
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2008 – 2013

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

PRESENT

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

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

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

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

Hon. PATRICK M. T. TODD, B.Sc.
(Minister of State, Ministry of Housing and Lands,
Urban and Rural Development)

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

(Minister of Health)
Hon. CHRISTOPHER P. SINCKLER, B.A., M.Sc.
(Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs) Dr. the
Hon. ESTHER R. BYER-SUCKOO, M.B., (B.S.)

(Minister of Labour)
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., E.d.*

MR. SPEAKER: This House is now in Session.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday,
January 11, 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, January 11, 2011,
which Minutes have been circulated, be taken as read.

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am in receipt of a letter from His Excellency the Governor-General dated January 24, 2011 as follows:

“TAKING OF OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BY

MRS. MARIE-JOSEPHINE MARA THOMPSON, M.P.

CONSEQUENT ON HER ELECTION AS A MEMBER OF THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF ST. JOHN

I am to inform you that on Saturday, 22nd January, 2011, His Excellency the Governor-General received from the Returning Officer for the constituency of St. John, the Writ which has been issued for a by-election in that constituency certifying the election, in the poll held on 20th January, 2011 of Mrs. Marie-Josephine Mara Thompson to serve as a member of the House of Assembly for the said constituency of St. John.

The Oath of Allegiance required by Section 59 of the Constitution and Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, CAP. 12, was taken by Mrs. Thompson on Monday, 24th January, 2011, before His Excellency the Governor-General.

Yours faithfully,

Cabinet Secretary (Ag.)”

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: (4:00) I now invite the Honourable Member for St. John to take her seat.

The Honourable Member for St. John took her seat.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Marie Josephine Mara Thompson, it is my pleasure and honourable duty to welcome you to this Honourable Chamber. As I note your contributions, I hope you will conduct your affairs in the highest tradition of Parliament within the existing Rules of this House. May your term of office during this period be a satisfactory one.

MRS. M. J. M. THOMPSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is truly an honour and a privilege for me to have the opportunity to represent the people of St. John here in this esteemed House of Assembly. I wish to recognise the work of my predecessor, our late Prime Minister and my beloved husband, David Thompson.

I thank you for your warm welcome and I promise that I will always abide by the Standing Orders of this House.

PAPERS

MR. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the

1. Annual Report of the Needhams Point Incorporated for the year 2009.
2. Annual Report of the Needhams Point Incorporated for the year 2009.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Financial Statement of the Thelma Vaughn Memorial Home for the year ended March 31, 2007.

Mr. ADRIEL D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

1. Report of the Judicial Council for the year 2008.

H/A81/10:28

Sequence 1

CONGRATULATORY OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Peter.

Rt. Hon. O.S. ARTHUR: Mr. Deputy Speaker and Members of Parliament, there is a great democratic tradition not matched in many countries, I rise on behalf of the Opposition to wish congratulation to the new Honourable Member for St. John. Sir, we obviously would have had to be part of a contest, but the contest is over, and we want to maintain that strong democratic tradition in this country where when elections are contested, our House is a place where people aspire to. I am absolutely sure that the Honourable Member for St. John will contribute to the dignity of this Parliament and will make her own contribution in her way and in her own time.

On behalf of the Barbados Labour Party I want to offer the warmest congratulations to the Honourable Member for St. John, unreservedly so, and I believe that the words spoken by her are heartfelt and meaningful and

that she will in time help to adorn this oldest tradition that we are also proud to be Members of.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Government side I wish to note the comments of the Leader of the Opposition, but I want to specially join in welcoming the Honourable Member for St. John to these Chambers. As she has indicated, she is looking forward to very useful participation in the business of this Honourable Chamber in the tradition of those who have gone before us and would have done Barbados well. I personally look forward to the satisfaction of seeing the fulfilment of so many wishers of the constituency of St. John to win, of course, the Honourable Member remains primarily responsible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with those few words I join and on behalf of the Government side to welcome The Honourable Member for St. John.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 10 – RESOLUTION THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVES ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is in Committee of Supply

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$66 299 229

BE GRANTED FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND AND BE PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES

2010- 2011 AS SHOWN IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES No. 6 2010-2011 WHICH FORM THE SCHEDULE TO THIS RESOLUTION.

Mr. CLERK: Mr. Chairman, this is Supplementary A. There are actually two Supplementaries but we are doing them separately.

HEAD 54 (resumed)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT - \$66 299 239

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

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution speaks to \$66 299 239 towards education in Barbados primarily for the University of the West Indies, but there are some sums included for possibly the first tertiary institution in Barbados, Codrington College, and also for Combermere School. Sir, at the outset let me welcome the new addition to this Honourable Chamber in the person of the Honourable Member for the constituency of St. John. Let me also commend a gentleman whose birthday is today coming from the parish of St. Lucy, the Honourable Member for the constituency of St. Lucy.

Sir, as I get into my contribution on this Resolution, I want to begin, and I think it is so apt to quote from the former late Prime Minister, who was then the Opposition Leader in this House of Assembly and was the Representative for the constituency of St. John.

“I am in full support of Hillary Beckles’ stand on tertiary education. The re-elected Democratic Labour Party’s Government will pursue a policy of ensuring that there must be at least one university graduate per household in Barbados. We will do so by containing and subsidising the cost of tertiary level education. There can never be a cross to both measures to pursue and promote access to tertiary education in Barbados. There are those who can afford to contribute and even underwrite their education, and there are those who the system will have to support and enable. We will examine the circumstances and do what is necessary to ensure that no matter what route they have to take to get there, that every child with the inclination and potential for doing well at tertiary level is facilitated. If Errol Barrow was alive and at the helm today he will continue that education revolution. He will not only bask in the glory of those who have succeeded and doing well, but he would also spare a moment to focus his energies on those who the system had marginalised and left behind.”

Sir, it is with that quotation that I want to examine and support the grant of the \$66 299 239 for education in Barbados.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party from its inception recognising the very fragile and problematic nature of an emerging society, out of the difficulties and challenges, and one could even argue, the brutality of a plantation economy. Which was underpinned by slave labour.

H81 10:37:55

Sequence 2

The Hon. R.D. JONES: We knew we had to find a formula for the liberation of the people of Barbados and the founding father and all of the others of the Democratic Labour Party recognised the liberating influence of education in Barbados. This is why as 1961/62 we abolished school fees in the grammar schools and training liberated the masses of people who accessed education in Barbados that. It stands singularly as the greatest move ever made in this country, particularly for the poor, the dispossessed, the vulnerable, the marginalised and those who were financially challenged to access education without hindrance of having to search for personal resources.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Therefore, this Party on that simple premise does not have to apologise to anybody in Barbados or in any place across the world, relative to our position on education in this country.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Sir, not only that, but every single institution of education in this country particularly at the tertiary level, was done by the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, that is a fact. It is a credit to the vision of the Democratic Labour Party and it was a vision which was encapsulated, again in the speech of the late Prime Minister, the then Honourable Member for St. John at a lunchtime lecture presented by himself at the Democratic Labour Party Headquarters on 27th January, 2006.

Sir, sometimes, we need to restate these things because there are persons in the society who create uncomfortableness, relative to education. I do not hold a lot of thrift for many of them because many of them were educated on the labour, the sweat and the production of the people of Barbados, those kinds of thousands of men and women who were not white collar workers but persons who worked the plantations of Barbados for a livelihood for themselves and their families.

Many of us in this Honourable House, who have trekked from St. George in the valley, from St. Lucy, from the ridges of Christ Church, from the flat lands of St. Philip or from the central parts of Barbados, might not have had even a secondary education - they would have had elementary education that was well established - unless those who provide the taxes for the management of education and the delivery of education had done so.

Sir, out of that vision emerged first the Technical Institute and then the Samuel Jackman Prescott Technical, which pursued a technical vocational delivery of education in Barbados. Then, out of that kind of thinking emerged the Barbados Community college to provide another tier of tertiary education in Barbados, and out of that thinking emerged the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies.

The story is told, of course, of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, who we all know - those who understand their history - got in a small plane to survey to total landscape of Barbados and flew around this country, and when he got in that peak where the University of the West Indies Cave Hill is currently located, he said:

"This is where we will plant further education in Barbados, right on that very site."

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: These are men not only of words and vision but men of action, embodied in every one of us who sit on this side of the House. Therefore, we will never ever do anything to affect the delivery of education in Barbados either from the nursery provision right through to tertiary education provision. I want to make that absolutely clear.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I made the point and I want to restate these points. Sometimes I get passionate about these things but forgive me, if you feel that I should not be passionate about these things. I like to tell stories of individuals who were part of us historically, what we called our comprehensive schools or modern/secondary. We have gone through many name contortions relative to our schools to today what we call, newer secondary schools. Sometimes schools which do not understand the value added that they have made to development of education, the significant value added, then some of them make these comparisons with the erstwhile traditional schools, the older secondary schools.

I have made the point - and I know that as an educator myself - that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would agree with this particular assertion, - that

when you get a child with 30 marks in any exam and after five or six years that child is able to leave school with five or six CXC's or after two bites at the cherry as we call it, might be able to leave with eight or nine CXC's, grade one to grade three, and you use a value-added concept, the contribution of the school to that child's development can be argued to be more significant than a child that went into a school at the top of the 11-Plus pyramid. It has to be because that child is already focused, one who has gone in with 87, 90 and 100 marks or whatever, to produce to be part of the education fair.

Therefore, sometimes it is unsavoury and unpalatable when some who should know better would then use comments that undermined like some people out there, and they create these comparisons that we do not need in education across school competition. We need the sharing of best practices, wherever they exist. We need collaboration from school to school. He who knows better can share with him or her who does not know better and therefore lift up the standard of every single citizen of Barbados.

We have made the point that knowledge is not unique to any given individual that, in fact, in the global world where information and communication technology abounds that knowledge can be a common denominator. It can be a common denominator and it is no longer or it should not be the school tie.

My school tie was green and gold but there are still many of us, even though that school has gone, who still live and who still share the experiences of a private school education in Barbados. A lot of people do not understand the evolution of education in this country, when schools like the Modern High School stood tall and the Community High, St. Anthony's, Washington, Waitefield, Unique, Industry High and Dottin in Lead Vale, schools that you might not know existed in this country.

The Dottin School which was headed as Head-teachers by men and women who had significant elementary education, not persons with four, five and six degrees, but persons who had a conscience and a consciousness that they must be part of the liberating force within the society.

Sir, where the public sector could not satisfy the need for universal education, they came in, yes, private education, sweeping education, but they came in at a time when they would charge very, very meager rates so that persons from our villages, persons who lived along the hedgerows of our plantations had an opportunity beyond elementary education to live themselves up

to lift their family and communities up but not all can benefit. There were places in Barbados, even as late as the 70s, where some children did not get secondary education. Thanks be to God first and thanks be to enlightened policies adopted in this country for education, there is no child who can say that they cannot be exposed to secondary education up to the age of 16.

We have said as a Party that where places exist, because we know that people develop at different levels within their cognitive structures, within their emotional structures as well as within their physical structures...

There are some children in our society who at age 16 can leave school with five, six, seven, eight, nine or ten CXC's between grades 1 and 3. We also know that there are children who would have to leave school at age 17 or at age 18 in order to satisfy minimum matriculation requirements. There are progressive-minded thinking principals in our school system, head teachers as they were called before, who recognise this, and who, where there might be a little space are able to bring back an Upper Fifth and a further Upper Fifth. We have excellent examples of schools like Springer Memorial where those young ladies are doing exceptionally well.

Mr. Chairman, since we have said that we would provide at least one university graduate per household - and do not take that in its very rigid meaning, in other words, what it is saying is that if there are 80 000 households in Barbados that at some time in the near future we must reach that capacity which says we have 80 000 graduates in our country and pursue it even further. We know that we have to move the current rate of those who access tertiary education, either at the University of the West Indies, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Erdiston Teachers' College, Codrington College or the Barbados Community College, beyond the current rate of about 38 per cent of the eligible population. In South America, in Europe and in parts of Asia, the rate is over 50 per cent. Unfortunately in the Caribbean, there are only two countries that have gone past 30 per cent, Barbados being one and The Bahamas being the other. There are also several across the region in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and in Jamaica, Trinidad is creeping up towards the 30s but Barbados because of its commitment, of its focus and because of its annual provision for education, which takes approximately 19 to 20 per cent of Government's budget, has continued that focus and that commitment. Mr. Chairman, therefore, as we speak today on the \$66 299 239 000, we must reinstate that commitment.

I want to say to the young people of Barbados and to those who are caught up in lifelong learning, because that is the current mantra, that the University of the West Indies doors remain open to all of those who satisfy the requirements for tertiary level education. Those individuals

who want to access education at the University of the West Indies and have satisfied the university criteria, the doors are opened to you. The Democratic Labour Party is not shutting the doors to anybody. The doors are opened but in opening the doors, it is just as though the Honourable Member for St. Philip North enters my home and I told him he would be here from 12 in the day to 2 in the evening and I offer him something to eat - he does not drink much. He is not like the Honourable Member for St. Peter who pretends that he could drink and most of the time his drink is mauby - and provided the drink but he tarries and wastes time, obviously there are others to come to share of the meal and the drink so he cannot tarry and waste time when other guests are expected.

Mr. Chairman, I am therefore saying as Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, I want to be firm on this, that you are going to the University of the West Indies to learn. I use the word learn in its broadest sense because that does not say that you do not go and get involved in sports, be part of the Cavite Chorale or not get involved in whatever social activity of the university because the holistic person is a person that we want in Barbados, educated, focussed, deliberate. They must go, settle and study to ensure that the taxpayers' money is not wasted and that they come out as the best that they possibly can out of that University of the West Indies at Cave Hill or out of the Barbados Community College, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, Erdiston Teachers' College or for that matter out of Codrington College.

Mr. Chairman, part of the resources provided here in this supplementary is also for Codrington College because the Government of Barbados provides a grant to that theological institute. Mr. Chairman, that would not change because we have to also cater to the spiritual, to the liberating influence of the theological, that must be part and parcel of our every being.

Mr. Chairman, I therefore make the statement again that persons must not waste time. That was the point made by the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West in his Budgetary Proposals that has become somewhat skewed over time. It is too heavy, too hefty and too major a commitment for persons to dilly-dally.

We know that there are some weaknesses in the overall structure of education in Barbados but you have to work each day to remove those weaknesses in the structure. We knew we had to satisfy primary education up to age 11. We knew we had to reach maximum capacity both quantity and quality at secondary education. We have started before and we are working and will continue at nursery provision. We have also moved through tertiary provision. Not all persons at the tertiary level can get into one of the tertiary level institutions at the time, at the rate or at the pace that

they want and therefore that is why we have now to expand at the two extreme levels of education in Barbados.

We are doing that at the nursery level. Next September we should most likely be opening two new nursery schools, one at St. David's in Christ Church and one at Sharon in St. Thomas. We are working as well to deliver another nursery school at Holders Hill in St. James to take care of the population in the areas of Holders Hill, Haynesville and all of those areas in St. James South.

Mr. Chairman, I brought the Honourable Member for that constituency on board and got the full and enthusiastic response but I wonder what he does though in that constituency because I forgot to invite him when we were doing the tour where the officials of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development got to examine the existing property which was used by the police to see how feasible it is, what is the level of the structure and if there is a playing field that is available for the young ones.

Mr. Chairman, I will just share this little anecdote with you. The Honourable Member seems to have spies, so let me tell you if you venture into St. James South, the Honourable Member, the Minister of Health would know, so be careful those on the other side who want to venture there. Sir, the next thing my phone rings and he was on the line saying that one of his constituents called him and told him that I was in Holders Hill. I said: 'But how you know?' He said: 'One of my constituents told me.'

House A81 Sequence 4

In truth and fact, do not venture there, do not do as you did in St. John the other day and lose your deposit. Do not do that, keep out. Mr. Chairman, the point I am making is that we are expanding. As I said, it has started before. Sir, this Government pays no glory on the provision of education that will continue, so that when the Maria Holder Nursery School opens in St. Thomas, it will be my pleasure to invite the Parliamentary representative of that constituency, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, to be there as well. We will do that because we have to share in the products of Barbados.

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is of importance for the country to be engaged in the discussion of education, so that they can help formulate other programmes and ideas and can provide assistance for education in Barbados. Sir, \$44 950 is for the Combermere School, to assist in the provision of security. There was a shortfall in the Estimates, based on the expenditures but because of having to do some security strengthening, they

will need that supplementary until the end of the financial year.

Mr. Chairman, supplementaries for the University of the West Indies have been done in this Honourable House for as long as I can remember. We put a certain amount in the Estimates and then we bring the rest in a supplementary. Today, that is why we bring \$60 million to The University of the West Indies.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: That is what has been done on both sides, so do not question the history that is there. Sir, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, the Canadian, is saying that does not make it right, yet the Honourable Member did not have the gall, stomach or anything else to tell this side that it should be done this way. Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member does not understand, it is about the management of the people's resources, and they have to stop behaving or pretending as though they have now found reality or that they have somehow had the Damascus journey. What the Honourable Member has is an airline journey to Saskatchewan.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, the University of the West Indies has expanded at a phenomenal rate over the last eight years, under the previous Government and continues under this Government. Sir, in that expansion, it means that the resources expended on the University of the West Indies would go; in fact, statistics would say that from the 2004/2005 financial year, it grew from more than \$100 million, inclusive of tuition fees, to approximately \$170 million, inclusive of tuition fees.

Mr. Chairman, you will find that the student numbers have also increased, as a result of not only students doing better at secondary schools or at some of the tertiary level institutions but because of capacity issues at the sixth forms schools and at the Barbados Community College. We have all heard the stories of these institutions having to say they cannot take anymore, therefore pressure is being put on the University of the West Indies to accept many of those students as low level matriculation students.

Sir, there are some persons who do not understand the notion of normal matriculation and low level matriculation, these persons have taken low level matriculation to mean that persons do not have the requisite qualifications to enter the University of the West Indies. Sir, it simply means that the University of the West Indies has a system or a formula that once you have a GPA of 2.50 and above, you are classified as a normal matriculation student; anything below 2.50 downwards is considered low level matriculation. Sir, there are many

persons today who occupy high office, who went in as low level matriculation students, who are well-qualified because they studied and worked hard. Sir, today some of these persons are leaders in governments, in businesses, in commerce, in civil society and politicians. There are all there, therefore the doors cannot be closed but reasonableness must also exist. I want to restate that those who are accessing education must buckle down and study.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 54 stand part.

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

The question that Head 54 stand part was put to the Honourable House and resolved in the affirmative, without division.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wish at the outset to extend warmest congratulations to the Honourable Member for St. John and to welcome her as another female Member of Parliament to this distinguished chamber. I believe that these are opportunities where more females would want to aspire towards becoming Members of Parliament, so that they can share in a partnership with the males, as we continue to pursue goals of ensuring that Barbadians get the best quality representation, as well as the services that they so deserve. Therefore, I wish to express my personal congratulations to the Honourable Member for St. John.

Mr. Chairman, I want to extend congratulations to all educators in Barbados, to those parents who have assisted tithing their time and indeed to other organisations in the communities who have, over many decades, sponsored young people and have offered their services through tithing, so that these young people could get a sound education. Therefore, I think it is only fitting that we acknowledge their contribution to the national development in that respect. I know there are many others in community groups who continue to give of time and service, without looking for anything in return. I think that is laudable and must continue, if we are to nurture our young people and give them a positive focus, for them to appreciate the education that people perceive is being offered for free but that it is the taxpayers who are pumping in the millions of dollars every year, over the many decades. Therefore, I would wish to join the Honourable Minister of Education in acknowledge that contribution made by private schools.

Mr. Chairman, I must say I have had the privilege of being a graduate of the Modern High School. Sir, I want to indicate that though I did not get that benefit through free education, it has taught me to learn how to appreciate what is being offered. Sir, even though I did not get it, I would want to encourage young people to take advantage of the

opportunities made available and not to take education for granted.

Mr. Chairman, on Sunday, I was most amazed when I listened to an educators' forum, where the Principal of the Metropolitan High School was being interviewed by the director of that organisation. When I heard the comments emanating from the principal of that school, that too many Barbadian students are not taking advantage of the education that is being offered, in the way that the non-nationals are doing, it pained my heart to hear. Sir, I believe that as parents and guardians we need to do more. We cannot sit back and wait for the teachers to motivate our children, we have to guide them along a path that they will know the education that appears to be free, that we are all paying for it.

Sir, our parents did not have access to tertiary education in the way young people now do, some of them did not even have full access at the primary level. Sir, we know about the full level matriculation students and those persons who have made exceptional contributions in our Barbados. Sir, our parents, mine in particular, as I can speak to mine with a measure of authority because it was my mother who every morning would say go to school and learn and that whatever the teacher has in his or her head I would want.

11.08 a.m.

Every evening we return home, she would look in our books, even though she was not bright like a number of other parents now. Sir, it is sad to see that as our society develops our parents look more at the material, so you must have the nicest and latest handbag, or school bag, and a new set of uniforms at the beginning of September but we do not look at character, we do not look at dignity, we do not look at those finer things that make us the citizens of Barbados that we should be, despite the millions of dollars that we pump in every year.

Sir, I want to encourage parents very early to look after the needs of their children and not to be too busy to watch the Days of Our Lives nonsense because that is what is happening in our homes. Sir, our children are drinking in Days of our Lives, substituting the television set, the iPod, and all the different gadgets, and our children are in corners doing it selfishly without our communicating with them, talking with them and trying to find out what things they did in school today so that we can help to reinforce certain concepts. Sir, instead we want to know if the teacher went to school, if the teacher hit the child and all kinds of foolishness that we can do without. Therefore, I admonish parents who are Barbadians, and the non-nationals amongst us, to keep working with our children and do not expect teachers to do it all because teachers can only do so much and no more and with the changing culture, we will have

even more challenges but I want parents and guardians to take that up front.

Mr. Chairman, scholarships were even offered by some of those principals of the schools. We had a late Honourable Member here who managed the Arlington High School and the Federal High School who gave out scholarships to ensure that children in St. Andrew, whose parents were so poor that they could not pay for their education, would get a chance to go to school and, Sir, there were so many others who did it. Sir, when the principals of the private schools found out that the students at other schools who were good in athletics, and in the sciences, there was even a kind of poaching as well. They offered them scholarships, if they were paying at the other schools, so that the nature of the school and the name the school could be so highly exalted.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I believe that this has gone a long way in helping to mould our generation but more of us need to give back to our children, especially those of us who came through the private system, to let our children know what benefits they have that they should really capitalise on, in these trying times.

Mr. Chairman, there was no free access when we were little children for most of us in the 50s, 60s and even in the early 70s and, therefore, we made use of the opportunities because we understood that our parents had to sweat in the cane fields, in the plantation houses and so on, in order for us to get our school fees paid. Sir, I know many days I spent under the tamarind tree in Roebuck Street because my parents did not have the school fees to pay for me when the time came for collection and, Sir, there were some times when the money was not paid and it had to be paid after, in order for me to continue school. Sir, I know what it is like and, therefore, I am speaking from a background of experience and not somebody else's hearsay and I encourage our Barbadians who are getting it free, "Go for it boys and girls, go for it young men and women."

Mr. Chairman, I want to refer to some comments made by the Honourable Minister who spoke about a number of areas. I agree that successive Governments have played an outstanding role in ensuring that education is for free. Sir, I remember the 70s, especially the late 70s, when a Barbados Labour Party administration of 1976 was extremely concerned previous to that about 14-year-olds being put out of secondary school. Sir, it was this Barbados Labour Party under a late Prime Minister, who managed the Barbados Labour Party at that time, who ensured that programmes were first put in place that the policy could be implemented and thousands of poor people's children were given a second opportunity to go to school because at 14 years old, Sir, you are now in third form. Therefore, to have to abort your educational aspects at 14 years, it says that it was so much that was missing, and our young people

that were put back into the schools have done Barbados proud because of their performance and that opportunity that was offered to them. (5:00)

Mr. Chairman, the other thing that I want to speak about that we, in the Barbados Labour Party, have been pilloried about, and it bothers me sometimes for cheap political gains many of us hark on things that are good for the people and we forget the main ingredient and, Sir, it is to do with Edutech 2000. Mr. Chairman, yes, millions of dollars were spent but the millions of dollars that were spent, were spent for Barbadian students, and so, my 11-years-old grandson, who has just stepped into Queens College has become so excellent in performance when it comes to Information Technology because Sharon Primary School was one of the first Edutech School where the children had to study prose. Sir, my grand daughter, who is 14 years old, is excellent. I can bring any gadget in her face and she is able to work with it because she was exposed from about seven years old or eight years old to the technology.

Mr. Chairman, the technology was only one component so when the Democratic Labour Party was talking about Edutech it was as though it is only the technology and not other aspects of it. Sir, we met schools that were falling apart. I would never forget the South District School that this Government will now have the honour to complete the project for Staple Grove. When the South District School was being upgraded and we saw the condition of the school that was not repaired for more than 50 years or 60 years, there was no way that we could continue, and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East came up with the concept for Staple Grove but the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East was the one who had gone in and assisted with a prefab building to help the staff to be a little more comfortable and, Sir, I would never forget that.

Mr. Chairman, the infrastructure of the schools was so bad after scores of years that it ended it up that way. Sir, there was a teacher training component as well. There was the teacher's appraisal that we are hearing nothing about now. There were so many other aspects of Edutech but the Democratic Labour Party, in particular, only focused on the technology. Sir, I know that if it were that bad, this Government would have closed it off. The Honourable Member who is now the Honourable Minister of Education was the information technology coordinator at the Christ Church Boys School and he has been able to develop logs and all types of things to be able to show how he has benefitted and, Mr. Chairman, he benefitted there politically, but that is fine.

Mr. Chairman, let me get to the substantive aspect of it. Sir, the other comment that was made by the Honourable Member was making a proud boast out of nursery

education. Again, the Barbados Labour Party, as a Government, sought to ensure that universal nursery education be implemented in Barbados. Sir, there were a number of reasons why because you do not just out of the pie-in-the-sky with some other projects that the Democratic Labour Party started and then cannot finish them like the Lester Vaughn School. Sir, that was pie-in-the-sky, there was no proper development.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Do not let me say the St. John Polyclinic because as I am not even going there this morning.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Sir, nobody interrupted the Honourable Member and, as a teacher, I believe he knows that he waits his turn to talk. Sir, I will abide by you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I just want to inform the Honourable Member that you have three minutes more, but you can come back.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, that is fine. My final point then is to do with if you do not build your nursery education programmes and put your policies in place then you cannot expect to get the finest individual or citizen at university level and so the concept of the Barbados Labour Party was to let us focus on nursery education and in particular those persons who are in the poverty line and the working class people who could not afford to pay the expensive cost for nursery school and, therefore, the Barbados Labour Party started in 2005/2006 at All Saints Nursery School in St. Peter, St. Boniface in St. James, St. Giles Nursery in St. Michael,

H/A81/11:18

Sequence 6

St. John's Nursery, the one in St. Philip North...

Asides.

His Excellency the Hon. D.St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is misleading the House by giving the impression that nursery schools were only benefiting the Democratic Labour Party's constituencies in their term. I find it impossible to believe.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, continue please.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, there were proper feasibility studies done which determined that almost 2 000 children did not have access to nursery school. We found out that when children in those communities were tested, that there were many deficiencies when they entered school at the age of four-and-a-half or five-years-old. We also recognised that the numbers of those persons living in those communities were expanding, so that the demographic shift in St. Philip South, if you look at the demographic in St. Thomas where more than 9 000 persons now on the Voters' List, those were some of the components that encouraged us then, as a Government, to look after the needs of the children, but this Government has the opportunity now, as indicated now to go to St. James South. I did not know that St. James South was being represented by a Barbados Labour Party Member, but that is beside the point.

Sir, I am happy that this practice continues, and would like to encourage the Honourable Minister to look at that aspect of the universal nursery education where the private nursery schools would be brought onboard, because we need those standards. The standards in our nursery schools are excellent, that is why my grandchildren attend them. The public nursery schools, the access and everything is above board, and I am happy about that. We would like those in the private nurseries, who may be struggling, to be a part of it. I know the Honourable Minister listens to advice despite his reaction at times. I know that will be an aspect of it because Barbadians will benefit at the end of the day.

Sir, if my time is up, I wish to thank you but I will come back and be a little more specific in the university component because the nursery and primary are first, and that is how we will get the best results at the end of the day from our university and tertiary level education.

I wish to thank you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may at the outset offer my congratulations to the new Honourable Member for St. John, results speak for themselves. I am to prove this Honourable Member. I am happy that we have a new Honourable Member, but equally happy that we have a another female perspective in this House. While we are equal we have different perspectives.

Mr. Chairman, may I say that this Supplementary this morning has to be seen against the background of the country's fiscal situation. You cannot divorce it from that. The request here is to make good what is owed by the Barbados Government, legitimately, to the University of the West Indies, hence the request, not for \$60 million but

for \$66 million because it comprises both economic cost and tuition fees, both of which are recorded separately.

Sir, the reality is, and I have said in almost every speech in the last few months in here, that we are facing a situation where serious decisions will have to be made. While there has been no specific debate read by the Government, regrettably, on what those options should be, we have to recognise, if we look at the numbers, and I refer you to the Governor of the Central Bank's Press Statement on January 2010, where the tables clearly showed that the way to growth and expenditure in the Barbados Government is highest, not among wages and salaries in Central Government, but among transfers and subsidies to statutory institutions and entities such as the University of the West Indies. Sir, his statement in January 2011 goes further. It indicated that 51 per cent of the transfers and subsidies provided by Central Government is in fact to only two institutions, the University of the West Indies and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is fair to reflect that the consensus of the discussion thus far, in the last year, has been that education remains sacred to Barbadians across political parties, across civil society institutions and across the opinions of average Barbadians. I hinted as equally it is fair to say that the projection of the quality access to affordable health care equally is so. If that is the case, then it becomes all the more urgent for us to look at where the remaining 49 per cent is going, but the wider point in this debate is that even if we are committed, as we should be in my opinion, to a provision of free tertiary education at the University of the West Indies and Codrington College, and other designated tertiary institutions, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and Barbados Community College, this side certainly is committed to that. My first act as Minister of Education would have been to reverse the attempt by the World Bank to impose conditionalities on the Government of Barbados to introduce user fees at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the University of the West Indies and the Barbados Community College. So this is consistent.

I believe that the other side has said that they too do not want to touch it, although in my view the Minister of Finance was ill-advised with the measures that he sought to put in place last November, because those measures do not allow for the statutes of the university to allow students who are part-time to finish the course in the four years that he has prescribed, since you can only do two courses per semester and you have two semesters a year, and if you have to have 30 credits for a degree, the minimum period that a part-time student can finish a degree, is in fact ...

Asides.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I am sorry. There are three credits per semester, but the reality is, the minimum is five years.

Sir, whatever the reason I believe that the Government accepts that they have to change it. Our one difference is, I do not believe that you should give a student the absolute minimum period but it should be the minimum period, plus a year, because people get into trouble, people get into emotional difficulties, people may have children. I believe that a revision for a minimum period for students to go the university ought not to be a subject of controversy but ought to be revised in line with statutes of the University of the West Indies that provide for a maximum of six credits a year, a minimum of five years to get a part-time degree.

Sir, the broader point is this. Even within the changes that we have imposed, and both Governments have imposed changes - In our term we would have imposed a limit of one degree unless you got upper second class honours or higher, for your second degree, or unless it was an area of national development priority. There is still a problem and there are still efficiencies to be gained. It has to be seen against the background that the Caribbean region has the highest tertiary immigration rate of any region in the world. In other words, we are educating more of our students to pay taxes and build other people's countries.

Sir, now that is not an immediate panacea to Government's fiscal problems, because the only way we can deal with that is in the medium to long-term. I do believe the time has come for us start to look at what other measures we need to put in place.

H81 12:28:01

Sequence 7

First, to better secure the investment we are making in tertiary education and secondly, to minimise the extent to which our investment is used solely to build other people's countries. Now, how can this be done, and this is only one of many solutions that I am sure would be available?

Sir, the important point is that the debate must start and end because once the debate ends, decisions will have to be made.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you very much. I can come back.

The point is this, Mr. Chairman, if we were, for example, to apply an education account to every Barbadian student, from pre primary to tertiary and supply the parents every year, with a statement of accounts that says this is the cost of your education that the Government of Barbados has paid for in this year, it would allow parents and students to have a better appreciation of the level of investment that the taxpayers of the country are making on their behalf. Then parents will recognise how much to go to a secondary school is, in fact, costing the Government Barbados. I cannot tell you the per capita figures now but I know in 2001 the per capita cost for most secondary schools were in the vicinity of \$4 500 to \$5 000 a year and I am sure that it is near \$10 000 today. A statement of account would come to the parent and student every year, saying that this is what we are paying, so you better appreciate why you cannot waste your time in school.

Similarly, that education account is then carried to the tertiary level and at the tertiary level, it is deemed as a liability to the student. The student does not have to find any money and the student is not prohibited from going in but that liability is converted to a grant over a number of years for those persons who work in Barbados and contribute taxes and NIS, et cetera.

Sir, for those who work outside of Barbados and CARICOM, you may want to consider some kind of low interest loan, 2 per cent, 3 per cent because in effect, that is the only way you are going to be able to get back in, the investment that you have made in those persons to other countries. Sir, that is only one suggestion.

Sir, there may be others but the point is that how do we arrest the fact that our taxpayers are financing more and more, larger numbers of students who are not working back in the Caribbean. This is an issue, in my view, that is legitimately to be put on the table, without in anyway denying access to any student to attend any school of the University of the West Indies or any campus. These are the kinds of legitimate discussions that can be raised.

I do not know how many people have copies of this document and I am making it a document of the House again. It is the Report of the Advising Committee on Financing University Education, which was chaired by Dr. Leonard Shorey, which he established back in 1995 and reported back to us. While some elements have changed, I believe that it is a document worth reading again, in the context of the debate that must come.

Sir, even if we start from the premise, that no Barbadian child is to be denied access to university education, there must be ways of improving the efficiencies, both in terms of the expenditure of the university, the raising of funds by the university and equally, in terms of the student themselves, recognising

that if I am putting my efforts back into Barbados or the CSME, then I can legitimately see this is a grant but if I am a doctor working in the United States of America as a specialist, then I ought certainly to make some contribution back to the cost of my education, beyond my family remittances that of necessity I will do, out of my Fijian duties. I believe that is the case.

I also believe, Sir, that the time has come for us to treat the provision of tertiary education as an economic sector. I said it in the by-election in St. John.

Sir, St. John has had a distinguished history in this country for the provision of residential education from Codrington College to Codrington High School to Presentation College to Lodge School. The truth is, the provision of residential education does not interfere with the environment or the topography of the Parish. It has done it for three centuries and in 2007 before we left Government, as Minister of Economic Affairs, I met with the Vice Chancellor and the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, Sir.

We recognised that we needed to have an initiative from them that sought to have more residential education provided in Barbados through joint ventured arrangements and Memoranda of Understanding with the top universities in the countries that are not part of the North Atlantic part of the world. Countries like China, Brazil, South Africa, Jordan and India, so that we could provide perhaps no more than two public sector and two private sector courses, so that the students we educate here for a year, would become legals in the public and private sector in ten to fifteen years time in their countries, significantly improving our opportunities in diplomacy and trade. Now, these are just some of the ideas.

I am saying them here and more to make the point, as I did in the last debate on health, that this country has serious decisions to make about what Government can continue to hold and not hold. Sir, even as we continue to take responsibility for education and health care, there are decisions that have to be made in terms of how we provide it.

I believe that this Parliament is but only one forum in which dedicated debate can take place. I also believe that the use of Joint Select Committees to take evidence from the public and to take papers from the public, allows us to be able to make historic decisions that will, in fact, inform the structure of Government and the thrust of development, in the next 20 to 30 years.

I obliged to you and I will come back, Sir.

Asides.

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

His Ex. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is no doubt that it was good to hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East in speaking as an Opposition Member because I remember for many years trying to impress on the Honourable Member that the policy adopted by the then Government, was a policy that would have created some problems for this country.

This is, what we have seen over the years, Sir, that we have delayed students at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill, keeping them to protect the unemployment statistics in this country, instead of creating an atmosphere for them to come and help the productive forces of the country.

It is no doubt that we must now change that approach and recognise that in order for us to get out of the economic situation that we are in, we have to put more persons on the productive line, instead of delaying them at the University of the West Indies. We are not here to make unemployment statistics look good. We are here to make the economy productive and to ensure that the educational system is used to enhance the livelihood of every soul in this country.

Sir, we cannot afford to go back to the good old days, where institutions were used to delay the productive process but to keep people and to keep the unemployment statistic looking good.

I have heard this morning that in 1994 when the Barbados Labour Party came to Government, they found many schools falling apart. I heard about St. Davids. Yet, with all the money that was found and these schools were falling apart, we could not get a school at Staple Grove and the Democratic Labour Party now in these economic times, have to come and correct the problem that they found since 1994, by building a school at Staple Grove.

I am saying that we have to recognise, Sir, it is unfair for a Government in these hard economic times to have the work of a Government that had all the money in the world and did not spend the money doing those productive things but now we have to use scarce resources to build new schools.

HOUSE A 81, sequence 08, 11.38 a.m.

Sir, if it is one thing that I want to thank the Minister of Finance for is for understanding the importance of

efficiency because clearly if we had efficiency between 1994 and 2007, we would have had everything corrected and we would not today have to spend money on things that the taxpayers of this country paid for and did not receive.

Sir, the next thing that came out from that other side... I have always said that it is clear to me that the Government of Barbados is paying large sums of money to the University of the West Indies not only for Barbadian students but for students from outside. I want to send this warning to my comrades within CARICOM that we do not mind running the University of the West Indies but they must also pay their fair share of the fees because it is clear to us that we are carrying the bucket that is not only carrying our cost but the cost of other countries.

Mr. Chairman, we must also accept that the University of the West Indies must also be part of the productive forces of this country and they must output what is relevant to this country. In other words, they must understand what is needed at this time to drive the country forward and to create an atmosphere for people to want to be part thereof. We must know where the jobs will be down the road and they must formulate a system where people can study to suit that in order for this country to be more productive.

Mr. Chairman, we have to understand that we are moving towards self-employment and we must give the students of Barbados the capacity to employ themselves instead of going and chalking up large numbers of pieces of paper and when they leave the institution they cannot employ themselves. We must ensure that we teach people how to employ themselves instead of teaching people how to look for a job.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that when one looks at the cost of the educational system in this country, it cannot be about a one person, it has to be on how can I educate myself to find a job for myself and to bring along some other persons. Sir, that is very critical because the same way that there are other persons in Barbados who have been able to create the atmosphere to employ people those persons who large sums of money have been spent on must also be willing to create that atmosphere within the economy of Barbados.

I also want to warn this country that we do not burn out our young people too early. I heard a lot of talk about nursery schools and so on but I still believe that little children must have their children days. We are enslaving them too early and we have to be very careful that we are not putting them out too early.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St. E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, if my warning is not accepted, we must also not take the advice given to us by the Barbados Labour Party and believe that nursery school should be only in their constituencies, there must be a fair share for all in this country. It is regrettable, Sir, to hear of only four nursery schools, all of which were constructed in constituencies represented by the Barbados Labour Party supporters and representatives.

Mr. Chairman, the educational process left to us by the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow was not only fair but was equal to everyone. I have said to this country, and I will continue to make the point, that you can always tell the difference between a Democratic Labour Party policy and a Barbados Labour Party policy. It is not for one sector. Whenever we do something, we do it for everybody. We do it for the rich, the poor, the middle class, everybody. Free secondary education was not done only for the poor, it was done for every single person in this country because we understood the importance of keeping a society together and not to create problems.

Mr. Chairman, I have no problem in supporting this \$60 million along with the other \$71 million that we would have spent already. I want you to know, Mr. Chairman, that we are not only talking about \$60 million, that we are speaking about giving the University of the West Indies over \$130 million. We are not cutting back anything, all we are asking the University of the West Indies to do is to be more efficient, that is all. It is as simple as that. Mr. Chairman, anybody in this world would understand the importance of efficiency in this world at this time especially when the world is in a crisis.

Mr. Chairman, in the 60s and 70s, we were driving cars that were giving us 20 miles per gallon, now we are driving cars that are giving 40 and 50 miles per gallon, so if the cars are giving efficiency why cannot we get efficiency from our educational system.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not propose to be very long, I hope I do not take up the 15 or so minutes. I just thought that it was important for me to enter this debate at this stage to say a few words firstly in support of this Resolution which seeks to provide in total of \$66 million to the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development but most specifically over \$60 million to the University of the West Indies for them to continue to execute the mandate which has been given to them by regional Governments and by the Caribbean Community in

relation to the tertiary education of students from across the region.

Of course, we in Barbados have a particularly high stake in this operation at Cave Hill relative to the fact that we have a number of Barbadian students who populate the campus and who over the years have used that institution for social, economic, cultural and other advancements in their own personal life but also indeed for Barbados, the wider region and the world.

Mr. Chairman, our position, therefore, as so eloquently enunciated by the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, is quite clear in relation to the Democratic Labour Party and our commitments to education generally and to tertiary education. I want to make it abundantly clear that this Democratic Labour Party Government, and I believe we can be generous enough to say the previous Barbados Labour Party Government, hold fast to the view that Barbados' greatest resource is of course its people and that we ought to at every opportunity within the constraints that we have, financially and otherwise, to ensure that we provide resources, both financial, technical and otherwise, for those institutions that invest in building up the human capacity of Barbadians so that we could continue to advance.

I have always made the point, and I will continue to make the point, and it is not necessarily linked to the philosophy of the Democratic Labour Party as enunciated by the late Honourable Member for St. John, that Barbados is not just an economy but also a society. I have always maintained that if one looks down through the vistas of history one would see that all great civilizations were not built exclusively on the basis of economy. Great civilizations were built on their social platforms. Of course, social platforms have to be underwritten by financial and other resources and, therefore, to the extent that is the case, we have to have a strong economy in order to be able to afford some of the things that we want to do and to contribute further to our development overall.

House A81 Sequence 9

Mr. Chairman, and so I have no mistake in my mind, neither am I confused; in fact, that is what economics is about, it is about trying to contend with the numerous or myriad of demands on the small set of resources, finite as they are, that we have at our disposal. Therefore, we cannot, in the context of being a small, vulnerable, open economy, where, at this point in time, we are in the throws of an economic recession, largely impacted upon by the international economic and financial situations... Sir, even in good times, we have to be efficacious and efficient, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has said, with the expenditure of public resources. We cannot

allow it to go abroad in the country that there is a never-ending pit of resources from which we can contribute to anything. Sir, frankly, that is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, I do not like to use the terminology but sometimes folklore gives rise to certain terms that perhaps capture some things better than normal, so that when we hear the point 'we must get bang for our buck', to use a very poor cliché, then that is what we have to get as a small country. Sir, every dollar that we spend on social development in this country, on infrastructure, on commercial sector in terms of concessions and other incentives which we must give to those sectors, must give us the best, highest quality of return for that investment...Sir, every single dollar.

Sir, I used to make the point to my staff, when I was Minister of Social Care, that as a country we do not have the luxury of the option of doing things twice. When we do things once, we have to do them right the first time because every time we have to do it over, each time we make an attempt, then that is a cost which causes somebody else to lose out on that resource which could have been provided to them, to contribute to the development of the society. Sir, so is it for anything in Barbados, as it is for the University of the West Indies.

Mr. Chairman, when I spoke in the Financial Statements Budgetary Proposals last November, I made a point in its totality. The point was dismembered or desegregated for some people's own benefit, personal or otherwise, some people proceeded to attack the Government, trying to give the impression that this Government is weakening its resolve for university education. Sir, the point I want to make this morning is that there is no weakening of the resolve of this Government, in terms of the support of the University of the West Indies. It certainly will not happen while I happen to occupy the Office of Minister of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North-East has said, and as I said in the St. John by-election in which I had the opportunity to speak, there are two things that we know we have to look at very early when we are doing the Estimates exercise. Sir, those two areas are the Ministry of Health, particularly the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Ministry of Education, particularly the University of the West Indies. Those two areas are dealt with first and then we work back down. That is the reality of how we put together the Government's Budget, everything fits around health and education. Of course, we have important issues such as national security and other things and we deal with those of equal importance, but the two heavy rollers are there.

Sir, there is going to be no peeling back of our support for the University of the West Indies for tertiary education, but we must face reality.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I am not the one who said that people are entering the university not fully matriculated, there are three levels of matriculation, there is the advanced level, a normal level, and a lower level of matriculation. Mr. Chairman, if the number of students entering the university at the lower end of matriculation is growing, and higher than normal, then that is something we have to examine. I said in the Budget that the Ministry of Education and the University of the West Indies, and not the Ministry of Finance...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, that is not for the Ministry of Finance to become involved, that is for the Ministry of Education who deals with education policy and the University of the West Indies who deals with university policy, it is for them to get together.

Sir, I said that in the Budget, I said that they must get together and work out the dynamics. Sir, what has happened over the years is that we have spent a considerable amount of money at Cave Hill, as we ought to have, but it seems as though, from an analysis, that some of that has come at the detriment of expanding other areas in the educational system, particularly expanding the capacity at the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, as well as the sixth form school system in Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, that is not a criticism of anybody over the last Government or anybody else, that is just how the issue unfolded. Sir, I am saying that we have to revisit it and that we have to make certain reallocation in terms of how to invest in that level of post-secondary education. Sir, that means we have to put money into expanding capacity at the Barbados Community College, we cannot continue to turn back students from the Barbados Community College or the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic every year. Therefore, we have to do something about it.

Sir, in working with the Minister of Education on a package to take to Cabinet shortly, in which we hope to be able to put that type of investment in, will mean that it will take pressure off the University of the West Indies having to carry so much of that load. Sir, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North-East has said, the reality is that it costs more money to educate students at Cave Hill

Campus than it does at the Barbados Community College or at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. Therefore, if we have students going in at a low level of matriculation and taking slightly longer than would be the case, then we said we will try to work on a 2-and-2 split.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, this is not a new policy, this has been around for years. All we have said in the Budget is to let us get to work, let us put our heads together and bring it to fruition. That is all I said.

Mr. Chairman, some people, for their own benefit, are saying that I am trying to kick down a ladder that I climbed up on and that I do not want students to go to the University of the West Indies.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, that is not the point, I have made this point and will make it again, it is the principle. Sir, if the Ministry of Education and the University of the West Indies sit and determine that to do a part-time degree should take five years then, as I said in the Budget, they should sit down and work out the times, but the cost associated with it would be covered for four years across the board, as that part-time degree is equivalent to four years. When you come in on a trial or on whole-income basis, if you want to say that we would be giving the University of the West Indies \$150 million and that you are going to work with that \$150 million, then you can say that. Sir, we do not want to pigeonhole the institution in that way, so we said work the details out, determine between yourselves what it is and advise us in the Ministry of Finance what is the reality, but do not tell me that as a student you are going to go to the University of the West Indies...

Mr. Chairman, the University's booklet says that you have to do a part-time degree in four years. It is in their booklet and so they have to go revise their own booklet.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, if you go to the University of the West Indies to do a full-time degree in three years but in five or six years you are still at Cave Hill, something would have to be wrong. We are saying that each additional year you spend is a year that some other student outside, who wants to get in, cannot get access.

11.58 a.m.

Asides.

MR. C. P. SINCKLER: The Honourable Member for St. Peter can confirm this. There are some people who end up in their final year university with two courses to do, one in one semester, and one in the next because one of the courses they offer could only be offered in the second semester but, Sir, you know that the Government has to pay the full cost for that student because they are fully enrolled in the university. Sir, I am saying that we can lessen those things if we pay attention.

Mr. Chairman, it is instructive that one of the best performing programmes at the University of the West Indies is the Distance Educational Programme. It has a very high rate of passthrough. Sir, do you know why? When you get into the Distance Educational Programme, you have to pay. Sir, you have to pay for the books, you have to pay for your lectures and you get your lectures online.

Mr. Chairman, my wife did the Distance Educational Programme in Business Management, did it in the three years and was out because she did not want to pay another cent. Sir, we are not charging people, we do not intend to and would probably never do it. However, what we are saying is that you have to be efficient, Sir, efficiencies have to be for everybody.

Mr. Chairman, Government has to get its fiscal deficit down and be more efficient how it spends the people's money. The university has to be more efficient in its administration and look to make savings where it can to assist us to extend the education to others and individuals in this country also have to be efficient. Sir, efficiency is not something that you blow up in the air, it is not smoke from a cigarette, it is something real and we have to find it in the system.

Mr. Chairman: Your time has expired.

MR. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Sir, as I close, I just want to clarify and to say that this Government is committed, it wants people to go to the university, spend the time you have to spend whether it is four, five, six years, whatever they determine it is and let us get on with the job of educating students in Barbados and working for the development of the country.

I will come back if I need to but Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to you for the time you have allowed me. (2:54)

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

Rt. Hon. O.S. ARTHUR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I begin by placing in the records that the Opposition will support this expenditure as we will support any initiative to increase our investment in education, especially tertiary education. Sir, for the past 14 years and I have in every

speech committed my Party to full support for education at the University of the West Indies in particular.

Mr. Chairman, I want to contextualise my remarks by referring to the issues that this debate inspires from a public finance point of view because they cannot be ignored, as well as from a strategic point of view where the country's development is concerned. This debate has to be set in the context of the fact that the country is facing a very severe public financial problem. The current account deficit of Barbados for the year 2010 was \$538 million. Sir, that is the difference between the Government's revenue and Government expenditure on its current bills and, Mr. Chairman, it means that situation is unsustainable and has to be addressed. Sir, it has to be addressed in a way that yields a public financial solution but does not compromise the development prospects of this country.

Mr. Chairman, this country has been fortunate and blessed by being able to attain the status of being the only developing country that is now to be treated as a developed country on the quality of the life of our people. There are some other countries where the quality of life depends on private spending. Sir, in the United States of America you have a health care system that unless you do the private spending you do not have health care available to you. Our quality of life in Barbados has, for the last 40 years, been dependant upon public spending and more especially so, Mr. Chairman, the willingness to accept certain principles in respect of access to social services. We have created a good society in Barbados where certain principles have obtained. There is no means test. Our people have access to social services based upon the concept of universal access. There is no means test. Our people have access to social services upon the basis of no direct payments. It is called in the United States of America a single pair (6:03) and our people have had access to social services based upon the concept of delivery from a centralised source.

Sir, we have kept expanding the scope of social services that the country provides for its citizen but the nature of the financial situation that now confronts the country indicates that whereas, in the past, social investment drove our development, we have reached the stage where the economy can no longer carry the social sector. Sir, that is our reality and we have to begin to address the matter in an intelligent way that enables us to separate out those things that are of strategic importance where we have to maintain and expand the expenditure and those things where the adjustments that have to be made in terms of the cuts will now affect the prospect of the country.

Mr. Chairman, that is why this is such an important period in the development of the country and it is why in the Budget debate, I suggested to you that we should have a Commission created, drawn from best minds of the country

to review this matter and then let a bipartisan Committee of Parliament take that report and deal with it because if there is something that can fracture a democracy, such as ours, it is the anger that will arise when people's access to services appear to be reduced. We have to take the possibility of the anger of our people out of something that will have to be done as a matter both of necessity and as a matter of strategic importance.

Mr. Chairman, I have said and I continue to say that we have to support the University of the West Indies for strategic reasons and, Sir, I want to repeat them. We do not have a primary education deficit, that is fully accounted for. We do not have secondary education deficit but Barbados, like the rest of the Caribbean, has a tertiary education deficit, and it is not about the migration. In fact, our region compares unfavourably with the rest of the world, that the people in our region who want to have a tertiary education all cannot be accommodated. Barbados has done better than the rest in the region but we have a tertiary education deficit, and our deficit is worse than any other region in the world. Sir, for us in Barbados, the strategic importance at this comes from this. What has enterprise in Barbados been created in the past? Sir, we do not have mineral resources like Trinidad and Jamaica. Sir, enterprise in Barbados has been created in the past for two reasons. The skills of our people and a number of economic instruments that have encouraged enterprises to be created.

Sir, enterprises in Barbados have depended in the past on trade preferences and this year, a process starts where our relationship with Europe changes for ever. We have negotiated new arrangements with Canada, so the trade preferences of the past, Sir, are going. Sir, our enterprises in the past depended upon tax benefits with Canada. Sir, \$40 billion of Canadian investment is in Barbados because of one tax benefit and, Sir, that is gone but everybody else has it.

Mr. Speaker, our enterprises in the past depended upon fiscal incentives and other things that are now being challenged by the international community. The point is that if those instruments go Barbados' development of the future will depend even more heavily on our skills than it has depended on in the past.

H/A81/12:07

Sequence 11

Sir, having said that, Barbadians have to be told that there are other Caribbean countries that want to occupy the same competitive space as Barbados. Jamaica supposed to be a University of the West Indies but is investing heavily in its own domestic university and Jamaica is investing heavily in Community Colleges. They might even now be twenty-one. They are finding the money to do it.

Sir, Trinidad and Tobago are doing exactly the same thing. They are investing in the University of the West Indies, they have made their own university and they are also building Community Colleges. Why this? They want to occupy in some respect the same place as Barbados. They want to broaden their development opportunities by becoming important centres for international business and financial services. They need skills to do it. Sir, find the money. Barbados would lose its competitive position in the Caribbean, but we will lose our ability to bring enterprise unless we continue and expand our investment in building the skills of our people. It is now becoming, perhaps, of even greater importance than it has been in the history of this country. Sir, that is why I have maintained the position that no matter what else we have to do, and there will be difficult decisions that have to be made in this country in respect of other sectors and other entitlement programmes. It would be a false economy for us to believe that adjusting our budget in education is the way to go.

Now the administration that I led wanted to go in the same direction as Trinidad and Jamaica. There is a tertiary education deficit that the University of the West Indies cannot meet and we felt that a University College of Barbados, with custom designed programmes for Barbados to meet our needs, was essential to the processes of Barbados' development. This Government has said that they ... I hope they mean that they would review it, but they said that they noted it. I still feel that there is a need for a University College of Barbados for us to be able to assure ourselves of a supply of essential skills that the University of the West Indies cannot provide for this country.

Sir, obviously there have to be a willingness on the part of institutions receiving transfers from the State to make sure that they get value for money. I do not believe that there is an attitude at the University of the West Indies that they are sacred cows and that their systems and procedures cannot be subject to review to making sure that they are cost-effectiveness.

Sir, having said that, may I say to the Minister of Finance that it is not the increase in the subvention of the University that is causing the fiscal deficit, because the need is virtually the same.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O.S. ARTHUR: Having said that, but I am making the point for the society to hear. Sir, when people say cut the University, the University's budget has not only been cut. The deficit has been grim and you cannot explain an increase by reference to a constant. We have been paying the University the same amount. I believe the University itself understands it. Sir, I have been recently been a person at the Academy. The university itself

understands the need to join the process in to today's world of reviewing its systems to make sure that it can deliver.

I want to defend, however, the Minister of Education, because if there is one graduate, consider that it is one strategic the Government has embraced. The administration that I led sought to assist the university in accomplishing it. Sir, the 30 acres of land that university has received, we gave them as a gift. They took it. They can sell it, receive the money to improve the physical development and the Government will lease back the land from the person from whom he sold it because the university needs to have the physical development to be able to give us one graduate per household. Sir, I want to speak to that issue.

Sir, I am the first person in my family who is a graduate and I know what it meant to my family. I would have said over and over again that in 1968, when I went to the University of the West Indies, the things I had to do to get a university education, I would think that young people do not know about. Sir, the last bus to Speightstown was about 6 O'clock.

Asides.

Rt. Hon. O.S. ARTHUR: In a normal week. After that you had to walk. I eventually made it but in my first year I had to walk home many nights to get a university education.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Memembers, let us go. Please continue.

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

Rt. Hon. O.S. ARTHUR: Sir, the concept of one graduate per household in Barbados is still relevant because there are still many Barbadian families today that are in the position where my family was in 1968, they really are. This matter has not only to be contextualised in respect of national development, but if you believe in the development of families and communities there must be no reneging from that commitment, because there are still Barbadian families that need to be released from the bondage of poverty by the opportunity of higher education.

Sir, I heard talk in this country from people who had themselves come out of the bondage of poverty through education, who believe that for financial reasons alone, it should be looked into seriously and subject the University of the West Indies to financial cuts. Sir, for me it is therefore not a matter of sentimentality. Our economic growth will continue to depend more in the future on

investment in building those skills. The development process that Barbados must seek to pursue will depend more in the future than in the past on how we treat that investment in the social capital of education.

Sir, I want to repeat what I said in the Budget, that at this strategic moment in our country's development, we just cannot approach the matter of social investment from a purely financial point of view, and just treat it as a matter for the Ministry of Finance to deal with. There needs to be a great discussion on the issue. Sir, a country that has had university access, a country that has had centralised approach must treat this not just as a matter of financial adjustment but must find social reform, social innovation, reform for the modalities for the accessing those services, we need to open this to a great discussion and do not treat it only as a financial issue.

Sir, I say that there is scope for it. I pledged what I said in the Budget debate that if there is this great discussion in that format, and I have heard some views presented that could be part of the great discussion. The Opposition stands ready to join in that great conversation.

I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I am quite pleased with the way that the debate is going because I firmly believe that we must have quite extensive discussion on how we want to further invest in our human resource. Therefore, for that perspective, the comments, I must say from both sides, sometimes this House reaches a level of maturity which says that the University of the West Indies and its contribution, even to those who had to walk barefooted through the hills of St. Peter, pass Rose Hill, up the road where a certain grandmaster resided. It does seem that particular vision at least fell upon the shoulders of that individual, but the knowledge of the University of the West Indies seemed to have been implanted in his body and in his mind, also from that side and from this side. It is really a quick conjuncture at which we are positioned now in the 21st century.

Sir, I have been doing some research on what is happening in the world. We are absolutely correct that the Caribbean - I made the point quite early in my presentation that we are still somewhat behind, not only in our investment but in the amount of graduate coming through our tertiary level institutions.

12.18 p.m.

Sequence 12

Even in Latin America and South America, the numbers are somewhere near 48 per cent to 50 per cent. As I said, Barbados is 38 per cent to 40 per cent but when we look across the eastern Caribbean it is exceptionally low. If we have relationships within the whole CARICOM space within the Caribbean, they too have to lift up the numbers. There are challenges and we have identified part of the whole economic environment, as presenting part of the challenges.

I agree that persons need to know what it costs to educate them at various levels of education in Barbados. Yes, several years ago, we were talking about between \$4 500 to 5 000 a year per student but that number has gone up now. It is more in the region of \$8 900 per secondary student.

At the two ends of the spectrum, nursery education is expensive because of the smaller numbers that you have to deal with. We tend not to carry numbers in nursery education beyond 120. In fact, we try to stick to around 90 but you must still have the physical asset, the plant and your pupil/teacher ratios have to be smaller than you would have in either primary or secondary. Then at the other end, the tertiary level end, it tends to be even more expensive.

Let me share with the House what it costs and I am going to combine both the tuition portion and the economic costs based on the various faculties on the 2009/10 statistics. I do not think there will be any changes for 2010/11. We are talking about \$5 500 per full time student, just for tuition costs and half of that for part-time study, \$2 745.50. For the economic costs, you are talking \$27 500. If you add the two, you are talking \$32 000 per year for Pure and Applied Sciences, the same \$32 000 for Humanities and Education and the same amount for Social Sciences.

As you move to Law that changes. Tuition fees are \$8 800, and \$44 000 as your economic cost, so you are talking to train lawyers, some \$53 000 per year. Most of those students are full time.

The big one, medicine, tuition fees of \$16 618 and in Barbados full time of \$83 000 so you are talking approximately \$100 000 for medicine, and in Barbados with the implementation of the Medical Faculty where I believe this is in the third year with some 85 medical students. In the first year 35 coming from Barbados alone, because we also support at Mona and Mount Hope in Trinidad, medical students for Barbados as well, but this is specifically to the Barbados component, \$100 000 per medical student per year.

I said in the three years that the programme has been operating that are 85 students so that cost has been added to existing cost. Previously, we used to do 15 in, I believe, St. Augustine, Mount Hope and 10 at Mona and there are

slight variations in the cost. Barbados gets a higher cost centre than the others. Therefore, the society has to understand that it is costly at those various areas of tertiary level education, and we have to balance those demands with other social demands within the society as well.

Sir, the call also has to be made that even though persons feel entitled that, as part of that entitlement, there must be a progressive motion of volunteerism in Barbados by those who are benefitting from tertiary level education and from education as a whole within the country, that voluntary concept.

If a university student can volunteer in the summer camps, if the university student from the knowledge-base assist slow readers, slow learners within our communities in our Resource Centres, this is giving back, Sir, also the Legal Aid Clinics. We have to construct the society around these kinds of values, where each one helps one.

In my other days as a youngster, through places like Grenada, when I saw what they were doing in those days, during the Revolutionary period. I saw how young people galvanise themselves, who had secondary education. Many of them did not have tertiary education but under the centre for popular education, they were going into the villages and into the homes and they were bringing education to the people. They were producing indigenous materials to be used by those who were otherwise denied education, even at the primary level. This is what was happening and there is nothing wrong in Barbadians volunteering for that youngster, who somehow has a deficit in understanding the written word, or the word on the computer screen. There are school teachers who could help guide and give assistance because they are trained to help move the process to lift the base up and to lift up the standard.

I want to confess we have been seeing that. We only have specific data, from which you can choose and use as your information. The latest results, vis-à-vis, CXC's, which I believe is a very difficult exam. Many persons who did GCE would never have been able to mark fat - I want to confess that - on many of the CXC's exams that I saw.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: There are a few of you who did CXC's, and many of you did not mark fat either.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: The point is, I am seeing right across every single school, the standards being pushed up more and more. I am seeing more grade threes converted to grade twos, more grade twos converted to grade ones and it is not only happening in Barbados. I know there are still some difficulties because I firmly believe that we are

pushing our primary school age children too fast and too hard.

I have been speaking to officials within the Ministry of Education, some whom have not yet understood my perspective. There are some things an 11-year-old does not need to know, especially in things like mathematics. There is no way you need to know them. We can pull all of the adults over 18, and say well do this test and several of them will not get passed 50 per cent. Yet we demand of our primary school age students some 'melee mode medium', ratios of percentages of all forms and shapes that I do not understand and I keep saying we do not need to do that, Sir.

We should not still be perpetuating a system, which says that we must eliminate a whole mass of students and put them on the back burner and push forward a few. We are not downing anything but we are catering to their chronological and their mental development age as specific type and then accelerate them through the system. These are things that I want to say and we are trying to infuse within our education system.

Sir, we have more to utilise, and like the Honourable Member, I do not want to spend much time on this because there must be an impact of education technology or information technology on learning. I am a disciple of information and communication technologies.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: I did not leave any money at home this morning so I will have to deal with that. Only about a week and a half ago, unfortunately, I had to take a few days out from the by-elections of St. John but I was left in the capable hands of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

Asides.

HOUSE A 81, sequence 13, 12.27 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Hon. R. D. JONES: Sir, I had the opportunity to go to what I call the BET Exhibition and to interface with technology that we have not even yet begun to think about in Barbados where we could bring alive for a biology class in a three-dimensional format where you can separate the clavicle from the scapular, from the total skeleton, put it back, name it and change its colour, which gives students a real life experience that boggles the mind. I want to see our schools gradually transition into utilisation of those technologies that make learning manipulative.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Of course, that is what it does. I want to see technology use in such a way that what I call the instantaneous reward of your effort is presented before you and you do not have to wait two weeks down the road to get the results of a test. That is gratification denied and corrective mechanisms suspended for some period.

Mr. Chairman, that technology is now available. That technology is there. We have to use it, we have to imbed it firmly within our educational structure and within our educational culture. These are things which we need to do. We have to get the National Library Service in our country to start having... they do have some now, where children again can access the technology within our homes and our schools.

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: I do not think that anyone has been wrong on these sides. The only slight disagreement I might have, and maybe it is because the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is searching from an economic vantage point to find a solution to what is going on, is that I do not believe that students in Barbados within our whole notion of the Caribbean region and Caribbean expansion who are educated in Barbados on taxpayers' money and who have ventured into Caribbean countries or into other spaces for that matter that what we have expended on should be treated as a low interest loan. I do not believe that, I do not support that.

Mr. Chairman, this Barbados has demonstrated a history already in the past even during the dark days of the emergence of this country where we have sent Barbadians across the world. We sent teachers across the world and we sent policemen to be involved in security across the world. When Charles Darwin went down to the Galapagos Islands, there was a white doctor on board that boat with Charles Darwin, a Barbadian - oh yes the history of an historian - who ventured that far.

We have spread our people across the world. We have exported technologies across the world. There was a time out of our sugar industry where we exported not only the mechanical technology but the technology of high-bred varieties of sugarcane. We have abandoned those. We have abandoned very, very good things in this country. Our university must return to a focus which helps us to be innovative, to be creative and to in truth and in fact implant the entrepreneurial abilities across the length and breadth...

Mr. Chairman, I thank you, I will return to this after.

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

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 1.45 p.m. this afternoon.

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 1.45 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

House A81 Sequence 14

12.35 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Honourable Members, this Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, we were in Committee of Supply, to that we shall now revert. The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown.

Hon. Patrick M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution before this Honourable Chamber and to say that in listening to the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, I really found that there was something lacking, just a final detail in his presentation. I agree with the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter that we have seriously to address the cost of funding our students and so we must reduce and cut out wastage. Sir, I was expecting to hear the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter making a magnanimous suggestion to give up the luxury accommodations provided to him at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies, as a former Prime Minister, so that we can effect savings. Mr. Chairman, I would have seen these luxurious accommodations for the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter at the University of the West Indies, at a Press conference where he lambasted the then Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North-East. We saw elaborate furniture which looked like mahogany, a lavish collection of books and cupboards.

Sir, I am saying this is against the backdrop of a situation where, in trying to save a dollar, the University of the West Indies Cave Hill had to suspend its annual Christmas party. I am saying that rather than Government or the University of the West Indies having to bite the

bullet and remove that accommodation, that the Honourable Member should do the gentlemanly thing and give it up. Sir, the Honourable Member has already pledged to the country that he is not going to be a consultant in Antigua anymore, that he is going to devote his time full-time to be an Leader of the Opposition. Sir, since the Government of Barbados and the taxpayers provide the Leader of the Opposition with comfortable accommodation on these premises, I was looking forward for the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter making that sacrifice. Therefore, it was very difficult for me to focus on much of what the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter said.

Mr. Chairman, I heard the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter and others on that side talking about the University College of Barbados they had proposed, but they should tell the public that the same Barbados Community College campus was rundown, with mildew all over it. It was not properly maintained. Sir, since assuming office, this administration has had to ensure that the necessary sprucing up of that campus took place. This sprucing up is ongoing, the Minister himself toured there recently.

Sir, had the Barbados Labour Party administration worked assiduously in upgrading the qualifications of the academic faculty level there, because if you are going to be issuing degrees on a large-scale basis, if they are going to be teaching first degree courses, then clearly the lecturers would have to have Masters and other degrees. Therefore, it is one thing to talk about the University College of Barbados but the necessary preparatory work would have to be done, and this was not done by the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Chairman, I turn now to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North-East, who, in her presentation, admitted that it was under the watch of the Barbados Labour Party administration, in the 1994 to 2008 14-year period, that actually reduced the opportunity provided by the Democratic Labour Party administration for Barbadians students to do more than one Bachelors Degree, which was fully funded by the taxpayers. Sir, I know that we have to be prudent but I am saying that I have had constituents coming to me during the time of the Barbados Labour Party administration, complaining that their children, who would have gained entry into the Faculty of Medical Science at the University of the West Indies but would have had to take a Natural Science Degree before. Sir, the reality is that both in Law and Medicine, because they are so highly sought after, there is a quota system where each territory has an upper limit of students that they can send to that faculty in any given year. Therefore, there are persons who may have good "A" level results but who are not good enough to get entry from "A"

Level or the Associate Degree programme, directly into the Law Faculty or the Medical Faculty.

In the United States of America, there is a pre-med programme which is normal, where you do a general natural science pre-med bachelor's degree before entering into the full medical programme. Sir, we have people with Honour Degrees, who have gained entry into the Faculty of Medicine or Law but under the Barbados Labour Party, those persons, by and large, would have had to pay for that second degree, be it the Bachelor of Law Degree or Bachelor of Medical Sciences. I am saying it was the Barbados Labour Party who imposed that on the backs of poor people of our country.

Mr. Chairman, I am old enough to remember that in 1986, it was a change in regime that saved Barbados from the hands of the Barbados Labour Party. Therefore, when I hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael North-East talking about the need to look frankly at university education and funding and about the possibilities of people who emigrate having to pay back some of their tuition fees, it makes me reflect on the fact that there was a commission set up, headed by Sir Roy Marshall, under the Barbados Labour Party administration, prior to the 1986 General Election. Sir, the terms of reference of that committee included looking at alternatives to funding university education for Barbadian students.

Sir, generally-speaking, the country, including your humble servant, was convinced that had the Barbados Labour Party remained in office after 1986, they would have imposed user fees for Barbadian students at the University of the West Indies. It was a change in Government that resulted in all of those notions being swept aside, allowing this Democratic Labour Party administration in ensuring that Barbadian students studying at the University of the West Indies continue to enjoy full taxpayers-funded education. We were very happy that the country as a whole has given confidence to this Democratic Labour Party administration to hold the reins of office, so that we can ensure that all visionary policies, in terms of access to education by the masses up to tertiary level, are ensured.

Mr. Chairman, I would also wish to focus on a possible way of saving money, in terms of the cost of educating our students at the tertiary level. Sir, it is perhaps not well-known that the Associate Degree programme at the Barbados Community College has developed to such an extent that at least with two majors in Hospitality Studies, with a good grade point average, a graduate can go on to the University of the West Indies in the same area of hospitality and can complete their degree in two years full time. Therefore, effectively, after secondary school, they would be spending two years for the Associate Degree in

Hospitality Studies and then two years for a Bachelor's Degree...

2.01 p.m.

...as opposed to two years, if you extrapolate that in terms of the thousands of Barbadians that study at the university level per annum, that would be millions of dollars saved.

Sir, I remember years there was an articulation agreement entered into between the Barbados Community College and University of the West Indies Campus such that those students who were taking the N1 Programme, the preliminary programme in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, those persons who did not have the two "A" Level to gain full matriculation to enable them to do a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Sciences for three years full time would normally spend an entire year doing the equivalent of the "A" Level the N1 Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry at the Cave Hill Campus and it was more expensive to educate them for that additional year at Cave Hill as opposed to letting them do the equivalent "A" Level at Barbados Community College and what was done is that the entire N1 Programme was being offered at Barbados Community College at a lower cost.

Sir, these are possibilities that we can enter into but I know that we have to do an audit of the academic offerings at Barbados Community College to ensure that the syllabus content is sufficiently robust and sound that we would have quality of the student being produced in terms of the Associate Degree graduates at the Barbados Community College being high enough to gain the necessary exemptions from the first year of a normal three year Bachelors' Degree.

Sir, in North America people go to a community college and get an Associate Degree in two years full time and go on and complete their Bachelors Degree in another two years, so this is nothing new. Sir, with the semester system now in place at Cave Hill and credit and grade point average and so on, I believe the necessary articulation is feasible so that we can have more and more students spending two years doing an Associate Degree full time at the Barbados Community College in many more majors and then just going over to Cave Hill and rather than spending three years, completing their Bachelors Degree in two years, that is four years of education from CXC Level to one getting a Bachelors Degree as opposed to five years.

Mr. Chairman, these are creative areas that we can utilise as a country to effect tremendous savings in terms of cost of education our students at tertiary level without denying or reducing access to university level education by the masses of our country.

Mr. Chairman, I know that I only have 15 minutes but I wish before I close to just invite again the authorities, be it Government, be it the university administration, be it the Students Guild to look at creative ways of assisting students who may have difficulties in passing their examinations. I would really encourage our country to have a holistic view of education. We should not be elitist, adopting the approach to education in the United Kingdom where the high-flyers are recognised but the others are considered less than human because they may be slow learners.

Sir, I am saying that in this day and age, we should be looking at having more counseling, even career guidance and counseling in the university administration can be creative and have more faculty advisors assigned to students because this is not normal in the North America scenario. We have many students now who are leaving secondary school as young as 16 years old and going straight from CXC into the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies. Sir, these are children that are maturing and sometimes they may enter a programme in computer studies, management, or what have you, thinking it is a very exciting career but they do not know what is involved and then when they get into the programme they realise they are not fitting in, they find it difficult, they struggle and they fail examinations and so the faculty advisor would assist them in terms of choosing courses and in terms of career paths so that we can reduce the level of failure there rather than just condescend and dismiss these people as time waster, we hold their hands and guide them so that they can indeed succeed.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the administration of the university, the Guild of Students and benevolent agencies, the service clubs and so on, going and giving these young students lectures so that they can understand the discipline involved in study and the effect use of time management.

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

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: : Mr. Chairman, you cannot study to burn out and then you end up with mental challenges nor you cannot 'lime' too much because you would not be able to pass your exams. Sir, even in the issue of method of examinations, there are some people who are very bright but they are not good at exams because they have poor examination techniques. They get nervous in an examination room and they can be guided in terms of best practices to assist them, Sir, the quality of lectures as well. Whereas in the secondary school system and in the primary school system, the Ministry has a time-frame that within a few years, we expect to have all our teachers within the primary school system and the secondary school system fully trained, in teacher's training at the Erdiston Teacher

Training College. I am saying that at the university level as well and at the Barbados Community College this should be mandatory. Sir, you may have people with PhDs and the brightest people out there but they do not have the ability to simplify and impart this knowledge to their students. Sir, some cannot even write legibly on a blackboard or whiteboard and, Sir, all of this inhibits proper student learning. (6:08)

Sir, these are the holistic things that I think would effect a higher throughput in terms of reducing of level of failure and thereby containing the cost of education. This is the general, holistic view that we, as a country, must look at to ensure that we get the bang for the buck, as I would say.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would wish to rise in support of this Supplementary Resolution which seeks, basically, to accord what I think that we have been seeking to say for the duration of the debate (7:22) to stamp again on this Parliament the indelible image of the Democratic Labour Party as it relates to its steadfastness in relation to university education. Sir, the amount of \$66 million, which is being allocated to both the economic cost and the tuition cost for students at the University of the West Indies is nothing to be scoffed at and, indeed, what it does is to concretise and to reinforce the focus of this Government and its dedication on supporting the university and university students.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that in this debate to date much of what has been echoed in this Chamber has not been echoed outside and, indeed, the dedication of this Government to university tertiary education has been questioned even outside of this Chamber. Sir, I only wish that in the just concluded by-election in St. John that the Honourable Members on the other side would have signaled that this Government remains totally committed to free tertiary education.

Mr. Chairman, outside of this Chamber we heard a number of things being said about our resolve, and even in these difficult economic times, we have held fast to our principal policy of ensuring that the University of the West Indies continues to benefit from the significant investment by the Government of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, what we have here in this debate is really an opportunity to look very closely at this issue of tertiary education. Sir, I believe that what we have been saying is that going forward, like any other area of the economy that the quality of education and, indeed,

2.11 p.m.

Sequence 16 - 2

the efficiency of the provision of tertiary education must be something that is high on the agenda of this Parliament. So it is not only a question of voting monies for the University of the West Indies, but to look very candidly at the programmes followed by the University of the West Indies and, indeed, the relevance of those programmes to the Barbadian economy.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this gives us an excellent opportunity, probably caucus with the University of the West Indies, and to set out on a strategic focus in relation to tertiary education. One of the things that I am very anxious to do as Minister responsible for Family, Culture, Sports and Youth, is to look at how they can make more relevant the courses being offered by the University of the West Indies to our communities. I believe the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central alluded to this, in terms of the future relevance of the University of the West Indies.

I believe in our communities where we have need for tuition, certainly in terms of instruction, particularly to our vulnerable populations, we need to look at whether or not we should be establishing various centres across Barbados, linked to the University of the West Indies to provide that kind of guidance and relevant tuition.

Mr. Chairman, we have to ensure our young people understand that tertiary education is still relevant in terms of a number of disciplines. We look at the area of sports, for example, where a number of our young people are very interested in sports but we have not been encouraging them to get into a number of careers in the area of sports.

I believe that the University of the West Indies in terms of its forward focus must also look at establishing programmes, or additional programmes, to ensure that our young people can recognise careers in sports as a viable option.

Sir, recently, while attending the Commonwealth Games in India, this came out as a very important need particularly for Caribbean jurisdictions, many of whom actually field a number of persons in various disciplines at those games. What we do not have are enough of are Sports Managers and, indeed, Sports Therapists. Sir, these are persons who are high-end earners but we have not been focusing at the level of tertiary instruction, the opportunities available in these areas.

Mr. Chairman, in the wider area of education and community involvement, I believe we have to look at the existing school plants and to interest the University of the

West Indies in utilising these school plants after hours, so that we can look more candidly at community-based instruction, not only at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, but community-based instructions in our communities. Also, not only at what used to be the Extra Mural facility, The Pine, but certainly at facilities across Barbados, in St. John, Christ Church, and certainly across other constituencies, because I think that is where, as Members of Parliament we place a lot of our focus, whether it is remedial education. We heard from the Minister encouraging our young people to utilise their time at the University of the West Indies and that this is not about cutting expenditure. This is about saying to our young people we have to utilise our time at the university more efficiently, and efficiency has got to be the order of the day.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Peter speak to the whole question of putting money behind tertiary education. In other words, find the money. He has called on this Government not to do anything to curtail spending on education, but he recognises in the same breath, given our economic challenges, that there is a deficit in the funding for tertiary education, but what we are yet to hear from the Opposition on are meaningful solutions or suggestions as to how we will narrow the gap in that tertiary deficit, what we have heard from them is that we should establish a University College of Barbados as an alternative strategy for what we have now. Mr. Speaker, without the outlay of significant funding is really not an answer.

Sir, if we are spending so much money now at the University of the West Indies in relation to tuition cost, economic cost, in fact the University has to spend millions of dollars on the upkeep of their buildings. Is the answer simply to spend new money now on a new facility, rather than to look at how we can improve the existing facilities at the University of the West Indies.

Sir, as a matter of fact, perhaps you may suggest that the focus ought not to be squarely on constructing buildings. In this era of technology, and I must credit the University of the West Indies with this because they have gone online, you have the virtual university, so to speak, available to Barbadians, and indeed to Caribbean residents, which has created new opportunities, new vistas, for our citizens and indeed those in the Caribbean to access tertiary level education without leaving their homes. So the focus ought not to be on establishing a University College of Barbados, so to speak, given our very tenuous financial situation, but it must be on ensuring that virtual learning via the internet is expanded and make it a more accessible, by the provision to our young people computers. Access to computers today is even more crucial and more important than building new universities and new buildings. Sir, we provide access to computers in our homes and in our

villages, and so on, across Barbados, then you provide access to education.

Sir, I heard the suggestion being made that we have to be careful that we are not educating or providing tertiary education to our people for them to basically leave Barbados and of course give the expertise to countries outside of Barbados. I think I need to sound a word of caution in that regard because we have produced or created an excellent education product, and we cannot in this global village restrain our people once we educate them and restrain that and tell them they should only make their services available to Barbados. Yes, we can want that, but we have to factor into our educational focus the fact that Barbadians would leave Barbados, the fact that they will go to other countries. Yes, they will enrich those countries but in exchange that brings to our country not only remittances but it creates the avenue for global knowledge and access to global services. So we must not close the door to that avenue for Barbadians to go abroad, whether they go there to live or they go there to pursue other means of endeavour. Sir, I think we should create the environment in Barbados that will cause or allow many of those persons to remain at home.

Sir, part of our gross domestic product and part of what we boast in terms of revenues are as a result of remittances. May of our people leave Barbados, and it would redound to our foreign exchange earning capacity.

H81 PART 2 2.21 p.m.

Sequence 17

I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that we obviously remain very steadfast. The Barbados Economic and Social Report for 2009 shows that in fact, we spent 7.9 per cent more in education in Barbados. Sir, that figure went from \$521.6 million, Sir, representing an increase of 7.6 per cent so our dedication to the provision of free education up to the tertiary level cannot be questioned.

I believe the debate though in this House must be focussed more, in relation to the quality and relevance of education. I believe that the reality of what is happening in our communities must nudge us in the direction of creating avenues at the highest level for technical education. We are finding that most of our males are gravitating towards vocational and technical education and we must find a way to ensure that at the highest level in our tertiary institutions that our males, in particular, can excel in the area of technical and vocational studies. We have to ensure that the ballots which we want to have between the pure academics and the technical are maintained and we have to find avenues to do that.

We still need to have the best artisans in Barbados, Mr. Chairman, the best workmen. Therefore our tertiary level, vocation and technical training institutions must be accorded the kind of status by which our young people can feel that when they pursue those areas of endeavour that they will be able to earn.

I also have to say, Sir, that certainly at the level of providing diversity in education, we have certainly embraced that. I notice that at many of our secondary schools, we pursue agricultural endeavours, for example, at the Lodge School, and recently I paid a visit to the Grantley Adams Memorial School in St. Joseph where they had farms.

Now, I believe that if we are to push agriculture in the way that it should go, we have to spend more money on those kinds of facilities at our secondary schools and we have to ensure that our farms at the schools are protected from predial larceny. My understanding is that the farm at the Grantley Adams Memorial School has been hard hit by persons who stole the sheep and the rabbits, I mean literally plundered the farm.

For us to encourage our young people to be encouraged in agriculture within our schools and for persons, lawless and otherwise to be plundering these farms in our secondary schools and stealing produce is really something to which we have to find an answer. I really would like to encourage the Ministry of Education to ensure that the highest level of security is put in place at our secondary schools and to ensure that once we have these programmes that our young people are not disillusioned by acts of predial larceny.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I wish to signal my support for the Resolution and it makes me rather proud to see that we continue to hold fast to our philosophical moorings in the provision of free education up to the tertiary level. Indeed, we need not to be ashamed to say that at this time we are asking our young people, particularly at the University of the West Indies, to practice efficiencies and to become much more frugal in how they access this education.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, there is a clear appetite for discussion today subject that is gaining the attention of the Honourable Chamber at this time. It is really testimony to what has been already described as an overall policy of this Democratic Labour Party as a political party and as a Government in Barbados.

Sir, like so many Honourable Members who have contributed so far, I certainly am a proud beneficiary of the free education in Barbados and it has benefitted the nation. The fact is that we recognise that there are deficits still to be closed. Deficits, of course, in terms of satisfying the thirst for training and that is the important factor. The thirst for training in what is becoming a more and more diverse world every day, as we segregate topics and go into a search for information, and as we seek solutions to the situations that face us.

Sir, the point though that we need to face squarely is that what is facing Barbados and the Honourable Members also spoke to this - is the fact that there is a financial deficit, which we also have to address. I would like to spend a few minutes speaking to the University of the West Indies Cave Hill and its role. I want to quote the Principal, Sir Hilary Beckles, who of recent time - two, three years - has spoken to the fact that the University of the West Indies Cave Hill has the opportunity to actually generate revenue streams of its own. I really believe it is high time that we start to emphasise these opportunities and allow the university to take greater and greater advantages of it.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West spoke, for instance, to the question of distance learning and the fact that more and more Barbadians are taking the opportunity to use the facility of distance learning offered by the university, and for that facility they pay. It is an opportunity which also offers flexibility. One can remain at a substantive job and do a distance learning programme and one does not have to seek leave. You can take time during your breaks and on evenings without formally having to move physically from your location to take advantage of these learning opportunities.

It only takes a cursory glance, or as they say, a surf of the world wide web to recognise immediately, even if you are not in pursuit of a class or a training of your own, the tremendous possibilities there are in that area of training our people. It is important too, Sir, as we produce our graduates and as we produce the beneficiaries of the educational system in Barbados, we understand that there is still a role to be played by employers in that the university, the schools, the colleges, will shape the minds of the young - and the not so young - but in terms of being specifically able to take up a particular task within an organisation now, focussing on the required strings of that organisation, a level of retraining may be required.

Therefore, patience must be observed on the part of the businessman, the owners of capital that, yes, there will also be that learning curve. Sometimes I think there is a demonstration of impatience in this regard.

HOUSE A 81, sequence 18, 2.31 p.m.

In truth and in fact, education is one which trains the mind to think. The ability to follow guidelines within an organisational setting would then follow automatically.

Sir, the Democratic Labour Party's commitment to free education in Barbados does not really require any restating. Sir, although the Barbados Labour Party give their support, it must be put straight because, as an Honourable Member in this debate has already stated, when you listen to their mouthings outside of the formalities of Parliament, one wonders about their sincerity on these topics.

Sir, when we introduce for instance free school travel on buses in Barbados in the Budget of 2008, we were criticised by that side that we could find other things to do with that money. Sir, that is true, we can find other things to do with all the moneys we have but we have to recognise and commit to a programme for our young people. The Honourable Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, in that debate said that it was because of threats to the security and welfare of our young people that we recommitted to a course of action. Sir, that course of action is bearing fruit today as we observe a gradual maybe, as some commentators would agree, not fast enough but there is a falling in line by all the sectors related to transport of Barbadians. I am talking about children as well as adults that we must have a certain practice, which is acceptable.

Sir, more and more at the Ministry of Transport and Works, at the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development and within the Transport Authority, we continue to work with the providers of transport in Barbados and the Ministry of Finance because again there was rampant criticism; how are you going to measure behaviour, how are you going to measure improvement and how are you going to measure this and that. We are committed to saying to our private sector vehicle providers that we will give the relief in the areas but they must recommit to a programme which sees greater order in our transport system.

Again, Sir, when we introduced the free summer camps for children in Barbados relieving parents of the additional worry about where their kids are during our vacations, the Honourable Member on that side who purports to be the spokesman on education, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, was blatant lethal in her demonstration of opposition to summer camps and continues to harangue the Honourable Minister on a daily basis whenever we come in here about this programme.

Mr. Chairman, we are committed to the programme of looking after the children of Barbados, that is the Democratic Labour Party policy and we will make sure, as has been stated by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that we allocate the funds to suit... Whether they be at primary

education, preschool education, secondary education, tertiary education the transport of our school children or our provision of summer camps for our young children, we are committed to finding the resources to build a society while we strengthen and maintain the Barbadian economy.

Mr. Chairman, we have a short time in this presentation so I cannot take any more time but I look forward to coming back at some time in the very near future to speak to the broad question of education in Barbados, to political consistency and honesty and to recognising that we have to do something to improve the revenue streams so that we can look this country and say that we are on a path of correction, a path of sustenance, and you need not worry.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have but another five or ten minutes in this debate so I will just use the opportunity to make a few points very quickly.

Sir, I rise to support this Resolution and like the Honourable Member for St. Peter this morning I want to say to my colleague, the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, and to my Cabinet colleagues that money spent on education today in Barbados is money well-spent because our future really hinges on how we develop our human capital today more so than ever.

Indeed, Sir, as was said earlier, in this age when in fact our way of life in terms of our industries is under threat and we have to look to new industries following new rules in the World Trade Organisation and following opportunities developed through the EPA and followed by opportunities which would be presented with our renegotiated CARICOM/Canada position, that education today is going to be the key to the growth of Barbados going forward.

Mr. Chairman, one of the areas of divide between myself and the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development is that the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development sees education in a holistic manner, he sees education as a education whereas I am more of a practitioner and I see education, that is with respect to university education, as a means so that we can develop capital to service particular needs.

In that regard, Sir, I see nothing wrong with us - maybe I am speaking as a businessman - trying to ensure that we have programmes that are necessary or that are specific to our needs going forward. Sir, by way of

example, we are going into Brazil, therefore there would come a point in time when the Portuguese language would be important to Barbados as Spanish is if we are to develop that relationship. We want to ensure that our people developed so that they are bilingual whether it be English or Spanish or French because we can no longer train our people to remain at home only. In fact, their services would have to expand beyond our horizon so I agree therefore that money spent on education today is money well-spent.

In that regard, Sir, I also want to note with some satisfaction that the idea of a University College of Barbados, or by whatever name we call it, is being still looked at by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. I already have a pretty fair idea what I would like if I have any influence on where we would go. I would in fact want to encourage the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development to ensure that when we form our own university as I would like it to be called, that it would bear the name of the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow because were it not for the fact that he brought us free education, I would not be standing here before you today, Sir.

Sir, in that regard, let me say that I look forward to us indeed having what I would like to call the Errol Barrow University of Barbados. Indeed, Sir, may be I could go a bit further because unless we move from the Barbados Community College campus. Indeed, we can then rename that campus the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Campus so that we would have the Errol Barrow University of Barbados and the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Campus, so I look forward to that, Sir.

Sir, I however am speaking against a background that I am concerned about this region and about CARICOM. I want to extend that to a few points in terms of education with respect to the university. As I speak to you today, Sir, there appears to be some cracks in our regional integration movement that is being seen not only at a political level. I am not even speaking about the mouthings in St. John a couple days ago, that is an aside.

House A81/2 Sequence 19

2.31 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, there does seem to be cracks in regionalism, in terms of CARICOM. Sir, I know the point was made that we can understand why Jamaica is going ahead and developing its own university, because they want to ensure that more of their people are brought to university level education. Trinidad is also going ahead in developing its own university; in fact, the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, is going ahead, it is a very outstanding and state-of-the-art campus.

Mr. Chairman, however, what I am seeing is the fact that in creating more homegrown solutions, that unity that was once there, seems to have disappeared. Sir, the fact is that in my generation, I can call the Attorney-General of St. Lucia or the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, because we were at university together. That unity among people has disappeared. Sir, what saddens me now is that, for example, I am hearing that Jamaica is talking about having its own Final Court of Appeal, so that in our region we seem not to have bought into the fact that the Caribbean Court of Justice should be our Final Court. Sir, that does not surprise me from the point of view that some time ago the Bahamas went ahead and created its own law school. Trinidad has now gone ahead and done the same thing, and I believe that Jamaica has done the same thing, although I am advised there is an agreement in place that the third year would be done in Barbados over the next couple of years.

Sir, that is only for the next few years, there will come a point very soon, and the Minister of Education must get on board, when we are going to have to decide whether or not we will have our own law school in Barbados and not just a law faculty. In other words, Barbadians will no longer have to go to Trinidad or to Jamaica to finish their law degree.

Asides.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that is my vision, I am saying that given what has happened in Trinidad and in Jamaica, we are going to have to make a decision, very soon, whether or not, economically, it makes sense for us to have our five years in Barbados. Mr. Chairman, as I said, I am concerned about the cracks in our regionalism and I am concerned that it is extending to the University of the West Indies.

Mr. Chairman, let me quickly say that one of the things that has recently been drawn to my attention is that we have not yet created a seamless process for our medical students coming out of Cuba. I believe in my constituency I have one young lady who will be returning shortly. I know her mother is very concerned about what reception this bright scholar from Barbados will receive when she returns from Cuba with her degree. Sir, the fact is, and I am advised, that in the old days we did not necessarily send the best quality matriculated student to Cuba, today that has changed. Therefore, the type of student going to Cuba, the type of student coming back from Cuba is on par or better than the ones going to Jamaica or even the ones who are here. In other words, there should be no differentiation when this young lady comes back from Cuba, as opposed to someone who has been trained in Barbados or in Jamaica. Sir, that we have to decide

because what we are doing is that we seem to be sending mixed signals, we are saying here is some support while you are in Cuba, however, on your return to Barbados we are allowing the doctors at the hospital or the private sector to determine whether or not you are accepted. Sir, we have to ensure as a Government that we send the correct signal.

Mr. Chairman, I go back to the link between services and education, we should be happy to have the type of medical student that is bilingual. We should be happy to have a doctor from Barbados who speaks Portuguese, so that when Portuguese visitors come to us, there is a doctor in Barbados who can converse with them, one who can determine what their ailments are, without any difficulty. Sir, that is the linkage between the language and the training. Sir, I raised that point with respect to Cuba and I hope it would be addressed. I am confident that between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health will ensure that the process is as seamless as possible.

Mr. Chairman, the reality is that we do not have the facilities to accommodate all of our medical students at this point in time, that is the reality, therefore there is no reason we should not be encouraging our young people, wherever possible, to seek training outside of Barbados, as long as we are satisfied of the quality of educational training. Sir, I know that you, like I, do not have a problem with our children being trained outside of Barbados because we know that experience could only redound to their benefit.

Mr. Chairman, I support this Resolution and I want to reiterate the fact that money spent on the University of the West Indies, that money spent on education in this day and age in Barbados, is money very well-spent. Sir, indeed, like the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter said earlier, we may have to decide that we will have to spend more on education going forward because it is the only way that we can take Barbados forward to the First World status that we want it to be, because services will be the key to our development. Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I know that education does engender a lot of debate. What I can do is to assure this Honourable House that there will be two documents coming to this Honourable House in a short while via Resolution, which would allow for even greater debate.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I think you should certainly respect the judgment of the Chair in this matter. I note the comments from the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. I think it is unfortunate that the comments have been made. I heard them. I would take it though that the Honourable Member was not serious about that but I

want to assure Honourable Members of this House that I will try at least to ensure that debates proceed as smoothly as possible. I think I was clear in terms of the reason you were not recognised. Honourable Member, I have inferred what you said as being unfortunate and would therefore prefer if you would not make that remark in the future. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, we should be bringing to this Honourable House very shortly two Resolutions, one dealing with the human resource development strategy, which would principally look at education and training in all of its various forms and dimensions. We should be engaged possibly a whole day of debate and all Honourable Members would have an opportunity to make input on that. Subsequently, we should also lay in this Honourable House a report coming out of the deliberations of the National Advisory Commission on Education, which should also give Honourable Members an opportunity to speak at length to what is happening in education in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, in the final moments of discussion on this Supplementary for the sum of \$66 297 236, I would like to comment on a number of issues which have, in fact, arisen on the Floor of this Honourable House today. Sir, a government is continuous, that has to be stated. Political parties within our structure might, from time to time, change the face, complexion or sometimes the character of that particular government therefore having encountered sensible or reasonable programmes, for which great sums have already been expended, the Democratic Labour Party is not in the mold of leaving them rusting for so many years, like a tower in St. John, or as they did in Christ Church South, where they have that steel structure which was for the Rates and Taxes Division, where the Post Office used to be.

2.51 p.m.

Sir, in this instance, we have constructed, in the last three years, some new nursery schools and primary schools. Sir, at Six Roads, we continue the construction of the nursery school there, the Olga Millar Nursery School, named after an outstanding citizen of Marchfield and brought that to conclusion. When this Government assumed office, we had not yet gone to tender for the Ann Hill or the St. Ambrose School in the constituency of St. Michael South East or the constituency of the City where St. Ambrose is located and those two were brought to conclusion from scratch, literally. We had the permission of the Department of Town & Country Planning, we had to go to tender and, Sir, that was done.

The school located along Edgington Road, part of Staple Grove Plantation, when I saw the files, that was conceptualised to be a facility costing some \$16 million or

\$17 million but today, that facility, when finished, will be an outstanding primary school which will be named after two outstanding sons of St. David's, Mr. Blackman and Mr. Gollop and, therefore, that school will be called the Blackman Gollop Primary School.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Yes, Sir Clyde Gollop and the father of the former Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados who are two outstanding Barbadians. Sir, cumulatively, their contribution to Barbados will be somewhere in the region of some 92 years. Sir, one has 47 years in complete education and the other some 23 years in education and then 23 years in family planning, in community development and in civil organisation. This Government has accepted that school will be named the Blackman/Gollop Primary School in recognition of the outstanding service to the people of that area and to the people of Barbados as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, you had on paper, an institution costing nearly \$17 million and when that facility is completed, even though we had some challenges with the foundation and the land but which has given us some extras space, it will be some where in the region of about \$11 million or \$11.5 million. Sir, that is what we are talking about.

Mr. Chairman, I have already spoken to the Mariah Holder School. Sir, this Minister, along with the technocrats in the Ministry had to negotiate the Mariah Holder School, literally from scratch. Sir, I do not procrastinate on these matters. We are still in negotiations with the Moravian Church for the land and, obviously, when we come to Estimates, we will see that reflected some where in the Estimates for the coming year in relation to the land but we have an agreement for the lease and we have an agreement for construction and that is why within the next three months that building will be finished as well.

I also saw in the newspapers from the Sandy Lane Trust only recently where the Sandy Lane Trust, working along with the Ministry of Education and, obviously, with the Ministry of Housing would provide some 84 acres of land, once everything goes well, where we will have a state-of-the-art special needs school in Barbados funded by the Sandy Lane Trust with the full support and cooperation of the Ministry and, therefore by extension, the Government and people of Barbados. Sir, that is what the late Prime Minister was talking, when we were twinning governmental assets with philanthropic resources to bring about the kind of capacity that we need. Sir, even though we were working then in education to some extent, there will still be some neglected sectors and the special needs education sector has been a neglected sector even though we have been putting the resources, the facilities under

which sometimes they operate have not been the best. This important twinning is going to take place in the shortest possible time when housing, the Ministry of Education and the Sandy Lane Trust will come together.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you have one more minute.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Therefore, when we outlay the level of expenditures that we are, in fact, outlaying on education in Barbados, our commitment to the University of the West Indies remains untouched and, therefore, I want to say to the people of Barbados, once they are reasonably qualified, to go to the University of the West Indies, get your education, get it as soon as possible, help yourself get out, so that others can get in and as we expand to the north, the dual campus for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College to take up further capacity and to clad the expansion at the Foundation School and St. Michael's School, the sixth form schools, we will be putting more persons into post-secondary education or higher education before they go on to the University of the West Indies but, Sir, great plans are coming.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I beg to move that the Resolution stand part for \$66,299,236 be granted from the Consolidation Fund.

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

The question that Head 54 stand part was put and in the resolved in affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$1 942 836 FROM THE Consolidation Fund AND TO PLACE IT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE Government TO SUPPLEMENT THE ESTIMATES 2010/2011 AS SHOWN IN THE Supplementary ESTIMATES NO. 7 2010/2011 WHICH FORMS THE SCHEDULE TO THE RESOLUTION.

HEAD 19 - \$322 313

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

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

The question that Head 19 stand part was put and in the resolved in affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - \$22 000, \$393 485 AND \$46 922.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 28 stand part.

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

The question that Head 28 stand part was put and in the resolved in affirmative without division.

HEAD 50 - POST OFFICE - \$794 738

H/A81/10:10

Sequence 21 - 7

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, this is the first opportunity since I became Attorney General that I would have had to address the Post Office and certain issues with respect to the Post Office. I want to take this opportunity to indeed say a few things with respect to the Post Office, and then I will certainly give way to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Sir, I want to begin by recognising the hard work of the postmen and women of Barbados. Just over Christmas I had the opportunity to visit with them. As you know Christmas is the busiest time of the year for postmen and women, and, indeed, what I saw were dedicated men and women going about their duty. There are no complaints. I want to begin by recognising the hard work of the postmen and women in Barbados.

Sir, I believe they would not want to stand before you as Attorney General without mentioning the fact that they still have some challenges as they go about their daily duty. Indeed, contrary to popular belief, dogs are not man's best friends, because I still hear stories of postmen and women being put to flight by dogs when they visit certain residences. I know that there are issues. I know that Barbados still provides, and Barbados is probably one of the only countries that still provide a postman or woman who goes from place to place on a daily basis. Most countries nowadays, you that in fact go to your postbox to collect your mail. If we are to continue this tradition we need to ensure that our postmen and women can operate in the best and safest environment.

Sir, the provision of postal services today, as I said, has it challenges. Certainly one of the challenges is the economics of providing the type of service we are providing today. In fact, there is no doubt that in Barbados the provision of the type of postal service that we have, has been looked at traditionally more as a social service than as an economic service. It is that I intend to speak.

Sir, over the years there has been an increase in the population size of Barbados. We have therefore related to that and have seen an increase in the number of postmen and women employed in Barbados, in fact the number of postal workers overall in Barbados, so that we can have the delivery of mail in and out of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, in that regard there has been an attendant cost in terms of the delivery of the service. This cost has been heavily subsidised by the Government of Barbados for quite some time. We are going to have - In fact would like to suggest to Cabinet, in fact to this House, that we look at this social service and decide whether the time has not come for us to bring it closer in line to the realities of the economic cost of providing it.

Sir, indeed, the dynamics of the type of postal service that we provide has changed. Let us say 20 years ago, to be on the safe side, a letter was a norm, so that the normal way of transmission of messages was, I would write to you and you would write to me, and we would write to each other, but that has changed. Today the internet has taken over. So the use of the Post Office as a medium of communication between persons in Barbados, and I daresay outside of Barbados, has been drastically reduced. So the use of the Post Office by the ordinary Barbadian has been reduced significantly. Sir, what has been happening is that, in fact, the Post Office is now being used more by commercial entities in terms of bulk packages, newspapers, periodicals, et cetera. Yet we have not had an increase in postal rates in Barbados probably since 2005. What has been happening is, we have looked at the Post Office, as I said, as more of a social service. We have been subsidising the actual cost of delivery out of mail and moreover of more for commercial customers and we have to look at that.

Mr. Chairman, to give an illustration of how it works, there is an agreement between jurisdictions that if you have bulk mail delivered into Barbados from the United Kingdom, for example, your cost of delivery of that mail from the United Kingdom within Barbados as part of the agreement is, you would charge them what you charge for your normal local delivery cost. Sir, as I said, we have been subsidising the delivery cost to Barbados. So that by extension, if you have bulk mail coming from outside of Barbados, the cost you are charging those customers is actually the subsidised cost that you are charging locally. So in other words, you are not only subsidising the cost of delivery of mail for local Barbadians, you are actually subsidising the cost of mail for your international clientele. That, I do not believe is a desirable situation. Sir, we have to look at that.

Sir, as I said earlier, we have the overall issue of cost. In terms of revenue, the Post Office derives most of its revenue from the sale of stamps, but I have said that, in fact, the use of the Post Office in the traditional sense has declined so that the sale of stamps for the usual delivery of mail is declining. At the same time the cost of the production of stamps is actually increasing. We actually purchase our stamps outside of Barbados. In fact, we purchase our stamps internationally. I believe we purchase our stamps from the United Kingdom, because there is no

local or regional producer of stamps. So we have those costs to deal with. Sir, at the same time while our revenue is declining our cost of producing stamps has been increasing.

Sir, I want to give you further illustrations in terms of where costs are increasing. The cost of airfreight is increasing. If we are sending mail from Barbados to Toronto but the mail is in fact going to another province, we have to foot the cost of wherever the mail goes when it lands in Toronto. So if, for example, it goes from Toronto to Vancouver, or if it goes from Toronto to Ottawa, we, in fact, also have to foot those additional costs. Those are costs that the Post Office must pay directly and, indeed, because of the charges we end up with increased costs to us and a situation where we are, in fact, subsidising costs in that regard. Sir, it is not a pretty picture that I am painting but it is not a pretty picture that I am seeing when I look at what is happening within the Post Office.

Sir, the Parcel Post - there was a time when the Parcel Post used to be an area where it was mostly used by commercial entities. I believe, again, we have not seen an increase in the rates probably since 1997, but the cost of the Parcel Post has escalated between 1997 and now, 14 years. It has escalated significantly. Again, the Post Office has been called upon to subsidise these rates.

Sir, it is opportune that I am having this discussion this afternoon, because we recently looked at the Estimates in terms of what is required for the Post Office going forward. We have some charges relative to what we require in terms of not only running the Post Office but to look at some structural deficiencies at certain Post Offices.

H81 PART 2 3.11 p.m.

Sequence 22

I believe for example that at the main post office there is an issue with the roof and whenever it rains, Sir, there are basic challenges there. The post office in St. Thomas, there are some issues with the roof. The post office in Holetown St. James, there are some issues with the roof. Sir, I know that my colleague from St. James South will tell me that the postmen in West Terrace complain of the fact that they would like bigger and better facilities.

Sir, we have all these challenges of what we would like to provide for our postmen but at the same time, Sir, we have the challenge in terms that we are subsidising the actual production of their activities and it has to be addressed.

In that regard, Sir, again even with the Express Mail Service, there is no reason we should not be competing

with UPS, DHL, Federal Express, et cetera, given the type of service that we have. Again, what has happened is that our calls are out of line with our charges, so even though our service is on par in terms of, in some cases, the next day service, our costs are actually out of sync with what their actual costs are, and it has to be addressed.

Sir, I may soon finish my litany of woes, in terms of the challenges that the post offices have in terms of their production but, as I said, Sir, I want to paint this picture because I want to impress upon the Cabinet that the times draws nigh, when we in fact have to make a decision, whether or not we want to bring the cost of the social service closer to the actual economic cost.

Again, Sir, to give you an idea of other challenges that we have at the post offices at this point in time, as you know, there have been some challenges in terms of terrorists' activity. One of the requirements of post going into the USA, is that post above a certain size, Sir, has to be scanned singly and in fact have to be scanned also in the presence of an officer from the airline taking out that mail. This poses some challenges because the officers do not necessarily work the hours that we work at the post office but we have to accommodate so that we can get a parcel post out.

Again what has happened is that this translates into increased cost because quite often, it means that we end up having to pay overtime to our officers because they have to make themselves available at the airport when the officers from the airlines are available. As I said, Sir, it is mainly in terms of what our costs are, and we are going to have to make a decision as to whether or not we can continue subsidising this social service.

Sir, even in this Head, we are seeking \$794 000 and that is respect to utilities. Again, Sir, our costs have gone up utility-wise because one of the things that we did recently, is that we want to ensure that we improve our point to point connectivity so that we can, in fact, have a better delivery of service. Sir, there is no reason why the post office should not have the type of SurePay like service so that we can derive some revenue from our activities but, of course, there are some infrastructural costs attendant to that, Sir.

I believe that I will be echoing the wishes of the Post Master General, whose surname also happens be Brathwaite, if in fact we were allowed some latitude at the post office to be able to do a bit more in terms of increasing the efficiency. Sir, we are cognizant of the fact that there are some cost constraints but I am saying that in fact, we have been subsidising for too long, the cost for the provision of our service. In that regard, Sir, we should and I would urge us to have a closer look at it, in the very near future.

I therefore, Sir, move that Head 50 stand part.

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

Mr. D.D. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a brief intervention in relation to this Supplementary and it centres around what could only be described as mismanagement at the post office.

Sir, the Minister has come to this Chamber to ask for a supplementary for more than \$794 000 - just a few thousand dollars shy of \$800 000 - and in the Explanatory Note, Sir, it says it is being sought to fund the cost of utilities. I was waiting and still am waiting to hear the details of the particular dilemma that the post office faces, which causes it to come for a Supplementary for utilities, Sir, but my friend says that it had to do with the point to point installation, which would allow them to do SurePay, and that they had to put in the infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that ever in the history of this Parliament dealing with Heads, whether in Supplementary or otherwise that infrastructure falls to be considered as a utility. Sir, even if that is true, the sheer magnitude of the Supplementary which is being sought under this Head, cries out for a detailed explanation to this Parliament and to the entire country.

It boggles the mind, Mr. Chairman, that in the year 2008/2009, the actual expenditure on utilities was \$1.2 million. In 2008/2009, the actual expenditure was \$1.2 million. This obviously led the Minister of Home Affairs at the time, now the Prime Minister, to seek provision in the Estimates for the following year, 2009/2010 for \$1.2 million. Sir, in 2010/2011, the provision in the Estimates was again \$1.2 million.

Sir, something has clearly happened between the preparation of these Estimates and to date, to cause the post office to seek a Supplementary for utilities almost equal to the provision that has been made for utilities for the post office in the two previous financial years. The Honourable Member has not deemed to offer to this Chamber whether it is in respect of the telephone, whether it is in respect of electricity or gasoline. We simply do not know.

I cry shame, Sir, because it is one thing to seek \$64 000 in Supplementary for the Prison for gasoline or diesel because we knew, Sir, that the Task Force had to go up to the Prison in December because the electricity went out and the generator would not start because the generator had no fuel in it. Sir, under the Prison, \$64 000 was for that purpose but it is a small amount as compared to the original provision. When you are now seeking to add \$800 000 to \$1.2 million, then this Chamber needs a proper explanation. I believe that the Honourable Member must

accept the criticism that he has not been forthcoming in explaining what the circumstances are that would lead to this, Sir.

I also served in Cabinet and I am clear in my mind, Sir, that before the Minister of Finance at that time would allow something like this to happen, you had to be called to account. There is a reason you have an Estimate. We have no new post offices. Well we do, I am fortunate to be the beneficiary of one in St. Joseph but there is no way, Sir, that the new post office in St. Joseph could now account for \$800 000.

HOUSE A 81, sequence 23, 3.21 p.m.

Sir, there is no way that the new post office in St. Joseph could now account for \$800 000 in expenses and utilities. Sir, this Chamber is entitled to an explanation and I am asking the Honourable Minister to give it.

The Honourable Member has used the word litany about seven or eight times in his presentation. I think he may have even said a litany of woes on one occasion. He has told us all the things that are going wrong with the post office and all of the high cost that he as the Honourable Minister has to contend with.

Sir, I wonder if the Honourable Member is not telegraphing to this Chamber and to the country that in the very near future Barbadians could expect to see the cost of postal services being increased in a significant way. I believe that is the purpose of the Honourable Minister going through this litany. In another place, I would call him my learned friend but in this place I have to say the Honourable Minister. It is nothing more, Mr. Chairman, than him preparing the wicket for a likely increase in the cost of postage and postal services which I believe the Barbadian taxpayers and users of the service can now expect. He has done so well, he talked about the high cost of parcel post and this and the next thing and the third thing. The only thing he has not said, Sir, is that the post office is broke.

If the Honourable Member wants to say to the Chamber that under the ITU obligations post in Barbados has to increase, he should tell the country so. If the Minister of Finance is going to be saying to him in his Estimates that postal services are going to be increased in the same way that bus fares, licence fees, VAT and all the other things that this country has had to face in increases, then tell us so but do not take us along this path, all of these problems with the post office, do not have enough money for this, do not have enough money for that and be so...

Mr. Speaker, I decry the Minister's presentation because I do not believe that he has been candid with this Chamber. If fees are going to go up, then be man enough to

say that you intend to carry up the postal cost but to sit here and go through his litany to use his word and leave it there, smacks of insincerity on the part of the Honourable Member. We are concerned, Sir, about the deficit, we have to be concerned. We are all in this boat together but what it requires...

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: As far as I know, Honourable Members on this side are in the same Parliament that Honourable Members on that side are in, we pay taxes to the same Treasury and we breathe the same air. We are in this boat together.

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: We were not hearing you in St. John neither. Where were you?

Therefore, Sir, there is no majority in the world that would allow Members of Parliament not to be candid with the Chamber, that smacks of arrogance so let us put that aside. The Minister has an obligation to speak candidly and say what the status is in relation to the expenses that the post office is going to be incurring and what he plans to do with it.

The Minister of Finance in his presentation said in some small measure what he planned to do about the deficit, he was obligated to do so. We may not be happy with what he has done but he was obligated to do so. The Minister responsible for the postal service is under a similar obligation to say to this nation if the post office is now moribund then what it is he is going to do about it.

The word palaver was used in the Chamber and I used that again to describe the Honourable Member's speech. The Minister has to be candid and let us know what the true position is and what his and his Government's intention is in relation to the post office and whether or not he intends to increase the cost of postal services.

Sir, there is no doubt at all that there has been a total transformation of the very concept of a post office over the years. I certainly remember posting letters to people. Nowadays I use email. There was a time when you use to use the parcel post at the post office but these days because that takes so long it is faster to use FedEx and DHL, there is obviously a transformation.

The move toward Surepay was intended to increase the revenues of the post office because the post office has branches all across Barbados and therefore the post office administration, certainly while I was there and I believe that is what has led to the implementation of the project, felt that it was an additional revenue source. I do not know

if it is in fact yielding the revenue that was intended and it would be gracious of the Minister to offer that in explanation as well.

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

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is quite clear after listening to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph that this Government has one decision to make and that is to obey the order given by the former Attorney-General who had that ministry and understood the losses that were being made by the post office.

Sir, I have been in here long enough to hear that speech being made by every person holding the position of Minister of Home Affairs. I have been told for many years that the amount of money collected as revenue by the post office was not covering the expenditure. I am also happy to hear, Sir, that it was under his watch that they started the process of accounting for Surepay to increase the revenues. The Honourable Member is well-aware that in order to do that you had to put in lines. The Honourable Member knows that nearly all utilities costs might have increased over the years so it is obvious that the cost of the utilities will be reflected in a different light. Sir, I am happy to hear that there is no discussion on this matter. I hope that if the rates are increased as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is asking us to do, that when it happens, we will not hear the from the Honourable Member for St. Joseph because what he is saying is that the post office cannot operate with these low levels of revenue and we accept that. What we would not accept is for the Honourable Member for St. Joseph to make this argument today and when it occurs to swing the other side of his mouth and say that we should not increase revenue.

Sir, that is not all, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would know that with the opening of the new post office in St. Joseph that additional charges will be placed on the post office. I am glad that he has accepted that his constituency has something to do with the additional charges.

Asides.

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

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The post office in St. Joseph though new replaces an older more inefficient building that used more electricity and more utilities. The new post office resulted in actual savings to the Treasury.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member cannot get away with that because the Honourable Member knows that at the old post office they hardly turn on lights but at the new post office, there are more lights, it is larger, it is offering more services and more people are even going to it, so the levels of utilities would be higher, so that red herring did not pass me.

Asides.

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: What the Honourable Member is telling me is that the recommendation by the Barbados Labour Party to switch from the old post office to the new one was a bad recommendation, that the other one was more cost efficient and they now gone and build something that is not as cost efficient as the older one. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the same argument that has been used over the years that they are being used now. I cannot understand the divide on this matter because there is no need. Every Estimates time we hear the same argument.

House A81/2 Sequence 24

3.31 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, it is the same thing with the University of the West Indies and the Post Office, one at Estimates time and one when we come to do Supplementary for the Post Office. Sir, this is customary and so expected of the Opposition.

Sir, the argument made by the present Minister of Home Affairs has been used by the past Minister of Home Affairs to increase the rates within the postal service. Sir, we recognised that the revenues collected could not carry the post office, that is why it is shown as a separate item, and the Honourable Member knows the post office is set aside and dealt with separately. Sir, I do not understand why the Honourable Member would want to create the impression that something is wrong today, when the Honourable Member is well-aware, after carrying the hand, of what occurs in these situations.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, the example of the post office is an interesting one. Sir, again one goes back into history to understand the evolution of the post office: the movement of messages, objects or whatever took place over time and starts with using your feet and also using animals and machinery to help move objects and cargo from place to place. Therefore, the evolution of a stationary facility to which people come to post mail or transact business, then for that facility to dispatch people to the various places, either your individual postbox, your community or villages or where some people themselves

go to the post office to collect that mail, an example which takes place in St. Vincent or persons moving cargo by horseback, et cetera...

Sir, we are today in the 21st Century where information and communication technologies have somehow placed the post office as an almost obsolete entity. What the post office in Barbados has to do, and it just cannot do it on its own but with an enlightened private sector, is to engage in e-commerce, where today that e-commerce activity moves tens of billions of dollars of goods, mail, magazines, books, et cetera, across the world. Sir, post offices in the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Brazil or wherever have been able to tap into that e-commerce activity, by making it possible for persons to know, for example, the cost of moving an item from here to there.

Mr. Chairman, because of the paucity of adequate e-commerce solutions in Barbados, our post office has not yet been able, as a mover or an exporter on behalf of the private sector, to export or to move all of the good things that we produce in Barbados. We could bring books out of Amazon, E-Bay, et cetera, and have them delivered on our doorsteps, or using by DHL (Barbados Ltd), Fed-Ex Express or United Postal Service (UPS), have them collected at some point. Our post office, working in conjunction with the private sector, has to go in that direction. If the country is producing small items, either in arts and craft or other consumables, the post office has to be so positioned that very quickly it has to be able to get those items to the people, it might be an exquisite jar, a bottle of rum, Christmas cake or a book written by someone on somebody. Sir, whatever it is, we have to be able to use that facility to move those items. Sir, that is an important revenue stream for the post office of Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the post office dispatches packages in the normal course of business but where you can have a burgeoning or blossoming of more export-oriented businesses in the private sector, moving the one or two items - not bulk - even if it is a small box containing an exotica product of Barbados, you would see how quickly the revenue stream of the post office would become. Sir, just to simply lament falling revenues and for Honourable Member for St. Joseph to be begging the Honourable Member for St. Philip South to tell him if there would be an increase in the rates, let us understand, and one has to be quite candid.

Sir, we can keep saying to society that every thing must be kept at the same rate of 25 years, 30 or 40 years ago. That is an impossible argument. Mr. Chairman, if you are attracted to a service, if you want that service to be efficient, if you want that service to be effective, that service has to be paid for therefore we cannot continue rising on the Floor of this Honourable House and keep

making political statements that have nothing to do with the reality of doing business. Sir, we cannot keep staring failure in the face. Sir, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph cannot keep making these kinds of comments, the Barbadian populace will not continue to be fooled, they know the reality, they know they want the postmen and postwomen to deliver their mail to their homes. They know that it takes money to pay postmen and postwomen to bring that mail to our various homes. What the Honourable Member for St. Joseph needs to do is to stand together as a loyal son of Barbados and stop trying to pull wool over the eyes of the Barbadian population, by trying to suggest that in this kind of reality, somehow the Government of Barbados wants to extract from them more than they can give.

Mr. Chairman, this kind of fallacy must be disregarded. It makes no sense, in our current reality, to be telling people that they should not pay for water, electricity nor postage. This is a set of nonsense that has to disappear from politicians' vocabulary. We have to confront the truth. We have to bring the truth to the people of the country, the postal service of Barbados, an important segment for the movement of cargo, mail and whatever else, conducts a business. Sir, the postal service of Barbados is a business institution and if you keep building up deficits, it will collapse and there will be a greater ricochet and greater ill effects across Barbados. This is a business that is being heavily subsidised, it has gone up against modern techniques.

Sir, when the Honourable Member for St. Joseph pulls out his latest I-pod or Blackberry, the Honourable Member is eliminating the post office from a stream of revenue. Sir, the Honourable Member has admitted that he used to go to the post office to post letters. Did the Honourable Member used to go to the post office to court? One goes to the post office to transact some form of business that is carried on by that organisation. Sir, I become sometimes a bit concerned when in the 21st Century we continue to pull wool over the eyes of the Barbadian populace.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, today we had a debate about educating the people of Barbados. I now wonder about the other side, if they accept that we can educate a nation...

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: That is why the people of St. John rejected them because they did not understand that the people of St. John understood, and all the little fillerbusting that was thrown across the campaign trail,

the people looked through it and said they do not want to hear anything from the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: After a former representative of this House said that he was going to be an Independent, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph travelled down there, looking at mud.

Asides.

3.41 p.m.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Sir, the point is, if we want some of our institutions to continue, if we want some of our institutions to keep serving the people, we cannot be drawing from the CF in a constant way to support these business type institutions. They have to be able to stand on their own and to charge reasonable rates, so that they can get a reasonable return on their particular investment. Sir, that is the reality.

The Honourable Member for St. Philip South does not have to bow before the Honourable Member for St. Joseph. There is cheese on this side and there is chalk on that side and, therefore, the Honourable Member needs to be drawn into the reality that there is. If at any time the cost of doing business with Post Office has to go up, then the people of Barbados will understand that they have to pay for the services that are given.

Mr. Chairman, therefore, I support this Resolution under Head 15.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise to give support to Supplementary and I will just make a brief comment. I must commend the Honourable Member for St. Philip South and others who have spoken on this before for starting a discussion, albeit a rather short one on the issue of the Post Office and the services that they provide. The debate really and truly also encompasses one's belief in what services the State should be providing to its citizens and at what costs. It is my considered opinion that the Post Office is one of these very important departments of Government which we should, certainly, seek to maintain at the best possible levels of service. However, it does not mean that it has to be entirely subsidised by the taxpayers and, therefore, over the years we have sought to ensure that it remains very efficient but the reality is that it is often challenged to provide services at the level due to financial constraints. Thus far, we have refrained from making postal costs at the levels that the average person would be challenged with whilst providing the service.

Mr. Chairman, let me say that this issue here today relates to a Supplementary to provide costs to cover increase utility charges and whatnot in Post Office. I always believe that our postal workers really and truly are deserving of much more support than they have been getting over the years. We have seen a situation where there has been great reluctance to improve upon the physical facilities that the Post Office staff often works under and I have certainly raised concerns and drawn them to the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs about the state of the Post Office based in my constituency, the one based in the West Terrace area, and I have always made the call for that to be expanded and for the physical plant to be improved upon to ensure that our staff there have the best possible conditions in which to work under.

Mr. Chairman, post men and post women these days are, in many respects, great community workers, they know who are the individuals existing in each house in each community and often times, quite honestly, they are the only individuals that some individuals who live alone will get the chance to interact with on a daily basis and, therefore, they are much more than individuals who deliver mail. They are certainly, in many respects, the only one you have to comfort you, sometimes in your darkest moment, the only one sometimes you have to run an errand for you when you cannot find anyone else. I certainly salute the postal workers in this country for the outstanding work they have been doing in building communities.

Mr. Chairman, it is all right to talk about what postal workers and postal services would have done in the past and, perhaps, a little bit of what they are doing today but I when I look toward the future, I ask myself what should a modern Post Office be providing in contemporary Barbadian times. I believe it has to be much more than a facility that sells stamps or deliver parcel post to individuals. We must, really and truly, in the 21st Century must be striving towards having multipurpose facilities at our Post Office. I cast my mind back to the USA where a Post Office does much more than deliver stamps. We have to have Post Office today serving as multipurpose Government facilities where, for example, passport forms can be delivered, received and basically processed - at least part of it thereof.

I, certainly, believe that some other Government services can be undertaken in these multipurpose facilities, for example, licensing and renewing of drivers licence and some other activities from the Ministry of Public Works. These days, why should individuals have to go to Hometown, the Pine or Oistins and wait for hours when one can very well, with modern technology swipe a credit card and process these matters there and then in a facility traditionally known as a Post Office.

Mr. Chairman, I do not see why, for example, one cannot insure that some State issued cheques are cashed in some of these Post Offices in Barbados. I think that the scope is there for us to be offering a much wider range of services in Post Office in Barbados today.

Mr. Chairman, when I spoke earlier about subsidising the cost of Post Office and operating them. The Post Office also has to see itself as a business entity and not just as a department of Government to be entirely funded by taxpayers. I think the call has to go out for those in charge of the Post Office to constantly think outside of the box and find innovative ways in which they can generate some revenue for themselves beyond the traditional need. Certainly, I believe that they ought to be more aggressively competing with Fedex, DHL and the other carriers that we have in this society and just share the economies of scales and what exists in Barbados today will lend itself to the Post Office becoming a centre for business when it comes to courier services and, certainly be able to negotiate effect rates for the airline carriers to ensure that they too get a bigger share of the revenue.

Mr. Chairman, as I have said, I would be very brief. I really wish to publicly express my gratitude to the staff at the Post Office at West Terrace. I know the Minister of Home Affairs will listen very well and will endeavour to make improvements there. I also look forward to the day when we can address relating to the motor cycles and the cost of operating them as well as the bags that they carry the mail in. I have seen some very tattered, torn and worn bags that they have to use and, therefore, they really labour under some very trying circumstances (8:14) and, as a Government, we are committed to make improvements. I believe that these improvements must also include a new sense of direction where we can see contemporary ranges of services being offered at multi-purpose facilities even if you call them Post Office.

Sir, with those few words, I am obliged to you and I support the Resolution before us.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Christ Church

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a very brief contribution in this debate on this Head dealing with the postal service and I do so, Mr. Chairman, out of some concern because I listened very intently to the contribution made by the Honourable Member for St. Joseph and, indeed, what he tried to mount was almost an impeachment of the Honourable Minister responsible for home affairs. Certainly, when I hear from the Honourable Member for St. Joseph a chastisement of a fellow colleague of being other than candid in this House, it raises my...

Asides.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on this because the Honourable Member was certainly Minister of Home Affairs and presided over the postal services. Sir, I want to say in this debate that the postal services of Barbados continue to render yeoman service to all of our communities.

3.51 p.m.

Sequence 26

Certainly, the issue of the development of the postal services is a continuous affair, and we remain committed to ensuring that the various postal services Barbados are upgraded. Indeed, the Postmen and Postwomen in Barbados can continue to perform their task at the high level that I believe they have been performing.

Sir, I believe that this particular Supplementary is indeed required for that particular improvement, and the Government ought to be credited for coming to the House to ensure that postal services in Barbados can continue to function at an optimum level. I do not believe that we are saying in this House that there is no room for improvement. There is, certainly room for improvement in the postal services. In addition to air, as we have now, we understand the importance of moving the postal services along, but what remains mysterious is if you were to look at the various Manifestoes of the Barbados Labour Party in relation to the improvement of postal services, the most that you will see in those Manifestoes is a statement saying that they intend to improve the postal services of Barbados.

Indeed, the human resources component of the postal services has for many years, prior to 2008, received little or no attention, including, for example, the physical facilities of the postal services. So we are not talking of postal services that just occurred, or just occurred out of the blue. We are talking about postal services that we would have taken control of in 2008 and have in fact made significant improvements.

Sir, when I hear from the other side castigations of what we have done in relation to postal services, I think the record ought to be put there for the public to understand that they really did not do much in terms of improving beyond the rhetoric in their Manifestoes, we had really nothing to show that the postal services in Barbados were taken seriously by the Barbados Labour Party. Mr. Chairman, that needs to be put for the record.

I believe that this particular Supplementary is really an indicative of the seriousness of the Government to take quick action to ensure that the postal services of Barbados remain in a manner that is pleasing with a certain level of efficiency in the eyes of the public.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks I indicate my support for this Supplementary.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to make a brief contribution to this discussion on the Post Office and this Supplementary, which, as stated in the addendum, is required to cover the cost for the utilities of the Post Office. Even in that sentence, which is available to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, I wonder what is so baffling and what he does not understand, because I know what utilities are. I believe all Honourable Members know what utilities are. The public of Barbados knows what utilities are, so I do not know what is getting the Honourable Member so excited. We are certain that, from the presentation of the Honourable Attorney General, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South, he made clear some of the challenges facing the postal system of Barbados, by way of operational expenses, and utilities, of course, the point being made that utilities are only one of these operational challenges. Sir, other Honourable Members who spoke, spoke to issues like the taking over of the movement of messages of mail information around the world in many different forms. The speed of the UPS or the other direct services, or the unchallenged immediacy of the worldwide web as more and more transactions are being made in this manner.

However, the large village Post Office like the one which the Honourable Member for St. Joseph does not even understand he can boast about, what they called the Eric Holder Centre, which is not only a Post Office. It is a Police Station, a Library, and it offers other forms of care. I too, in Christ Church South, of course, was very pleased to have accompanied the Honourable Attorney General, a couple of months ago, when he declared open the new Post Office at Oistin. I want to congratulate another Democratic Labour Party project fulfilled. I want to congratulate the Honourable Member in his capacity as Attorney General in bringing this project to fruition.

Sir, it demonstrated the commitment of the Democratic Labour Party Government to ensuring that certain requirements are put back in place.

We could have continue debating whether the Post Office should be on the beach side or on the land side of Oistin. We could have carried that debate on for another 10 years. The point is, with the reopening of the Oistin Post Office, we have already seen a resurgence in the village activity, which was so familiar to that area. The old ladies and old gentlemen who use these facilities frequently, on a weekly basis, go to their post office, transact their business and then meander along the beautiful streets of Oistin and enjoy the ambience which is offered as a total package.

Sir, in passing too, and very important, I want to go on record thanking the workers at the Oistin Post Office, the Post Mistress, the Postmen and Post ladies who cooperated for about eighteen months to two years during the construction of this new facility. I might build a Post Office in St. Thomas so that we can silence the Honourable Member for St. Thomas from interrupting presentations from this side.

Aside

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I do not understand why the Honourable Member has the opportunity to speak like anyone else in this Chamber, but keeps on interrupting or trying to interrupt Members when they are making reasonable sensible contributions. She is blabbering all the time, and not really saying anything.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I was saying to you that I want to express my deepest appreciation to the Postmistress, the Postmen and Postwomen who worked at the Oistin facility and who had to undergo the dislocation during the construction. The cashier staff was accommodated at a temporary facility near the beach, a couple of well put together 40 feet containers, completely air conditioned which were provided for them, and, of course, the Postmen and the Post ladies would have been accommodated at Newton in a temporary facility, at Newton Industrial Centre. Sir, this worked well.

Now the new facility at Oistin is available and it has started to enhance an already popular town centre, and started to bring a kind of total development to this town centre, which has been lacking for a while.

Sir, I take onboard too the Honourable Member for St. James South when he spoke to the fact that we need to look at the opportunity to collaborate more of the services being offered.

H81 PART 2 4.01 p.m.

Sequence 27

I think that once the flexibility can be achieved, where a person who is renewing a driver's licence has the full documentation with them, there is no conceivable reason in today's world of technology, why that person cannot go to a post office and make that transaction. If there are questions to be asked, if you do not feel you are fully documented and you need then to visit the Licencing Authority for specific interventions, then that is understood.

Even as I listen to his contribution and the contributions of other Honourable Members, I wondered why this small change cannot be taken on board, as we even contemplate the final presentation of the amended road traffic legislation.

Sir, it is something really worth considering for the immediate future. It is a no-cost item. It is absolutely convenient. It will take some of the load off the Licencing Authority itself and it is a recommendation worthy of urgent consideration. It would not only apply to Oistins. We have satellite stations in Holetown for the Licencing Authority which are very cramped and in large measure they are dealing with renewals as I said, which are basic where the customer has full documentation. Therefore, there should be really no good reason why, between the Ministry of Finance, the Treasury, the Licencing Authority and the Post Office, of course, an arrangement cannot be made to accommodate this kind of transaction. It has been a worthy discussion so far, even from this regard.

Sir, in closing, again, we want to commend the Minister and the Ministry of Home Affairs for the work they are doing, the commitment to their continued development of these areas - and at the same time as I said - to really express appreciation on behalf of the persons who use the Post Office at Oistins. It is not only Christ Church South, but a whole heap of people from all over Christ Church and St. Philip do their business at that Oistins Post Office. Sir, we are very appreciative of this work and we support the continued development of these facilities around Barbados.

Sir, with these few words, I want to lend my support to this Resolution.

Asides.

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

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, this is my first intervention for the day so in keeping with the usual programme, I would like first of all to congratulate the Member for St. John on her resounding victory at the Polls. I also want to wish her well in these Chambers.

Mr. Chairman, the whole question of the nature of postal services in Barbados over the last thirteen has undergone tremendous change for the better. I recall the days when postmen used to ride their bicycles or walk. Over the years, we have seen a situation where postmen today now get duty-free cycles. Even though there is no where in any of the Manifesto pledges of the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party, it was this side that recommended that the postal service was indeed an important service to the people of Barbados and duty-

free cycles were provided for the postmen and postwomen of this country.

There certainly is a need for the Government to look and go beyond the provision of duty-free cycles. I think many times we have heard about postmen who have lost their cycles while on duty and there is a need for further protection of these cycles. I do not know what the Government would do but there is a need to further protect the cycles or the property of the postal workers.

Sir, over the years the service has improved. I know in most parts of the developed world, the postal service is now more commercialised where, and as the Honourable Member for St. James rightly pointed out, it has changed from one of changing money orders and providing stamps but it has undergone tremendous change today and it is more of a commercial nature.

In fact, most postal services in north America are run by the private sector, with no input from Government. It is true that they provide a 24-hour service. I believe we may very well have to look at that but it is indeed at this juncture of our development that we need to look at how we can go forward in providing a better service.

Sir, it is true that this is one of the areas that do not necessarily come to the House too often. This is the second debate in ten years I have had on the postal service. We do not have much debate on the postal service at all in this House. It is one of the Supplementaries that come here and it is approved quite readily but no large debate on the postal service. Sir, it is important for us to state that we need to constantly look at the delivery of the service and to thank the postmen and women who are providing brilliant service.

I believe that this side has provided new postal facilities accommodation at the Glebe. We have provided accommodation in St. Joseph.

Asides.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Yes. It was this side that built the spanking new postal Headquarters in Bridgetown and we have done a lot of work to improve the lot of the postmen and women over the years. Therefore the record will show that this side is committed and I believe the Government is also committed to the development of the postal service in this country.

I believe that there must be a study though in the way we are going forward in the postal service because we are now into an area where it is fair to say that it is very expensive to send females around. I believe that there may be some recommendation that the private sector can start

sharing some of the cost and even taking on some of the responsibility of the post office.

I know that there are some Honourable Members in here, who sometimes do not think that the private sector can assist and to carry out some of the functions of the post office because, as Government sheds some of this responsibility, it is expenditure. I believe that there are a variety of areas that the postal service can undertake, if it was under a public/private sector partnership and we need to need to look at that, as we go forward to make the postal service more efficient.

I know there are some in here, like the Honourable Member for Christ Church South, who would like to see an expansion of the public sector. There are some in here who believe that the public sector - that is Government then - has the answer and that the Government service has an answer for everything.

Sir, when you look at the Government's wages bill, when you look at the expenditure of Government today, the Government's wages bill, I believe is about 25 per cent over what it was maybe two or three years ago. We are seeing a big jump in the wages of Government.

HOUSE A 81, sequence 28, 4.11 p.m.

Hon. R. D. JONES: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. Trying to suggest that there has been a panning of employees at the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development is really to be speaking wrong in relation to the Personnel Administration Division and to the Public Service Commission because surely the Honourable Minister has no right to be involved in the selection of anyone within the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. Furthermore, the numbers within the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development have been the same numbers which the previous Government had in place. In fact, the truth is that between 1994 and 2007, the Barbados Labour Party's Government brought into the public service of Barbados nearly 17 000 persons and that is why the wage bill, not the legitimate increases for public servants, is as it is currently.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Honourable Member knows that was the time we were able to convert casual workers into public officers.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. George North, please proceed.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I am speaking specifically to the point that over the last two years the wage component of the Government's expenditure has increased tremendously even though the wages of individual public workers have not gone up. It appears as though the Government has taken on either more consultants in the postal service and the Office of the Attorney-General.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I want the Member to tell us, we do not have the facts so I am asking the question, what is happening. I made the point that we can see that there is a transfer. Of course, this money here that is being voted is a transfer to Head 50 from the Attorney-General's Chambers. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that the Government needs to tell us how many post men and women they have today and if the numbers have increased and where they have come from, if indeed there is a need for more postal workers in the heavy commercialised areas of St. George. Mr. Chairman, because St. George is being commercialised now, we would want some more post men and women but I hope that they do not come directly from St. Philip to St. George.

There is also a need for more post men and women at the St. John Post Office. I have been speaking to some men up there - I am from St. John too, I lived in St. John for a little while - and I hope that when the Honourable Member takes on more, he would give the Honourable Member for St. John some of those men and women to help her with the unemployment that we have up there. I hope that is done.

Mr. Chairman, this large sum of money, \$794 000, \$800 000, is a lot of money to spend on water, electricity, telephone and other utilities. The word utilities could mean many things. The Government need to come and tell us if utilities only refer to what we know in Barbados or if this is indeed a padding as well. To use the Honourable Member for St. Joseph words, I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Philip is a very... person.

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. He is making a very serious charge because the Honourable Member is accusing this House of a very fraudulent act because the Honourable Member is accusing the House of padding a Head and saying that under this Head they got wages when this Head calls for utilities.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I am not informing, misinforming or any type of forming in this House. I am asking if the word utilities could be taken as

what it means in the normal sense, that is, if utilities means only water, light, electricity and telephone.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: One would agree that you cannot come to this House and tell this House that you need \$800 000 in less than a year for utilities. I want the post office to tell us what it is they are really doing down there.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: They get \$1.2 million every year so this means that it is \$200 million now, so it is something that we need to know. Mr. Chairman, if it is indeed - I have two minutes to make the point - that the 60 per cent increase that the Government has imposed on itself, it seems to me that if the utilities for the post office is this much, then what about other persons in the society. It just shows you, Mr. Chairman, that the Government is shooting itself in the foot because this cost is tremendous. It is just showing why it is important for the Government to look at the utilities in this country because the utilities companies in this country are making tremendous profit on the backs of the people of this country.

Mr. Chairman, during the next Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, we have to look at this item called utilities because I believe that Government's own utilities bills would have gone up more than 100 and 150 per cent and we want to watch that.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

His Excellency D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is quite clear, and the evidence has been placed on this Floor of this House, that we now have utilities to account for, for the new post office at Oistins. Everybody knows that post office was out of order so it is obvious that you now have to put these figures back in the Estimates and that is what is being accounted for. We also have to account for the additional expenditure in St. Joseph.

Sir, it is regrettable that the Honourable Member for St. Joseph could be telling this House that he does not want us to spend money on utilities in St. Joseph. On top of that, the Honourable Member knows that there would have been additional charges for all post offices so I do not see why the big song and dance on this matter, it is a clear thing.

Sir, what is even more regrettable is that Members from the Barbados Labour Party could come and tell us

how to pad figures. They are now telling us what they are accustomed doing and that is the regrettable thing. All the time we never knew that you could put wages under utilities, and now this evening they are in this House telling us that you can put wages under utilities.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. P. M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this money Resolution. I join the Honourable Member for Christ Church South in congratulating the Government and the post office for constructing the new offices at Oistins.

House A81/2 Sequence 29

Mr. Chairman, it reminds me as a student at Cave Hill Campus, I was a postal clerk at the Oistins Post Office Branch. I know that original building was very cramped, it had limited accommodation in terms of lunchroom facilities for postal clerks and postmen and postwomen and limited storage space for parcels and packages for the general public. I am very happy that they have used the same footprint and build upwards to utilise the limited land space in that area; that also helped in terms of what we call vertical evacuation, in the case of a tidal wave or tsunami and one is not able to get to higher ground in time, one is able to vertically evacuate to higher ground. Sir, this is a very commendable initiative.

Mr. Speaker, my great experience at the post office that Christmas has enabled me to respect the hard work of those members of the Barbados Postal Service. Therefore, I would encourage the members of the public to be cooperative and to ensure that they do not leave their pet dogs untethered, so that when postmen and postwomen are delivering mail, they would not be attacked by these animals, or worst. Sir, this is very inconsiderate, these people are providing an essential service and should not be encumbered, neither should their life or limb be threatened by inconsiderate homeowners. These postmen and postwomen are the persons who, apart from delivering bills, they deliver sickness benefit or maternity benefit cheques. Therefore, householders should be more considerate.

Mr. Chairman, I would further add that we should frown upon those persons who would seek to prey on these industrious postmen and women, in terms of stealing their bicycles or motorcycles. Therefore, I encourage members of the public to be vigilant, if they see these criminals about to steal these important tools of trade of these postmen and postwomen, they should alert the police and have a kind of perpetual vigilance, so that we could reduce the likelihood

of these criminal acts occurring. We must be our brothers' keepers.

Mr. Chairman, I would also say that given the realities of the innovations in technology, the use of Blackberry, other cellular and smart-phone devices, texting and e-mailing, that clearly brings pressure on the traditional services provided by the postal service in terms of what is called 'snail mail'. Sir, I would encourage members of the public that there are certain intrinsic value and sentimentality in sending one's sweetheart a birthday card by mail, which is signed, sealed and delivered by the sender. This cannot be done by electronic mail, and so a simple handwritten love letter can be kept for posterity.

Sir, historians will tell you that much historical data is retrieved from letters of prominent persons and others and because it is written in a tangible way and signed by the sender, this paper trail is handed down and preserved in museums. Therefore, be it Valentine greeting cards, Christmas cards, Easter cards, birthday cards, sympathy cards, anniversary cards, these things are very useful and I would encourage members of the public not to forget the intrinsic value of this direct form of communication and interaction between members of our human race. This would ensure that more mail is circulated throughout the postal service, to ensure that the jobs of these workers are not threatened, in terms of being obsolete.

Mr. Chairman, I would also say that as the Honourable Member for St. George North was making his presentation, I noticed that he was sort of sending a little signal for the privatisation of the postal service. I heard the Honourable Member alluding to the private sector sharing in the services of the postal service. Sir, I am saying that this is typical of the Barbados Labour Party's approach to governance, they have starved the Queen Elizabeth Hospital of the necessary funding, so that a lot of the medical tests had to be outsourced. Sir, because of the fact that the machine broke down so frequently that private sector interests were getting the reap of sweets off the Barbados Labour Party's regime.

Sir, I do not support the concept of privatising everything, in fact, one of the last statements the Honourable Member for St. Michael North-East made publicly, before being dethroned and unceremoniously removed as Leader of the Opposition, was to private sector agencies. The Honourable Members alluded to privatising everything, and even the mainstream of the Barbados Labour Party Parliamentary Group did not associate themselves with that. I am saying there are certain essential aspects of public administration that must remain in the public sector, in the interest of national security. Sir, for example, registered mail has to go through the public postal service. Do we privatise that? Do we privatise the Police Force? Do we privatise the Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

Asides.

Hon. Patrick M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I am hearing the Honourable Member for St. George North speaking to the privatisation of the post office. What next would the Barbados Labour Party wish to privatise?

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House, along with himself. Sir, I made the point that there are some aspects of the postal service that can become private/public sector partnerships. Mr. Chairman, I made a point that there are some areas in the developed world, where some services are provided by both public sector and private sector partnership.

Hon. Patrick M. T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I heard the Honourable Member for St. George North making a number of suggestions and innuendos and all I am saying is that the public of Barbados will judge for themselves. Sir, the people of Barbados are highly educated and we all understand the tone and direction in which the Honourable Member for St. George North is going.

Mr. Chairman, I would also wish to say that within Bridgetown there is the Headquarters of the Postal Service and that within that post office we have the Jackie Opel Amphitheatre. Of course, Jackie Opel was a national icon, he was born and bred in Greenpark Lane, Bridgetown. I am therefore saying that I would encourage more and more concerns to mount or stage events at that prime location. We also have the Independence Gardens, Queens Park Gardens, Heroes Square, among others in Bridgetown. Sir, I want to congratulate the private sector and Government, through the Minister of Youth, Culture, Sports and Family, for having concerts with the Royal Barbados Police Band and the Barbados Defence Force Band in these open public spaces in the heart of our City. This can make Bridgetown come alive. I look forward to seeing more of these events going through into the night, so that we can have vendors making money and members of the public coming out, shopping and getting involved in the nightly entertainment.

4.31 p.m.

Sir, again, at a meeting where we really propelled the entertainment offerings within Bridgetown and other public spaces then, definitely, you will get more of that tourist dollar remaining in Barbados be it from the cruise ship passengers who are here just for a few hours and so rather than go back to the ship and support the attractions on the ship, we can have more spent in Bridgetown supporting the vendors, supporting the craft personnel in textile, leather craft, condiments and the stores and so on, so that there is a win-win situation.

Mr. Chairman, of course, for this to be feasible we, as a country, must take pride in our surroundings because within the same washrooms at the Bridgetown headquarters of the Post Office...

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

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Sir, I have used those washrooms in the past and, Sir, Barbadians use them. Sir, it is a fairly new complex that has tiles and so on, yet you will see toilet covers ripped apart, doors knocked apart, feces all over walls and urine all over the floor and, Mr. Chairman, as a people, we can do better than that. We are not animals, we are human, intelligent beings and we can do better than this because it is millions of taxpayers' dollars that are spent and, Sir, that is not the only venue, be it the public market next door or the Fairchild Street bus stand.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying that we go to other country and what they do in other countries is that a person is involved to hand out the toilet paper, to keep the place clean and be vigilant to ensure that there is no vandalism of these public facilities. Sir, of course, that would decrease the likelihood of disease being spread.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, we need to hear what is being said.

Hon. P.M.T. TODD: Mr. Chairman, I know that sometimes we have private concessionaires that are given the contract to clean these washrooms and I am saying that we must ensure, through supervision, that we get value for our money, that they clean and properly sanitise these facilities in a professional manner as they would do for a private hotel or private store. They need to provide proper service to public facilities as well.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would wish to fully support the postal service as an essential service and so look forward to all being done within the power of this Government to keep this postal service fully operational to ensure that the standards that we have achieved over the years will be maintained and even surpassed.

Sir, I thank you.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I will not be very long but I do wish to address three words used by Honourable Members on the other side. Sir, the management of the Post Office cannot respond so I am going to respond on their behalf.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph used the word "mismanagement". I know he did not mean mis management but, Sir, mismanagement is on his

mind because that all I heard about him in St. John. Sir, all I heard about him in St. John is that he mismanaged the campaign, so mismanagement is on his mind. I know he does not mean mismanagement and certainly, he does not mean mismanagement in terms of the management of the Post Office.

Sir, the use of the word "candid", on more than one occasion in his presentation, again, I forgive him. Sir, he thought he was being candid when he sat beside the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East and said she was doing a good job while stabbing her behind her back with the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. Sir, that is what he knows as being candid. He does not know what the word "candid" means and I forgive him. I do not feel offended by it, Sir.

Sir, the word I am most insulted by, on behalf of the management of the Post Office, is the used of the word "padding" by the Honourable Member for St. George North. I am insulted on their behalf because he is basically suggesting that, not only the Minister but the management but that the accounting officer at the Ministry of Home Affairs brought this Head and it does not mean what it says. He suggested that the change could have included salaries et cetera. Sir, that does not happen under my watch and, certainly, it does not happen at the Post Office under the watch of the present management because that is not how we operate. Sir, on their behalf, as I have said, I am insulted by the insinuations and I am insulted by the word "padding" with respect to this Head.

Mr. Chairman, I do accept part of what the Honourable Member for St. Joseph said in as much as I will give this explanation. Sir, part of the Supplementary is to cover utilities rolling over from 2009 and 2010. Therefore, that has eroded significantly our budget this year for 2010/2011. Sir, in addition to which, as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, if he would go into the Eric Holder Centre, is that we a dedicated internet service which builds communication the General Post Office and the other Post Office and that has seen an increase in the telecommunications line in terms of the telecommunications costs. Sir, that cost, in addition to the fact that we have had to use part of our 2010/2011 budget to pay for some costs that came over from 2009/2010, is why we are here for this Supplementary.

Mr. Chairman, it is actually very simple. Sir, there is no padding, it is all utilities and all very, very simple. However, I want to reiterate that my position is that we, as a Government, have to look and decide whether or not we want to continue bearing the social cost of the Post Office or bring it closer to making charges that are more realistic to the economic cost of doing business. Sir, a simple illustration is that if the Honourable Member for St. Joseph had sent out an invoice to his client for \$500 000, we

actually pay part of the postal cost for sending his bill to a client outside of Barbados. The point is that I do not mind paying the cost for the little old lady or old gentleman in St. Philip South but there is no reason why we should be subsidising the cost of commercial entities. Sir, that the point I am making, that we end up carrying a lot of costs for commercial entities in Barbados and in that regard, Sir, it cannot continue.

Mr. Chairman, if I can use the word “candid”...

Asides.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Sir, to be candid, if it were up to me, there would be no doubt what my position would be but, Sir, it is not up to me and that is why I said I would approach it this way and bring it to my colleagues today, to let them know that we have to make that decision because, in my opinion, we cannot continue to subsidise the Post Office in the way we are doing while, at the same time, expecting them to provide first rate service.

Mr. Chairman, before I finish that point, recently, NISE carried out a survey and I am happy to report to you and to the rest of Barbados that survey indicated that the users of the Post Office found that the level of service at the Post Office was outstanding. I am happy to say that because it reflects the dedication of the officers at post offices around this country.

Mr. Chairman, I want to finish by making the point that we have to make that decision whether or not we want to continue ‘pushing the envelope’ in terms of the level of services that we want to provide while carrying the cost and subsidising, in particular, commercial entities.

Sir, in that regard, I beg to move that Head 50 stand part.

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

The question that Head 50 stand part was put and in the resolved in affirmative without division.

H/A81/4:41

Sequence 31

HEAD NO. 64

MINISTRY OF YOUTH, FAMILY AND SPORTS

\$81 500

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, this particular Supplementary does not require a lengthy discourse. The sum of \$81 500 is required to meet the remaining cost of

the consultancy fee to be paid to Dr. Ivan Henry for the formulation of the National Youth policy. As this House is aware, the Government, upon assuming office in 2008, would have mandated the development of a National Youth Policy for the purpose of empowering the youth of Barbados and more particularly to a design a path which is necessary to ensure the sustained development of youth in Barbados. Dr. Henry has been involved in youth development work for many years and was retained by the Committee, which was appointed, The National Youth Policy Co-ordinated Committee, established in August 2009, was appointed as part of that Committee as a consultant to advise the Committee and to pilot the process of formulating and triggering the implementation of the National Youth Policy of Barbados.

Sir, Dr. Henry is no stranger to public duty in Barbados. He spent his entire life in youth development and taught at several levels at secondary as well as tertiary level institutions in Barbados. He was very instrumental in the development of the Youth Division of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, and worked in the area of the Commonwealth Youth Development Programme.

Therefore, he is eminently qualified for such a consultancy. Indeed, if I may say, he has worked extremely diligently along with the Committee to move towards the preparation of this National Youth Policy.

Mr. Chairman, indeed, the groundwork has already been laid, many stakeholders meetings have been held, and, in fact, the preparation of the draft policy has already been prepared, and is now at the stage where we are ready to do further stakeholder meetings and public consultations.

I must say that I am certainly extremely pleased with the work of this Committee and indeed the work of the consultant to date. I feel proud to say that within the first few weeks of at least March that we should have before the Cabinet the Policy for consideration. Indeed, I expect, not too later after that, to have that policy tabled in the House.

Sir, I believe that this Policy, once finalised, will be a very pivotal point of the history of youth development in Barbados. As you know, our young people, for many years, have been advocating not only for policies to be drafted but to speak to their own development, but Government should be youth centric in terms of the formulation of policies and strategies that impact on young people.

Sir, last year, as you are aware, we would have established the National Youth Forum, which is the organisation designed to allow young people to have a say in the formulation of policy in Barbados. That Youth Forum has worked very closely with the Steering Committee and indeed with the Consultant, in actually

helping to craft many of the draft policies which are included in that first draft.

Mr. Chairman, this Supplementary, as I said, is to provide further payment for the consultancy which has already paid dividends in terms of the formulation of a draft policy. I believe that when that policy is finally tabled in the House, the House will be able to debate what will be an historic development in Barbados, in relation of the inclusion of young people in terms of strategic policy framework and in terms of the forward development of young people in Barbados.

This policy will be indeed the first such policy which would be put in place in Barbados. Indeed, it would have resulted from the far-reaching consultation with the youth of Barbados, not only the young people but the stakeholders ranged from youth organisations, parents, religious leaders, employers, opinion community and sector readers, and the public at large.

Sir, going forward, having completed the draft National Youth Policy, the next steps are really to engage in a number of public consultations and strategic stakeholder consultations. Mr. Chairman, we have said that any youth policy to be tabled in Parliament on behalf of the young people of Barbados, must be after they have been appropriately consulted, and, in fact, must be to a large extent to prepared by their hands. We are achieving this. All that is remaining to be done is to further consult with the various youth organisations, leaders both in business and indeed parents and employers to get their final contributions to this draft, before we are able to present it to the Cabinet for final approval.

Sir, you will see, once the document is approved, that it will deal in a very forward far-ranging manner with many of the concerns of our youth ranging from employment and entrepreneurship. Their involvement in terms of public decision making. Also their proposal for a national youth Parliament which would be in addition to the National Youth Forum. Of course, the youth of Barbados are not only demanding but certainly deserve to be included in terms of the shaping of the future of Barbados at the highest level.

Sir, one of the outputs from the various consultations, so far, has been the need to be politically aware, so that the proposed National Youth Parliament will be designed in a manner that allows for young people to debate and to become intimately involved with the issues of today because they are indeed our future.

Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks, I beg that Head 64 stand part.

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

Dr. W.F. Duguid: Mr. Chairman, I would not delay the House very long on these remarks, but I just want to bring up a few issues that have been brought to my attention.

First, Dr. Ivan Henry is being paid for a consultancy for formulating a National Youth Policy for Barbados. As far I am aware, I am sure that the same Dr. Ivan Henry has been paid in the past for developing the same National Youth Policy for Barbados. I want the Minister to tell us if the same man is being paid twice for doing essentially the same work? This is important, because if the Minister were to check ...

H81 PART 2 4.51 p.m.

Sequence 32

...the records of the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs at the time, showed that the same person was employed to do a youth policy for Barbados. I am very concerned if it was the same person. If it was a different person doing a new Youth Policy, I could understand but could it be that we are now voting \$81 500 for the same person to redo work that he has already been paid for under the Barbados Labour Party administration? This is the first thing I want to ask the Minister.

Then, following on from that the other aspect that I want to bring to the Minister and this House's attention, is the \$81 500 being asked for now, which is obviously not the full amount because the Minister said clearly that this is the second tranche because he was paid for a draft. Sir, we need to know exactly how much he was paid for the draft.

The reason that is important is this. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, under the Financial and Audit Act of Barbados, if a consultancy or any kind of service or good that you get through Barbados that goes over \$100 000, it has to be tendered and the Minister needs to bring to us, the information of exactly how much was the total of this contract because if the total of this contract exceeds \$100 000, we should have seen a Tender process gone through.

If that is the case, where is the evidence of the Tender process? Where is the evidence that the gentleman was selected appropriately through an even and fair Tendering process because it is obvious to me and everybody who heard, that this contract exceed \$100 000.

There is no way that when he was paid for the draft, he was paid just \$19 000. It is obvious so I am sure that the \$100 000 limit was exceeded and it has been in contravention of the Financial and Audit Act of Barbados

because no Tendering process went through when this appointment was made.

Sir, we have two issues on this matter. First thing, why is it that the same person is now being paid a second time for doing the same work? The Minister has to answer that, before this House could agree to this matter. The second thing is where is the Tendering process? Why is the Financial and Audit Act contravened because the Tendering process has not appropriately gone through in this particular matter?

Is it because of the gentlemen's surname? Is it because of the concept that the Democratic Labour Party brings only families first, and they only take care of the families and the rest must suck salt? Mr. Chairman, we cannot continue in this vein in this country. We have seen what this gentleman did.

Asides.

Dr. W.F. DUGUID: What about consultancies with the Democratic Labour Administration? The Constituency Councils and another bite at the cherry now with this Youth Formulation Policy, after having done the work before and basically now getting paid a second set of money for just photocopying what you did and re-sending it with a few words changed. It cannot be right. I would want to hear what the Honourable Member says on those matters.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. George North, please proceed.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a few observations. We know that the Minister has made a very exuberant presentation and in his intervention he kept saying that these are new grounds for the Ministry of Youth presentation that we are really looking forward for some new youth programmes by the Government.

I want to remind the Minister that the Bible says there is nothing new under the sun. This is the very first thing. These consultants have a way of coming and bringing some cold, old, outdated soup and soup that is really stale and trying to warm it up to give people indigestion and I could sight indigestion when I see it.

Asides.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: I am of the view, Mr. Chairman, that we in this House will all have indigestion from this because I think that there is a lot of indigestion in here. I just want to say that we have to very cognizant of those persons, who will come to give us old cold soup and

we have to watch and wait because I know, Mr. Chairman, of what I speak.

I want to make the point because the Honourable Member for St. Philip North had been reminding me about where the newness is. I want to remind him that both political parties had for years, used programmes. Starting in 1938 the Barbados Labour Party had the League of Young Socialists, which was born out of the bowels and bosom of a socialist programme and ideology.

We were proud of the fact to being not only one of the oldest political parties in the eastern Caribbean but we were able to spearhead and use programmes in the 50/51 Manifesto, which not only led to Adult Suffrage but led in those days to a full comprehensive youth programme. The likes of which individuals like the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow came out of and others like Cameron (Cammie) Smith, Cameron (Cammie) Tudor, Sir Frederick (Sleepy) Smith and we had a number of young people in those days that were born out of the bosom of the social revolution that saw young people emerging as young people and as leaders of this country.

Sir, whatever Dr. Henry or whatever the young people consulting to come and tell me that we need young people to emerge in this country and then tell me it is something new. We need young leaders to emerge. I was the President of a youth group in St. George and all of us were young and emerged in what we wanted, and we do not want anybody to come and tell us this.

Are you going to pay somebody \$100 000 to come and tell the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central that he has emerged? He has emerged and his children will emerge, young people will emerge and that is how it is and if you want a philosophy, go to the Bible. The Bible told us years and years ago that you train up a child in the way it should go and when he has come of age, he will not depart from it.

Mr. Chairman, this new exciting philosophy and position of how we are going to treat young people differently and more exciting in this new age, we want to see. I know for sure that the late Prime Minister, the former Honourable Member for St. John, had in his Cabinet a number of young people. He has quite a number of persons in the Senate, so we did and it was done long before time.

The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central again was paid to work with a Prime Minister here as a young man, I think he was just in his 20s, if so much.

Asides.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Not in his 20s yet? And did a fantastic job and he has emerged as a Minister of Finance today. I am saying that we have all emerged.

HOUSE A 81, sequence 33, 5.00 p.m.

I heard the Honourable Member say that these are new days so I want to see the newness. I want to see if it is something different from before, if it is freshness or if it is just warm over soup and if we definitely need a consultant.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I want to see it. I have a right to ask the question. I am just asking the question. If it is the same thing that we paid for before, then we are just paying the mud in top. I just want the Honourable Member to know that as far as I am concerned there is nothing new to this youth policy. We always had a youth policy, it is nothing new. Honourable Members are thumping their chests that a new youth policy is coming, we are going far and wide. I want to see the newness in this policy. I want to just remind the Government that as far as I am concerned both political parties always had youth programmes and youth policies to move the young people in this country.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I feel obliged to enter this debate not necessarily to give any bold exposition on youth policy, I do not claim to be an expert in youth policy. I am not like the Honourable Member for St. George North, the last Speaker who claimed to have headed up a youth group in St. George but I think that I have been around long enough to understand a few things in relation to these matters.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is really a little unfortunate particularly when I listen to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West trying to let off some false fury in here in relation to this matter which is really a simple perfunctory supplementary to pay a consultant, Dr. Henry, for doing a particular job. Mr. Chairman, I will get back to him because the Honourable Member for St. George North keep saying soup warmed over but he really meant cold soup warmed over but he could not get the expression right and he kept saying soup warm over.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. I want to thank the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West for reminding me that it is really cold soup warmed over.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, that is no point of order. Proceed, Honourable Member.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Even the Honourable Member himself knows, if we want to be jocular in this debate, that the best Sunday food you could have is when you eat it on Monday and when it is warmed over, Sir, there is no rocket science about what he was saying.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: The reality is that if you hear the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, you would not believe that both political parties while in Government availed themselves of the services of the very same character and consultant that we are talking about here, that is true.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: The attack which the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was making was not an attack on the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, that was an attack on the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East because it is the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East who retained the services of the said consultant and paid him a lot of money in 2007 to write a youth policy or to advise on a youth policy for the Barbados Labour Party Government.

Mr. Chairman, all that this Minister and the previous Minister sought to do when I was Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy, so it came to Social Policy, was to ask this consultant, Dr. Henry, who is recognised region-wide and across the Commonwealth as one of the foremost experts on youth policy working with the Commonwealth Youth Programme as an Advisor and a Director...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Contravention of what Act? The Honourable Member does not spend enough time on the ground in Barbados to understand that hiring a consultant in Barbados is in no contravention of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. You tender for a consultant.

Asides.

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

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a moment please, I cannot hear the Speakers. If I am at least to understand what is being said I need Honourable Members to cooperate by at least allowing me to hear the Speakers. Proceed Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member who just took his seat is misleading the House very clearly and very blatantly. The Financial Administration and Audit Act says that once a contract exceeds \$100 000 in full or part payments and it is a provider of good or a service, it must go through the tendering process. That service falls under the Financial Administration and Audit Act. If it was not tendered, it is in contravention of that Act. I am surprised that the Minister of Finance could come to this House to mislead this House knowing full well that it is in contravention of the Act once it exceeds \$100 000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I think it is now abundantly clear when the Honourable Member declares that he is no longer interested in politics in Barbados and I thank God for that.

Asides.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is again misleading the House. At no time did I ever say in this House or anywhere that I was no longer interested in politics. He is attributing words to me which I have never said and he is misleading the House and it should be withdrawn.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, he did not say that, so let us proceed.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope that I can get back the balance of my time because the Honourable Member from Christ Church West is on public record as indicating that he is no longer interested in contesting a seat in Barbados and continues to draw a salary in this House of Assembly and could only be described as an elaborate cost overrun to the Government of Barbados.

Asides.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, is it on the same point of order?

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Yes, it is on the same matter, the last statement that the Honourable Member just made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you introducing something new?

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: The last statement...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please. Are you introducing something new?

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Okay, well, you state the new point not the old point.

Dr. W. F. DUGUID: The Honourable Member is now imputing improper motives on another Member, precisely the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I cannot accept that. I have not heard any new point. Proceed Honourable Member for St. Michael North West.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I am going to move on because I want to make a point on this. Mr. Chairman, if it were me that did what the Honourable Member for Christ Church West has done in politics, I would be considered an elaborate cost overrun. The point of the matter is that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West in his typical style has not waited to hear from the Honourable Minister the facts of the contract, the fundamentals of the payment or the scheduling of payments but he sprang to his feet to give the impression and set abroad the mischief in this country that the Democratic Labour Party is breaching the financial rules of this country, which is not true.

Mr. Chairman, I am not even going to give the figures, I am going to leave the pleasure of that for the Minister to give but I can say as Minister of Finance that no rules have been broken by this Government in hiring Dr. Henry. If rules were broken by the Democratic Labour Party in hiring Dr. Henry, then pray tell me, Mr. Chairman, what rule was broken to hire Rudy Grant as a consultant and paid him the amount of money he got which was over \$100 000, what rule was broken to hire Tyrone Lovell as a consultant and pay him over \$100 000 and what rule was broken to hire Ezra Alleyne as a consultant and pay him over \$100 000.

House A81/2 Sequence 34

5.11 p.m.

Sir, I am not calling any more names. I am done.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: If that is where you want to go, let us go there, David Gill. Who else? Sir, we dismiss that as not being worthy of this Honourable House and the intervention of this Parliament, no wonder the Honourable Member did not feature on the campaign trail in St. John, neither on the platform nor on the ground.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, the reality is that we decided that we needed to recast youth policies in this country. Sir, the reason we want to recast a youth policy is that there is a political bastardisation of youth policy in this country by the last Government.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I do not have to mince words or to hide the facts, there was a Community Development Department that was practically denuded with the hiring of these so-called youth commissioners.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I am not saying anything about Mr. Carter, a good psychologist that he is, I am talking about what existed. We had a Community Development Department, when I was a boy, that was active and used to work, when Arnie Walter's father was there. Sir, what we did in this country, under the last Government, was to wiggle it away until it was worth practically nothing, by putting in place something called a group of youth commissioners.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I can relate a story that I had recently but I am not going to go there,

because I do not want to cast any cloud over certain persons in relation to that particular policy. Sir, the fact of the matter is that youth policy in this country has hit rock bottom, and this Government had to come in and reassess the situation. We have invited Dr. Henry to assist us in this particular regard, the same Dr. Henry who began work under the last administration but could not get it finished. We have brought him in to put all the strands together, to put together a comprehensive youth policy, working this time with the youth.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Listen, it does not matter if you say a new, newer, newest, that is not the point, the point is that we are finally going to have a youth policy that

works. Therefore, do not let us trade semantics across the Floor and give false theories.

Mr. Chairman, if you listen to it, you would realise that there are certain Honourable Members, who, when you check the register, are never present, who always find an opportunity to come and give false theories, so that the public would say: "He is in there getting on bad enough, he is defending our interest", not knowing to the unsuspecting listener, who does not listen every week, that he is not here too regularly. Let us forget the false theory and let us cooperate. Since the 563 votes, everybody now wants to cooperate with Government, they want select committees, special committees. Sir, they should cooperate with us on the youth policy and let us get on with the business. Let us pass the Resolution here, let us give Dr. Henry his resources and let us get on with building this country. Let us stop wasting time with a lot of false theories about who has a real policy, who did not have a real policy, what we paid, what rules are being broken.

Mr. Chairman, there are no rules that have been broken, we have to get serious about governance in this country.

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, because I was in another part of this Honourable House, I had to rush up here to bring some semblance of order to what was going on in here, in relation to these matters.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. I do not want the Honourable Member to believe that he had to run up here to bring any semblance of order to this Honourable House, the Honourable Member came to make a point, which I appreciate. Sir, the Honourable Member said that the programme was recast, and one has to be very careful of the Democratic Labour Party, since we know that they will change things in stream.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I understand what is happening with the Honourable Member for St. George North and I so sympathise with him. Sir, when the campaign was going on, the Honourable Member was in the Eight-Ball shop, eating chicken feet.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member who has just spoken

was in the Eight-Ball shop as well, eating two large chicken legs.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I know whose constituency the Eight-Ball shop is located and so I know why I had to be there, but we are not going to fight over these things. Do not try to send abroad any mischief that we have twiddled or fiddled with the Financial Rules to achieve this, this is a simple matter, let us pass the Resolution, let the Minister get on with his business and hopefully we would all get a policy of which we would be proud, to go forward for youth development in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, it is clear that the Opposition would be vexed on this matter, so that whenever they hear the word Henry, it offends them. Sir, clearly the problem is not the amount paid, and I would not even question the amount that was paid previously. Sir, the point is, once they hear that a Henry is working for the Democratic Labour Party, it offends them. As they said, the member was working for them previously, and that is what is worrying them.

Mr. Chairman, you would not believe, when you hear them, that they have actually breached the rule. Sir, the problem, as I have always said, is that they cannot count because \$12 581 cannot be \$100 000. They cannot count, that is why they misled this Honourable House into believing that we have breached some law, when it was far less than the \$100 000, even if it was \$99 900, it would still be less than \$100 000. Sir, it is less and so we are not breaching any Financial Rules.

Sir, it is clear that previously because they have done something and paid more than \$100 000, they are now vexed because we came after and paid less. They are now arguing that something like this should cost more than \$100 000 but we have demonstrated that we are now getting a better and more modern report and that it has cost us less than \$100 000. Mr. Chairman, their problem is that they believe we are caught up with overruns too. Mr. Chairman, I am obliged.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I understand from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North-West that there will be a recast of youth policy. Sir, I have no challenge with that, in light that there are tremendous changes amongst our youth. Sir, as a youth of ten years ago, it is a totally different picture today, in many instances, their needs may be similar but the interest and other things are totally different. Mr. Chairman, I have absolutely no problem with it, though I would want to say that there was fine work already done in relation to that youth policy. Sir, I become confused every time, and I only have to refer to the political aspect of things, when other

Honourable Members on the other side keep harping that the Barbados Labour Party has not done anything for 14 years...

5.20 p.m.

... that you did not do this and you did not do that.

Mr. Chairman, I have absolutely no problem with the continuity of Government as you have continuity in families, in businesses and so on and, therefore, I am just waiting for responses from the Honourable Minister who has, within recent times, changed his personality quite a bit. Sir, the person I recognised on entering this Honourable Chamber is not quite the same as the person whom I see often, and as people speak of him in Barbados. I would wish for him to take a little counsel from somebody who is a little older and trespass on areas with a little more patience, connection and concern as he goes about his work. Sir, I have no doubt that with time he would be able to become a good Minister in the area of youth affairs but there are things that we often say as politicians and do, that come back to haunt us. Sir, that is the only point I want to make at this time on that.

Mr. Chairman, what I would want to say is that in the light that a previous administration would have engaged the services of the consultant in this particular Supplementary that we are speaking about, says that person would have had some measure of authority and knowledge in the area and I never looked at that individual as any person with a political axe grind or political affiliation at all but there are times even when people have a political affiliation, we must see them wearing their professional hat. Sir, it is difficult in Barbados to separate the political from the professional and, therefore, we brand people all the time over what they do.

Mr. Chairman, I have worked in a class room for more than 25 years and I had my little politics that was quiet. Sir, it is different now with some teachers but I never, ever pushed aside anybody's child because I knew of the parents' affiliation or whatever and, therefore, I am not even going down that road with this consultant but, Sir, I want to say that what I have been recognising within the last two years in relation to the Ministry of Youth has caused me some concerns. I know that the Honourable Minister would have tried and that like most human beings, when you make an effort to pursue a goal and there are shortcomings, it can create some concerns. I do not know if the timing was not right, Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the communication lacked some further advertising or whatever but, indeed, the two fora that were set up to treat to the consultation on the youth were poorly attended. It really created quite some concern for the Minister who, in the public forum, did lash out, not at the young people who did not turn up, even though I understand there might have

been clashes in other activities on the island. Sir, we are only one small island and there are times when it is difficult to get from one location to the next but the lashing out came out on the Youth Commissioners, and I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West...

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. On no occasion, Mr. Chairman, did I lash out at any Youth Commissioner. The Honourable Member is totally misleading this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, could you please withdraw the remarks.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I will continue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I asked you to withdraw the remark. Sir, the one in reference to the Youth Commissioners?

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, it was in the media, on the television and in the newspapers. Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw it but the public knows of it.

Hon.S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is no record...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has withdrawn the comment.

Hon.S. A. LASHLEY: Okay, I am obliged.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the projects for the Youth Affairs Department with the continuity that would have helped to advance the cause of the youth of Barbados, not the Democratic Labour Party youth or the Barbados Labour Party youth but all of the youth of Barbados, those projects were stymied. Sir, to change a name of the programme from the Project Oasis to Youth Mainstreaming Result(5:05) would not give answers to the challenges we have with our youth. Sir, for me, if you are talking youth policy, even if you change the name but you look forward to the content and you tweeted it a bit either way, I have absolutely no problem but as we see our youth in Barbados today, Mr. Chairman, there is little or no hope for them. When a Youth Affairs Department, looking at youth policy sought to look at a National Youth Service, so that every young person would tithe time, similar to what we mentioned in another discussion, where they would tithe time in community centre and they would tithe their time in nurseries and in old people's homes because the generational links with youth and our older folks will take us and put us in good stead in the years to come. It would be a good training ground for our youth to develop an appreciation and respect for older persons as well as younger person. Sir, that has been stymied in my

understanding of it. Sir, when young people could be drafted into the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College as waiters, bar persons and so on, and they no longer have that avenue in the way they did to keep them meaningfully employed to give them the hope of employment at some time, whether it be working for someone or young entrepreneurs, I have a big challenge with that...

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is again misleading the House. I do not know whether she has not recently gone to the Ministry of Youth and asked for certain information, as she normally does...

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Could both Members sit, please? Everybody knows the Rules of the House and a Member has risen on a point but on the second occasion, Honourable Member for St. Thomas, something has happened that you want withdrawn, am I correct?

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member has accused me of going to the Ministry to be able to get information on what is happening at the Youth Affairs Department. The Honourable Member is misleading the House because I have never been to Ministry of Youth Affairs Department because this is the second time the Honourable Member has said it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, could you just withdraw that remark and proceed then on your Point of Order.

Hon.S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, the remark to say that the Honourable Member goes to the Ministry to get information?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Hon.S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. There is absolutely nothing false about that so, Mr. Chairman, I would have difficulty withdrawing a statement that says that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas has been known to go to the Ministry of Youth to get information.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. I would like to have that taken out of the record because I have never to the Ministry of Youth to receive any information or any other Ministry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you saying you have never been to the Ministry?

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I have never been to the Ministry of Youth Affairs to solicit information. The Honourable Member is misleading the House and casting aspersions on my name and I would like that comment withdrawn.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, one moment, please. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, please proceed.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member, as I have said, was misleading the House. The programmes to which she speaks which is the programmes of attachment by which would be able to come through the youth main streaming programme and to be attached, for example, to the Hotel School, these programmes still remain and, therefore, ...

H/A81/5:31

Sequence 36

... for example to the Hotel School. Those programmes still remain. Therefore it is misleading for the Honourable Member to give the impression that there is no longer access by the youth of Barbados to those programmes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Sir, I wish to show you the upmost respect as I do for people, generally, but you are in a more senior position in this Honourable Chamber.

Sir, I want to say that in relation to the youth attending the Forum at the university and elsewhere for the consultative process, the Honourable Member and Minister of Youth Affairs made comments in the Press chastising the Youth Commissioners.

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is again misleading the House. In the media or elsewhere is there reported that this Minister made any attacks about Youth Commissioners. That is grossly inaccurate and it should be withdrawn. I will challenge the Honourable Member if she says that has been so to produce the newspapers. That has never been the case, neither was it reported. The Honourable Member should get her facts correct in this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I made a ruling before and you proceeded to raise it again. I have made a ruling. Would you please proceed? The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wish to continue by indicating that it would have been other members of staff too, but the fact that the project for youth mainstreaming results has not been attracting young people nor are the opportunities available to them for meaningful engagement on a daily basis, while those young constructive youth are on the 'blocs' in the villages and communities, being lawless and getting engaged in a lot of negative activity.

I believe that a more serious approach for the Youth Affairs Department should be introduced to bring more of those young people into a system, not classroom setting all the time, but an opportunity for them to hone skills, like the Youth Achieving Results where the young people got an opportunity to do many things, such as music, drama and aspects of culture in the same Youth Mainstreaming, that was the project OASIS...

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member continues to mislead the House. The Youth Achieving Results Programme is still on foot and is still in place within the Minister. A programme, for example, which includes the National Cultural Foundation. In the Creative Arts, those programmes still remain. So I do not know where the Honourable Member is getting her information from.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, proceed.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Sir, all that means is that the constituents of Christ Church West Central, which the Honourable Member represents, might be the only persons having access.

Sir, the reality on the ground in the community...

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. If the Honourable Member wants to have a political engagement, let us do it elsewhere, but in this House the Honourable Member will not be able to get away with inaccuracies. The programme Youth Achieve Results is a national programme and it is for all the constituencies of Barbados, not only Christ Church West Central. She continues to mislead the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, proceed.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I shall continue to respect the Honourable Member, so I will refer to the Honourable Member as Minister. The she thing I will have a problem with, but that is another discussion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, as I conclude, no challenges that are being manifested by our youth in Barbados are due to a lack of proper engagement of our youth over the last three years; there must be urgent attention paid to our youth, their needs, and to have proper dialogue with them. Sir, not only the young boys or the Youth Development Council, we need more young people onboard because I believe that only a National Youth Policy should be approached in a non-partisan way, but it seems to me that every time you make a comment about the Yough Affairs Department, the Honourable Minister behaves as though this is his baby and therefore nobody should criticise. Criticism is good so that when you look at it, re-examine it, and according to what the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West said, you can recast it, to meet the targets that you are working towards.

Sir, I therefore support the request of the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, and hope the answers that will be forthcoming from the Honourable Minister will help us to better understand what is being done. I am not going to join with anyone to pull that consultant into any political confusion because we used him as a Government. This Government is using his resources as well, and I know that all of the skills will not reside with him. Therefore he might have brought in services from other individuals and agencies to help him to come up with the new policy. I have absolutely no problem with that. Sir, I share the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West, that we need to get answers and not just casting aspersions on other people and their character, because I am not going to be a part of tearing down anybody in that respect.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you for the opportunity.

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

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, in wrapping up the debate on this Head I just wish to say in response to Opposition Members, I believe two questions were asked. One in relation to whether the Consultant would have done other work. Certainly not for this Government. If the Consultant would have done other work for the Barbados Labour Party Government for which they paid him, it is a matter for them. If they wish to comment about work that the Consultant that they paid for, then it is a matter for them.

Sir, the Consultant, in terms of the amount paid...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. W.F. Duguid: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House again. The question was not on what was done. We are talking about the same exact job that was done previously. Government is a continuum. We have heard it time and again. The former Member for St. John used to say...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you are going into a speech now.

Dr. W.F. Duguid: Sir, I am not going into a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing specifically with a question. What was the clarification?

Dr. W.F. Duguid: Sir, the same exact work was done in the past for the Government of Barbados. The question was relating to the work which was done for which money was paid. The Minister has not answered that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member please proceed.

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: Sir, as I said before, if indeed the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the Honourable Member for St. Thomas are saying that they, as the Government of the day, retained the Consultant, who is the subject of this matter, that is a matter known to them. It is not in my certain knowledge.

Mr. Chairman, I think in this debate it has been very interesting because it has disclosed the error of the Barbados Labour Party because they have never treated the youth development with any amount of seriousness. Therefore, the fact that this Government is bent on ensuring that there is in Barbados a National Youth Policy, has understandably riled them up.

Sir, in relation to the sum, which is being paid to the Consultant, the total amount of \$94 000. The amount of \$81 500, which is being paid now, represents the balance being paid to the Consultant. So when the Honourable Member for Christ Church West stands up with some kind of claim that he has knowledge that this Government is in breach of the Financial Rules, that puts paid to what he has said.

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

Dr. W.F. Duguid: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I asked a question as to how much was the initial payment. I did not make a statement. I asked question and I wanted the information. Two questions were asked.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, proceed please.

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, when the truth is told the Barbados Labour Party flies in the other direction, and this is very consistent with their behaviour.

H81 PART 2 5.41 p.m.

Sequence 37

The Honourable Member said as a fact without reading the Supplementary that this particular contract exceeded \$100 000, in breach of the financial rules, and if he wants to put that to the test, we can call for the Hansard. He is the one who has accused this Government of breaching the financial rules, without doing his homework and the Supplementary itself discloses that this particular sum is less than \$100 000.

Mr. Chairman, the other side has created the fallacy that the consultant is being retained to do the same work that the Barbados Labour Party did. I wish, Mr. Chairman, to read the terms of reference of the consultant so that Barbadians listening to this broadcast can be aware of the facts.

1. To undertake desk research concerning situational analysis of Barbadian youth by reviewing the National Youth Consultation Reports of 2008, CARICOM Youth Dream Study of 2009, Annual Reports of the Division of Youth Affairs and other related documents.
2. To identify the main interest groups and stakeholders in relation to the National Youth Policy of Barbados.
3. To conduct focus group sessions with the main interest groups and stakeholders.
4. To facilitate public consultations and national youth forums in the proposal for the establishment and implementation of a National Youth Policy of Barbados.
5. Prepare Draft Reports on the consultations as well as the meetings with the main interest groups and stakeholders.
6. Advise the National Youth Policy Steering Committee on addressing any challenges or issues emerging from stakeholders as it relates to the implementation of the National Youth Policy and
8. Prepare the Draft National Youth Policy, inclusive of an implementation plan for submission to the National Youth Policy Steering Committee.

Mr. Chairman, nowhere within the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs did, you see any Terms of Reference which speak to that one. In fact, a number of issues were raised. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Thomas speaking about the need to properly engage our young people. In fact, the work of the National Steering

Committee on the establishment of the National Youth Policy has indeed been doing that.

I daresay that their attacks on the work of the consultant and indeed the Draft National Youth Policy is an attack on the young people of Barbados because they are the ones who had been involved in the drafting and preparation of this Draft National Youth Policy.

Sir, it is just an indication in my view, Mr. Chairman, of the usual tactics of the Barbados Labour Party and why I say that they have been guilty, Mr. Chairman, for not putting in place proper policies for youth development in Barbados, one only needs to reflect on their respective Manifestos. If you look at the Manifestos of the Barbados Labour Party from 1986 through to the present time, Mr. Chairman, you will see in there no comprehensive policies set out for the youth of Barbados.

The Barbados Labour Party embarked on a policy called Project OASIS and they are criticising this Government for ensuring that we move forward on progressive policies, and not follow the misguided policies that they have been putting in place. Project OASIS that to date, Mr. Chairman, we are yet to be able to find kiosks that were built under Project OASIS. Thousands of dollars were squandered, Mr. Chairman, where we have people who were given free money for cutting grass at primary schools in Barbados which had handymen on staff. This Project OASIS utilised thousands of Barbadians' taxpayers' dollars, which were squandered by the Barbados Labour Party Government.

Sir, when I stand up in here and scrutinise the stewardship of the Barbados Labour Party Government fearlessly, I will continue to do it but as I said, Mr. Chairman, when you look at the Manifestos, 1986, they promised that they will provide greater opportunities for the youth to participate in policy and decision making in Barbados. The reason we had to put in place a National Youth Policy is because this particular promise was never realised. Empty words written in Manifesto documents.

Then we come, Mr. Chairman, to the 1999 Manifestos. The problem is that repeatedly under the watch of Barbados Labour Party, empty promises were made to the youth of Barbados with no intention of fulfilling those promises. What that has done, that has engendered an attitude by young people to politicians. Sir, over the past 14 years of the Barbados Labour Party's rule, this is what they have done.

Mr. Chairman, in their 1999 Manifesto, they promised that they would expand the Barbados Youth Service from 250 to 1 000 students, through the establishment of a part time non residential component catering to the personal and technical developmental needs

of young people. I asked the Honourable Members where is that promise?

Mr. Chairman, the Democratic Labour Party is now in the process of reforming the National Youth Service and to ensure that it becomes a National Youth Service of Barbados. The other side, Mr. Chairman, really has no authority to come into this House to lecture this Government on progressive youth development in Barbados. We have 14 years of their record and that is why we have had to unravel those years of corruption by the Barbados Labour Party Government. We have had to put an end to it. We have had to reconstruct the mess left by the Barbados Labour Party Government, as it relates to youth development in Barbados.

When you move into a phase of establishment a youth main streaming project, we intended and we have succeeded in removing all those violations of the same financial rules that they are claiming that we have breached. The young people are still being engaged in productive activity.

Mr. Chairman, leading up to the 2008 General Election in this country, this Government put in place a Youth Manifesto. We championed and put in writing a Youth Manifesto, which comprehensively detailed the focus of this Government in relation to youth development and that is contrasting and so far, Mr. Chairman, we have ensured that young people have a voice in Barbados through the National Youth Forum.

The development of the National Youth Forum has given me a voice. This forum has now a Steering Committee of Young People who are working every weekend and who have worked every weekend on constructing a draft National Youth Policy under the leadership of this consultant and this is what has them worried, understandably so.

I want again, Mr. Chairman, to refer to their latest Manifesto to see whether or not their words are matching their actions. Even in their 2008 Manifesto, Mr. Chairman, they are still talking about a National Youth Service that they will establish, having mentioned it in 1986, so I can understand the agony.

I heard the agony of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas. She continues to be annoyed that she is not being permitted to do some of those things that she was doing before and that the files of the Ministry would be held under lock and key.

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

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: Thank you, Sir.

Therefore, the confidentiality of the affairs of the Government as it relates to the Ministry will not be placed at anybody's door, in particular the Honourable Members from the other side.

Mr. Chairman, we have a proud record on which to stand. The policies of the Government are being enacted.

HOUSE A 81, sequence 38, 5.51 p.m.

The draft National Youth Policy, which obviously has gotten under the skin of the Barbados Labour Party, would become a reality. It will be caucused with the young people and the youth organisations, with employers, with parents and even with the opposition, they would get a chance to comment on the draft National Youth Policy. I undertake that it will be taken to the Cabinet of Barbados and once approved will be laid in this House within good time this year.

Mr. Chairman, with those words, I beg to move that Head 64 stand part.

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

The question that Head 64 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 70 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR

\$281 878

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 70 stand part.

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

The question that Head 70 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to His Honour the Deputy Speaker the passing of two money Resolutions in Committee of Supply and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE seconded by Hon. F. J. STUART, the Resolutions were read a first time and second time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, that brings us to the end of Government Business for the day and I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 01, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 01, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

House A81/2 Sequence 39

6.01 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE.....	1
Hon. R. D. Jones, 1.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM HIS HONOUR THE
SPEAKER.

“TAKING OF OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BY

MRS. MARIE-JOSEPHINE MARA THOMPSON, M.P.

CONSEQUENT ON HER ELECTION AS A MEMBER
OF
THEHOUSE OF ASSEMBLY FOR THE CONSTITUENCY
OF
ST. JOHN

MRS. M. J. M. THOMPSON.....	2
-----------------------------	---

PAPERS

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER.....	2
1. Annual Report of the Needhams Point Incorporated for the year 2009. 2. Annual Report of the Needhams Point Incorporated for the year 2009.	
1. Financial Statement of the Thelma Vaughn Memorial Home for the year ended March 31, 2007.	
1. Report of the Judicial Council for the year 2008.	
Hon. S.A. Lashley, 2; Hon. A.D. Brathwaite, 2.	

CONGRATULATORY OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Rt. Hon. O.S. ARTHUR.....	2
Hon. J.D.E. Boyce, 3.	

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE.....	3
------------------------	---

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 10 – RESOLUTION THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVES ITSELF INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER THE GRANT OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND	3
Hon. R. D. Jones, 3, 4, 6, 7, 18, 19, 20; Hon. A.D. Brathwaite, 7; Miss C. Y. Forde, 7, 9, 10; His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman, 9, 13; Hon. Miss M.A. Mottley, 10, 11, 12; His Ex. D. St.E. Kellman, 12; Hon. C. P. Sinckler, 13, 15, 16; Rt. Hon. O.S. Arthur, 16, 17, 18.	

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 10 (resumed)

Hon. Patrick M. T. Todd, 21, 23, 41, 42, 43; Hon. S.A. Lashley, 23, 37; Hon. J.D.E. Boyce, 25, 30, 38, 44; Hon. A.D. Brathwaite, 27, 28, 30, 43, 44; Hon. R. D. Jones, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 40; Mr. D. D. Marshall, 32, 33, 34; His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman, 34, 40, 41; Hon. D.o'n. Inniss, 36; Mr. G. A. Clarke, 39, 40, 41, 42.

HEAD NO. 64

MINISTRY OF YOUTH, FAMILY AND SPORTS

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY.....	44
Dr. W. F. Duguid, 45, 46, 47, 48, 53; Mr. G. A. Clarke, 46, 47, 49; Hon. C. P. Sinckler, 47, 48, 49, 50; His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman, 50; Miss C. Y. Forde, 50, 51, 52, 53; Hon. M. A. Lashley, 55.	

HEAD 70 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Dr. the Hon. E. R. BYER-SUCKOO.....	55
Hon. F. J. Stuart, 55.	

SUSPENSION.....	21
-----------------	----

ADJOURNMENT.....	55
Hon. J.D.E. Boyce, 55; Hon. F. J. Stuart, 56.	

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

ARTHUR, Rt. Hon. O.S. (St. Peter)
BOYCE, Hon. J.D.E. (Christ Church South)
BRATHWAITE, Hon. A.D. (St. Philip South)
BYER-SUCKOO, Dr. the Hon. E. R. (St. George South)
CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
DUGUID, Dr. W. F. (Christ Church West)
FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
INNIS, Hon. D.O'N. (St. James South)
JONES, Hon. R. D. (Christ Church East Central)
KELLMAN, His Ex. D. St.E.
KELLMAN, His Excellency D. St.E. (St. Lucy)
LASHLEY, Hon. M. A. (St. Philip North)
LASHLEY, Hon. S.A. (Christ Church West Central)
MARSHALL, Mr. D. D. (St. Joseph)
MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M.A. (St. Michael North East)
SINCKLER, Hon. C. P. (St. Michael North West)
STUART, Hon. F. J. (St. Michael South)
THOMPSON, MRS. M. J. M.
TODD, Hon. Patrick M. T. (City of Bridgetown)

DISCLAIMER. *This transcript was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools and is provided for reference only. It has not been reviewed, verified or approved by the Hansard Department of the Parliament of Barbados and does not constitute an official parliamentary record. It may contain errors or omissions, including inaccuracies in wording or speaker identification. For authoritative quotations or confirmation of proceedings, consult the official Hansard record when available.*

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. Papers, Hon. C. P. Sinckler. Items 1 and 2 are identical in the source ('Annual Report of the Needhams Point Incorporated for the year 2009'). Printed as in the source.

Q3. Committee of Supply, Supplementary Estimates No. 6, Head 54. The sum appears three ways: '\$66 299 229' in the Resolution, '\$66 299 239' under Head 54 and in Hon. R. D. Jones's opening, and '\$66,299,236' in his closing motion. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Committee of Supply, Head 54. The source records 'The question that Head 54 stand part was put ... and resolved in the affirmative' immediately after the Minister's opening, before the debate; the same question is recorded again at the end of the debate. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Committee of Supply, calls from the Chair. The Chairman calls Hon. R. D. Jones once as 'the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central' and Hon. S. A. Lashley once as 'the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central'; elsewhere the constituencies are the other way round. One call reads 'The Honourable Member for Christ Church'. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Before the suspension. The note reads that 'Mr. CHAIRMAN resumed the Chair and reported accordingly'; presumably Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Head 50 and Head 64, take-slips. A take-slip at the start of Head 50, in the afternoon, reads 'H/A81/10:10' with 'Sequence 21 - 7'; a take-slip 'HOUSE A 81, sequence 38, 5.51 p.m.' is printed as a paragraph in Hon. S. A. Lashley's reply; and stray time codes '(4:00)' and '(7:22)' appear in the Deputy Speaker's invitation to the new Member and in Hon. S. A. Lashley's speech. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Head 50, Mr. G. A. Clarke's speech. Mr. Clarke says the Post Office gets '\$1.2 million every year so this means that it is \$200 million now'; the second figure is presumably \$2 million. Printed as in the source.

Q9. Head 64, seconder. The motion that Head 64 stand part is seconded by 'Hon. M. A. LASHLEY'; no Member of that name appears elsewhere in the sitting. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 25th January, 2011, with Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER presiding; prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood. After the Minutes of 11th January were confirmed, the Deputy Speaker read a letter from the Governor-General reporting that Mrs. Marie-Josephine Mara Thompson had been elected for St. John at the by-election of 20th January, 2011 and had taken the Oath of Allegiance on 24th January. Mrs. M. J. M. Thompson took her seat and paid tribute to her predecessor, the late Prime Minister and her husband, David Thompson. Papers laid included the Annual Report of Needhams Point Incorporated for 2009, the financial statement of the Thelma Vaughn Memorial Home and the Report of the Judicial Council for 2008. The Leader of the Opposition, Rt. Hon. O. S. Arthur, and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce welcomed the new Member.

Standing Orders were suspended and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair, on Supplementary Estimates No. 6, 2010–2011. Hon. R. D. Jones explained that the \$66 million under Head 54, Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, was mainly owed to the University of the West Indies, with sums for Codrington College and Combermere School, and defended low-level matriculation. Miss C. Y. Forde spoke on nursery education, citing studies that almost 2 000 children lacked places. Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley set the request against the fiscal situation and the length of part-time degrees. His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman, Hon. C. P. Sinckler and Rt. Hon. O. S. Arthur followed, the last pledging the Opposition's support and defending the aim of one graduate per household.

After the suspension Hon. P. M. T. Todd, Hon. S. A. Lashley, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce and the Attorney General, Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, supported the expenditure, and Hon. R. D. Jones replied, saying Resolutions would shortly come to the House. Head 54 was agreed to.

On Supplementary Estimates No. 7, for \$1 942 836, Heads 19 and 28 were agreed to without debate. On Head 50, Post Office (\$794 738), Hon. A. D. Brathwaite praised postal workers but said the service was heavily subsidised and that the House must decide whether to keep subsidising commercial users. Mr. D. D. Marshall alleged

mismanagement at the Post Office, which drew exchanges with His Excellency D. St.E. Kellman; Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, Hon. S. A. Lashley and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce defended the service; Mr. G. A. Clarke questioned a request for \$800 000 for utilities; and Hon. P. M. T. Todd spoke after him. The Attorney General replied and Head 50 was agreed to.

Under Head 64, Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports, Hon. S. A. Lashley sought \$81 500 for the rest of Dr. Ivan Henry’s consultancy fee for a National Youth Policy. Dr. W. F. Duguid asked whether Dr. Henry was being paid twice for the same work; Mr. G. A. Clarke and

Hon. C. P. Sinckler exchanged points of order; and Miss C. Y. Forde was asked by the Chairman to withdraw a remark about the Minister and the Youth Commissioners, which she did, in a long run of points of order with Hon. S. A. Lashley. The Minister replied that the draft policy would go to Cabinet after consultation, and Head 64 and Head 70, Ministry of Labour (\$281 878), were agreed to.

The Chairman reported the passing of two money Resolutions, which were then read a first and second time and passed, and the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 1st February, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.