it is. The Drug Formulary is a book published by the Drug Service which list all of the drugs that the Drug Service is prepared to pay and subsidise in some way, even for people over 65 or for young children. Sir, this is extremely important. Sir, it is important because the Ministry of Health and the Barbados Drug Service are now making some significant changes. In those changes the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Drug Service, because one comes under the other, has taken a unilateral decision to cut the Formulary into the current form they now intended for the people, significantly. What is that going to do to the people of Barbados? Sir, what is that going to do to the people? First, it is going to mean that people who normally get drugs free under the Formulary will not be able to access those same drugs. Sir, I made that important point. So I will give an example.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. The proposed change to the Drug Formulary does not eliminate drugs from for certain people, in the manner in which the Honourable Member is speaking. The reality about it is, the Formulary Committee deliberated and came up with a Formulary that covers all of the illnesses currently covered under the Formulary. So the Honourable Member is really seeking to mislead the Chamber by making such statements. He should have been here taking part in the debate last week instead of being in Toronto.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, let the Member be guided. Honourable Member, please continue.

Dr. W.F. Duguid: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me continue with my point.

Sir, when the drugs that are available are changed, people who are currently on particular type of drug, if that is the removed from the Formulary they can no longer get that drug under the Drug Service. That is the point I am making. There is no issue with that. What the Drug Service has done is reduce the number of drugs and to some extent the types of drugs under the Drug Formulary, significantly, especially the combination drugs. There are many patients in this country that benefit from combination therapy, and all of the combination drugs have been taken off the Formulary, every single one.

Sir, I went through the proposal. I will give you an example most Barbadians can relate to. If you are accustomed using a drug called Natrilix, a drug used for hypertension. Your body becomes accustomed to it. You

know the responses of the drug. You know the side effects of the drug. You know the dose of the drug. You know how to take the drug. You know when to take the drug. You know all of the things that drug does to your body because you have been taking that drug for years. What has happened since, the Drug Service has made a decision to cut drugs off the Formulary. It means you no longer get the particular drug Natrilix, but you get a similar drug.

Sir, Firstly, we have no way of testing the actual the dosage in this generic drug that we are getting. We have no way of testing what the response would be for the person, because they are accustomed ...

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: On a point of order. Sir, the Honourable Member is definitely misleading the House and I need to stop him in his tracks here. Sir, first of all, we are here debating the validation Bill. There is nothing in principle that the Barbados Drug Service is doing today that they have not done for the last 20 years or more. That is a point that needs to be made abundantly clear. Every year the Barbados Drug Service would have been adding or taking items off the Formulary. There is nothing new about that. So the Honourable Member is really misleading the House on that particular point, and I think we need to make that abundantly clear at this point in time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member continue.

Dr. W.F. Duguid: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. Sir, the Drug Service improves generally by putting drugs on and taking drugs off that are not being utilised, or taking drugs off that have been replaced by better drugs. Sir, what has happened this time, instead of taking drugs and replacing them by better drugs, and the combination drugs in particular are the ones, they have taken drugs and replaced them by drugs that we do not know how effective they are.

Mr. SPEAKER: I recognise the Honourable Member for St. Michael East first.

His Honour K.St.C. Best: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is misleading this House. My understanding that doctors, pharmacists and all professionals sat on a committee to look at the Formulary in respect of drugs. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West is saying to this House and to Barbados in general, that the pharmacists and the doctors who sat on that committee have no knowledge of the drugs that they have replaced with the other drugs that he is concerned about. Or they have no knowledge at all about what is happening as far as the composition of the particular drug, and that is a serious indictment on the pharmacists profession, as well as the medical profession.

I believe that the Honourable Member should withdraw all that he said so far this morning, for misleading this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: Continue Honourable Member.

Dr. W.F. Duguid: Sir, I want to respond to the Honourable Member but I will try to make it a little clearer. When you have drugs that you are body...

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

His Honour K.St.C. Best: Sir, on a point of order. I will not sit in this House and be referred to as that Member by nobody. I ask that it be withdrawn and the Honourable Member apologise unconditionally. I am asking for that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought I heard him say Honourable Member. Honourable Member, please continue.

Dr. W.F. Duguid: Sir, let me see if I can make it a little clearer. Sir, as drugs have improved, what the Formulary has done in the past, people have added drugs to and taken drugs from, is to put improved drugs on the Formulary to replace the older drugs so that the efficacy and the ability for patients to get optimum treatment levels are at its best.

Sir, what has happened this time, is clear to everybody who has seen the recommendations of this new Formulary. The new recommendations have nothing to do with improving the Formulary or improving efficacy, or improving treatment and the delivery of treatment to patients.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. If I have to do it every time I will get up and correct him, I will do it. The Honourable Member is a dentist and perhaps he can speak well to the varying brands of toothpaste, but when it comes to drugs in this country I do not think he has the authority like myself, who is not trained in medicine, to speak to these issues. Every year the Barbados Drug Service has these drugs tested. There is nothing that the Barbados Drug Service is doing today under this Democratic Labour Party administration in terms of testing the efficacy of drugs that they were doing for twenty-one years, when you all did not bring this Bill to the Chamber to be debated. So I think that the Honourable Member is really misleading the House when he gets up here and lays claim that the Barbados Drug Service is acting irresponsibly and placing drugs on the Formulary whose efficacy they cannot vouch for. Or that there are inferior to the ones that have been on over the time.

Mr. Speaker, I caution the Honourable Member to remember that his statements can be carried far and wide and he should act in a more responsible manner.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, in addition to that though, I want to raise with you, the question of relevance. The Bill is to validate the action of the participant, with respect to formularies that have been put in place since 1991. We are talking about formularies that were done and operated, et cetera. I would therefore expect that the whole crux of the debate would be whether or not these formularies should be validated at this stage. I am of the view that going into that type of debate about the specific drugs is really not relevant but as usual, I give some latitude and let us see where you go with it, Honourable Member.

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: Mr. President, it is important to validate that formulary as it existed in the past because it should remain that way and this is the point that I have to make because what has happened, Mr. Speaker, the only consideration in this new dispensation for any further changes to the formulary as we are now validating is cost.

Hon. D.O'N. INNIS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber and I am going to interrupt him all the time. The changes to the drug formulary that the Honourable Member is speaking of have not been based on any cost implications exclusively so to make that kind of statement is to seriously mislead this Chamber. Sir, had the Honourable Member been present for the last two sittings of the House of Assembly where these issues were discussed, instead of trying to listen on line in Toronto, he would have been aware of the facts.

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will continue. I heard the Minister very clearly so it tells us clearly that cost was a factor in their choices. He said very clearly for Barbados to hear that it was not cost exclusively. Sir, that means the cost was a significant part of their deliberations, when they decided which drugs will be on the new formulary.

I am very concerned because not only the medical professionals, Mr. Speaker, but the patients in Barbados are very concerned that they will not be able to access the drugs that they are accustomed to. These are the drugs that they have had on the formulary for years that they have become totally accustomed to. I am very surprised and very concerned that now we have a totally watered down formulary with watered down drugs and people will not be able to get the efficacy and the treatment that they deserve.

Why is it that we have now come to a time in Barbados when health should have some dollar figure over it? We should be providing the best healthcare for our people.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House and I believe, deliberately. The Minister has made it very clear that the changes and the recommendations for the formulary are based on matters not exclusive to cost but depending upon the availability and developments in drugs. The method used to develop the formulary is based again on deliberation by professionals, including doctors in Barbados and recommendations from laboratories which make these drugs. The Honourable Member is therefore being alarmist, he trying to create some kind of resonance where there is none and he is grossly misleading the Chamber. He needs to be brought under control.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please continue.

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

We have come to a sad time in Barbados. We spent years, both administrations, building up a drug service on which we could be proud, a drug service where people knew that they were getting the best for their tax dollars. They were getting the best for the particular ailment that they had and we now have come to a situation, Mr. Speaker, where we no longer are going to be getting the best. We are no longer going to be getting a drug that can help us to overcome our disease in the most effective and the shortest possible time and that is a major problem that we are going to have in this country.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, it is not only me that is concerned but many medical professionals have aired their views both in private and public and they are very concerned about what is going to happen to the drug service and by extension what is going to happen to the health of Barbados. Do you know what that means? Mr. Speaker, it means that rather than people having to get their Natrilix for example, on the drug service they will have to pay for it so that only rich people could buy the most efficacious drugs. Sir, we have now developed a situation in Barbados where the rich will live and the poor will die and that cannot be right. This is not where our forefathers have fought to bring us.

Why is it now that if you want to get a particular drug, half the drugs are off the formulary so you now have to pay privately to get that drug? Why have you made that decision? I am very concerned about it and the people of Barbados will have their say on it in due course.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

His Ex. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, as long as I have been in politics, I have heard the arguments made by the Honourable Member and based on his arguments, Sir, it is clear that those drugs cannot be of any use because if you are saying that they are being watered down today. I have heard that argument so many times that based on that, Sir, nobody should be taking drugs from the drug service, but yet still, everyday people are going to get the same drugs that the Honourable Member is complaining about, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that the other side believes that they are the only ones who have the capacity and ability to do anything in this country. Whenever they do anything, there is nothing wrong with it, but as soon as we do anything, it is wrong.

I am saying, Sir, the impression created here today is that if you have an illness, you are supposed to go and use the same drugs throughout that illness. Sir, that is not true. Doctors will tell you that after a while the body gets accustomed to the drug and you have to change it. What you are hearing from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West who is supposed to be a responsible person, a person in the same profession that once you are using a particular drug, you should use it for the balance of your life. If I am wrong in my interpretation, Sir, I am giving the Honourable Member the time to get up and correct what I am saying.

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because he is saying that you should change drugs. This is not true. There are many people who are on the same drug and have been on the same drug for years so it is wrong and incorrect to say that you have to change drugs.

His Ex. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, what the Honourable Member is telling this House is that if the body changes, and is not reacting to the drug, that the doctors are so responsible in this country that they are still giving them the same drug. I do not accept that, Sir, because I know that once the body is not responding to the drug, it is changed and I do not accept, Sir, that we have irresponsible doctors in this country as stated by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and they do not change the prescription when the body is not reacting to the drugs given. I am saying the Honourable Member is wrong and the Honourable Member knows that because the Honourable Member in his profession, changes the medication to suit the patient. I would hate to believe that the Honourable Member is telling me that is not true too.

Sir, research has demonstrated without a shadow of doubt that these drugs are not relevant to people as the body gets accustomed to them. The Honourable Member knows that so I am surprised that the Honourable Member comes even to this House to give the impression that this House is not voting or giving medication to patients that are ill, when last week, Sir, we came to this Parliament for \$15 million in one Supplementary. Sir, we are in the month of February and the financial year ends in March and we are giving the health service over \$15 million and I am supposed to sit in here today and hear from an Honourable Member that we are not looking after health care in here. Sir, that is totally disrespectful to the House and to the medical profession in this country.

Sir, I do not know anything about water-down drugs and so on. I know that if you go to the doctor and he prescribes something for you and it is not working, the doctor will change it. I am not buying this story that patients must continue to live on expensive drugs just because somebody wants them to continue to have a high cost drug which is a high cost for Government.

We came to this Government promising the people of Barbados that we will be effective, that we will reduce the cost of Government and that we will cut out overruns. Sir, if it means that there are drugs that have a particular price that are expensive in our opinion and there is an alternative drug that is just as effective, I see nothing wrong in changing it. Sir, it cannot be the cost of the drug, it is the effectiveness of the drug that is important.

Sir, do not believe that because the Barbados Drug Service had unnecessary overruns because people were buying drugs or recognising drugs of a higher cost and we are now bringing something of a better value at a lower cost that we are going to run away from this. We will continue to be relevant and effective because this is what we are about, changing the formulary so that it can be more effective and not incurring cost higher than it should, Sir.

I thank you very much.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, just let me reflect further on the point of relevance because there was something in the back of the mind about the way the debate was proceeding. We had a similar debate and we had similar issues raised on the last occasion this House met. In addition to the point of relevance, I wish to draw Honourable Members' attention to the Rules of Debate, Standing Order No. 28 (4):

"It shall be out of order to reflect on any vote of the House or attempt to reconsider any specific matter upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for rescission."

Now, I will allow comments made in passing but I am not going to allow any detailed debate on the particular matter, so please be guided accordingly. Thank you.

Yes, Honourable Member.

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Speaker, I thank you. I just want to spend a few moments on this Validation Bill. Mr. Speaker, we are here validating the publications of the Barbados Drug Service, the Barbados National Drug Formulary and we are looking at those editions from March until the current one.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by where the discussion has gone this morning. When I first came back from medical school, it was back in 1991, I became familiar with all of these publications that we are validating here today. Mr. Speaker, let me just start by reassuring the country that every year there are changes to the Barbados National Drug Formulary. Those changes are not made by any party or by any Government, they are made on the recommendation of a Formulary Committee and an Attendance Committee. As was said before, it is based on several factors including the availability of the drug, and reports from doctors, patients and pharmacists alike that will inform the decisions as to whether or not these drugs are being well tolerated or accepted by the patients. There are some drugs that patients will take and because of side effects, they will put them aside so when those reports feed back into the National Drug Formulary and into the Committee, they may not use those drugs. Doctors may say that these drugs are not effective but that has nothing to do with whether or not the drug is generic or branded, which is another reckless statement that was made this morning that I want to have clarified for the public. Generics are on the formulary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. W. F. DUGUID: On a point of order. I do not know if the Honourable Member is referring to me but I...

Mr. SPEAKER: She said that was said. She did not say she was referring to you.

Mr. W. F. DUGUID: But I certainly never said anything about generic drug or branded drug. I did not use those words.

Mr. SPEAKER: Right.

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Speaker, a comment was made that generic drugs come into this country that are being used and that are not being tested.

Mr. Speaker, the generic and branded drugs that come into this country are not tested by the Government of Barbados or by the Ministry of Health. These drugs are

tested by the developers of these drugs. Whether they be generic or brand name they are tested. It has been the experience of many doctors that there are some branded drugs and some generic drugs that do not work. If this has proven to be the case the next year when the formulary comes up, the drug is not there. In fact, what may happen is that from very early on it is established which of these drugs do not work and you may find that an amendment is made half way through to the formulary. Patients are accustomed to having their drugs change.

Mr. Speaker, I heard that Barbadians are no longer going to be getting the best drugs and that the doctors are so concerned. Every year there are changes. Every Drug Formulary Book starts with a paragraph or two on rational prescribing for doctors, what is the best way to prescribe for patients in terms of whether it is combinations, dosages and so on, how we can get the best. Mr. Speaker, it often means making changes to drugs. It happens and it will continue to happen. The fact that you are not going to get... This would not be the first time that Natrilix has not been on the formulary. There have been time that Natrilix was not available and a generic form was bought and was used. It will have different efficacy in different people and so you make adjustments to suit. Some people are on the same drugs for years and some people have to change periodically because there are other factors that can affect how their body responds to the medication and to other things that are going on. You may develop a new illness. There are other factors with the patient. As I said, these things have to be adjusted. If that were not the case, there would be no need for doctors and pharmacists. You will just give the patients one thing and let them go on with it but that is why they go back to doctors every few months and get tested because things change and there is a need sometimes to change the medication.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want the public to get the impression that because there are changes... We are speaking about the validation of formularies over the past 20 years. If you sat here with all of them, Mr. Speaker, and went through them you would see that no two are alike. There are changes in every single one of them. Sir, Barbadians have continued to receive the highest quality of care in this country and I dare say that they will continue to do so.

The Formulary Committee and the Attendance Committee have been well-informed. The changes are always relay to the doctors and the pharmacists. The doctors will do what they have always done, they will give the patients what suits them best whether it is a combination drug, a generic drug, a branded drug or no drug at all because sometimes the patients get to the stage where they do not need that drug.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a cause for alarm and I will like that we stop frightening Barbadians by giving them the impression that the validation of these past formularies or any other formulary of the Barbados Drug Service is going to do them any harm or to cause a deterioration in the delivery of health care in this country. The comment was made that oh, there is a sad day, that there is a cost attached to health care. There must only be one person in this country who does not know that health care in Barbados has a cost. There is cost to health care and everybody knows it. Health care has always has a cost and it will always have a cost. You would expect to hear that from perhaps a layman on the street but I am sure that even the layman on the street knows that there is a cost to the medication. There must only be one person in this country who does not know that there is a cost to medical care.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I will like to reassure you and the public that these changes are nothing new, they will go on otherwise there will be no need for a committee and I therefore want to support this validation. I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged to you. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: Mr. Speaker, I want at this stage to support this Bill that is before this House. What I have observed this morning from the other side is a scare tactic to try to scare every living Barbadian about the use of drugs in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is fair for Barbadians to be hearing someone from the profession, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who should know better, who uses generic drugs in his profession... Sir, it is amazing that the Honourable Member could get up here this morning and say that we are attaching a cost factor to drugs, that we are also watering down the Barbados Drug Service and that it is going to be a sad day in this country.

Mr. Speaker, what must happen is that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West must cast his mind back to January 16, 2008. Sir, the people of Barbados have spoken and have recognised that the way forward is the Democratic Labour Party. Sir, these scarce tactics in the ears of Barbadian public will not succeed, all we are hearing from the mouthings of Honourable Members on the other side is about doom and gloom, that Barbados' economy is in a mess or in a dark hole. Sir, they are now saying that the Barbados Drug Service is in a mess. I believe that such behaviour from the other side is intolerable in these circumstances. I also believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West should determine whether he wants to practice in Barbados or in Canada. I believe the Honourable Member has to make up his mind. Mr. Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member saying that he is exiting politics in Barbados, and if having

served the people of Barbados and the people of Christ Church West for so long and the Honourable Member wants to leave such a bitter taste in their mouths, then I have to say it is a very sad day in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want the people of Barbados to understand that the Democratic Labour Party is not watering-down the Barbados Drug Service, we are making a drug service that is efficient. Therefore, in making that service efficient, we have decided to look seriously at the different types of drugs. Sir, I know that the question of overruns and exorbitant spending are within the bosoms of Honourable Members on the other side but we have decided that we are going to look seriously at how we can cut cost, while, at the same time, not putting the lives of Barbadians at risk.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: Mr. Speaker, it is known that generic drugs have been tested and are effective, as well as the other drugs. Therefore, for the Honourable Member to come here this morning and ridicule generic drugs is not fair for the Honourable Member to do so. Sir, I believe that all that the Honourable Member has said this morning should be struck from the records of this Honourable House and should not be part of Hansard. Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I support this Barbados Drug Formulary (Validation) Bill, 2011.

Hon. D. O. INNISS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank all Honourable Members for their contributions to this Bill. I am surprised that it would have engaged such a robust debate because, really and truly, at the fore of this matter, is our attempt as a responsible Government to do what the former Government refused to do, which is to bring these matters to Parliament every year. Sir, here it is that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West should have got up and thanked this side for bringing to Parliament a Validation Bill to give authority to 20 years of work that they did without having the authority. Sir, we want to thank the Honourable Member, if he is now quietly thanking us across their side.

Mr. Speaker, this is a testimony to the level of responsibility this Government holds, it is also a testimony of the respect for Parliament, that we have to ensure that when matters are to be brought to Parliament that they are brought here in a timely fashion. Sir, had this been done by the former Government, they certainly would have had the opportunity to speak to this Honourable Chamber and to the country about changes to the Barbados Drug Formulary, as takes place every year. This is what we are doing and what the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has been pontificating about is nothing new. Last week, and you cautioned us about the relevance of not swearing, but the Honourable Member for Christ Church

West, who has graced this Honourable Chamber with his presence today, having arrived from his new place of residence on Air Canada yesterday, had the Honourable Member been here last week and the week before, would have certainly been aware of many of the points to which he started alluding to today.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for the Honourable Member, he cannot depend on his Leader, the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, who is hardly ever in this Honourable Chamber to speak but can speak in Parliament on a Saturday morning, when Parliament is void of any Honourable Member to challenge him at any point. Therefore, the Honourable Member cannot depend on this Leader nor on the perennial absence of the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, nor can he rely on his colleague, the outgoing Honourable Member for St. Andrew, who occasionally grace us with his little noises.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that over the years there have been changes in the Barbados Drug Formulary. Sir, this formulary is not cast in stone, and the one that we are coming with next will not be cast in stone, as there will always be changes. Sir, instead of doing a Validation Bill, had the former Chamber been present or fortunate to have had debates about drug formulary, they would have seen the issue, they would have realised that for more than 10 years, 70 per cent of the drugs on the Barbados Formulary are generic drugs. Therefore, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West gets up and talks about generic drugs as though generic drugs have just dropped out of the sky, or as though it something brand new. Sir, for more than a decade, under the Barbados Labour Party administration, 70 per cent of the drugs on the Barbados Drug Formulary has been generic drugs, and we continue that, we have not seen a need to go branding a formulary policy only.

Sir, let me clarify for the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who should know better, because as a dentist, as one practising in the field of medicine, a very honourable and noble profession, the Honourable Member ought to know more. Sir, the Honourable Members ought to know more about than tooth paste and dental floss. The reality is that a branded drug is principally a drug that is unpatent, it is a drug for which the manufacturer has got a patent. Sir, Honourable Member for St. Andrew, who practises patent law in Barbados could at least have guided the Honourable Member for Christ Church West on this matter. I cannot expect him to get much help on these matters from Honourable Member for St. Joseph but the reality is that a branded drug is a drug that is unpatent. Sir, once the patent expires, that drug invariably becomes a generic drug and you may be very surprised, as indeed the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would be surprised, to know that a lot of the generic drugs used in Barbados are manufactured and controlled by large pharmaceutical companies in the world. We do not bring

drugs into Barbados that are manufactured on a cow farm in Yugoslavia, they come from reputable sources, the same sources they have been coming from for the 20 years that this Bill we are here debating would have been coming from, had they brought the Bill to Parliament during that time.

Asides.

Hon. D. O. INNIS: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who had always yearned to be Minister of Health...Sir, it was the closest the Honourable Member ever got to Minister Walcott, who was Minister of Health. Sir, the Honourable Member would know or ought to have known that the Pan-American Health Organisation, over the years, has been helping Barbados in matters such as pharmaceutical vigilance. We have used reputable testing facilities in the Caribbean to which Barbados subscribes, like the Caribbean Centre for Drug Testing and Control in Jamaica. We also do testing here as well.

Mr. Speaker, not only that, do you realised that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West is not only attacking the Barbados Drug Service but also the importers in Barbados, the companies such as Collins and Company, who import drugs in this country. The Honourable Member is attacking the reputation of reputable corporations that serve as drugs representatives in this country. What is the Honourable Member for Christ Church West implying?

Sir, in terms of the Formulary Committee, over the years, under the Barbados Labour Party administration, just as it is under this current Government, the Formulary Committee has comprised principally of doctors and pharmacists, and we continue to have the same formulary committee members on board advising. Sir, while it is okay for politicians and Honourable Members to get up and pontificate and seek to get front page in the newspapers, we have to act more responsibly. We are speaking about the health of the nation and I am very mindful that is not something that Opposition Members like to talk about. They have never been able to engage this side in any serious debate about health care reforms in this country. We recognised the nature of the beast with which we are dealing and we ought to do something about it.

Sir, not me, as Minister of Health but this Government, all of us on this side, should be commended and complimented for being bold and taking decisions that we have to take in the best interest of the majority of people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, as I wind up this issue, I wish to give yourself, the Chamber, and those within earshot the assurance that the Barbados Drug Service and the Ministry of Health continue to act in a very responsible manner. Sir,

unlike the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, who now benefits on the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), I have to be responsible for those who reside in Barbados and need to benefit from the Barbados Drug Service (BDS) and their formulary, not OHIP. I have to deal with those who are not fortunate to have to take two Tonapan on the flight down from Canada on Wednesday afternoon so, Sir, let us deal with these things.

The Honourable Member did mention about one particular drug, but, Sir, I tell people all the time that I do not know the difference between an aspirin, a phensic or Viagra but what I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, though is that the generic version of Natrilix remains on the formulary, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would be happy to know that Venlafaxine, which is an antidepressant drug, is also available to him on the formulary, and if that does not work Stablon will work because they are all on the formulary.

Mr. Speaker, I just wish to give you and the House the assurance that we have acted responsibly, as a Government, by bringing this Validation Bill to Parliament to validate the actions, primarily of the former Government, between March 19, 1991 and March this year, and for that, Sir, I think this side should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put and agreed in the affirmative.

On the separate motion of Hon. D.O'N. INNIS, seconded by Hon. P.M.T. TODD, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. J.D. PAUL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. J.D. PAUL: This House is in Committee.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. D.O'N. INNIS, seconded by Hon. P.M.T. TODD, Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour, the SPEAKER, the passing of one Bill in Committee without amendment and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. D.O'N. INNIS, seconded by Hon. P.M.T. TODD, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Barbados National Drug Formulary (Validation) Act, 2011.

ORDER NO. 9 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWNS LANDS VESTING AND DISPOSAL ACT, CAP. 225, APPROVE THE VESTING IN THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION OF THE PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN, SITUATE AT HAGGATT HALL IN THE PARISH OF SAINT MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Mr. Speaker, it gives me the greatest pleasure to lead the debate seeking the passage of this Resolution which seeks to vest a parcel of land in the constituency of St. Michael East at Haggatt Hall, St. Michael, just west of the Trimart Complex, in the National Housing Corporation for the purposes of housing development.

Mr. Speaker, this parcel of land is approximately 4 074.8 square metres and this land has been acquired by the Crown by way of private treaty by this administration and Cabinet has given the go-ahead for the National Housing Corporation to execute, in collaboration with the Urban Development Commission, the construction of housing solutions which, of course, are needed by the thousands of Barbadians who are on the waiting list of both the National Housing Corporation and the Urban Development Commission. It is envisaged that at least 12 apartment units will be provided at this site and both agencies are collaborating in a seamless manner to ensure that this project is executed in a timely manner. In fact, several weeks ago, both the Minister of Housing and Lands, Urban and Rural Development, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, your humble servant, as Minister of State, within the Ministry with responsibility for the Urban Development Commission as well as the Rural Development Commission, as well as the General Manager of the National Housing Corporation and her team, and the Assistant Director of the Urban Development Commission and his team, as well as the media, all visited that site - the Director of the Urban Development Commission was out of the island at the time - and we would have seen that this land is very prime real estate, flat and very appropriate for the provision of these housing solutions and I know that the architects and engineers are ensuring that these housing solutions will blend in with the natural architecture and geography of that location ensuring that the view of existing residence is not in any way impeded or blocked.

Mr. Speaker, these housing solutions are very timely because we envisage that these housing solutions will be able to assist, for example, in providing housing solutions for persons who may be displaced by fire. There is a need for emergency housing solutions when fire occurs, these events which are unplanned, we often have persons who are in desperate need of urgent accommodation and it is

important, as a caring regime, should be able to have emergency housing solutions available to house these persons so they are not facing the elements immediately after such disasters such as fires, floods, hurricanes and so on.

So these housing solutions can assist in this regard, as you would know, the Urban Development Commission as well as the Rural Development Commission are engaged in the repairing and indeed replacement of often times of timber dwellings for senior citizens, under employed, the indigent and the needy, persons living with HIV and so on. When substantial repairs are being undertaken or the entire replacement of these dwelling houses, it is required that the occupants of these premises be relocated for at least twelve weeks, while these house repairs or house construction are being executed. So there is a need for temporary housing solutions for these persons under the control of Urban Development Commission. Again, these housing solutions can assist in this regard.

Sir, we are going away from what would have occurred in the past where these persons would have had to be accommodated in very inadequate sheds, just a room made of plywood in the backyard of the houses. So we are trying to improve the quality of life of these persons and treat them with greater dignity. So if we can have more of these temporary housing units available to accommodate these persons for at least the three months while the houses are being constructed, and then returning them to the newly renovated or constructed premises, it will increase the level of comfort of the clients of the Urban Development Commission.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has engaged, since gaining office in January 2008, in a very exciting Infilling Programme, through the National Housing Corporation. I know that units have been provided at Sayers Court and Deacons are being earmarked. Some of the housing estates where there are vacant lands on the complex of the existing terrace units would be utilised in terms of provision of several additional units without spoiling the architecture of the complex. This has been very exciting. In other words, this administration is using all of its resources, all of its creative skills, to ensure that we provide housing solutions to the people of Barbados in a very timely manner.

Sir, you know as well that this administration, through the Ministry of Housing and Lands, as well as the National Housing Corporation in particular, has engaged in a very creative experiment, a pilot programme called Rent to Own Project, which was being piloted at the housing solutions at Airy Hill, in the constituency of St. Michael North. This housing solution at Haggatt Hall can be utilised in terms of the Rent to Own Programme which would enable persons who cannot get a mortgage in the normal market, to own their premises in affordable monthly

installments over a period of time. I know, as a Member of Parliament, that this is very attractive when seeking housing solutions because they know that eventually they will own those apartments provided by the National Housing Corporation. I can go on, but I would close here and move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

His Honour K.St.C. Best: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution. I must at the outset congratulate both Ministers for their hard work in getting this matter before this House, because it has been long in coming. I have been asking all the time, but now I believe perseverance seldom fails.

Sir, this land off Barkers Road. If you are coming from the Highway, turn by the Barbados Light and Power Sub-station and come down to Barkers Road. This land was acquired by private treaty. It is my understanding that about sixteen units will be constructed in that area, and it would probably take the form of single units and terrace units, which means that at least sixteen families would be in a position to call some place their home in Barbados. I believe that I would not be greedy and say that I would want all for the people of St. Michael East, but I would expect that the people of St. Michael East would get their fair share. We understand and know of the serious housing problems that are within St. Michael East, not only in St. Michael East but throughout Barbados. I think St. Michael East, St. Michael Central, part of St. John, St. Philip South and part of St. Michael have a serious problem with what is called squatting in this country. I believe that any land that can be made available to provide housing for persons in Barbados to get them away from squatting, would be of great assistance to everyone.

Sir, I would like to see consultation with the existing residents in the area. I think one or two of the residents have raised some concern about the development. I would like to probably have a Town Hall Meeting with the existing residents of Haggatt Hall No. 1 and Haggatt Hall No. 2, and the surrounding area, so they will understand what the Government is doing and would have no fears about who comes to the community. I believe in Barbados we should show love to everyone. I am asking that before we do anything, at least do some consultation with the existing residents.

Sir, I understand from the Minister that some of these units will be used for people who have been displaced by floods or whatever. I have always said that in every development there should be at least one house set aside for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker, we need to educate Barbadians that the Government is doing its best, but Barbadians must also assist the Government in their effort of providing housing. Sometimes you have a house fire or a person has to be resited, because the landlord decides that he needs his land or whatever. The Government comes to the person's assistance but the person believes it is the Government's job to continue to provide assistance forever. I think that if we educate them in that regard, at least we must work hand in hand and share our resources. If you have some resources, you share those resources with the Government so that the Government would be in a position to at least make your life much better. I think should be the way forward, not in circumstances where persons believe that Government should do everything that is humanly possible in respect of housing.

Sir, with those brief remarks I support this Resolution.

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

Mr. H.F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I also would want to join this debate at this time to support the Honourable Member for St. Michael East who supported this Resolution before this Honourable Chamber. I do so against the background that this part of Haggatt Hall was also geographically attached to St. Michael South East, but because of the boundary realignment, it was then severed and placed unto St. Michael East. I am saying this because I want to say full congratulations to the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands, Urban Development Commission and Rural Development Commission from the perspective that every month this Minister, from the time I have been here and this Government has been here for three years, this Minister has come to this Honourable Chamber at least once every month with housing solutions for Barbadians.

Sir, when the history of this Parliament is recorded, I challenge anyone to find me a Minister of Housing in previous Governments that have produced more houses in Barbados than this present Minister of Housing.

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: I said that about you? Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I said that about the Honourable Member for St. Andrew that had to be sometime ago. Then, this Minister of Housing, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North has surpassed the Honourable Member for St. Andrew.

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, Barbados has a serious problem with housing. Problem No. 1 in Barbados, Sir, is housing, housing and housing. This Minister of Housing has provided solutions, solutions and more solutions. In the housing areas across Barbados there is an explosion of new persons and an explosion of families within the Government housing tenancies across Barbados.

There is a challenge to Government, Sir, in providing the necessary solution for those persons that reside in the Government housing estates. There are still situations where you have families with 12, 13 and 14 persons living in a one-bedroom unit, sometimes a two-bedroom unit with just a toilet. I am saying, Sir, that the infilling programme as provided by the Minister of Housing is certainly another solution to this problem. What it says, Sir, is that every vacant spot within the housing areas across Barbados, we are going to look at them, analyse them, look at the social demography that constitutes the problem within these housing areas and provide a housing solution, not only provide housing but also put in the social amenities that are necessary, particularly in a time like this, Sir, and in particular within our social development.

Sir, I am also very happy that this Minister has begun to address the problem of some unscrupulous landlords, who are renting basically derelict houses to Barbadians at exorbitant prices. The time has come, the Honourable Minister has spoken about it, and is preparing to bring the necessary Legislation to Parliament to address this serious problem in Barbados and it will be done.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious problem because you have poor Barbadians seeking housing and also at the same time, approaching these landlords who are charging extremely high prices for what I consider near derelict buildings. When the Legislation is brought here to Parliament, I am sure that it will have the full support of Parliament.

Sir, we talk about synergies. Obviously you could see that there is a synergy and a working relationship between the Minister of Housing and his Minister of State. In terms of a synergised social relationship, we are also seeing that there is a synergy between the National Housing Corporation and the Welfare Department and let me explain how this works. Sir, if in the National Housing Corporation is seeking to give a person a house and that house is an unfinished product, or you have an emergency, the person could go to the Welfare Department and once the landlord is willing to rent that person a house for a short period of time, the Welfare Department pays the rent to that landlord for an approximate period, until that applicant could have more suitable housing.

Sir, we are talking about the social protection safety net that is so critically necessary for the poor, the

disenfranchised and those persons that are seriously in need of housing. For instance, if a person at the moment cannot get a house at the National Housing Corporation because they are awaiting housing that is unfinished that will soon come into the housing stock, Sir, temporarily, and particularly single women of large households, could be accommodated through the Welfare Department, where the Government pay up to three or four months for these persons.

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: Yes. Men want housing too and that is a sociological factor and that is more of a gender issue than the issue that you are trying to push because the issue is addressing gender as it relates to men and giving them an equity and a wholesome state in the entire housing programme. This has nothing to do generally with a Minister and it has nothing to do with the social programming. The reports that are generated from the information that the welfare officers or the social workers go out and take, Sir, at times are definitely incomplete and lack of real reporting as it relates to the persons' condition. Perhaps, Sir, what is happening in Barbados from all angles from through the Ministry of Housing is a housing revolution in this country. This is what we are witnessing in front of our own eyes. If you could call a parish in this country that this Minister has not built houses or have it on the drawing table, Sir, you would have to bring the evidence to me.

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: The point is that in a time of serious economic problems, where the entire world and the region are facing these kinds of problems, Sir, that the Government is seeking to provide the necessary safety nets for the vulnerable. One of the most important factors, a necessity for mankind is that of housing. There is no person in Barbados would have to doubt the ability of this Ministry to produce the necessary housing.

I remember last week while in this Chamber, I also spoke about the serious problems that St. Michael is facing. Sir, you have a number of areas in St. Michael that are disasters waiting to happen in terms of a fire, Halls Road, the New Orleans, the Cats Castle and all of those projects are under the IADB programme. The fact is, Sir, we have to examine these issues and deal with them in a very practical way. Perhaps, at another time, the Government will have to possibly examine the whole feasibility - and I am speaking only in my capacity from the backbench - of compulsory insurance.

The heartache of when a poor person is affected by fire, and you see that person crying and the entire family is affected and then sometimes later they are still without the

necessary housing, speaks to the fact that Government cannot evaporate all the costs every time. Sir, we are going to seriously have to look at a system of compulsory insurance where Government could sit down with the private insurance companies, even through the ICB and look at a system of compulsory insurance, generally for poor Barbadians through the welfare system. It is not to say that you tell persons directly, yes, you must insure your house. We are going to work with them, Sir, and work out a plausible solution.

Sir, in closing again my main reason I got up to speak is not only to feel happy for my colleague from St. Michael East but also to congratulate the Minister and his team at the National Housing Corporation and his Minister of State for the wonderful job that they are doing, Sir, within the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

Sir, with that, I will take my seat at this point in time.

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

His Ex. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is no doubt that one cannot help but support yet another move of the Government to provide housing solutions for the masses of people in this country and also to ensure that the housing programme is right across Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, it is no doubt that the policy as it relates to St. Lucy is known. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew is begging for houses in St. Lucy, something that we have totally rejected and for good reason. In St. Lucy, between 1994 and 2007, we got one set of houses and before the people could move into those houses, the Ministry of Housing and Lands, through the National Housing Corporation, had to repair every one of them. Sir, it goes to exactly what I have said. If they had followed the policy of the Member of Parliament, that housing solution that was sought for St. Lucy at Mount Poyer, would have seen a better type of housing done by individuals, instead of having houses built that had to be repaired before persons move in.

Sir, when one wants to see what I am talking about, there is a good example at a place called Mount Poyer in St. Lucy where on one hand you have housing by the National Housing Corporation through contractors and on the other hand you have housing by the poor people through the help of their friends and the artisans of the constituency. Sir, when you look at the housing project on the left as you go into Mount Poyer, you can see exactly why you should allow people in rural Barbados the opportunity to build their own homes.

Sir, when I hear my Honourable friend from St. Andrew making the point that no houses were built in St. Lucy during this tenure, I am happy for the support but I just want him to know that we have a better solution. In rural Barbados we know how to build stone houses instead of accepting chattel at this stage.

Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that when a house is built and it is done by contractors it is difficult when you have your problems to go to the artisans asking them to come and do the minor repairs. Sir, once the artisans are part thereof as it relates to the construction, you can be assured that once there is a problem the artisans would come and correct the problem. You cannot expect, as they would say, for the big work to be given out to others and then when you have minor jobs to go to them. Sir, we see artisans in rural Barbados as professionals and that is why we are prepared to allocate some of the land to individuals so that they can make a choice as to who they want to build the houses for them. Sir, not only that, the houses will come in at much lower cost.

Mr. Speaker, I have always argued and I will continue to argue that if you give a man a house spot and he puts a cardboard box on it, that man is happy because it was his choice to put the cardboard box on it but if you give a man a house that is smaller than a slave hut that man will argue with you. For example, we would have seen where Government might have resited some persons and give them nice houses, but they will complain that the house did not have three bedrooms even though they never had a three-bedroom house but if the person were to build a house with one bedroom that person would have been happy. Sir, that is why I have always said to Government to create the opportunity and allow persons to build the houses for themselves because what they build, they will be happy with.

I also want to make the point that we have to recognise that we have created a concept in rural Barbados where we build according to our means. A lot of people believe that they could go and construct houses for persons and then leave large debts for those persons. In rural Barbados, we know how to build from the back and come forward without getting a mortgage. Sir, there are many of us in this Chamber who would have built using that same concept, including myself, yet we believe that we should give poor persons large mortgages to carry that they cannot service. I am saying that on this side we understand that and that is why the Minister of Housing and Lands in his programme have done units for those areas that need units and cannot do better, he would have provided completed houses for those persons who would like to have a completed house and he would have provided land for those areas where the people feel that they want to design and build their own house and carry their own debt.

Sir, we have a complete programme. We are not like the previous Government. Sir, I do not like to say this but we had a programme where the previous Government knew how to sell the land to the highest bidder and at the same time they were selling the land to the highest bidder they were holding the land for the poor in a land bank. Could you imagine that, Sir? While the rich in the country were able to house themselves, they were saying, like some people, let us hold the money because if you give it to poor people they would not know what to do with it. Sir, they did the same thing with land. They kept the land in a land bank and would not allow the poor people to access the land while they were out there suffering for land.

Sir, as soon as the Government was changed we took all the land out of the land bank and told the poor people to come, let us have some housing solutions for you. Sir, you are hearing now that the land was in a land bank as if you could live in a land bank.

Sir, we are not about that. We are about finding housing solutions for the people of Barbados and our workers. Sir, you could go from as far back as the 1960s because from the time we as a party came to Government we always had a every successful record in housing the people of Barbados including the days of a man who used to be in here called Joy Edwards and many others like those at the Lumber Company and the brother of the gentleman of the Lumber Company. We have always had an aggressive housing policy for the poor people of Barbados.

Sir, we did not only provide a housing policy for the poor, we also did it for the middle class and at the same time we provided land for the rich to build on. I have said already in this House, and I will continue to make the point, that the Democratic Labour Party is not for any one particular group, that whenever we do something, we have a holistic programme and we bring everybody on board.

Sir, that policy can be seen not only in housing or in transportation, it can be seen by the most notable policy, that of free secondary education, because when we brought it to the people of Barbados, we did not just bring it for the people at the bottom end as some people are called, the most progressive people, we brought it for everyone because when you bring your policy, you do not bring a policy to create conflict, you bring a policy to heal a country and to ensure that you satisfy the needs of the people of the country.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to wrap up this Resolution before this House. Of course, this parcel of land at Haggatt Hall, as stated by the Minister of State, obviously would be utilised in relation to persons who are displaced as a result of some unforeseen circumstance and the fact that there is a wide demand or a very large demand of persons on the waiting list for housing units.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a further step in terms of alleviating some of the problems within the urban corridor. Indeed, I intend to have this matter before the Committee at the National Housing Corporation which is responsible for ensuring that these lands and the plans for the units go out as soon as possible to public tender so that we can have contractors or a contractor ready to build these houses.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to be long because the Minister of State mentioned the infilling programme. Again, this is part of the infilling programme. It is indeed part of Cabinet's decision to utilise this land certainly for the purposes set out in the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 4 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228 THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF THE PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT VAUXHALL IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH IN THIS ISLAND, FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF HOUSING DEVELOPOMENT.

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

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, the parcel of land situate at Vauxhall, in the parish of Christ Church, is being acquired for the public purpose of housing. Mr. Speaker, again this land is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West-Central and again it falls smack within the Vauxhall Development.s ir, I have toured the area with the representative for the area, who seems very pleased about the acquisition. I know that the Honourable Member will be knocking on doors, as is usual, at the National Housing Corporation to ensure that this project gets off the ground as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, on the note of land acquisition, I believe that over the time as Minister of Housing and

Lands, Urban and Rural Development I am still receiving requests from lawyers and private land owners in relation to compensation for lands that were acquired by the previous Government a number of years ago. I believe that we need some day to look at how we could at least appease some of these land owners because of course we have taken away their constitutional right to own property. Of course the Land Acquisition Act provides for fair compensation but in the meantime the compensation is not as timely as they would expect. Sir, in some instances, some land owners have been waiting between 10 and 15 years for the just due. Certainly it will be a caring administration and I believe we have looked at it in terms of a mechanism so that even if partially, we can give them partial amounts given the fact that we are in this tight economic situation so that they can feel justified and that Government can also be seen as a caring Government. In fact, in most of the acquisitions that we have done in relation to the 500 lots, we have decided to compensate landowners as soon as possible. I believe that there could be a way of free exchange if Government is in possession of lands and we can negotiate with the landowners, once that land is to the value of the land that is being acquired then we can look to that example. I believe that land acquisitions in terms of compensation for the various parcels of land acquired over the years certainly...

Asides.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Member for St. Andrew is saying that he has some land near Sandy Lane and we will speak to him when the session is finished to see if we could have a very fair exchange.

Mr. Speaker, this matter should not trouble your pen so much. This is a simple acquisition and we are looking to move our housing policy towards the Christ Church area. Sir, as I already said, this falls smack within the Vauxhall area and we will look at what type of housing, be it units, started homes or lots. We will be looking at a housing solution to provide housing for those residents within the area and those outside, even the constituents of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West will also benefit from this housing solution. Mr. Speaker,

I thank you.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution wholeheartedly, which addresses the acquisition of some 11 000 square metres of land in Christ church West Central, more specifically in the Vauxhall area. Sir, it is no secret that within the constituency of Christ Church West-Central that housing continues to be one of the burning issues, certainly that comes to my attention every week during my constituency clinics. This particular acquisition which I have been urging the

National Housing Corporation to proceed swiftly to securing is certainly going to be welcomed not only by the residents of Vauxhall but certainly all residents of Christ Church West-Central, who are to date without housing solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe and I have indicated to the Honourable Member, whom I want to compliment, for quickly accompanying me to the Vauxhall area to have a look at this land about two to three weekends ago. Sir, I believe that the land which is being acquired is nestled within the Vauxhall area, which itself is a housing area. Therefore, it is very aptly located for the National Housing Corporation to look at a number of solutions. Sir, if I were to influence the decision of the National Housing Corporation, indeed, the Minister, I would certainly believe that this particular piece of land is ideal for the erecting of high-rise units. Sir, I say that because of course within the constituency of Christ Church West-Central the availability of land, and there are several other areas that have been identified, but we have all know that land within that area is scarce.

Mr. Speaker, we do have a scarcity of land and certainly my proposal would be that wherever we can find land, that we look towards a solution that could benefit as many people as possible. This particular land in Vauxhall offers the ideal opportunity to benefit many persons and therefore the solution of the high-rise is apt in that particular location.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind the Minister of the possibility of the in-filling programme in Silver Hill. I believe there are opportunities also in Gall Hill. The residents of Silver Hill are looking forward to that in-filling programme, which would meant that where possible, and there are a few possibilities, we can look towards extending the existing a few of the blocks of those housing areas, to allow for more housing solutions in those developments.

Mr. Speaker, we are aware that the housing area which includes Silver Hill and Gall Hill areas, that the in-filling option is very attractive because it allows for a quicker solution to housing. We already have services and all that would be required would be for the extensions, with the approval of the Chief Town Planner, of those housing blocks that are already serviced by water, electricity and roads.

Mr. Speaker, I am very hopeful that once we can roll these projects out within the constituency that solutions will be brought and identified for residents who, to a large measure, if you listen to many of the concerns of residents, persons who are within Christ Church West Central and who have been knocking on the doors of the National Housing Corporation in excess of 10 years and in many

cases, without being able to get word of a particular solution to their housing needs.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are on the road and, certainly, I know that the constituents of Christ Church West Central will certainly welcome this tangible solution and the swiftness with which the Minister has moved towards the acquisition of this land is something that we can identify with, and will be embraced, certainly, by me and also the residents and constituents of Christ Church West Central.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I certainly, would like to commend this Resolution to the House and wholeheartedly support this as a key plank in the housing drive within the constituency of Christ Church West Central.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak and support this Resolution one which has been stated before, is to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of the described parcel of land at Vauxhall in Christ Church. Sir, I did not speak on the previous discussion because it was not close enough to home but this one is much closer because, as you are aware, Vauxhall is beginning to approach the constituency which I have the honour of representing in this Chamber, the constituency of Christ Church South.

Mr. Speaker, I want it to go abroad that Christ Church South is also in need of some of the housing solutions which are being offered to so many constituencies in Barbados. I have, certainly, been honoured by the presence of the Honourable Minister and the team from the National Housing Corporation as we search up and down the neighbourhoods of Christ Church South for vacant lots which were either owned by the Government of Barbados, or which were owned by private landowners, who may have been willing to either part with their property for the sake of the Government's housing programme or share in the development of this property.

Sir, the exciting thing about these projects which we are describing from week to week and, indeed, as we speak with the people of Barbados, is that the National Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing can be commended for the admix of housing solutions which has become part of the entire Housing Every Last Person Programme in Barbados. Sir, that search continues, as I have said, in Christ Church South, and I believe that we have recently located a piece of land owned by the Government of Barbados in the area of Maxwell and

Fairholme Gardens and we are in discussion with a number of organisation who may have interest in this piece of land. It is only 14 000 square feet or 15 000 square feet but, Sir, let us talk about that. There are a number of organisations which may have had interest in this property and, I, as Member of Parliament for the area and the Ministry of Housing and Lands, as the landowner of the Government will, certainly, be entertaining discussion with all the interested parties as we seek to put housing solutions there and to meet the needs of these other groups and parties in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier the question of the admix of housing needs and it is clear to me that even within the provision of individual lots, within the provision of high-rise units like the examples in White Park Road, Stuart's Lodge in Tweedside Road and the pending examples in places like Haggatt Hall and in places like what I call Marine Square at the bottom of Deacons Road, even within these high-rise or medium-rise units because three storeys or four storeys is not really high-rise, it is only a medium-rise. Sir, I believe the requirement for lift only triggers at four storeys or five storeys when you move from the fourth storey to the fifth storey, a stair from the third floor to the fourth floor is usually acceptable.

Sir, I think that even within this mixture, we are going to find that, as a Government and as a Ministry of Housing, and as Members of Parliament, we are going to have to promote the cause of multi-sectoral satisfaction within one housing arrangement. I think that Barbadians will have to consider an arrangement and the Ministry of Housing will definitely want to promote an arrangement where, within the same complex of say, two, three or four floors, maybe one floor will be allocated to persons in our Rent to Own Programme, so they will be paying a substantially reduced per month rate, the other land owners may be in rental units at a rate they can afford and then the other two floors may, indeed, be ones which are going at the market rate. This kind of approach will obviously serve to satisfy the varying needs of Barbadians and, as mentioned by the Honourable Member who just sat, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, when we meet with our constituents on a weekly basis, it is these kinds of trumpeting which we are constantly faced with and it these types of solutions which we have to put on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, where does my confidence comes from in respect to the ability of the Democratic Labour Party in Government to roll out this solution for Christ Church South or, as we are discussing here today, in the area of Christ Church West Central? Sir, it comes from the kinds of successes which we have already been able to give Barbadian homeowners and those in need of housing solutions in respect to the areas where we have already provided housing.

Sir, as much as the programme may be criticised on the other side, the truth is, the only reason they would want to be criticising this programme is because they did not do it, and the records of the National Housing Corporation and, indeed, of the Ministry of Housing and in this Chamber would demonstrate that the Barbados Labour Party got lazy about housing and offered Barbadians very little hope in the last term as a Government in this country and, juxtapose that, Sir, with the success that we have already been able to offer at Marchfield in St. Philip, for instance, where some 30 units are already in the process of being transferred to property owners in Barbados. Sir, in Work Hall, in the same parish of St. Philip, 44 housing solutions; in Four Hill in St. Peter, some 40 housing solutions, and we can go on. Sir, French Village, Sledge Pond in St. Andrew, River in St. Philip and Greens in St. George.

Mr. Speaker, as recent as a couple of weeks ago in this Chamber, we passed Resolutions vesting lands in Guinea in St. John, in Cherry Grove in St. John, in Henley and Todds in St. John, lands which, again, will offer meaningful solutions to the people of Barbados who need housing and we are even now considering, as a Government, the question of housing in the City of Barbados, in Mason Hall Street and these areas. Sir, I asked you why should I have confidence in the programme to deliver in Christ Church South or Christ Church West? It is because of these reasons that I have confidence in the programme to deliver and to try to satisfy all the needs in the constituencies of Barbados.

Of course, the National Housing Corporation is in a fortunate and unfortunate position. There are thousands of names at the National Housing Corporation waiting to have their needs fulfilled by way of housing solutions, and some of them vary from persons, families, or partnerships who can pay for a mortgage in the region of whatever, \$300 000 to those who really can afford whatever housing they come up with, some will have to be assisted or subsidised to bring about this actuality. It is the ability of the officers and members of the National Housing Corporation to demonstrate the customer service attitude that will give hope to those persons who visit them on a regular basis, because Barbadians visit the National Housing Corporation, they called and they expect someone on the other end of the line offering them a word of comfort and a word of hope.

Sir, it must stretch beyond this Chamber where we trumpet the efforts of the administration to deliver on these solutions and it must get into the psyche of those charged with the responsibility of customer service at the National Housing Corporation that they partner with us, the Government, very securely in the fact that we must be able to demonstrate to Barbadians in a tangible way where the efforts are being made, where there is an opportunity likely

to open for them to take advantage of. It is only then that we can expect a higher degree of satisfaction to spread among those with needs in housing in Barbados.

I think that the people of Barbados need therefore to go away with the confidence that this Minister of Housing, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, and his Minister, the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, his team in Cabinet, and the Government of Barbados are committed to this kind of programme and solution.

Sir, as I said, at the beginning of my presentation, those on the other side will have no energy for this kind of discussion, because they have no answers for this kind of need within Barbadians. This is something we have to be mindful of. As we go forward for we are now past mid-term and we move towards the end of this first term as a Government, we need to be able to take these successes with us, to show Barbadians where we have traveled and the route we plan to take them forward in finding a housing solution for every last person in need in this country.

Sir, with those few comments with the hope that this acquisition at Vauxhall will soon turn into a real housing solution where people can reside, live and grow as families, and with the obvious hope too, that this housing solution phenomena will spread to the neighbouring constituencies of Christ Church South urgently and will also see some real solutions in that area. The need is great. The Minister understands the need is great. The Cabinet of Barbados understands the need is great, and this Honourable Chamber now, I am sure is convinced that the need is great and solutions are being sought and found.

Sir, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: the Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to wrap up this debate. I want to assure the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, in fact he said that I visited his constituency. That is true but I was not in the team, but, of course, we are still looking at available lands in his constituency, in fact, all Honourable Members in this Chamber, we are looking all over Barbados for any vacant land that we can acquire, in a very fair manner.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central alluded to solutions. Of course, we are looking at constructing units to assist those persons who are living in rooms. It is a fact. If you only take a look at today's daily Nation newspaper, you can see long-term rooms for rent in St. Michael.

Asides.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: I am not reading from the newspaper. Sir, I said that if you look at today's newspaper. If you take a look at it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: Sir, I am saying that I know this morning when I looked at the newspaper I do recall seeing rooms for rent, some at \$140 a week, and rooms even in St. Thomas. I believe the time will come, very shortly, that ...

Asides.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: You all are distracting me.

Sir, the time will come where we will have to introduce this legislation. In fact, I have been instructed by Cabinet to bring the policy and the necessary amendment, to whatever existing legislation that would impact on the relationship between the landlord and the tenant. Sir, I believe that will also look at minimum housing standards throughout Barbados.

Sir, in the circumstance, I conclude by saying I am very pleased with by the remarks of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central and Christ Church South. I want to assure all Honourable Members that the Minister of Housing will be going into their constituencies to look at lands that are suitable for housing.

Sir, with those few remarks, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: 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 this House be suspended until 1.30 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Houses be suspended until 1.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

Sequence 12

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

ORDER NO. 11 – RESOLUTION TO MOVE THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF THE SUM OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICES OF THIS ISLAND.

On the motion of Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this island, Mr. J. PAUL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

ITEM 11. (a)

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$3 604 532 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. 10 2010-2011 WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION.

Head 29 -

Office of the Director of Public Prosecution - \$1,100

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

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 29 stand part.

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

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

Head 30 -

Attorney-General - \$1 679 382

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, under Head 30, I will not delay the House unduly, just that given the amount of money being requested, I thought it prudent to give some explanation as to why we are seeking this amount of money. The largest part of this Supplementary, Sir, is with respect to the payment of utilities at the Central Police Station and other police stations around Barbados. Over the years what has happened is that we have done some refurbishment at most of the police stations which

have resulted in air-conditioned units being placed where none were there before, so there have been some additional costs as a result of the air-conditioned units and of course, there have been unnecessary increases in cost because of the increase of electricity rates over time. In addition, we have taken over the maintenance of a building at District A which in fact was not budgeted for during the 2010 and 2011 Estimates. Sir, a large component of that under General Police Services, goes towards the settlement of utilities and telecommunications.

There is an amount \$386 524 with respect to the maintenance of buildings. Sir, you would have heard me say on more than one occasion that, in fact, the stock of the police stations in Barbados is not of the quality that we would like it to be. In an ideal situation, Sir, I would wish, if we could find the means, to replace almost all of the police stations. The reality is that we are actually a small developing nation and we do not have the wherewithal to do what I would ideally like to do and that is, as I said, to replace the majority of the police stations.

Sir, what we have done instead is that we have spent a considerable amount of money on the maintenance of police stations because we still want the officers to be as comfortable as possible. Thus, I believe we spent more than \$200 000 on the Worthing Police Station trying to get that into a fit and proper condition. I went there a couple of night ago and it was at least good to see that it was in better condition and the police officers there were happier than say, a couple of months previously.

Sir, also as you know and I would have said, we intend to spend some money transforming the Boarded Hall Police Station so that we can again make it a bit more habitable. Boarded Hall is one of these stations that when I pass on mornings, knowing the condition of Boarded Hall, I am slightly ashamed that it has been allowed to decay to the extent that it has but we should start work on that within the next couple of days, with an overall long-term vision, Sir, of building a new police station at Boarded Hall.

Although, not in this Supplementary but consistent with what we are trying to do in terms of maintenance, we have in fact started the move across from the Black Rock Station so that the officers there will also see some relief. Sir, what we did is that we ratchet up the maintenance of the police stations during the last year and that is why this Supplementary in the amount of more than \$386 000 is being requested.

We in the Ministry, Sir, have projected a programme, not only in terms of long-term maintenance for police stations generally because what I have said to the officers and what we have agreed is that we will not have a situation again where we just respond after there is a crisis.

We want to have a systematic maintenance programme and in so doing, hopefully, Sir, we can reduce the long-term costs. In other words, we will not wait until a window is falling out to go and try to replace the window but actually look to see if we can install the nails or the screws to prevent it from falling out, and so have a preventive maintenance programme. We hope, Sir, that will save the taxpayers of Barbados in the long-term.

Sir, if I may go back to the issue of utilities, one of the things that we have also said is that we would do an audit from time to time just to ensure, Sir, that we are making the best use of our savings, in terms of the utilities in the various police stations. In other words, we are utilising as many cost effective, cost savings measures as possible, a bit like what you and I do in our homes, Sir, to ensure that when rooms are not being used that the lights are turned off, the little things that make a difference over the 360 days, every little bit adds up.

Sir, we are committed to transforming the accommodation stock of police officer and I am sure that in the not too distant future, we will come here and say more about that. I am not going to take any particular kudos for this vision, in terms of what we want to do in the police stations. There has been talk about a new police station at Wildey for several years, even when members on the other side were acting as Attorney General. There has been talk about transforming Belleplaine Police Station, which is in fairly bad condition. The one thing I will say though is that we need to find some mechanism where we can transform these thoughts into action a bit quicker because in reviewing our files I can see that some of these plans go back to 2003 and 2004. Seven years later, all that we have done is spend money but we have not actually turn ground in any of these locations. I want to ensure that during my sojourn as Attorney-General that we do move from plans into action so that the police officers can have the kind of accommodation that you and I would want if we were going there from day to day.

Sir, there is also an amount of \$265 860, which would be of interest to you, for civil society organisations. As part of the civil society support fund, which is a component of the Administration of Justice Programme, five civil society organisations were identified and this supplementary seeks to ensure that these civil society organisations are funded.

Indeed, Sir, what has been discovered is that these funds were available for quite some time to be used by these civil society organisations but because of the structure of the particular projects, being an InterAmerican Development Bank project and because of the terms pursuant to which they would issue grants, it was found that many of the organisations did not have their institutional framework, which allows them to effectively

bring their proposals, which would have satisfied the criteria required for the disbursement of funds. This is why it actually took several organisations many years to access this funding to the extent where we were in danger of losing the funding because the funds were allocated and had to be utilised within a particular period of time.

In this regard, what the Justice Improvement Project (JIP) tried to do was to institute a coordinator who then worked with the civil society organisations to ensure that they handle the necessary institutional structure that I spoke about so that they can apply for these grants.

Sir, when I first look at the file I saw that there is an amount for the Pinelands Creative Workshop which I am sure my friend from St. Michael South East would be happy to hear and I thought to myself why would the Attorney-General's Office be involved in a programme that is disbursing just over \$100 000 to the Pinelands Creative Workshop but the idea here is that we want to work with civil society organisations to ensure that the type of collaboration between us as a Government and these organisations in terms of reducing crime and ensuring that many of our young men and women, once they have entered into the criminal system, do not go back and that is why this money. To me, Sir, now that I realise how it is going to be spent, it is money well proposed in terms of what we are hoping to accomplish.

Sir, we are making grants to the Pineland Creative Workshop, the ADR Association of Barbados Inc, the Barbados Youth Development Council, the Barbados Council for the Disabled and the Mens' Educational Support Association (MESA). Sir, those are the five civil societies organisations that would be receiving funding under this Head.

Sir, I am a member of MESA although I am sure that the President would say that I need to attend meetings more often. Sir, we do need to move MESA from the idea that it is an organisation for retirees and take it into the communities more so that we can get more very young men involved in it.

Sir, just to be clear, it is just not a case of cheques would be issued, they would have submitted proposals, these proposals were analysed, reviewed and approved and disbursements would be made pursuant to benchmarks approved by the proposals. Sir, we are going to ensure that this money is spent along the lines that we want, that is, that we are going to get the type of value out of these grants that is in keeping with our objectives. Sir, we want to ensure that these programmes actively solve the reduction of crime in our various societies.

Sir, if I may go back to the Pineland Creative Workshop, and I am sure that my colleague from St.

Michael South East would spend some time on this, we all know that an organisation like that has a far-reaching effect in the community that it services. I dare say that Barbadians as a whole recognise the creative genius that comes out of organisations such as that. I do know, Sir, that we have members of the police band who are involved in activities with the Pinelands Creative Workshop so they have the type of expertise available to them that can help the young men and women in our society.

Sir, the issue of ensuring that our young men and young women, once they have entered into the criminal system, do not go back is something that is personal to me. Sir, a couple weeks ago, one of the young men from the Government Industrial School whom I happen to like quite a bit, has been detained at Dodds for the next couple of months. Sir, this saddens me because I felt that we had failed yet again to protect one of our young men therefore, as I would normally say, if we just save one person, this would be money well-spent because I believe that we owe it to our young men and women to do as much as possible to ensure that they live productive lives in the society as far as possible.

Finally, Sir, there is an amount of \$105 000, which is to be spent on the Prison Farm, which is, with respect to, I believe, a greenhouse at the Prison. I went to the Prison a couple of weeks ago and had the opportunity to walk around the farm. The farm is not where we would like it to be at this point in time. One of the things that I am slightly amused about is the fact that we are actually having an environmental impact study to determine whether or not if we could have a farm at Dodds that has always been engaging in farming of one type or the other. Nevertheless, that study is being conducted and I believe it should be finished by the end of May and hopefully by the time that study is finished it would reveal that there is no reason why we cannot have the type of farm at Dodds that we would like.

In the meantime I was happy to see that we have various vegetables being grown at the farm. I saw lots of inmates on the Prison Farm going about their task in a very professional manner, if I might say so, and I was able to see some of the crops first hand in terms of what they were producing. In an ideal situation, we would want the Prison farm to produce as much as possible to satisfy the requirements of the Prison, so again we would be able to teach the men and women at the Prison some elements of farming. I know that you yourself, Sir, being a farmer, who owns many acres, would appreciate that if we are to secure our food in this country we need to ensure that as many people as possible are exposed to farming techniques. In that regard, that is why we want to have the greenhouse at Dodds.

Mr. Chairman, as Minister of Home Affairs, I trust that they will continue to receive my support, my being the representative of a rural constituency of and I will always live between three plantations, recognised the importance of farming to this community to Barbados as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks, I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

The question that Head 30 stand part was put to the Honourable House and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, there is no point burying our heads in the sand when it comes to the issue of crime, especially violent crime in this society. I believe that the learned Attorney-General would readily agree that the instances of violent crime, including homicides, is up tremendously over previous years. It is therefore important that we give the...

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. Sir, it is not accurate to say that violent crime, in particular homicides, have been up tremendously over period years.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Attorney-General would share with us the statistics that the has for last year because I believe that if the Honourable Members is truthful to the figures that he would not seek to foist that kind of explanation on this Honourable Chamber. Sir, notwithstanding that, it is evident that in order to be able to secure a Barbados that continues to respect law and order, a Barbados where its citizens can feel safe walking and driving about day or night, that we have to continue to give the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force the resources they need. Sir, it is in that context that I say that the Opposition supports the measures under this particular Head. It is

clear though, and I will come to that a little later, that the issues of housing the police is only one segment of the issues involving the terms and conditions of the Royal Barbados Police Force that needs to be addressed. Mr. Chairman, I know what it is like for the police who are working at Horse Hill, to labour situations which at the time were more than dissatisfactory and therefore one of my important missions not just for my constituency but as Attorney-General was to have done all that I could to resolve the issues relating to those public servants labouring in difficult circumstances. I firmly believed then and believe now that by improving their conditions they

can better serve the communities in which they are placed. Therefore, we support that.

Mr. Chairman, I would want to take up the Attorney-General on the notion that in many instances, the plans for various police stations were old, and I can remind the Attorney-General that in 2007, not long ago, the design work for a police station and civic centre in Belleplaine was completed. I would like the Attorney-General to say to this Honourable Chamber that in the instance where in relation to Belleplaine we had and still have new plans, what is Government's position in relation to that station. The Belleplaine station, the Magistrate's Court and other facilities that were there, were in a dreadful state of disrepair and I felt that it was important support the work of the police in St. Joseph by improving the work of the police in St. Andrew. Sir, it has nothing to do with my colleague on my left. Sir, we want to know what is the standing of that particular project.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that under our administration a lot was done to secure the better conditions for the members of the police force. There are a number of initiatives that our administration put on the table and implemented - the new radar facility and other communication technology, I believe the Attorney-General would have been brief on all of those things, are measures that were put in place to improve the conditions of the police force.

Sir, I said there are other issues that we have to confront in relation to the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force and one I would like to highlight today is the one about retirement age for its members. It is something that in meetings of the Security Council of Barbados and certainly meetings with the Commissioner of Police, it is one of those things we felt that was critical. Sir, what was happening was that there were police officers whose retirement age is 65 and who approaching their retirement age, are physically not as fit as they used to be but might still be police constable called on to walk the beat at Christmas time and to do all kinds of duties that it really made no sense in asking a person of that age to perform. When you consider the analogous situation of the Barbados Defence Force, a person of the lowest ranks in the Defense Force retires at the age of 45 and is able then to move onto another career if he or she deems that appropriate but the point is that you are in the defense force able to retire at a much lower age than individuals in the Royal Barbados Police Force and for the senior officers in the Defence Force, the mandatory age you can retire is, I think, 52, but in the case of Chief of Staff, he can go onto the age of 55.

Mr. Chairman, it is therefor important that we visit this particular issue in relation to the Police Force. It has ramifications for promotion prospects, but in a very visual way it has to do simply with the ability of an aging police

officer to carry out the rigorous task that is before him. Mr. Chairman, we support this measure. We long to see other initiatives implemented. The notion of duty-free cars for policemen now seems to have gone out of the window, in favour of more and special housing projects. Those things have all vanished, we hear no more about them and perhaps the Attorney-General can tell us if it is still the plan of this administration in an effort to improve the conditions of the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force to allow them to have vehicles duty-free because the police officers still want to know. Perhaps the Attorney-General can tell us whether it is still the position of this administration that they will get preferential housing, because the member of the Police Force still want to know.

Mr. Chairman, the other issue I would wish to raise has to do with the Registration Department. Sir, the Registration Department has benefited from new building, new computer technology and so on, but the Registry functions within an entire system. It is a collective. Sir, I want to single out one aspect that concerns me today. It has nothing to do with the appointment of a Chief Justice, it is a matter that strikes at the very heart and bosom of a lot of Barbadians, and it has to do with foreclosure suits. I am reliably informed, Sir, that the registration has taken a decision that it will no longer accept foreclosure suits for filing at the Registry. I believe the Clerk of Parliament is nodding his head. Sir, permit me a moment to explain what the issue is.

Mr. Chairman, in Barbados there are still a large number of individuals who need to perfect title to land by way of a foreclosure suit, also called a title suit. Sir, there is a draft Bill that has been circulated, it has gone to the Bar, it has received the comments from the Bar, the Bench, the Land Registry, from all kinds of people but it has not yet been brought to this Chamber but the Registry has taken a decision that because this Bill has been drafted that they will no longer accept any filings of foreclosure suits and this is a position that has obtained, they have state this as their position now for, certainly, over six months, maybe going on a year. What it has meant, Mr. Chairman, is that many Barbadians who need to have recourse to this particular measure in order to get their title perfected have been put at a total disadvantage. Sir, not only is it unfair, in my respectful submission, it is inappropriate and likely contrary to law. Sir, it is not open to the Registry to determine what filings they will or will not accept except the individuals involved have been deemed to be frivolous and vexatious litigants by the court, except in that instance, Sir, the Registry has an obligation in law, and a moral obligation to accept foreclosure suits for filing. Sir, it is a tremendous failing that this administration sits by and allows the Registration Department to take this position simply because a new Bill is to come and, therefore, they do not want to continue to load the system and, Sir, the registry must accept filing. Sir, if a new Status of Children

Act was coming, they would still have to accept registration of births. If new statistical legislation was coming, they would still have to accept registrations of death.

Sir, a foreclosure suit begins by a High Court writ and an individual is entitled, upon the payment of the Stamp Duty and upon the proper form being followed, to file the documents in the court and this Chamber cannot turn a blind eye to any instance where and administrative failing is causing hardship on Barbadians.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Attorney-General to use his good office to address this issue. The foreclosure legislation may be on its way to Parliament, it may never get to Parliament but, in the meantime, hundreds of Barbadians are at a disadvantage and I believe they would be happy to hear what this Attorney-General has to say about the matter.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Supplementary and to say from the outset that I am very glad to hear that the Barbados Labour Party is finally happy to recognise that the retirement is too high but one would not believe that it is the same Barbados Labour Party that moved the retirement age in this country, did it right across the board, and included the policemen and when they were told that the excuse that they were using for the retirement age was the wrong excuse because they came in here, giving the impression that they were increasing the retirement age because they were looking after the interest of civil servants when, in truth and in fact, all they were doing is increasing the contributions to the National Insurance Fund to get money to borrow for Government and use the retirement age as the excuse.

Sir, now we are hearing from the former Attorney-General, who is now the Acting Leader of the Opposition that it is wrong when the Opposition, at the time, warned the Government that it would have been better to leave it at the age, or even reduce it and create an atmosphere for people to be able to retire early and open their own businesses so that they could use their experience to employ other people but now, all of a sudden, the Government has changed and in less than three, we are now hearing how unfair it is for the police when they were forewarned.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber when he says, "all of a sudden". I am sure he has never read the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party for

the last election but in there is a clear and definite commitment to a significant reduction in the retirement age for police. Sir, that could hardly have been all of a sudden.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, you must forgive me. I only read progressive things and I would not have read the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, what is also interesting, which would have demonstrated that less than three years after passing the amendment that they could put it in their Manifesto admitting that they were wrong and that they did the wrong thing. Sir, I congratulate them for that, to be bold enough to put it in the Manifesto but the only thing is that I did not hear it canvassed across the country of Barbados. Sir, there are a lot of people in this country who are now dying and are not able to benefit from their pensions all because of change in the age. Sir, listen to the deaths and you will see that people are dying...

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: It is because the Barbados Labour Party wanted money to run the Government and they gave the impression that they were increasing the money for the National Insurance Fund because the Fund was going to be short of money when, in truth and in fact, Sir, when one does the analysis, one would recognise that the Fund has so much money now that they use it to lend Government for their borrowing. Sir, do not let them fool you with anything, that it has anything to do to protect the National Insurance Fund. They did not have the levies and so on, they wanted to create a slush fund and they used the National Insurance Fund to do that and, Sir, that is why they borrowed so heavily on it. Let them deny it.

Mr. Chairman, when they come in here today talking about the policemen should have retired earlier and so on, they should have known that when they made the amendment increasing the age. There are thousands of people in Barbados who are complaining and their excuse is that you can retire and get an early retirement benefit. Sir, I am saying that they are wrong, they were told they were wrong and now today you have the evidence.

Sir, I thank you.

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

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would wish to focus on the aspect of the police and to specifically refer to the police officers who serve at District D Police Station. Indeed, they were relocated to Holetown Police Station from Holder's Hill, none of the two belonging to St. Thomas but, indeed, that is where the location was, at Holder's Hill, where what used to be a former primary school was refurbished many years ago. Sir, the situation is

such that now they are at Holetown the conditions are extremely cramped and, therefore, it is creating some challenges. We have discussed in this Honourable Chamber on more than one occasion the construction of a police station at Cane Garden, St. Thomas, where the former Member of Parliament for St. Thomas would have been at the vanguard of looking through the whole aspect of the construction and it was brought back to Cabinet for an adjustment rather than just build a police station with a magistrate's court, the redesigning of that project would have been for a civic centre, that kind of concept for a library and an information technology location and so on. Last year according to the former Attorney General, the plans were revised and things were ready, in a sense, for the construction. If one looks at the parish of St. Thomas and the demographic shifts, where I believe there are about probably 3 000 more people in the constituency since the last election. The numbers have grown so large, especially in the Cane Garden area, I believe the presence of a police station in the parish of St. Thomas would make a tremendous difference. Sir, first the officers have to travel from too far in order to get there. We all recognise what is happening with the crime situation in Barbados.

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

His Excellency D.St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Sir, this is no new information to this House. I heard this information as far back as when the former Chief Justice was in this House. It has always been recognised because of the population in Cane Garden, that a police station should have been in St. Thomas.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please proceed.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Sir, I do not know why the Honourable Member for St. Lucy speaks so often and interrupts when I speak on matters related to St. Thomas. Even though he resides in Welches, St. Thomas, he would not even register as a constituent. So he has no real moral authority to speak on the matter.

Asides.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Yes, that might be one less vote for me.

Sir, I beg your pardon. The demographics have shifted. I was speaking about where the communities are larger. Some of them are very middle class communities and the hold incidence of robberies, break-ins and so on are increasing. Therefore, I believe the urgent attention to the construction of a police station in the parish would help to ease the situation. I would like to seek guidance from the Honourable Attorney General, the Honourable Member for

St. Philip South, as to the status of the plans for the police station at Cane Garden St. Thomas.

Sir, I support the funds for the police and the other agencies because I believe that almost everything is costing more, and we recognise that over the years our police have had some hard times and they have had some good times. Therefore, I lend my support in that particular respect.

Sir, I now want to focus more on the Green House for the Prison. While I believe that too many of our young people are being led astray, a lot of it is to do with the movies, which some of them are watching, even more of it is related to the whole drug trade, and there are a lot of young people who are not training their children properly. The moral standards are dropping because some parents, both male and female, are not guiding children and nurturing them in the way they should. So when my daughter sells a big bag of drugs and selling it through my window, I do nothing about it, but when the police comes I complain about them breaking down my door, I have a problem with that. I know too many of them are being led astray. I know they are probably almost 1 000 male prisoners in the island. It saddens me, especially when some of them have been of good character in the past, but because they have been led astray they have an avarice for quick money, snatching gold chains, snatching cell phones, dealing with weed and so on. It really leaves us troubled as a society. I am sure that all of the Honourable Members on this House would share my view that we have concerns for what is happening to our youth.

Sir, I support the request for the Green House because I believe it is an opportunity to engage some of the prisoners, those persons who are incarcerated, to develop skills,

Sir, it is interesting when they are out, running wild and families continue to feed them, sometimes I know it is difficult to get employment if they do not have a skill, but they do not understand what happens when they go to prison. So they go in with no skill, but I believe that if they are in prison spending a two or three-year period, they should be properly trained in a skill, so that they can still be meaningfully being engaged when they leave prison in society doing some positive things with the skills they developed. So I have absolutely no problem with a Green House being constructed to assist those young men and women, I believe, in getting an opportunity to learn a skill or to develop a skill.

Sir, I know in the past there was a property in the area of Waterford where prisoners worked. They grew banana trees, cabbages and other fruits and vegetable. I believe that should continue because they would not only be learning that skill or developing a skill, but would be helping to feed themselves.

Sir, I have had the privilege of buying a number of things from the Prison. I repeat that, buying vegetables and bread on visits there. I was able to buy a beautiful mahogany wallrobe. I have been able to buy wonderful paintings of chattel houses, when some of the young men told me they never had an interest in painting or drawing, but while they were there, especially Mrs. Jiggets, if you would allow me to call her name, they were able to get engaged in something meaningful.

Their engagement will not only help to feed them but, of course, it will help to decrease the food bill that Government has to foot, for them, every year. I believe it will also bring in some income from the sales, as is the case.

Sir, I had written, under a previous administration, to the then Attorney General about the Prison Fellowship. I think that Barbadians need to give recognition to those communities. It is a pity that their proposal did not reach in time so that they too can have a share in the \$265 000 that has been there. I believe when I speak with Pastor Watts and his team, Mr. Win Callender and those, they would want to make an effort.

Sir, the Prison Fellowship is an organisation and I believe it is built on a spiritual foundation. Over the years they have been working with persons who were incarcerated, and have returned to society, especially those who have no family that will embrace them and are doing excellent work. The Honourable Member for St. Michael Central could speak to it. Every year the Prison Fellowship ensures that they have an 'Angel Tree' that the children of prisoners would at least get a toy, a reading book, a gift for Christmas. Now they have a lot of equipment in Country Road, at their location. I wrote officially to ask for assistance for them. Sir, the structure that used to be a Welfare Department nestled between the Prison Fellowship location and the old Coke factory I believe it has been taken over. I think the equipment and the materials they have will go a long way in helping to engage those young men and women to develop a skill. The machinery, the equipment is there, but they need a location where that equipment can be spread out for those individuals to get an opportunity for a new lease on life.

Sir, I would be one of the first, as I said, to lend my support to this Supplementary and I trust it will go a long way in helping young people to know that despite the fact they have been incarcerated, they are human beings who require the skills the treatment that are necessary, and that society will be willing to work with them because they have done their time and still need to be properly engaged and reincorporated into the society so that they too can make their mark.

Sir, with those comments I wish to support this Resolution.

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

Mr. H.F. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support this Supplementary. I particularly want to speak on the administration of justice. I understand that it is critically necessary that the policemen must be comfortable within their own habitat and environment. I understand that, but what to me is fundamentally wrong is the stamp of the administration of justice in Barbados. When I say that, Sir, I want to laud the Attorney General for his efforts in making sure that there is a community component in fighting crime in Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: The near \$¼ million that have been allocated to organised community groups across Barbados to join Government in its effort in fighting crime in Barbados, is most laudable. I am saying so from a prospective that today, I am a happy man simply because over the years I have always been calling in this Chamber for a preventive approach to crime fighting, using the community as the catalyst for that kind of intervention that is so necessary to control and stem the flow of crime in Barbados. The fight of criminal activity in Barbados cannot be left - in fact, I hate to say, The Royal Barbados Police Force - to the Barbados Police Force alone. Why I am saying that, Sir, because this is an aspect of the Administration of Justice in this country, as put forward here by the Attorney General of Barbados, speak volumes to the empowerment of the Community-based organisations and the NGO sector in fighting crime in Barbados.

The Pinelands Creative Workshop has a history of doing yeomen community service, not only in the Pine but in Nelson Street, in the New Orleans and across Barbados and the Caribbean. MESA has established itself as an organised group, Sir, fighting on behalf of the marginalised men in Barbados. The Barbados Youth Development Council, which is the umbrella body for the youth organisations across Barbados is also a beneficiary or a benefactor of this allocation.

Again, Sir, I am saying that far more emphasis and money must be placed into the community arm of the Barbados Police Force because, Sir, those are the ones who will interact with the people in the community and bring about what I call a kind of stability to the communities across Barbados.

Sir, I want to begin my opening salvo with that but I really want to get at this thing as a practicing community

practitioner in this country, to address this issue of justice, as administered and dispensed by the law court in Barbados. This Honourable Chamber, Sir, has a lot of trained lawyers, perhaps some of the best in the entire world. I do not even believe that in choosing our Chief Justice, it should be relegated to someone that came from within the Commonwealth only but let me say this about justice. The late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow told the poor people in this country that if they want to find justice to keep away from Pinfold Street.

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: It has now gone to White Park, as well as White Park.

Sir, do you know why I am saying that? Every day when I read about justice being meted out to the poor in this country by the judiciary, this elite group of persons and this elite band of people, Sir, and I see a woman with five children getting a year for stealing a tin of sardines, where is the justice? When a youngster as a first time offender has to spend three years in prison for a spiff, where is the justice?

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: Are you telling me? I read this in the newspaper and that is why I read or if the newspaper is printing wrongly.

Sir, I also hear from the reports coming to me through the people in St. Michael South East, who have to face the law court, that when taken to certain districts, residential stations with a certain stigma attached to them like Hometown and Oistins, the kinds of blows that they share there at these two stations.

Asides.

Hon. M.A. LASHLEY: I am talking about justice. I want to know because we have a lot of Queen's Counsels in here, those that are particularly practicing criminal law, how come that a young person, when all the evidence that is brought before the Court, and when a man is beaten and tortured in the cells and dungeons of the police station, it is still admissible as evidence? When, at another station, you have a camera where you can put them and interview them and the recordings, and have them submitted as evidence?

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: It happens to be just there for show?

I am saying, Sir, that there is another thing that frustrates too, we are talking about the administration of

justice to poor people in Barbados. If you get stopped on the road for riding a bicycle without a head light, which you should not and I am not condoning that, but when the police report against you is written with a lead pencil that has on a rubber, anything could happen, Sir, and then that is still admitted as evidence - when a conjunction is changed as evidence - in a law court before the magistrate or the judge.

Mr. Speaker, I have harried tales of a man going before the female magistrates in Barbados, I could speak in here and I pray to God that I do not have to end up before them because when I finish speaking in here today and I have to end up before them, I know that they have to confine me up at Dodds.

The point is this. I know for a fact that a number of men in this country are discriminating seriously against meeting certain magistrates of the opposite gender. I could cite cases to, Sir, because I read these with particular interest.

Asides.

Hon. H.F. LASHLEY: No. Because it interests me because we have a beautiful building out there in White Park, one of the most modern buildings and yet, Sir, when it comes to justice that is something else. There is a new judge on the bench, Sir, that I call revolutionary in her thinking in terms of how she dispenses and administers justice. One case she actually threw it out and asked the police to compensate the young gentleman for the beating that they put on him, Sir.

Sir, I am not afraid to talk about these things. Sir, I live in Shades Gap, Hall Road, a ghetto area if you want to refer to it like that and I see and know everything that is going on. Let me tell you, Sir, this Attorney General has just brought before us, a very important synergised relationship between the community and the police. Sir, if part of the expenditure or part of the allocation to the Royal Barbados Police Force is placed more within the community arm of that The Royal Barbados Police Force, we will make a serious dent in fighting crime in Barbados. Sir, I cannot see people but there are policemen in here who have done a lot of community work, particularly in the Pine, Sisnet and others. The point is that the only thing we used to have to fear about the policemen when they are doing community work across Barbados, when crime was at the minimum, was the fear of carrying away your girl because the men had that kind of relationship with the community which was enviable. Sir, let me say, all of this money that we are putting into crime fighting, please put it in the community and this is what this Attorney General has seriously done.

I have a problem, Sir, when I read the mal administration of justice in this country and how it is dispensed towards poor people, causes me to get cruel. A young man was found with drugs and when he was brought down before the judge, the judge looked at him and said, you do not show any remorse. When the man went to prison, his head was black. When the man came down his head was like mine, white and yet the judge said, you do not show any remorse.

How did he get that? Did Santa Claus give him a wig? Those are the things that bother me. These things seriously bother me when we are talking about the administration of justice.

The principles as enunciated by the forefathers and the founders of this Democratic Labour Party have been one of justice to the poor of Barbados. We as politicians and community practitioners across this country have to live up to those high principles and ideals that the forefathers and founders of this Party, particularly the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, have built this Democratic Labour Party upon. Sometimes when you read the writings of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, you want to know if he grew up in a Rastafarian family because of the kinds of philosophical enunciations that he made within his governing style that appealed to the poor and the oppressed of Barbados at that time.

Sir, we have a very expensive building in Whitepark and an extremely more costly one up there to put at Dodds and where justice... Not only that but they have lawyers that if a murder is committed, the price of a murder case varies. There should be one cost across the board for murder, robbery...

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: You do not know. You could get everybody...

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Everybody would get convicted. You mean you always dispense justice because you are not getting the right money to represent poor people. The administration of justice cannot and should not be couched in dollars and cents only. We got to start dispensing proper justice to the poor.

Now, somebody is going to leave here and say, you see that man 'Hammie La', he does get up in Parliament and talk bear A-S-S, you know what I mean. That is the point. I do not care what they say, they could say anything about me, I am old enough. I am no longer in the arrival lounge, I am in the departure lounge.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: Thank you, Sir. The point is that all of us here have been elected to represent the people and part of our mandate is to be the voice of the voiceless, to be the champion of the poor and to make sure justice is administered and dispensed fairly and equitably to the poor in this country, if not, it does not make sense. When we cross the other border and we go to meet our maker and we see our maker, we got to answer. The Prime Minister knows quite well that we feel passionate about this whole issue of the dispensing of justice in Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: I am quite happy where I am. Sir, they got certain people in this country that when you start to talk about representation of the people's right under the People's Act, people does take offence but nobody can frighten me, I am too old now to get... I lived in the ghetto. I lived all about Barbados. I went through all kinds of things. I nearly die in July of last year. I saw death's door. I see all kinds of things so nobody can frighten me anymore. They cannot bring paper to me. They cannot frighten me.

Sir, I do not want to abuse the privileges of this Honourable Chamber, I will sit now but I will come back later.

I thank you very much.

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a brief intervention on this Head to which I give my fullest support. I listened to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph and the concerns which he expressed about the conduct of the Registration Department in relation to the titling of land, applications for title suite, and I just thought I would clarify that situation because left, as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph left it, the country could be given the wrong impression.

Sir, it is generally known that the Registration Department faced a number of changes in the system that informs the administration of justice ever since October 2009 when the courts relocated from Coleridge Street to Whitepark Road, they had to move into fresh accommodation, when they had to deal with a most sophisticated brand of court technology to which they had been unaccustomed since such technology could not be accommodated at Coleridge Street. In addition, the new rules of the Supreme Court were introduced around the same time so a whole slew of changes were introduced into

the system all at the same time and the Registration Department had to adjust and adapt to these changes.

Now so far as the introduction of the new rules was concerned, the rules introduced in October 2009 replaced rules that were in existence from the year 1982, the Rules of the Supreme Court, 1982. The Rules of the Supreme Court, 1982 made provision for the titling of land by title suite. Order 31 of those rules governed title suite applications. While the new rules were being prepared, the rules that would be introduced in October 2009, it was confidently believed that by the time the new rules were introduced, separate legislation governing the titling of land would also have been on the statute books. In the new rules, no provision was made for title suites so you had the anomalous situation where you were moving from an old set of rules, which had Order 31 governing the titling of land to a new set of rules which did not have a corresponding provision. Also, the legislation that it had been hoped would have been on the statute books was not yet introduced and is still not yet introduced.

Mr. Speaker, when that anomaly was discovered, as I understand it, the then Chief Justice thought the best way to cure it would have been by the making of what is called in legal circles a practice direction, a direction to lawyers and to all those involved in the process made by the Chief Justice, as to how the title suite issue should be handled in the absence of any legal basis upon which title suite applications could be made.

Sir, senior lawyers in the profession and those familiar with the title suite applications and those very much into the practice of property law took the position and still take the position that a practice direction has to rest on something, that something is called law, and that if you do not have the substratum upon which a practice direction can rest, the practice direction is of no value and that any title suite introduced just out of thin air on the basis of a practice direction in the present circumstances would have no validity.

The Registration Department therefore has taken the position, as I understand it, that receiving applications for title suites in those circumstances is a waste of time. The agenda item that now faces the system is to get the law relating to the titling of land on the statute books as quickly as possible to fill this gap which has caused much disruption to persons who want to get land title because if you do not have title to your land, you cannot get a mortgage on it and you cannot sell it and therefore the whole system is slowed down.

Sir, I am aware that the legislation governing the title of land has been around for some time, the drafts have been around for some time. Many years ago that very distinguished practitioner, very sharp lawyer, the late Colin

Williams, who at the time of his retirement was a Justice of Appeal, he was asked to research the matter of how best we could simplify our procedures for the titling of land, because even under the old rules, the old Order 31, it was not unusual for a title suit to take sometimes as many as six or seven years. That was thought to be wholly unacceptable and it had to do with the fact that it was not simply a relationship between the lawyer's office and the Registration Department but other parties were involved, for example the Chief Marshal Office and very often if a marshal went on sick leave, as has happened, for as long as he remained on sick leave, no work would be done in his jurisdiction. I have known that I have had to wait for more than one year to get something done in a jurisdiction because the Marshal for that particular area was on leave.

Mr. Chairman, what the system needed to cure and what it still needs to cure is the issue of delay in getting land titled in Barbados. Sir, when the late Mr. Colin Williams, of revered and respected memory did his research, the opinion he wrote and the suggestions he made seemed more targeted at how to avoid fraud, because again the titling of land is fraught with that danger as well. There has been a lot of fraud involved in the whole process. Sir, his opinion target to minimise the risk of fraud but in my view when I read it, it did not sufficiently target the issue of delay. Sir, the issue of fraud may be an issue for the courts and lawyers but the issue of delay is an issue for the litigants and when I was shown the draft about a year or so after I was in the Attorney-General Office and I read it, I inquired how was this going to make the process of titling land a shorter and simpler process. I had read Justice William's opinion on the new procedure and it seemed to me that the legislation was based on more than how to avoid fraud than on how to shorten the process. Sir, the Office of Chief Parliamentary Council revisited it, I am aware. I know that the draft was sent to the Bar Association and to the Judiciary and the Judiciary established a Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Justice William Chandler to look at it and to see how best it could be fine-tuned to meet both the requirements of avoiding fraud and also of minimising delay.

Mr. Chairman, we hope, as I heard the Attorney-General said sotta voca not too long ago that the legislation will be with Parliament very shortly, so that this lacuna can be filled and that those persons who have been waiting to get their lands titled can do so in the very foreseeable future. It is a very important piece of legislation because right across Barbados are many persons who are holders of defective titles or no title at all. There are many persons in Barbados who believe that as long as a land tax bill is coming to them that they own the land, or as long as somebody told you by word of mouth, before they died, that they are leaving this land for you and that all you need to be able to prove is that somebody told you so, but the system requires that you have a conveyance and a

conveyance from the Registrar of the Supreme Court, in those circumstances, is the best title. It is a good and marketable title and that is why it is important that this legislation comes to Parliament, as soon as possible, so that the inconveniences at present being experienced by both developers, for example, because in some cases there are people who want to do very large developments but there are problems with titles there as well; developers and small holders are all being inconvenienced by the present state of affairs and we hope that we can get all of this cured as quickly as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I only wanted to make the point that the Registry is not acting whimsically, the Registry is acting on the advice available to it, advice with which I agree, that if there is no legal basis for title suits in our law at the moment, a practice direction by itself cannot cure that defect. Therefore, we need legislation and I am reassured by the Attorney-General that legislation will be before this Honourable House in the very near future. Mr. Chairman, I want to make that clarification because if the issue had been left where the Honourable Member for St. Joseph has left it, the impression may have been conveyed that either out of indolence, malice or indifference the people at the Registry were just not receiving applications for title suits but there is a very good reason why they have decided to put that whole process on hold. Mr. Chairman, I am obliged.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, having heard the Honourable Prime Minister speak to this issue with respect to title suits, I would hope that the Attorney-General is impressed with the need and urgency of dealing with this matter very swiftly. I am not so sure that the Honourable Prime Minister was listening to the point made by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph because the Honourable Member for St. Joseph was speaking to the urgency of having something done swiftly and I think that one of the things that was missing from what the Honourable Member said was the concern of clients in this whole exercise and the reputation on the Bar Association. Sir, a number of complaints have been made to the Bar Association with respect to attorneys delaying matters pertaining to title suits, when the attorneys were not at fault in this particular case.

Sir, justice delayed is justice denied and if there is one thing that could be gleaned from what the Honourable Member for St. Joseph did say was that there is, and in my view, no rationale behind the unilateral discontinuation by the Registration Department of title suits. Mr. Chairman, what we are hearing from the Registry is like you are going to amend the law pertaining to a particular client but those laws have not yet been amended, so we are not going to try any case for murder until those new rules are made.

Mr. Chairman, I had reason to speak to the President of the Bar Association sometime in August on this same matter. The President of the Bar Association at the time assured me that he would have spoken to the Chief Justice. Sir, from my end - and there is very little that I could do because I do not sit over there where I could have informed or when matters would be brought to this Honourable House - I indicated to him that supposed January next year comes and nothing happens. Are you telling me that the clients would have to wait that long? Sir, the President was confident that everything would have been brought to this Honourable House by January. This is well over six months and as a practicing attorney, I think that central to this issue is the urgency of this matter. When can the Attorney-General tell us, the fault might not be his, but the Attorney-General should be able to tell us when that particular piece of legislation is going to come to Parliament. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph made the point that a number of pieces of legislation came to this House. I am not saying that you could leave them hanging but they were not as important as this particular matter.

Mr. Speaker, you are dealing with the reputation of lawyers, you have a situation with respect to these same title suits where persons have left one lawyer because they thought the lawyer was keeping them back, they have been to another lawyer and, in many cases, the second lawyer made them believe that the matter would be dealt with swiftly. I, certainly, share the view of the Prime Minister, having seen the draft myself, and I must say that I would hope that the draft that I saw, I do not know what surgery can be done with that draft between the time that the new Attorney-General has the opportunity of looking at it, and the time it comes before Parliament but I am certainly not happy with that draft because if you are dealing with delay, I agree with the Prime Minister, it speaks to fraud.

Mr. Speaker, if you have a system where there is an element of fraud or fraud creeps into a system, and you get about one case of fraud in every thousand cases, I do not see the need to change the system, quite frankly, as it relates to fraud because if you are delaying with delay, you are creating further problems by the amount of Affidavits. It is like what they want you to do now with respect to money-laundering.

Mr. Chairman, when I first came to the profession the laws were the same as it is now before the break and you could get a title suit completed in six months. The Prime Minister mentioned the problem with respect to the marshals. Sir, with your permission I could call the name of a marshal like Mr. Wilford Griffith. Mr. Griffith would get a notice to put on land. He would get it today, he would call you and tell you to leave it to him, that he will find the land and, Sir, in 24 hours that notice is served. Sir, now we are amending legislation because of the laziness of marshals. Sir, what am I hearing? I do what he said in

respect to the delay for one year is true because a lady came to my office from overseas and I gave her the assurance that the matter would be completed in terms of getting the notice served by a certain time but the matter was not completed. I was subsequently fired and after a year, that marshal was sick and that notice was not served. Sir, in terms of fraud, we might not be able to deal with the matter of fraud by making the attorney responsible for the service of the notice in the same way that service of notices are done in matrimonial matters because what is to stop a crooked lawyer, if there are any, from affixing a notice on land the same day in the interest of speed.

Asides.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: The system is such that lawyers cannot carry away land. Sir, all I am saying is that in order to deal with the delay you should not look at the element of fraud only. Sir, in looking at the circumstances of title suits, when you look at all the title suits, if they are 1 000 title suits, as I have said before, you get about one case of fraud in every thousand, so there was no need to change up the whole system and make the system becomes a lot more cumbersome.

I would hope that the Attorney-General do whatever has to be done, even if he finds it difficult to bring the legislation to Parliament next week, in the same way that the Minister of Health could give us certain edicts from the Minister of Health on the spot, whenever he has to speak now, he is telling you something new, whether it has something to do with the Barbados Drug Service or the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we, the members of the public, would like to know exactly when this legislation is coming to Parliament. It is an issue that the Honourable Attorney-General must speak to. It is a very serious issue. I would hope that my words would cause him to look at the matter in that light.

Mr. Chairman, I would say no more and I hope that when this legislation comes to Parliament that I will be able to speak to it. I must say that I have seen the draft and that I have read the draft. I am not happy with the draft because, in my view, it is making the system a lot more cumbersome. I do not think it deals any better than the previous legislation either in terms of fraud or in terms of delay. I think that if that particular legislation is to be proceeded with in the form that it is, then there should be some provision within the legislation where it states that when a title suit is filed, the marshal must serve the notice within a specific time, and that specific time should be at least two weeks.

Mr. Chairman, there is also another issue that I would like to mention, the question of the police station, the Civic Centre in Belleplaine. It was mentioned by the Attorney-General and the former Attorney-General. Sir, to

my knowledge, and I have copies of the plans to substantiate them and if I knew that this matter was coming before the House...

Asides.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, this is something that I would hope that between the office of the Clerk of Parliament and the Speaker can deal with. Sir, in the past, I have been in this Parliament for some time, and matters are being dealt with, at least 24 hours, we know the precise matters that are being dealt with. I think it is some discourtesy to the Opposition these days that when you call and ask what matters are being dealt with, the cold response you are getting is: "The whole Order Paper." Sir, the Leader of the House is a newcomer to this Parliament and in another place you might call him a 'cum yuh' so the Honourable Member cannot say...

HIS HONOUR K. St.C. BEST: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Sir, I withdraw those remarks. Mr. F.J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I sat on the other side of the House as Deputy Leader of the Opposition responsible for liaising with the Leader of Government Business in the House between 1994 and 1999 and whenever I made the enquiry about which the Honourable Member is now complaining, I was told that I was out of place to make that enquiry, that a good Opposition comes to the House prepared to debate everything on the Order Paper. Sir, I used to be told that.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, this is a small issue but it could become a big issue. I am not dealing with what went on in the past, and from my experience I am not aware of that. This is a small issue but it can become a big issue. I am not dealing with what went on in the past. I believe, from my experience I am not aware of that. I know that the Barbados Labour Party was in Government, those plans spoke to a project which was to be started in January 2008. This is now February 2011. Mr. Chairman, I do not know if you have ever visited a police station.

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

His Excellency D.St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member would have to be misleading the House. How do you have plans certified...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, are you on a point of order?

His Excellency D.St. E. KELLMAN: Yes, please.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could you state that for us, please? You did not state it. I will just like to inform Honourable Members in future that when they rise they rise on a point of order, and then state the point of order, please. Proceed.

His Excellency D.St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House by giving the House the impression, the plans, as he said, for the station and complex were to be completed by January, the same month of the elections. He was implying two things that it was deliberately set to be an election gimmick, or it was set to give the impression that somebody else had to build it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has minutes more.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Sir, if I had known that this matter would have been debated...

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, are you on the same point of order?

Hon. J. D.E. BOYCE: No, Sir. I am on a point of order to the Honourable Member. Sir, the Honourable Member has indicated that when he contacts the Leader of the House, who happens to be this Honourable Member, he hears from the Leader of the House that the whole Order Paper. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is not the leader of anything. He does not call me or has ever called me about any Order Paper. He does not have that authority. The only Honourable Member on that side who calls me about the Order Paper, or has ever called me, is the Honourable Member for St. Peter, who is not in his seat and the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, on the occasions that he feels so minded. I communicate with the Clerk of the House of Assembly on a regular basis. Even when he does not call me, I call him. This morning I called the Clerk. I said, "Clerk, you have not called. This is what we intend to do. Please convey the message to the Honourable Opposition." The Honourable Member does not have to call me. He is not the leader of anything.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: I do not plan to dwell on this particular issue. He has actually conceded what I was saying, because he said he called the Clerk this morning.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said I called the Clerk of the House of Assembly. That is the person I communicate with, and the Clerk communicates, normally, with the Leader when he sees fit. If there is to be a further discussion, I would be so

called. I do not have a number for the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. I do not know where he lives. I do not know his phone number at work. I do not know where he works, Sir, the truth be told. I see him appear in here occasionally. He regularly gets put out of the House, so I do not know what the Honourable Member is talking about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please, proceed.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is failing in trying to be a comedian on a serious matter. As I said, he has conceded to the point that I was making, because he is saying that he communicated with the Clerk of the House this morning, less than twenty-four hours, for the Clerk of Parliament to communicate with us.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is getting into things that he should not be in. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I called the Clerk because I had not heard from him. I said, "Mr. Clerk, what is the matter?" The Clerk then told me, since he is so malicious, since he wants to know everything that went on, I will tell him. The Clerk then told me, "John, I am not well and that is why you have not heard from me today." The Honourable Member does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please. The language was not parliamentary.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I will withdraw it. The point must be made, as I close my point of order, that the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is about mischief. It is none of his business what I discussed with the Clerk of the House of Assembly. The Clerk and I communicate on a regular basis on the work in this Honourable Chamber, and the Leader of the Opposition, when he is so minded. I repeat, the Honourable Member of St. Andrew is not the leader of anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, may you please proceed.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: I do not know what the Honourable Member means when he says that the Honourable Member is about mischief, and I would like those remarks struck from the records.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: On a point of order. It was not me who said the Honourable Member was registering members in St. James North and St. Philip, so that is mischief.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, withdraw that remark.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Sir, I withdraw the word mischief and say that the Honourable Member was registering unregistrable members in the Barbados Labour Party in St. James North.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Sir, when I was interrupted by the Honourable Member, I was making the point that had I known that this matter would have been debated, for I have all of the plans which were done in connection with the Civic Centre and the police station. That building was supposed to be started in January 2008. I can give the House the assurance that I have those plans in my possession and to please the Honourable Member, the Leader of House, who is also the Minister of Public Works, I will bring those plans to this House. I would urge the Honourable Attorney General to do two things, to make a tour - I do not know if he has done a tour of the St. Andrew Police Station, and the surroundings which were supposed to be done in the same manner as the Tamarind Hall Centre.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I am not talking about the Eric Holder Complex. I remember attending a meeting in St. Andrew several years ago, of where the Honourable Member spoke, and indicated that said Belleplaine Complex, he gave a starting date, one time, of February 2004, January 2006, September 2007 and then indicated another starting date of January 2008. So he needs to indicate to this House which start date he is talking about, the one when you were speaking to Mr. Arthur or the one when you are not speaking to him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member you have half a minute more.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: You have a difficulty with Tamarind Hall? I have a difficulty when you refer to the Ermie Bourne Highway as the East Coast Road, and all Honourable Members on that side have been referring to the Ermie Bourne Highway as East Coast Road. I have heard the Honourable Member, the Minister of Public Works, refer to the Ermie Bourne Highway at the East Coast Road.

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

The Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution. Sir, from January 1, to January 15, 2008, the Barbados Labour Party was in power so I want to know what date in January 2008, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew was going to start the Civic Centre in St. Andrew because we took the reigns of this Government on February 16, 2008 so he had 16 days in January to start his project but the truth to be told, a lot of things happened on the day of election, which probably were transferred to this person and the next person and every person in this country that is favourable to them received goodies on election day.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas talk about the building of a police station. I support her in respect of a police station in Cane Garden but I know there were 14 years of Barbados Labour Party Government in this country. The demographics of St. Thomas and Cane Garden area were increasing all along. It is the Barbados Labour Party who closed the Community Centre at the top of Rock Hall and converted part of it.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. It was under a Democratic Labour Party Government that the Community Centre at Rock Hall was turned into a magistrate's court and there is no community centre in the parish. I do not want any support from the Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would have to jump up when I speak because she has problems when I speak but I have no problem with her. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas was sent here to represent the people of St. Thomas and I was sent here to represent the people of St. Michael East and that I will do in this House of Assembly.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: I am saying, Sir, that the demographics of St. Thomas were changing within the 14 years of the Barbados Labour Party Government on a rapid basis, so much so that I heard out of the mouth of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that long before this Government came to power that the police station would be in St. Thomas.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: I want to know which form of Attorney General the Honourable Member was referring to, if it is the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East or the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. Sir, be that as it may, I am saying that let me go to the whole question of the Programme 242, the Administration of Justice, and 0249 and 210 which speak to the whole question of supplies for the magistrate court.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: Allow me to stay focussed. I have no eyes to see her or no ears to hear her.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: Sir, I believe that under the Barbados Labour Party persons were trained at the Barbados Community College to be recorders. I am saying that the time has come now that the magistrates should not be writing all the evidence in preliminary inquiries by hand. I believe that there should be recorders in the magistrate's court to assist them, then we would have a speedier dispensation of justice. I am also calling further for a time frame to be set, in the giving of judicial decisions. I am saying that no judicial decision should take three and four years to be handed down. Sir, the same say that the judges have persons to assist them in research, I believe the same thing should happen in the magistrate's court.

On the whole question of the Marshals, Sir, one understands the difficulties that are faced with the Marshal Department. It is grossly understaffed and in these economic times, one could understand, it is worthy of understanding but I am calling for a greater commitment from those persons who are there now to ensure that they assist in the dispensation of justice.

Sir, I heard the Honourable Member for St. Andrew and the Prime Minister refer to matters which took more than a year to get people served. I have a matter that I have been going to court now for two years and the magistrate and the marshals are finding it extremely difficult to serve the person. Such can happen. I am saying that we need to have substitute Marshals the same way as if a clerical officer goes on leave.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: I believe, Sir, the substitute Marshals would speed up the whole question that where a Marshal goes on vacation or on sick leave that the wheels of justice would not come to a halt but would continue and I believe that would be a step in the right direction. I also believe that when the economy picks up the Government would be in a position then to ensure that the wheels of justice are speeded up. Sir, more Marshals are definitely needed.

Sir, in respect of the police, I believe that all Honourable Members from the Barbados Labour Party when it comes to the police, should say nothing. Sir, it was the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter who said that the police are not special. The former Attorney General in this House last week made a remark that there is division in

the police force. Sir, from the highest court in the land which is Parliament he is making such statements. What kind of message is he sending to this society, when he speaks to the whole question of a division in the police force. I am saying, Sir, with the limited resources that the police force has, they are doing an excellent job.

Sir, the Barbados Labour Party installed computers in all the police vehicles that are not working and this is a waste of resources.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: Sir, if you check, nearly all of the cars have a computer screen that if you stop a particular vehicle, you can tap right into the whole system. The Barbados Labour Party installed them and for nearly five years, those systems are not working. I have asked the present Attorney General to look into that to ensure that such behaviour does not continue.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: Mr. Chairman, I have always had the greatest amount of respect in these Chambers and I have said that when I am in the Chair, I expect and the rules are clear that when someone is speaking there should be silence.

Asides.

His Hon. K. St.C. BEST: No. I am saying that I would not respond to the mouthing. I was told by an Honourable Member from the other side that when I hear the voice of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, have nothing to say to her because she has an agenda. If she has evidence that my minibus is not registered, let her go to the Royal Barbados Police Force. If she has evidence that somebody...

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order. I want to rescue the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, he is misleading the House. He is referring to an Honourable Member on this side who has not spoken on the matters that he is referring to and those comments should be withdrawn and he should desist from referring to matters which have not been referred to him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment Honourable Member. I would like to encourage Honourable Members to please allow those persons who are speaking to speak. I did not hear the distraction but I would try to ensure in future that we try not to interrupt Honourable Members during their speeches. The Honourable Member for St. Michael East, proceed please.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not hear the mouthings of the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew has taken off his braces now and his tongue can now come out of his mouth so he can speak in this Chamber. I will consider him to be a senior member in this House and I believe that he should show this Chamber the upmost respect but he so much believe in blood fighting... I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church South said that he is not the leader of anything, he is the leader of the Hitler gang.

Mr. G. W. PAYNE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I do not know if the Honourable Member is trying to fill in the 15 minutes because he could speak for five. I do not know what he means by blood fighting and the Hitler gang and I would ask that those remarks be struck from the record.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proceed. Let us go.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: I do not know why the Honourable Member for St. Andrew is so agitated. The Honourable Member for St. Andrew led the coup against the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. He is the leader of the coup. Sir, that is why they have difficulties... After what transpired in St. John they are now re-thinking whether it was right to behave like ... on that side.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael East were ordered expunged from the record by Mr. Chairman.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: Sir, on the whole question of the support for greenhouses for the Prison, I believe that this is a step in the right direction. Sir, we know that when the Prison was in Station Hill there was a vast amount of acres of land that was provided for farming. I am not so certain that we have the same amount of land in St. Philip so this whole question of green housing would be beneficial not only to the prison population but I believe to Barbados on a whole because it would cut down on our food import bill because I believe that if the Prison can grow their own vegetables and everything, it means then that the cost of supplies to the Prison would be greatly reduced. Sir, I really do not understand why all...

Asides.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: I wonder what really got into the Honourable Member for St. Andrew today.

Asides.

His Honour K. St.C. BEST: Sir, I want at this stage to support this Resolution. I thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, just a moment, please. As I understand it, when an Honourable Member rises, he speaks to the Chair and he addresses the Chair and to that extent he speaks to me. I also understand that when an Honourable Member rises he should be able to speak without being unnecessarily interrupted. What I will advise as of now is that I will ask Honourable Members to please desist from shouting across the Chamber at each other during an Honourable Member's address. As I said just now, when Honourable Members rise, they have to indicate what they are rising on if it is a point of order, so please let us observe the rules so that we avoid incidences like what we had earlier.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You see that is just what I was referring to. I heard you and I am telling you now that when I hear you I will indicate to you that I heard and I expect the rules to be abided to. The Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to make a short intervention in this matter before this Chamber. I listened to the contribution made by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East who made some comments relative to the administration of justice in this country. Of course, he has some true concerns in relation to what happens in relation to suspects at police stations, in fact, in terms of the interrogation of suspects while in custody.

Mr. Chairman, there is a provision in the Evidence Act that speaks to the video recording of statements or interviews while suspects are in custody. I recall, Sir, at the ending of the life of this Parliament that was debated in this Chamber... I was also made to understand too that the Police Station at Glebe was outfitted to ensure that we can actually do the video recording of interviews with suspects while in custody. Sir, that is something that we welcome because the state of affairs is that if an accused is before the High Court facing a jury and the only evidence is a statement, the only way that can be challenged is if defence counsel ask for a voir dire so basically it is the word of the suspect against the word of the police officer.

Sir, it is not like in other jurisdictions. In fact, Britain has (PACE), the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and within that Act they have provisions for video recordings of interrogation of suspects and that video recording is admissible in a court of law. I believe that if we can make the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East comfortable, or in fact other members of the society more comfortable, that we can move with haste to ensure that the equipment at the Glebe Police Station is put to work. Mr. Chairman, I visited the Glebe Police Station and I can say that, in fact, police officers have gone to training overseas

to deal with matter of this sort, in terms of how to go about video recording or interrogation of suspects in custody. In fact, it gives the suspect an option to opt for either a video recording or the normal traditional way of giving a statement to the police and be signed by that witness.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that given what was said earlier this week in relation to witnesses, a learned trial judge said that we need to go back to the Evidence Act, subject to correction, compelling witnesses to give evidence in that instance. Sir, what happens particularly in that clause is that witnesses change their evidence from the Magistrate's Court and give a total different story of what happens when they get to give evidence in the High Court. Sir, in fact, one even lied and said that the magistrate is telling lies on him. Of course, it is opened to the Director of Public Prosecution to charge that person for perjury or for obstruction of justice. Sir, I am saying that if we are serious about showing transparency we must move with haste to have that provision. The fact that the equipment at the Glebe Police Station is just sitting there and not being put to work and they have spent sums of money in sending police officers overseas on training.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this particular sections speaks to suspects. I believe we can then move a further amendment to move it to persons who are not suspects but are witnesses of alleged incidents or alleged crimes, so that we would now get over that hurdle of witnesses coming to the High Court and changing their stories. Sir, another option of doing it too is that if you abolish preliminary inquiries they would have to come before jury for the first time to give evidence, the jury will then be able to judge there and then in terms of the credibility of witnesses.

Mr. Chairman, I have also mentioned on a number of occasions in this Honourable Chamber that I would like to see the day comes when we appoint what we call a duty lawyer, which is similar to what exists under the Criminal Evidence Act of England. The police in England has a duty lawyer so that suspects in custody, who cannot afford to pay an attorney for consultation, the State will provide that duty lawyer so that person can be fully protected or that he can be informed of this constitutional rights while in custody because though a suspect, that person is still innocent until proven guilty.

Mr. Chairman, further, in relation to officers who form part of the administration of justice, the time is here that we must now seek to improve the terms and conditions of the magistrates. I say that because all of the cases that go to Assizes is as a result of the hard work of magistrates, who have to sit and take evidence by hand. Sometimes they take between 10 and 15 witnesses during one day's work. Sometimes they have to take abuse by witnesses, in turn they have to read back the evidence taken from the witnesses. If a witness who gives evidence amounting to

ten pages of handwritten evidence, that magistrate is duty bound under the law to read back every page and then that witness has to sign that statement in front of the magistrate, so that it can go to the Assizes.

Mr. Chairman, it is as a result of the hard work of the magistrates that a lot of these cases reach the High Court in time. Sir, I know that the Magistrate at the Boarded Hall Court sends up between four or five murder cases during one Assize, because of his hard work. He starts from 9.00 a.m. through to 5.00 p.m. taking evidence by hand. I believe that time is now near that we can bring some measures to improve the conditions of work of magistrates.

Mr. Chairman, I have another concern, Sir, I have seen many matters of appeal. Sir, most of these matters in relation to point of law, time and time again you would recognise the same misdirection. Sir, I am not here to cast aspersions on the Judiciary, I believe that our system is fair and that is an excellent one that respects the rights of the State and the right of the suspect. Sir, my view is that too often I am seeing certain misdirections. I have seen misdirection on alibi on cases, misdirections in relation to matters under the Sexual Offences Act that are basic. Sir, what happens is that after that person is found guilty and is sentenced to either 13 or 14 years on the face of that evidence, on appeal that person is then set free due to the issue of a misdirection. Sir, my submission is that we have to look at issues of reform.

Mr. Chairman, the offence of murder is a capital charge but I have seen murder accused now representing themselves in the High Court. Sir, I wish to say that given the consequence of the charge, there is no way that a person on a capital charge should be representing themselves in court. It is wrong. Sir, I know it is a scheduled offence under the Community Legal Act and that a person has a right to state to the court whether or not he wants to legal representation but I am saying that in a capital charge such as murder, no person should go before the court being unrepresented by legal counsel. In fact, that person should not even be given the option to say that he does not want a lawyer, I believe that he should have legal representation before a court of law.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that we might come to a stage where we might have to look at the issue of protection of witnesses. Sir, one never knows what can happen in relation to matters coming before the court, one never knows whether a witness is threatened continuously, whether a witness is being offered a gift to change his testimony. I believe that the State should offer protection to witnesses because of the fact that it is happening too often where witnesses come before the courts and change their testimonies from what was given in the preliminary inquiry. I believe we might even have to reach a stage where the jury is sequestered.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged.

Mr. CHAIRMAN VACATED THE CHAIR. Mr. CHAIRMAN (AG.) ASSUMED THE CHAIR.

Mr. H. F. LASHLEY: This House will continue in Committee of Supply. The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for the City.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Supplementary money Resolution and to say that I note that under the modernisation of the administration of justice and penal system, the Inter-American Bank Funded Justice Improvement Project that some \$265 860 is being provided in this Supplementary to support six civil society organisations and, as you have said, Mr. Chairman, including the Pinelands Creative Workshop. I agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that such civil society, non-governmental organisations have done tremendous work in working class districts such as the City of Bridgetown.

I remember giving the feature address as Member of Parliament for the City at a Pinelands Creative Workshop funded and organised skills training programme at the St. Ambrose Anglican Church Community Centre in the Ribbets Land area, where many residents of that area, young women, who may have left school prematurely, were able to actually gain passes in CXC General Proficiency English Language and acquire skills in airbrushing textiles including tie-dye and batik craft and such. In fact, welfare recipients under the Welfare To Work Programme were able to be funded by the Welfare Department to take part in a number of these courses. I know they have got help from UNESCO and other agencies but sometimes those funding opportunities are limited and I know that additional funds such as these being provided would go a long way.

Mr. Chairman, these exercises empower residents in working class area to be given a handup rather than simply a handout, so that they can play a meaningful role in national development, staying away from negative behaviour in terms of drug abuse and criminal activity, and I totally support these ventures.

Mr. Chairman, I would take this opportunity since we are dealing with the criminal justice system and the work of the Royal Barbados Police Force to laud those hardworking members of the Royal Barbados Police Force who have manned and operated the New Orleans Community Post of the Royal Barbados Police Force at 8th Avenue, New Orleans. Sir, people like Sargeant Williams, that we now hear on the traffic programme, has worked tirelessly over the years at that post. He is a former teacher

and he has actually played basketball with the youth in New Orleans area, in Pickwick Gap and so on, at the hard courts at the Westbury School Complex. Sir, I remember when the head of the Bridgetown Division of the Royal Barbados Police Force met with myself and other community leaders and residents, they were all asking for Sargeant Williams to remain but he had to go on to do other national duties but the void has been filled with other such as the current head of the post, Sargeant Sisnett, who has continued this work with his team of constable, and I congratulate their work.

Sir, over the years, they have engaged in activities such as annual children's parties at Miss Wiltshire's guesthouse at Pickwick Gap, kite flying competitions, reading exercises for the children, engaging the young people in meaningful activities, having oversight over the annual New Orleans out of season football tournament which has been led for over three decades by the hardworking Ali Rochester, and the late Prime Minister, as you know, would have assisted your humble servant in funding the first prizes of these competitions in recent years, and he actually came at the Westbury School pasture which would have attracted over six thousand patrons from throughout Barbados Sir, the Royal Barbados Police Force would have assisted, through the community post, in ensuring that law and order is maintained.

Sir, these are wholesome activities, and as you know, Mr. Chairman, young and old come out and actually provide legitimate sources of income for the vendors who would line the perimeter of this field selling fishcakes, drinks and other refreshments to these patrons. These sorts of community activities are, in fact, encouraged by the Inter-American Development Bank. In fact, just in March last year, the Inter-American Development Bank funded a gathering of mayors from cities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in Colombia where they focused on the use of sport and other community activities in inner city communities throughout the region to steer people away from deviant behaviour. In fact, in my capacity as Member of Parliament for the City, I have been invited to a followup meeting later in March this year in Canada as a side meeting to the annual major event of the leaders of the Inter-American Development Bank. Sir, this is the work that I think is clearly internationally recognised is very important in terms of empowering vulnerable groups and individuals to lift themselves up by their proverbial boot strap, as it were, to ensure that they can play a very important role in national development.

I also note the involvement of the Constituency Council, which the ill-advised Opposition to this date does not support. In fact, Sargeant Sisnett has volunteered and plays an integral part in the St. George South Constituency Council, and I know that the City of Barbados Constituency Council, ably held by Monsignor

Harcourt Vincent Blackett of the Roman Catholic Church, also has attracted Major Walcott from the Salvation Army, retired policemen, retired Presidents of the National Union of Public Workers, retired civil servants, young people, community leaders, who are working assiduously together to empower the community sponsoring football teams and providing assistance to residents in simply ways but very tangible and much appreciated ways.

Mr. Chairman, last year, I was able to co-sponsor the first prize of the same New Orleans Out Of Season football Tournament with the assistance of the City of Bridgetown Constituency Council to keep that tournament alive because, often times, it is difficult to attract major sponsorship from members of the business community. In fact, Mr. Chairman, I know that the YWCA has been able to implement a breakfast feeding programme in the Ribbetts Land, Nelson Street area at the St. Ambrose Community Centre and this has been with the collaboration of the churches in the area such as the Roman Catholic Church, the St. Ambrose Anglican Church, the New Testament Church of God and others, and this is to be lauded.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the St. Mary's Church has been engaged in a reading programme assisted by former principals of secondary schools, again empowering the young children, the future leaders of our country to engage in positive mind building and esteem building exercises. Sir, I remember as a youth leader in the 80s being funded by the US Government to visit, as part of a three-member Barbadian team and a regional delegation drug rehabilitation and counseling programme such as Teen Challenge and other programme throughout North America. I remember at the University of California Irvine Campus on that exercise meeting Officer Bolse from the Los Angeles Police Department where he talked about the DARE Programme which has been transposed to Barbados and the same Sargeant Williams and others have been able to go into the primary schools in the City and other districts such as St. Mary's School and Westbury Primary School teaching the children about positive lifestyles, to say no to drugs and so and so forth, and ensuring that persons can really build the community spirit. I take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central, the Honourable Minister of Community Development. He took my invitation to tour the Emmerton Community Centre which had been neglected by the last administration and he assured me that funding will be provided in the very near future to do the necessary repairs so that the well-established club Emmerton Club, which has been able to sponsor and conduct over the years a very well disciplined and organised

tape-ball cricket tournament attracting West Indies cricket players and even university lecturers and so, and

they were unable to continue because they could not get a Liquor Licence because of the state of disrepair of that centre. I can assure them that this Government will ...

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

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We can assure these good people of Emmerton, in the City of Bridgetown, that their community centre will be repaired.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, please take your seat.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please proceed.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Sir, I was saying that this administration can assure the good people of the City, particularly the Emmerton area as well as those in Murphy Pasture and the general environment, including New Orleans and Kensington New Road, that community centre, Emmerton, will be rehabilitated so that the good work of that Emmerton Club, with regard to running the Tape Ball Cricket Tournament can continue full steam ahead.

Mr. Chairman, I will just take this opportunity to say that I have already spoken to the Minister of Culture and Minister of Sports, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, and the Chairman of the National Sports Council about my vision for improving the infrastructure in terms of sport and community facilities within Bridgetown. I can identify, for example, the small pavilion, at Westbury School pasture, which services both the school, Westbury Primary and the community, in the football and other tournaments held there. I envisage that just as we did at the Gall Hill, St. John Pavilion, where we were able to go in one flight, with one storey, because at Westbury School there is no land to expand outwards, I envisage that we can rehabilitate that centre into a collaborative effort. Even the Urban Development Commission has funds available annually for community projects. I have spoken to the Director to identify such activity where we can collaborate in an inter-ministerial manner, to ensure that the physical plan of the community and sporting facilities within these constituencies are properly modernised so that we can provide the environment where these young people, and indeed others in the community can engage in wholesome recreational activities, dominoes, draughts, ballroom dancing or be it classes. For example, the St. Ambrose Church community has been able to engage the young people in its

congregation by providing free classes on evenings for the little children of the area. This must be lauded. The Barbados Community College students and university students are giving back something to the young ones, the future generation of our society.

Mr. Chairman, this Member of Parliament has a vision to uplift and embrace all and sundry within the City of Bridgetown, and I invite wider Barbados to give everyone a chance. We are all Barbadians and the Honourable Members do not support the stereotyping and the profiling of people because of where they live, because they are in a working-class district, they are the scum of the earth. I know differently because I live in this community and I know there are several outstanding, hundreds and thousands of outstanding brothers of the City of Bridgetown, who are just asking for an equal opportunity to access the opportunities of jobs and other ways of improving their standard of living.

Sir, in closing I can just identify a few of the outstanding citizens of the City who have emerged over the years, the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers, born and bred in Bay Land in the heart of the City, a National Hero. Sir Everton Weekes, Dr. Michael Howard, at the University of the West Indies, two leading dentists, Dr. Etwin Blackette, from up town, and Dr. Sally-Ann Nurse, we went to school together at Harrison College, from the New Orleans; Jackie Opel, the person who invented indigenous Barbados 'Spouge' music, is from Green Park Lane, in the heart of Baxters Road; Mitch Springer and Mr. Grant, from the Opels. In fact Richard Stoute started to sing at the New Orleans public bath, in the New Orleans, which currently houses the Police Post. Sir, I said that only to name a few.

Sir, I laud the good people of the City of Bridgetown and pledge to continue to represent them with the fullest of my ability.

I thank you.

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

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I know the Minister of Agriculture is anxious to get on with his Head. I will just take five minutes, with your leave, just to touch on two points.

Sir, I believe that it is CNN or one of those news broadcast during the American elections which should had what they called 'the truth parameter' so that when politicians made statements they then, in fact, came back and made a determination as to the truthfulness of such statements. It would be instructive if we had a truth parameter in Barbados. It would be very helpful to

illustrate the partial presentations that come from the Honourable Members on the other side.

Sir, just last week, for example, the issue of the Foreclosure Legislation came up, and I said to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, who was adamant that he was going to bring legal action against the Registrar. I said to him that he had my assurance that we should have this piece of legislation before us by the end of this month. As he knows, we were receiving feedback both from the Bar and from, as the Prime Minister said, a Committee headed by Justice Chandler who also was giving us some feedback on the legislation. There were a couple of issues as the Prime Minister has said. The initial draft seemed more focused on fraud than it was on the speediness of the Resolution and of the whole process. We believe that what we would be bringing to this Honourable Chamber will be in the best interest of all Barbadians.

In that regard, I give my assurance to you and to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew, so that he can have adequate notice to prepare and to walk with whatever drawings and notes that he has at home, and, the fact, we will be having discussion on that piece of legislation before the end of the month.

Sir, the other comment I want to make is, with all due respect to my colleague my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, I am not comfortable with any suggestion that there is an inequitable administration of justice in Barbados. In fact, I do not believe that one should gauge the administration of justice in Barbados by reading Pages 4 and 5 of the Nation Newspaper, or whatever newspapers that one reads. In fact, unless one is cognizant of all the facts in any particular case, and, indeed, the facts will also include the antecedents of the accused and the particular crime itself, and what would have guided the learned magistrate or judge to make the decision. I am sure that does not come out in Pages 4 and 5 of the newspapers when one reads what transpired in a whole week, within a few paragraphs.

Sir, I remain satisfied, on the whole, that with respect to the administration of justice in Barbados, one still receives a fair trial before the courts of this country, and I do not expect given how we behave as Barbadians, that would change in the foreseeable future.

Sir, with respect to the terms and conditions of police officers, I am heartened that the other side is cognizant that we need to look at the terms and conditions of police officers. On this side we certainly have made it an issue and we have said that within the realities of our present economic space and the great possibility that we would ensure that police officers are recognised and treated in a way that we would like to treat them. We certainly

believe they are special. We do not to have a policy in writing.

I have said on more than one occasion, and the Honourable Member for St. Philip North will tell you, that I have said with respect to housing, and where possible we can allocate housing to young police officers so that they understand that we appreciate how hard they work and the trying circumstances in which they work.

I have a policy where possible, and I am sure that if you go into Marchfield, Work Hall and other communities where we have allocated houses since we have come to office, you will see that police officers have received a fair share because we want them, and as Attorney General I have said, on more than one occasion and I will continue to say that I will represent their interest in whatever way possible so that they know I believe they are truly special. Sir, as the Minister of Housing said, there will not be a development in Barbados by this administration where police officers are not taken into consideration.

Sir, in closing, with those few remarks, I beg to move that Head 30 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 69

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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

Dr. the Hon. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Head 69, where we are asking for a Supplementary to the tune of \$1 961 150 for the Ministry of Agriculture to supplement expenditure to the end of the financial year 2010-2011. This money is required for funding a number of different areas as identified, \$18 000 for utilities, in relation to monies to cover utility expenses and salaries to the remainder of the financial year for the Barbados Agriculture Development and Marketing Corporation.

In addition, funds to cover services for the Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency that I will speak to a little later and also, funds of \$101 000 for the National Agriculture Health and Food Control Programme and this is to cover salaries in respect of the various posts that were created for the Project Unit and the other monies in relation to National Insurance Contributions for the Project Unit, other sums covering \$32 400 for the rental of property, structures, also, Sir, for crop production

development areas, and also for utilities for general support.

Sir, I would want to take a few minutes and concentrate largely on the provisions in relation to the National Agriculture Health and Food Control System of this country.

Mr. Chairman, for too long Barbados' competitiveness in relation to agricultural exports in the international community, as well as fisheries products were undermined largely by not having established, Sir, a competent authority structure that would effectively monitor all agricultural produce in the country, processors, transporters, vendors as well as consumers, in one organised agency so that one can effectively monitor food production within the context of international sanitary and phyto sanitary standards.

Sir, reason for Barbados engaging the Inter-American Development Bank in relation to this particular agency development was because our systems over the years had been proven to be very fragmented and therefore inefficient. We have had to deal with out-of-date legislation and regulations. We have had multiple jurisdictions covering the administration of management issues. We have had problems with weak surveillance systems as well as monitoring and enforcement in regards to the regulations.

Sir, as a result of this, in order for this administration to transform the agricultural sector, in relation to its products to meet international standards that would have been set by the WTO, granted that Barbados is a signatory to the WTO and in relation to the World Organisation on Animal Health, Sir, the International Plant Production Convention as well as the Codex Alimentary System, all of these being international standards setting institutions, it then became apparent that we had some work to do.

As a result of that, Mr. Chairman, in March 2008, this administration engaged, FAIDI, the Food Agricultural International Development Institution to undertake, Sir, an evaluation critically, with regards to looking at our National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System, so as to discern the weaknesses that were outlined in such a way that one can go about amending the various elements of legislation and regulation and looking at the institutional weaknesses that now obtain so that we can create a more comprehensive and cohesive framework in regard to sanitary and phyto sanitary measures under international standardisation.

As a result of that, Mr. Chairman, the monies that we are allocating will go a long way in assisting us with respect of elements of our project execution.

I think it is important, Sir, for me to explain to Barbadians that it is precisely this constraint and moving to the development of this new National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System, that what we would do, Sir, is remove the technical barriers to our own exportation. We would also enhance all of the dynamics in relation to food safety in Barbados and in relation to food production.

This would be done, Mr. Chairman, in a way that is preventive, as opposed to at the back end, as it now stands, where we are not heavy into those elements of preventive measures but what happens is that we have structures in place to condemn, to remove and to discard. What this new system would allow one to do, is to put in place all of the preventive sanitary and phyto sanitary measures so that you can affect therefore measures to ensure that the food is safe at production, at the point of processing, the point of transportation and at the point of vending. Mr. Chairman, that would be a critical way forward, in relation to Barbados.

What would be important as well, Sir, once we have had this establishment in place and I am hoping to have this project launched within the next month or so would be that now our exporters of poultry, our exporters who want to export pork, lamb, beef or any other plant or animal-related item would not have the opportunity, once we have this agency in place, so that we would now be in a position to satisfy the International Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures.

When the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Empowerment with its responsibility for export function through the IDC, it was difficult for us, Sir, to be able to speak about exporting animal products, if the institutional matrix within Barbados in terms of monitoring production surveillance and to be able to deal with the institutional requirements, Sir, for producing your products at the internationally accepted sanitary and phytosanitary measures, then you would see, Sir, without having such an institution, we would not be able to export into the wider world. Sir, that therefore will undermine our capacity to grow the agricultural sectors particularly in areas of animal production and animal products and processes. Sir, it is for this reason that we are spending so much time trying to ensure that we have the new agricultural health and food safety agency up and running.

Mr. Chairman, this institution, in its evaluation, is being put together in two components. Component one, under the InterAmerican Development Bank rules, looks at the legal, regulatory and institutional framework. This work essentially is ongoing but largely completed in relation to the human, technical and infrastructural work that is to be analysed so as to bring our national agricultural health and control system up to international standards.

Sir, all the conditions precedent in relation to the first disbursements of the loan has already been agreed to. The InterAmerican Development Bank has certified that so that we are able to have our first draw down. Sir, that would mean that the Steering Committee and the Project Unit are in place. We also have all the technical work being done in relation to the location of the infrastructural work which has to do with the new laboratory structure to ensure that we can carry out the start of testing to allow our exports to be at international standards.

Sir, this is not only for export, it would mean that the import side can also be tested at the international level. Sir, that work is being done and I am being assured that it is only a matter of having the evaluations in regard to the Town and Country Planning Department to have the finalisation of that particular work. I can also report that the Strategic Plan is completed as well as the business plan structures for the operation of the institution.

Mr. Chairman, I feel quite comfortable in standing here today because what is of importance to us is that the national agricultural health and food safety system is essentially a farm to table approach in which we want Government, our producers, our processors, our importers, our transporters, our vendors and our consumers to all play a role in ensuring that animal health, plant health and food safety and quality becomes an integral component to the economic development of Barbados. Mr. Chairman, I think that this agency and the way the Ministry and its developmental partners, the InterAmerican Development Bank, are going about this, would allow us to achieve that particular objective of that particular institution. Mr. Chairman, on conclusion, I would just want to raise one quick issue here. It relates to the fact that when we speak of enhancing agricultural production in Barbados, there are three elements to the production which relate to domestic consumption in relation to primary, secondary and tertiary products from domestic agricultural produces, that being crop and non-crop.

Sir, it also speaks to our export potential. What has happened is that our export potential was indeed significantly constrained because of the incapacity that would have been identified earlier, that is, not having a singular competent authority to act in concordance with the international standards set by the Codex Alimentarius system as well as the World Organisation on Animal Health and the International Plant Protection Corporation. This would now put us in a position where we would now meet those requirements and it would therefore give an opportunity for chicken producers like Chickmont and Star Chick and other producers of large amounts of pork and so no now to export.

Sir, I am asking that the relationship now between the agricultural side and that of the BIDC be now

integrated at the level of the management structures because once you have the legislative and the regulative framework creating the institutional mechanisms for enhancing exports, but the export function is being done within another entity within the Ministry, which is the BIDC, it means now that the export department of the BIDC must now become critically involved in the export thrust in relation to agricultural product and agricultural processed products in the future. Mr. Chairman, you could rest assure that it is my task to make sure that I have the management infrastructure in place to have that integrated approach being done. Sir, the necessary personnel are already on the way looking at this situation.

Mr. Chairman, because we are signatory to the World Trade Organisation agreements and on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and given the fact that we have had a national agricultural health and food safety system and policy that was not effective and efficient in allowing Barbados' produces to be exported in the international arena, it therefore became necessary for such a new structure to be put in place. Sir, as a result of that, I am confident that with the launching of this programme in the next couple weeks that this would go a very long way in helping the agricultural sector in this country in relation to non-crop production and those products to be exported in the international arena.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move therefore that Head 69 stand part.

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

The question that Head 69 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

On the separate motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. P. M. T. TODD, the Resolution was read a first, second and third time and passed.

ORDER No. 12

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2011

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks in this Honourable Chamber, we have had various discussions about Barbados' obligation as a member of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and certain commitments made by us pursuant to a review

which was conducted in 2006, I believe. I may have that wrong but it is a most recent review. Sir, this amendment to the Companies Act, 2011, is part of the result of that review.

Mr. Speaker, what we are seeking here to do post September 9/11, the issue of terrorist financing came to the forefront of international attention. In the Caribbean you will hear many practitioners say that there are no terrorist activities in the Caribbean and that in fact we need not focus so much on terrorist financing as we should on money laundering. Sir, the reality is that even if there is no terrorist activities per se taking place in the Caribbean and even if we do not see ourselves as a conduit for terrorist financing, from an international perspective, if we were to be used as a conduit as a terrorist financing, if we were to be used as a medium for terrorist activities take place, the potential fallout could be grave to our economy, not only from a Barbados perspective but from a Caribbean perspective. Sir, I have said on a number of occasions that we have to approach our responsibilities not only from a Barbados perspective, as it is not enough for Barbados to say that we have everything in place and therefore we need not bother about our neighbour. What this Bill seeks to do is to address certain loopholes that have been identified in our legislation and in particular the whole issue of charities and non-profit organisations being used as conduits for terrorists financing. Again, the experience out of September 2000 showed that lots of terrorist financing activities were in fact being conducted through non-profit organisations or through so-called charitable organisations and therefore the world's attention was brought to bear on charities and on non-profit organisations to ensure that there is accountability. That is exactly what the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2010, is doing here. Sir, with respect to non-profit companies, this Bill is ensuring that there is always someone accountable for the activities of the company, so that it requires the directors to maintain certain information; it gives the directors a duty to ensure that if there is a change to the composition of management, that, in fact, this change is notified to the Registrar of Companies within a specific time. Sir, Clause 316(3) states as follows:

“Where there is a change in the composition of the directors of a non-profit company, the company must, within 15 days of the date of the change, file with the Registrar a notice that contains particulars of the change.”

Mr. Chairman, as I said we are trying to ensure that at all times we can point to someone who is accountable for the activities of non-profit companies. The Bill also sets out the fact that the Attorney-General can inquire and demand to see the records of any non-profit company, if there is cause. Mr. Speaker, that is set out at Clause 323A(1).

Mr. Speaker, as I said, we have identified a weakness in our legislative regime and this amendment to the Company Act seeks to address that weakness. Sir, one of the recommendations was that we establish a register of beneficial owners and we looked at that. It was canvassed by the private sector and the public sector for several months. Eventually, with great reluctance, we have agreed that at this point in time we will not establish a requirement for there to be a register beneficial owners at incorporation of all entities in Barbados but let me say publicly that the argument that was posited by some members of the public sector was that they had no confidence in the ability of the Registrar of Companies to maintain a private register within the Registry. Sir, we on this side do not accept that argument, we believe that Barbados is such a jurisdiction that if the Registrar of Companies give an undertaking that she has the capacity to maintain a confidential register, that we can deliver. We however have given in, not to that argument but to the argument that the users of these services, particularly outside of Barbados, that we have many nervous users who come from jurisdictions that published information is so easily that we are bit concern that we needed to find some mechanism to appease those users. Sir, let me also hasten to add that many Barbadians who have normal domestic companies they have approached me and asked if we want to do that, not just international business companies but many ordinary Barbadians who have ABC companies, who are a bit concerned why should they have to file information with the Registrar in terms of the fact that they are the beneficial owners of particular private companies.

Mr. Chairman, the rationale for having this requirement was the fact that the Financial Intelligence Unit was saying that there were occasions when they have had an inquiry and they were unable to determine the beneficial owner of that company. I believe that with the passage of the International Corporate Services Providers Bill, 2010, a few days ago, with respect of companies conducting international business where we were most concerned about, in fact, that argument can now disappear because the service providers in Barbados, if there is an inquiry, will be in a position to provide information in terms of who are the directors and shareholders of companies but also who are the beneficial owners.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the normal domestic Barbados company I believe that at some point in time in the very near future we are going to have to come back to it. I am of the view that we may have to move in the direction of requiring all companies in Barbados to have a service provider and that service provider will have certain information. But we will canvass that a bit more and determine how we would approach it as a jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I raised that because I know it will be raised at some point in time but in closing the whole

genesis of this amendment was so that we can satisfy that omission that was pointed out to us in terms of our legislative regime with respect to non-profit companies. Sir, I believe that amendment satisfies most of the requirements that followed our review.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, there is one further piece of legislation that we will bring within the very near future, and then that should put an end to our obligations pursuant to that review.

Mr. Speaker, with those words, I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

Hon. D. O. INNISS: I beg to second that, Sir.

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

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I shall not be very long on this matter but suffice it to say, I think that in principle the amendments which have been brought here are desirable. We have not had the tightest regime in relation to accountability of non profit companies nor, indeed, non-governmental organisations and at one stage, the Attorney-General may want to ask a question in the Chamber. There was a draft that we were looking at to be able to bring about accountability also for non-governmental organisations because we hold ourselves to very high standards.

Sir, here in Parliament, we are elected from the people but many of the other organisations that purport to represent interest groups are not necessarily held to the same standards in relation to transparency and accountability and it was felt, and it is, certainly, something that I would want to support, a legislative framework that protects the public because the rise in the growth of the NGO movement and non-profit organisations means that the public interest can equally be harmed not just by a State player, the Government but equally by large or medium-size non-governmental organisations. Sir, in that context, therefore, it is desirous that there be that level of transparency and accountability not only as it relates to the corporate records but, indeed, generally because they purport to be representative of interest groups within the society.

Sir, may I say that I fully appreciate the lacuna here. The truth is that much of the activities that led to financing for not just terrorism but illegal activity in other parts of the world have been funneled through non-profit organisations and to that extent for the State and its agencies are not to be able to understand clearly what is happening behind the name of the organisation will be, in fact, to handicap the Government in being able to meet its obligation under numerous international conventions and, indeed,

resolutions particularly in a post-911 world where, whether we like it or not, there was a determination to a one-size fits all prescription.

Now I say this against the background that I believe that there are still areas that we, as small jurisdictions, have to fight because a one-size fits all prescription may well lead to the economic shut down of ASII sectors within our economy. I have maintained for years that the real risk, for example, in money laundering does not come from these small jurisdictions but, in fact, comes from the major jurisdictions of London and New York and the big scandals of the world have taken place in those jurisdictions. I am particularly concerned that we, as small jurisdictions, stay together in that fight because there is an old Bajan saying, 'One one blow kills old cow'. If you attempt to fight some of these battles on your own, you will not be successful. The real rule that I think ought to guide all of us, not just in Barbados but across the world in terms of regulation, is regulation appropriate to risk which is being encountered. If we ask ourselves that question then, very often, we would determine whether what we are investing in terms of time, money and human resources is worthy compared to the risk that we are exposed to.

Mr. Speaker, I do, however, note and use this opportunity to address the matter which I believe is topical and that is, the whole question of the peer-to-peer review on the Barbados framework by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It is not exactly on par with what took place in 2000 because in 2000, it was an issue then of this Parliament submitting to the will of the OECD in relation to the power to tax, and the issue of ring-fencing between the international business sector and the domestic sector and, Sir, on this occasion the issue is not as lofty and may not have the same nationalistic goals or sentiments attached to it as it did on that occasion.

Mr. Speaker, as I understand it on this occasion, it relates to exchange of information and, in truth and in fact, in the more recent treaties that the Government of Barbados has signed, we have not carved out the international business sector from our double taxation agreements as we did previously and, therefore, the protocol to the treaty between United States of America and the Government of Barbados, unlike the original treaty, in fact, brings the international business sector under the purview of the double taxation agreements.

Mr. Speaker, the old treaties, like the United Kingdom and the one with Canada still have the carveout for the international business sector and I believe that attempts are now being made to have both those treaties amended. I am told that with the Canadian one, we are well on the way if not ready to sign; with the United Kingdom one, I am told that a delegation is to come in May and I trust and hope that we can deal with that urgently.

Sir, part of the problem that we do have with some of the other newer treaties is that the pace of ratification in some jurisdictions namely, Spain, Portugal and Ghana may not be the same as ours. We do not have a formal parliamentary ratification process in Barbados but some other jurisdictions do and, therefore, even though the work was completed, and has been completed for some time, the absence of ratification on the part of those countries has made it seemed as though Barbados has not been as compliant with exchange of information provisions as it might otherwise be. Sir, in those circumstances, therefore, I think that what is important - I note that the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party would commit publicly to assisting the Government in anyway. It is a position that I am supportive of but, really and truly, what needs to be done as a matter of urgency is a three-prong attack, one, a diplomatic approach, namely, Sir, for us to put together a high level diplomatic team to urge those countries with whom we have signed treaties to ratify those treaties as a matter of urgency. I am told that Panama might well have ratified as recent as last week but the Minister of International Business can update the House. Sir, that diplomatic team is critical in getting those persons with whom we have signed treaties to be able to ratify as a matter of urgency.

Secondly, we need a legislative/treaty negotiation approach to make sure that all of the old treaties not just United Kingdom and Canada are brought up to date in relation to the exchange of information provisions and equally in relation to removing the carveout of the international business sector. I want to suggest to Parliament that what lies at stake for Barbados in terms of negative publicity requires that we may well have to have three teams or four teams working at the same time or, certainly sequentially, in a dedicated manner such that 2011 does not pass without us putting behind all of the issues in relation to treaty negotiations and amendments that are necessary so that we can move to Phase 2 section of the peer-to-peer review which we cannot do as long as these issues are outstanding. The Attorney-General can speak to this. There might well be consequential domestic statutory amendments that are necessary as a result of that report that would allow us to be able to comply.

The third aspect of the three-prong approach is a strong public relations exercise. We may be moved to read the details of the OECD peer-to-peer review, we may be moved to discuss them in detail in here but a person who does not have that commitment to Barbados, that association with Barbados and who simply is making a decision as to where to locate their investments will simply hear that Barbados has been negatively referenced by the OECD and has been prohibited from moving to the Phase 2 of the Pay to Pay Review. It is critical that we communicate to the global investment community that whatever barriers that may appear to be there are minor,

there are under the direct purview of the Barbados Government, and that the issues ought not to stop persons from doing substantive business with Barbados, and, indeed, making decisions that may see their investments domiciled here because what appears to be a stumbling block is, in fact, only a temporary stumbling block, and that kind of aggressive public relations in the journals, newspapers and magazines, where those investors are likely to read it is absolutely critical.

Sir, if I may remind this Chamber, in Bermuda when they were negatively referenced, a couple years ago, they had to move with dispatch as well. Invariably, it is not going to be appropriate for us to move on one limb and leave out the other two, or to move on two limbs and leave out the third one. It has to be a coordinated three-prong approach, diplomatic, legislative, which include domestic legislation and treaty negotiation, and public relations.

Sir, I fear that unless we treat it with absolute urgency, what is now our second most important economic sector will continue not to perform at stellar levels this year. We have seen under performance in the last few years. Why is it important to the average Bajan? The average Bajan has been given the benefit of progressive tax reform as a result of this sector being able to provide two-thirds of the Corporation taxes to the Government of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat myself because we are talking about in excess of \$350 million in revenue that comes into the Government's coffers as taxation from the international business sector.

Sir, what is the biggest problem that the country faces now? Money, revenue, ability to pay its bills.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: In addition, foreign exchange is a parallel problem. The two biggest problems are the Government's fiscal position and foreign exchange position, but the fiscal position is more acute and we have seen Government's revenue decline for two straight years, and in circumstances where the Minister of Finance came to this House with a Budget to stabilise Government's revenue, it is all the more critical that we remove any potential for damage or diminution of Government's revenue as a result of unfortunate events in the international business sector.

Sir, as I said, the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party has spoken to this issue on the weekend. The truth is, we also as a Parliament have, in my view, to have a unified approach and the main message of the unified approach of this Parliament to the rest of the investment community internationally, will send the message that this is a matter under the control and purview of the Barbados Government, Government meaning all of its constituent

elements, and that it will avert any potential decline that comes from the simple headline Barbados negatively referenced, Barbados does not pass Phase 1 to Pay Review by OECD. That is what we are fighting up against. As politicians we know that if you get a bad name, you have hell to catch up with it.

Sir, one politician, in fact, in this Chamber, became famous for saying impressions count, the former Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, and what therefore the country is up against, is that a country that hitherto was passing all of the tests has now been negatively referenced, not because we have done anything wrong, but because in the post 2008 financial crisis, a different view has been taken of the critical importance of exchange of information provisions. Sir, because we have a matured sector, many of our treaties were formulated at a time when the need for exchange of information provisions was not critical and where it was acceptable to carve out the international business sector from your double taxation agreements. So time has overtaken us.

Sir, we have not done anything wrong, but we now have to move with dispatch and we have to move with one voice to say to the international community, give us six months, we are going to get it right to ensure that we do not have the kind of fallout that would negatively impact, not just those who feel that the international sector is some sexy sector for rich people, but the average Barbadian on whose backs they can be no further taxation to support the cost of Government, but who now has to depend on the revenue from the growth in this sector to be able to ease the taxation on their backs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make one other point before I sit. Sir, forgive me, the Honourable Attorney General made it clear there was an additional recommendation that he has not brought to this Chamber, today, that was previously in the Bill. I am a little concerned simply because what we are fighting with the international business sector in relation to the exchange of information provisions is about transparency, and the provision of information. I wonder what will be the consequences of the Government stepping back, retracing its steps, backing off of a Bill that required, up to last week, the provision of beneficial information on the ownership of companies period, being a requirement of the Companies Act of Barbados?

Sir, I say so because I happened to be aware that this has been one of the key provisions that the Financial Action Task Force and others have been asking of us as a Government. I must support it because I am one of two people in this Chamber who have declared all of their assets. Ultimately, disclosure of beneficial information is about the ownership of assets. I am not sure whether it is the newness of the Attorney General to the post and to this Chamber that might have led him to make those comments

that he made this afternoon, because his memory may seem to forget that this Government came to office on the basis of transparency and the disclosure of information. So for this Government to now take a position that removes from the Floor of Parliament a Bill that required the disclosure of the beneficial ownership of companies would not only to have failed to comply with their election promise, but would be to slap it down with an aggression that is akin to the cat-of-nine-tails.

Sir, the language may sound a little fanciful, but in all honesty, I say that you cannot be in church and in the chapel too. You cannot tell the country that you are interested in transparency, accountability and disclosure, bring a Bill to this Parliament that will impose an obligation on all domestic companies to have the beneficial ownership not provided to the public, and I take the point that it is not for John Doe to walk off the street and say I want to see who owns ABC. The Registrar of Corporate Affairs will maintain a private register that only under certain conditions is access granted, or under a court order. The Attorney General has confirmed his confidence in the capacity of the Registrar of Corporate Affairs to maintain that privacy. I like him agree, once we have the responsibility for that Department, but it does concern me the message that we are sending to the public and that this Government in particular is sending to the public, when its platform to election was based on transparency and accountability, when only two persons have disclosed that since in public life.

Sir, I want to say this. I think that the debate ought to be correctly broadened because people see corruption only in terms of politicians and public officials but you cannot have corruption unless somebody is prepared to give and somebody is prepared to take, and you now understand the difficulties that we had in getting the right balance in order to draft the Legislation, as Trinidad and Tobago is finding out now because you cannot get people coming forward willing to serve because of the scale of obligations for disclosure on persons for doing what is essentially a four-hour job a month or a five-hour job a month as a board chairman. Now it is not an easy issue and that is why I say that we in small states have to craft prescriptions that are sensitive to our reality and are not simply adopting one-size-fits-all prescriptions that make the process of governance and the process of development impossible for us a nation and our people.

It is not an easy issue, Mr. Speaker, and I readily concede it but I do not believe it is beyond our capacity as a people and as a Parliament to craft the appropriate Legislation that reflects the right balance towards requiring transparency and accountability, while not prohibiting the participation of the wider population in the process of Government.

However, if we are to take you at your word and your Manifesto promise, then you cannot at the same time be withdrawing from this Chamber, a Bill that requires the disclosure of the beneficial ownership of companies in Barbados and to say to us that you are carving out the international business sector again, is to run contrary to what we are doing with the OECD, where we accept that there is no justification to carve out but, to say to us that we can get the information on international business companies through the Legislation that was passed last week for international business corporate service providers but that Barbadians, as if we are immune from any possibility or allegation of corruption or improper behaviour or as if the Financial Intelligence Unit would never have to investigate a Barbadian company. Sir, that runs counter to the platform of the Democratic Labour Party upon being elected to the office of this country.

I would like to believe that this is more a case of newness and failure to think out the issue properly, than a case of smoke and mirrors. I give the Honourable Attorney General the benefit because thus far, he has tried to play the ball straight on most occasions. In the circumstances, I think in his wrap up, he may want to address for the benefit of the public how it is on both issues that on one hand we are increasing exchange of information and transparency and accountability for our international business sector so that does not become the pariah of the global investment community but at the same time, contrary to a Democratic Labour Party platform promise, we have removed from the Bill which is before the House today, a provision for the requirement of the disclosure of who owns - fancy interest - beneficial interest. All it means is that in the Corporate Affairs you can see AB. The Honourable Member for St. Philip south and the Honourable Member for St. James South may be down as directors of a company before coming into this Parliament. However, they may not be the owners because a person who is a director of a company is not necessarily the owner of a company.

Therefore, when people pick up Corporate Affairs documents and assume, "Oh, so and so is a director," Mr. Speaker, that does not mean they are the owners. All this provision does, is to say, "Look, there should be a private register of who really owns companies in Barbados." This is what this debate is about and if we have a private register of who really owns companies it is not there for people to go and malicious. It is not there for people to go and talk people's name. It is there to be able to meet the obligations of the State, whether through the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Commissioner of Police, the Inland Revenue or the law courts, whatever appropriate authority as required.

Sir, if you do not have that register of beneficial interest, if you cannot say who owns the companies, then Barbados will get the reputation of a place where people can hide behind companies and you would never know

who is who, what is what and you will never properly be able to fight the battle against corruption, nor will you ever be able to boast of being fully transparent and fully accountable.

Sir, as I say, I do not impute any malice. I think it is more a case of newness and in the same way the Government came here this week and changed it from last week, it may want to review its position for another reason, that our population requires on the consistency of the word of public officials.

Sir, if it is the case that the Democratic Labour Party is now moving away from the platform of transparency and accountability then they need to say so to the public. If it is the case that they are not doing so but that they feel they need a little more time to get this right, then they must say so and give a commitment of a time line by which they will bring back the provision and that is without prejudice to anything else.

As to my own position, I believe, as I said, I have already shown that I am prepared to lead the way by disclosing my own assets. I have nothing to hide. I do not believe that people who have nothing to hide will be concerned but in the same way that the Honourable Member for St. Philip South and the Honourable Member for St. James Central last week made much ado about why you need an International Corporate Services Bill for providing us in the International Business Sector to protect Barbados' reputation, to protect against that same type of abuse, to protect and to support issues of transparency and accountability and the integrity of a financial system, these same issues come up again. Sir, the week before, it was the amendment to the Money Laundering Authority so that this week's behaviour causes us to recognise that it cannot be a case of Government moving one week, number one, second week, number two, all of a sudden we went back to zero this week, when we should have been going to number three.

There is no consistency in the programme of the Government so the Attorney General, as I said, I do not impute malice genuinely but I think it is a case of newness and a case of responding - he said - to special needs. There was once an Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown in this Chamber, called Dame Billy Miller who used to say, "We do not ever respond to special pleadings."

Asides.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I never said that I was responding to special pleas. Sir, I have no special needs.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, maybe I will rephrase it. The language used by the Honourable Member was that there are a number of Barbadians who came to him and said that they would be horrified that they would now have to disclose who are the owners of companies. It is my judgment that is a response to a special pleading and I say it not in a malicious way, believe you me. The one piece of advice that Billy Miller gave me early on upon entry in public life is that when you examine or execute policy in relation to special pleadings, you always get yourself in trouble and I believe she is correct.

Sir, I think the issue here is not whether a few people feel uncomfortable because I can tell you that this Government would have and has passed Legislation that has made many of my constituents in Bush Hall feel uncomfortable, and many of the constituents in the Farm, Silver Hill, Gall Hill and Marchfield feel uncomfortable. Sir, is it now that we want to protect a certain class of people from feeling uncomfortable, when we know that fundamentally what we are doing is right and what we are doing is towards the goal of greater transparency, greater accountability and it is not something that is being distributed on a flyer to people.

Sir, as the Attorney General said, it would be held as a private register by the Registrar of Corporate Affairs but it allows the State to be effective in protecting the public interest and it allows the country to protect its international reputation as a country that is not a haven for people to hide behind companies to do business transactions.

With those few words, Sir, I am obliged to you.

Asides.

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

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support these amendments to the Companies legislation and to make a few comments in respect of some issues raised by the Honourable Member who just took her seat.

Mr. Speaker, as you and this Honourable House is aware, over the past couple of weeks we have been implementing and updating a number of pieces of legislation, which speak to the whole issue of money laundering and the financing of terrorist acts. This amendment to the Companies Act as well as other amendments to the Act that we are working upon tried to address those issues as it relates to non-profit companies. As been said in this Chamber, nonprofit companies are companies that have been used in different jurisdictions for

purposes of financing terrorism and generally hiding the type of transactions that would be used for money laundering purposes. In fact, I have noticed an increasing number of registrations of non-profit companies within our jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, within the legislation, we have also sought to ensure that on the winding up of a non-profit company that the surplus, the excess of any assets over liabilities at the time of winding up of a non-profit company must be distributed to companies with similar charitable objectives on the point of dissolution. The current legislation gives an option in that the legislation speaks to 'may have' that particular distribution so we have made that correction within this legislation. We have also, consistent with the other pieces of legislation that have been passed given, in this particular case, the Attorney-General the power to inspect the records of non-profit companies and to appoint inspectors to look at those records.

Mr. Speaker, one of the challenges that we have had within the Office of the Registrar is that a number of Barbadian companies in particular have not been filing their financial statements and they have not been filing their returns of changes to directors and to corporate secretaries and the like. We are in the process of reviewing that particular piece of the Companies Act to amend those amendments and to tidy up that sort of situation within the Corporate Registry and to beef up the Companies legislation so that there are significant penalties to be incurred if those changes that need to be submitted on an annual basis to the Registrar are not completed.

Mr. Speaker, in respect of the whole question of beneficial ownership, this is a matter that we believe we needed to have further consultation on. Representation has been made by representatives of the International Business Sector in respect to that particular clause that amended the Companies Act and refers to the whole question of beneficial ownership.

We have sought to tread cautiously on that particular issue and make sure that everybody on this side and everybody in the international business sector as well as the private sector are on common ground because, as you have heard from the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, there are concerns raised by the local business sector in respect of disclosure of the beneficial ownership of corporations. We need for us to be able to adequately secure that information so we have...

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. I think that the Honourable Member may be unwittingly misleading the House. I think it was the Attorney-General who indicated that there were domestic players who had concerns about the disclosure of beneficial ownership. I am

not in a position to speak to that, I am only in a position to speak to the fact. As I said, I have disclosed my interest and I do not see why anybody else should want to hide particularly since there are privacy conditions attached to the maintenance of the register.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. Yes, Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. E. G. HUTSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, we have sought to have further consultation on this and then of course the appropriate amendments would be made to the legislation and that, no doubt, would be brought to this Chamber in a short period of time.

Mr. Speaker, in respect of the issue of the Peer Review, the Honourable Member has demonstrated an understanding of the primary issues surrounding that whole Peer Review process and one of the points made which we are agreement on is the whole question of diplomatic solution to some of the issues raised and the need for us to look at our international partners and try to encourage them to support us on these particular issues.

The Honourable Minister with responsibility for Foreign Affairs is sensitised as to the need for us to move swiftly on trying to have a number of the treaties ratified. As the Honourable Member has noted, Barbados has aggressively over the past 18 months negotiated a number of double taxation agreements which adhere to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) standards as far as transparency and the exchange of tax information provisions are concerned. A number of those treaties have not yet been ratified and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade will move aggressively to have those treaties ratified. Sir, this is what I mean when I speak in terms of our trying to make sure that we have the support of our treaty partners in moving to have the ratification process completed.

Mr. Speaker, this is a case where the gold post keep moving as we correct our situation within the International Business Sector. The world is in a major financial crisis for the last two years and many of the larger economies believe that as they try to address the haemorrhaging of their tax systems et cetera, has sought to blame the international and financial service centres, they have sought to put the responsibility for the crisis on those centres and so the issue in relation to the ratification of a number of our treaties falls into that, it is a question where the big fish are intent on eating up the small fish, it is a situation where the big boys in the international arena are hellbent ensuring that the smaller players are brought to heel. Sir, we have a situation where in early 2009, where Barbados as a jurisdiction would be blacklisted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development States as a jurisdiction that has substantially implemented the

provisions of the requirements and policy position in respect of exchange of tax information and transparency we have a situation where in 2009 we could be whitelisted and then in 2009, out of a review system by the same Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development States that we could be put onto a category where the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development States takes the position that we are not transparent. Sir, the policy positions that we have with respect to pursuing our Double Taxation Agreement policy, the Double Taxation Agreement convention that forms part of the DTA meet the standard of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development States. The issue in respect of Tax Information Exchange Information (TIEA) with the larger international countries would want Barbados to sign. It is a policy position. What we in Barbados will need to address, as we deliberate and plan a strategy as far as this peer review report is concerned, is whether we will stay firm in relation to that overall policy, in terms of our Double Taxation Agreements and trying to get those ratified or whether we will concede to the larger economies that want to negotiate tax information agreement exclusively and have those signed. Sir, we have a situation where the countries that have not been whitelisted can go out and have a Tax Information Exchange Information (TIEA) signed, which is a quick fix to their solution, and move on to a stage 2 peer review process and Barbados with a policy of negotiating the Double Tax Agreements with the said articles as far as the exchange of tax information is concerned cannot move forward.

Mr. Speaker, the peer review process also speaks to the question of a number of the other issues that have been addressed by the provisions of the Money Laundering Act, in terms of ensuring that reliable accounting records are kept for all relevant entities and arrangements. Sir, we come back to the issue of beneficial ownership that we are seeking to address.

Mr. Speaker, I think in respect of the whole question of transparency Barbados automatically would pass the provisions set out therein. I believe that we will continue to devise a strategy that will address this particular issue by bringing our diplomatic and treaty partners in, to support Barbados' calls as far as the question of our peer review process is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I would want to lend my support to this particular amendment to the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2010 and to the other bits of legislation we will be bringing before this Honourable Chamber very shortly. I am obliged.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a very short intervention but I think it is incumbent on me as Minister of Finance to address a number of matters which I think were legitimately raised by the Honourable

Member for St. Michael North-East in relation to the matter pertaining to the ongoing saga - almost soap opera-type - with the international harmful taxation issue in relation to the International Financial Services Sector and International Business Sector. As the Honourable Member quite correctly said, and of course it is something with which all Barbadians need to come into contact and if they have not done so, they should do so as quickly as possible, that the International Financial Services Sector and the International Business Sector sub-sectors within the Barbados economy is extremely critical and vital to both the economic diversification model which Barbados has followed for approximately 25 years but equally too to the very economic survival of the country in the sense that up to recently and perhaps even continuing, revenues earned from taxes placed on activities within that sector really constitute about 2/3 of the corporation tax and tax revenue generally, a substantial portion of it, but also to contribute to the overall economic, social and cultural development of Barbados and, therefore, this matter of the continuing saga of the OECD harmful tax jurisdictions initiatives added to that now as well the Financial Stability Board of the G20, which is a new permeation, or a new incantation of that process is something that we have to treat very seriously and respond to with a degree of alacrity that will be critical to the very survival of that sector. I think it has to be made very clear that there are those outside of Barbados who for their own particular reasons, some of which can be very clearly identified and delineated believe that countries such as Barbados ought not to have sectors defined in the way in which we have our international business and financial services sector defined and, frankly, would like to put us out of business in that particular regard. I think the events of late 2007 and 2008 in particular with the international financial sector kind of amplified or accelerated that desire which many of us who were not watching the developments over the years closely enough might have felt went way and that we were into some type of perfunctory examination in the OECD's Task Force and that because Barbados had a seat at the table and was participating that we would escape scrutiny and attempt to undermine this sector. The reality is that some of the countries who are the main drivers behind this like the French and others they, in many instances, do not apply what they ask people to do. What they have done, in recent times, is that they have sought to apply that to their own sectors and then to try to square you out or block you out as being non-cooperative.

I think the Minister of International Business, the Honourable Member for St. James Central made the point, and it is a point I subscribe to, that this is a moving gold post. You are never going to be able to satisfy the requirements because if you know what the desire is, you would know you would never be able to. However, bearing that in mind, you cannot hide under a bushel. You have to come out and demonstrate at every possible point that you

are trying not only to modernise your international business and financial services sector but you are trying to meet the best international standards and, perhaps, sometimes not wait to react to what they are asking you to do but to be proactive and to demonstrate to the international community that you are finding ways to do things that would give the levels of transparency, the levels of cooperation and the levels of general framework that would give people comfort that the sector which you rely so heavily on is one that is properly regulated, appropriately articulated and well-managed.

Sir, in the context of what has happened recently, I think we have to be honest, fair and clear to the public of Barbados that we, perhaps, were caught napping in this particular regard and that a far more aggressive approach needs to be adopted in dealing with these measures and in these circumstances. We have an excellent treaty negotiating team. We have negotiated treaties, in fact, the one with Panama was the fastest ever done, that Barbados has done in recent times. The late Honourable Member for St. John participated in a conference at which he met the President of Panama, they exchanged notes during the course of a private meeting in the margins of that conference and the former Prime Minister and Honourable Member for St. John expressed the desire for Barbados to have a treaty signed with Panama, and very shortly after that, within months the Vice President was visiting Barbados to sign off on that treaty as it is so, therefore, the desire to sign treaties and to expand on treaty network in Barbados is not to be called into question. What we have to do, though, is to look at the existing network of treaties that we have and many of them, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East said, were negotiated many years ago, do not contain tax information exchange provisions in the way in which they are now being demanded should be done, and that we must not cut off our nose to spite our face. If that is what is required by the international community then, frankly, given the contribution and nature of the international business and financial services sector, if that is what is required then, perhaps, we need to start looking seriously at doing it but we also have to determine, as a country with limited resources, how strategically, we are going to approach both the renegotiating in carve-out basis with our old treaties that would not have contained these types of things but also which countries now strategically we need to approach to have such tax information exchange arrangements with. We either do it as a special carve-out or we do it as part of the treaty negotiating exercise. I think the Cabinet of Barbados and the Government of Barbados is, indeed, committed to that particular approach.

Mr. Speaker, the other point is this that this model of negotiating treaties so that you can claim to have an expansive network is one I think that we may have to revisit in the future. We need strategic covering as opposed

to expansive cover. We have to look very closely at those countries in the world which are not the main at present, what we call emerging economies like China, Brazil and India but the hidden treasures that are beginning to explode in terms of their own economic performance, their own social development and, indeed, their own impact within the regions in which they are to be found and, of course, in the world because of strategic things they have, whether it is minerals, or whatever the case may be, and we can point to a few of them.

We know the Moroccans are there, and they have a gateway to two regions or three regions. They have a gateway to the Middle East, they have a gateway to Africa and they have a gateway to Western Europe. Sir, those are strategically placed regions that we need to get business in and out of, and having a double taxation treaty, a bilateral investment treaty and a tax information exchange agreement with a country like Morocco would serve Barbados no end of good. Sir, Vietnam is one of the silent but emerging economies in the world that would be a major player in that part of the world and, indeed, to the extent that we have a foreign mission now established in China, we need to be able to work through that mission to ensure that we can spawn our own influence, however small it might be, in that part of the world - Cambodia, Indonesia and Equatorial Guinea in that particular part of the world. Those are the areas that we have to look to get into to ensure that we can do. Just as we need, for example, seriously and aggressively to after South African as a major influence in the Souther part of Africa to ensure that we lock down business there as well.

Sir, I think that, from the point of view, we need to get our teams ready. I Think that by doing this we demonstrate to the world not only our, I should not sat cleverness, not only the fact that we are thinking about how we approach our international Business and Financial Services treaty network platform, but we demonstrate to the world that we are really serious as a country, as we have always been and will continue to be, about having this sector as a major part of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, let me say without reservation that the matter now currently facing us is a mater which is being addressed with some level of urgency, or a I should say every level of urgency. I believe the Honourable Attorney-General is reviewing the proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act, both in terms of the regulation sand very shortly in terms of the Act itself, and these will be laid in the Parliament of Barbados. It is our hope, very shortly and as a matter of urgency. I think beyond the titular amendments to the various pieces of legislation. This is really a political battle that we have to fight in the international community. I believe this is a political battle that we have to fight in the international community, in the sense that a strong determined coordinated response to this

matter of Barbados' transparency as an international tax jurisdiction, needs to be fought on all levels, diplomatic, financial, and wherever the points of interests are, legal and so forth because t is a very strong legal response that has to come as well on this matter. Sir, when countries reach into your jurisprudential arrangements, it speaks very seriously to that key element of nationhood that distinguishes you from a colonial State, your sovereignty, your ability to establish and determine internally your own domestic arrangements for the law. Therefore, that is a connection. Asides

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: It speaks to your sovereignty. The two things that independent countries are most determined and known for are your ability to establish your own foreign policy, and your ability to establish your own domestic tax. Any time any of those two are attacked, then your sovereignty has to be called into question. Therefore, this is a matter that has to be very seriously looked at from a legal perspective.

Now, it does not surprise me that many countries that have negotiated treaties with Barbados have not yet ratified them in their Parliaments. It is not a big priority for some countries. A lot of countries who are dealing with their own economic reforms because of the crisis have major matters on the agenda in their Parliaments, changing all kinds of laws, and therefore putting Barbados on the top of the Order Paper in Parliament is not quite something that is being done.

Mr. Speaker, a paint that we need to argue with level vehemence in the portals of the OECD and otherwise is that we cannot be discounted, or at least we certainly should not be penalised because we cannot get other countries to ratify the Treaties which we have negotiated. The truth is, we have done as best as we can in th circumstances, but what we need to do at a diplomatic level, and I agree with the Minister of International Business from that perspective. It is not only diplomatic. It has to come out of a every single quarter of the Government to ensure that we put pressure on those countries with which we have signed Treaties to get them ratified and to have them properly notified, and to have them properly notified in the various portals.

Sir, this question of transparency is a major issue and one not easily trampled upon. One of the matters that detained for many years the signing of a lot of these treaties and agreements between the United States and Columbia was the whole issue of transparency and lifting, as they say, the corporate veil to get behind the beneficial ownership of some of these companies. Eventually the Columbians surrendered in relation to this matter because there were other trade concerns which they had. At the same time we still have to trat it with some level of sensitivity in relation to how we proceed.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: However, in the domestic context, I think, as the Honourable Attorney-General has said, and as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has indicated, the time has come, I believe, that we need to ensure that institutional arrangements are put in place to satisfy that level of transparency, and to make our policies consistent across the board. I do not think the Government is opposed to that. So I hope the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East was not trying to suggest that this Government is trying to evade its own strictest measure in relation to these matters, because that is not true.

It think the Honourable Attorney-General is speaking rather in relation to some comment he might have made. I was not here, so I cannot speak to it about pleadings, or whatever the case may be. There is no special pleading. It is not what is required to ensure that there is a level of consistency in relation to the matter of transparency.

Sir, you know a lot of people will talk but when that Bill, in relation to the prevention of Corruption Bill, is discussed, a lot of people who have a lot a talk about disclosure of assets...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: You disclosed part of your assets. We are still waiting for the second sheet, the second part of the sheet.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. He is clearly thinking about himself and his failure to disclose anything and assumes that it is related to me. I disclosed all of my assets and he would do well to do that for his.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, you know me very well. You know that it would take less than half a foolscap sheet for me to declare what I have because I do not own much. We are waiting on the Honourable Member for St. Michael North east to bring the third and fourth pages of that declaration as the Honourable Member promised the House, when the Honourable Member made that disclosure. That is another point.

Sir, that legislation, not prejudging it, is going to raise some eyebrows because it is going to reach very equally into the sinews of public administration, to ask for levels of disclosure hitherto not even approached in the slightest possible way in Barbados. Sir, I am a person who is all for disclosure and transparency but I think we have

also to understand that the system on which this very liberal democratic political framework that we execute every day as an adaptation of the Westminster model, really has a very large part of volunteerism associated with it. When you are going to ask the people that you are really begging to give of their time and energy and sometimes even resources, to be digging down into every little nitty gritty about their finances and their live, and their spouses, nieces, aunts and grandmothers, then you are going to be rocking, literally shaking to the core, the fundamentals of this system which we have in Barbados.

It is gleeful for a lot of people to jump up and down outside because they feel that all politicians are crooks.

Asides.

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Some of it without justification but the reality is that in a small very homogeneous type society, you can wreck the very sinews of this political system if you do not thread with some level of precision in relation to how you deal with these matters.

Sir, it is very easy for a fellow to say I am very sorry if I have to disclose all of this, I am not coming. I can sit in my house, I do not have to sit on any Board, I do not have to serve in any voluntary capacity in anything. I do not need it because I do not want anybody peeping around in my business and in a small country like this when you have very few people to choose from, you will end up with the same people. In fact, you may end up causing the very thing that you were trying to prevent in the first place.

I think certainly, Sir, as Minister of Finance as I close my presentation to give this House and of course Barbadians, the assurance that the response from this Government, in relation to this latest threat by the OECD and the impending threat from the Financial Stability Board, both of whom are asking for the same thing, they want to peep in everything that you have, that there would be a full and complete response, coordinated at the highest possible levels of the Government, legal, diplomatic, financial and otherwise of the country. I am happy that the Opposition has offered their support in relation to this matter and that will be gladly received and acted upon in the interest of all Barbadians.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

His Ex. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I too rise to support this Bill and to say from the outset that it is clear that what was said by the Opposition at the time, in the year 2000 that we have now proven 11 years after. Sir, that is, it is no doubt that the Government of the day got

tremendous support from the Opposition of the day, so much so that we said at the time, we felt the Government of the day was giving into something that they were not guilty of and felt that they did not rise up to the occasion and that they did not fight the OECD, the way they should.

Asides.

His Ex. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Sir, so much so that one Member on the other side gave the impression that I was anti big business. I was anti international organisation but by the time I got to go to a CPA Conference in August of that said year, the same Member was asking me to curse the OECD.

Mr. Speaker, it is no doubt that the more you give these organisations, the more they will ask from you. Sir, that was said in 2000 and we saw it happen in the OECD. When the OECD saw that they could not achieve everything they wanted then we had to deal with the WTO. Now we are hearing about the Financial Stability Board and I can assure you, Sir, that as soon as you get passed the Financial Stability Board, there will be another organisation coming up to ensure that small developing states do not achieve at the rate they have been achieving.

It is clear, Sir, that because we have had some advantages with our taxation system, we will always be under attack because it is all about power, it is all about keeping us in a particular position. If one looks at what occurred since the year 2000 and even as far back as buttonwood, one would have recognised that it is all about market shares. Previously it was about goods, now it is about services and we have to be very clear, Sir, what we are defending because it is clear to me, Sir, it has to do with the amount of territory you have and the amount of territory you want to protect for yourself.

There is a group that call themselves sometimes G7, sometimes G8 and sometimes it goes to G20. They call themselves all sorts of things but at the end of the day, the aim and object is the same thing, to maintain the market share that they have had.

Mr. Speaker, they have learnt from all of these things because they are the ones who brought globalization and trade liberalisation. I said in this House, Sir, that they thought when they were bringing it that they were bringing it to the disadvantaged of the small states but when one looks at what has happened to the economy of the world, Sir, it is clear that globalization and trade liberalism have done more to the larger countries than the ones they set about to destroy.

Sir, I just want to make it clear that we can pass all the laws we want to pass, we can try to comply as much as we want, Sir, that as soon as we have complied, something

else will come on the table. We thought in 2000 and thereafter, Sir, that after we have complied with everything that was the end. It does not work like that, Sir. It is about market share and once you understand the whole object is about dominance and maintaining what you have, then the only choice we can have, Sir, is if we want to continue to behave like this, is to ensure that we put some group in place to keep ahead of the attack, Sir, because if you do not put a body or a group ahead to ensure that you are ahead of the attack, you will always find yourself having to catch up.

I want to make it very clear, Sir, we have to understand that small developing states will always be under pressure by this grouping. The aim and object are to keep us poor and to keep us dependent on them. When you look at how we have been able to dominate the financial services market, Sir, it is not by accident that they have passed all of these laws, regulations, stipulations, whatever you want to call them because at the end of the day, they have to ensure that they dominate you and that you do not dominate them. Sir, that is all I have to say on the matter.

I thank you, Sir.

Asides.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the Honourable Members who spoke, including the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, even if she is a bit misguided about my newness at 49 years of age and more than 20 years of practice at the Bar. Nevertheless, Sir, in all seriousness with respect to our approach To our peer to peer review, just to say to this Honourable House that in fact, we have already embraced and have started to put into action, much of what the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East has said. We recognise that in fact, it has to be a diplomatic approach. We have already articulated that. We recognise that in fact we have to amend the existing Treaties. We recognise that we need to move towards having the Treaties that have not yet been ratified by our partners, ratified. We recognise that in fact we are going to have to carry out a fairly robust PR campaign and we recognise the urgency that has to attend to all three of the above.

We also recognise that we cannot dictate to our partners the speed at which they move to ratify any of the treaties as was articulated about two weeks ago. We are in fact moving to amend the Income Tax Act, which would allow us to exchange information with those countries that we now have treaties that have been carved out of the legislation and indeed also with the countries that we are in the process of having treaties executed.

Sir, we have a four-pronged approach to this issue. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. Michael East and to let her know that this

Government is already ahead of the game in terms of what needs to be done but we embrace her comments.

With respect to the issue of the filing of a beneficial ownership, I want to say that I had undertaken to the Cabinet of Barbados with haste to offer them a solution as a compromise to the removal of that particular section. Sir, there are two options available to us. In fact, if I could be rude enough, I will articulate the two options now. I say rude because I have not yet written the paper to the Cabinet but there are two options from my perspective that are opened to us. One is that we could actually require all companies in Barbados, as I said some time ago, to have an agent in Barbados and therefore that agent being the service provider in Barbados and therefore that service provider will have the information on the beneficial owners.

Sir, I believe that the first option would have some attendant cost implications, that is, that the service provider is actually going to charge the company for maintaining its record, for maintaining their information in terms of beneficial owner, et cetera. Sir, now you have lots of companies around Barbados that do not have a service provider, they do not pay to have their records maintained because they do it themselves or the accountants who provide their financial statement do it for them gratis and so there may be some cost implication if we go that route.

Sir, the alternative is to amend Section 170 of the Companies Act. Section 170 speaks about what should be maintained at the registered office in terms of records at the company. As you very well know, Sir, every company in Barbados must have a registered office, as is required under Section 168 of the Companies Act. Section 170 sets out what is required to be maintained at the registered office in Barbados. I believe that the simple solution actually is to amend Section 170 of the Companies Act to require, in addition to information on directors and shareholders, that each company maintain information on its beneficial owners. Of course, we could extend that by requiring penalties to be attached to the Directors of the company who failed to maintain such registers. Those are the two options. My leaning, Sir, would be towards the second option, which should not have cost implications for the average company in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have a solution. The reason why Barbados was asked, I am not sure why we embrace the recommendation, to look at maintaining a register of beneficial owners was because we did not have a requirement to have service providers in Barbados. Sir, because we did not had service providers and because we did not have someone who we could go to or who the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) could go to and say can you please produce X information, is why I believe that those who audited us said well here is your solution.

Sir, as you can see, if we had said, as I am proposing, that in fact our solution is that we would require legislatively the information to be maintained at each registered office then I believe that issue would not have been raised. Sir, I believe that issue would be put to bed once we embrace my recommendation.

The issue from my perspective as Attorney-General is actually now newness. It was eagerness in terms of ensuring that we stuck to our timetable as articulated in terms of our relationship with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force. I do not believe that in terms of bringing this present amendment to the Companies Act that we have placed our reputation at risk. Nevertheless, as I have said, I do believe that there is a solution in the offering there that we could readily addressed and I intend to recommend it very strongly to Cabinet so that we can have that amendment done.

Sir, overall, I think we recognise as a country the importance of the industry to us as a country. We recognise that as a little fish in a big pond sometimes we would be asked to do things that we rather not do. We therefore have to use whatever skills we have available to us and I dare say that the best skills that we have available to us is our intellectual capital as was demonstrated this afternoon by the presentations on both sides of the divide. In that regard, I am satisfied that we would be able to weather this storm as we have weathered storms in the past.

Our vision is clear in terms of what needs to be done. I believe that we already have the right personnel in place to ensure that this vision is realised. Sir, against that background, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. J. D PAUL in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee.

Clause 1 - 8 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE, seconded by Hon. E. GEORGE HUTSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the SPEAKER, the passing of one

Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of the Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE, seconded by the Hon. E. GEORGE HUTSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today. Sir, I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. E. GEORGE HUTSON: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question that the House be now adjourned until Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Order No. 9, Haggatt Hall Resolution. After ‘The Honourable Member for St. Michael East’ the speech that follows (about 570 words) is printed under the label ‘Mr. SPEAKER’; its first paragraph begins ‘His Honour K.St.C. Best: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Resolution’. The speech is that of Mr. Best. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Merged speeches. Some interventions are run into another Member’s paragraph: Hon. A. D. Brathwaite’s seconding inside Hon. J. D. E. Boyce’s motion on the Minutes; ‘Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please address the Chair’ inside Hon. H. F. Lashley’s speech on Order No. 9; and ‘Mr. F.J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order’ inside Mr. G. W. Payne’s speech under Head 30. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Committee of Supply, Item 11(a). The Resolution is for \$3 604 532, but the three Heads taken (Head 29, \$1,100; Head 30, \$1 679 382; Head 69, \$1 961 150) add to \$3 641 632. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Committee of Supply, Head 30. The question that Head 30 stand part is recorded as put and resolved after the Attorney-General’s opening speech, and again after the debate on the Head ends with his second motion. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Order No. 12, Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2011. The Attorney-General ends his opening speech ‘I beg to move that Head 19 stand part’ rather than that the Bill be read a second time. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 10, Dr. W. F. Duguid. Dr. Duguid addresses the Chair once as ‘Mr. President’, and the Minister once as ‘Mr. Chairman’ in the House; Dr. Duguid is also labelled ‘Mr. W. F. DUGUID’. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Front matter. The heading ‘PRESENT’ is printed twice, the convening sentence gives no time of meeting, and the list of Members absent is run into the sentence on prayers. Printed as in the source.

Q9. Papers, items 1-3. Each title reads ‘Caribbean Aircraft handling Company Limited Company Limited’. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 15th February, 2011, with Mr. Speaker, His Honour M. A. Carrington, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood. The Minutes of 1st and 8th February, 2011 were confirmed. Hon. E. G. Hutson laid financial statements of Caribbean Aircraft Handling Company Limited for the year ended 31st March, 2006, and Hon. A. D. Brathwaite gave notice of and read a first time the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2011, withdrawing the 2010 Bill of that name. Standing Orders were suspended and Mr. H. F. Lashley was appointed temporary Chairman of Committees.

Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, the Member for St. James South, moved the second reading of the Barbados National Drug Formulary (Validation) Bill, 2011, which validates the 13th to 28th Editions of the Formulary published since 19th March, 1991 without the Minister’s order required by section 5 of the Drug Service Act. Dr. W. F. Duguid supported validation but spoke of changes to the Formulary, drawing repeated points of order from Mr. Inniss and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce that he was misleading the House; Mr. Speaker raised the question of relevance and read the Standing Order on reconsidering matters already decided. Mr. D. St.E. Kellman, Dr. the Hon. E. R. Byer-Suckoo, who said that generic and branded drugs are tested by their developers, and His Honour K. St.C. Best supported the Bill, which passed all stages.

Hon. P. M. T. Todd led on the Resolution vesting in the National Housing Corporation about 4 074.8 square metres of Crown land at Haggatt Hall, St. Michael, for housing that could serve persons displaced by fire; Mr. Best spoke of about sixteen units off Barkers Road, and Mr. H. F. Lashley and Mr. Kellman supported it. The Minister of Housing and Lands, Hon. M. A. Lashley, replied and the Resolution passed. Mr. Lashley then moved the Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of land at Vauxhall, Christ Church, for housing; Hon. S. A. Lashley described the some 11 000 square metres in his constituency and Mr. Boyce asked for housing in Christ Church South. The Resolution passed and the House was suspended until 1.30 p.m.

In Committee of Supply, Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair, the House took the Resolution to grant \$3 604 532 under

Supplementary Estimates No. 10 2010-2011. Head 29, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, \$1,100, passed without debate. Under Head 30, Attorney-General, \$1 679 382, Mr. Brathwaite explained \$386 524 for maintenance of police stations, \$265 860 for civil society organisations under the Justice Improvement Project and \$105 000 for a greenhouse at the Prison Farm. Mr. D. D. Marshall raised violent crime and the conduct of the Registration Department; Miss C. Y. Forde spoke of officers of District D relocated to Holetown; Mr. H. F. Lashley spoke on the administration of justice; and the Prime Minister, Hon. F. J. Stuart, explained the Registration Department's difficulties since the courts moved from Coleridge Street to Whitepark Road in October 2009. Mr. G. W. Payne's speech on title suits led to a series of points of order with Mr. Boyce and Mr. Kellman, and remarks by Mr. Best were ordered expunged. Head 30 passed, and Dr. the Hon. D. C. Estwick explained Head 69, Ministry of Agriculture, \$1 961 150, chiefly for the National Agriculture Health and Food Control system; the Resolution was agreed to.

The Attorney-General then moved the second reading of the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2011, made under Barbados' commitments to the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force against terrorist financing: non-profit companies must file changes of directors within 15 days, and a register of beneficial owners was recommended. Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley supported the amendments in principle but warned that a one-size-fits-all prescription could shut down sectors of small economies, and spoke of the Government's fiscal and foreign exchange position. Mr. Hutson and the Minister of Finance, Hon. C. P. Sinckler, supported the Bill, an exchange between Mr. Sinckler and Miss Mottley over the disclosure of assets producing a point of order. After Mr. Kellman spoke, Mr. Brathwaite replied and the Bill passed all stages.

On the motion of Mr. Boyce, seconded by Mr. Hutson, the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 22nd February, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.