
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, October 18, 2013

Pursuant to the adjournment the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. Friday, October 18, 2013.

PRESENT

His Honour Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON, M.Sc. (Ph.Ed.), B.A. (Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. O. S. ARTHUR, M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. G. W. PAYNE, Q.C.
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, J.P., B.Sc., Dip. Ed.
Hon. D. ST.E. KELLMAN (Minister of Housing Lands and Rural Development)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B. (Leader of the Opposition)
Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.
Hon. R. D. JONES, J.P., M.A. (Ed.), B.A. (Hons.) (Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation)
Dr. the Hon. D. C. ESTWICK, M.B.B.S., B.Sc., (Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management)
Mr. D. D. MARSHALL, LL.B.(Hons.), L.E.C.
Hon. M. A. LASHLEY, LL.B.(Hons.) (Minister of Transport and Works)
Hon. R. L. SEALY, M.B.A., B.Sc., (Minister of Tourism and International Business)
Hon. F. J. STUART, Q.C., LL.M. B.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Public Service and Urban Development)
Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, M.Sc., C. Eng. (Minister of Health) (Leader of the House)
Hon. S. D. BLACKETT (Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development)
Mr. J. D. PAUL, B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)
Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, Ed.D., M.Ed., B.A., Dip. Theology (Minister of Environment and Drainage)

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE, LL.B.(Hons.) (Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs)

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B.(Hons.), L.E.C. (Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth)

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS, M.B.A., B.Sc., Dip., (Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development)

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER, M.Sc., B.A., (Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD, B.A.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS, B.A., LL.B.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC, MVO, B.A. (Hons.)

Mr. E. G. HINKSON, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., LL.M.

Dr. M. M. AGARD, J.P., B.Sc., M.Sc., D.D.S.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.)

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.)

Prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Good morning, Honourable Members. This House is now in session. Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 15th October will be deferred.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE seconded by Hon. J. D. Paul Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 were suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4 (RESUMED)

THE CULTURAL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT
BILL,
2013

Her Hon. Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to add my voice in support of this Cultural Industries Development Bill and let me first commend the Hon. Stephen Lashley, Minister responsible for culture. I know, Madam, that the Honourable Michael Lashley as a great musician himself would carry to portfolio very well. So I rise to support the Minister of Culture in the presentation of this Bill.

One heard him on Tuesday last speaking quite well to what is essentially the Government's development agenda relative to the creative industries of Barbados. So well put and of course so well applauded.

One of the things that we must be very much aware of because what this Bill does is that it brings to the table a pool of resources from which proponents of the creative sector can be beneficiaries in order to build the value or value added of the creative sector in Barbados. It is not going to be an easy exercise. Do not let us pretend that it is going to be an easy exercise. I know sometimes when there is the presence of a larger pool of resources that many persons gather to benefit from those resources but the resources are not in fact infinite. The resources are always finite to some extent and to such degree.

I listened to the lead speaker of the Opposition who spoke to several funds which were established over time in Barbados, funds under the control of the Arts and Sport Promotion Fund and several persons both in the arts and the sports have, in fact, been beneficiaries from the fund which was set up some time ago. One realises as well that there were funds under the Enterprise Growth Fund (EGF) and the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East would very well aware of how to access the benefits from the funds so established under the Enterprise Growth Fund (EGF). There would have been many others who would want to access these funds but sometimes some of the knowledge for these funds are not as widespread as one would want; therefore, he or she who has an eye through the window can become a major beneficiary of these funds. I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East as a legal-minded person to some extent I believe and I demonstrate respect for her in this regard, some understanding of the creative sector of the Cultural Industries Sector having under her wing and control some

persons who are in fact involved in the musical sector. It is an area which demands more persons from a legal vantage point having an eye and having some understanding of the various nuances of entertainment law, of copyright, of copyright law and things of this ilk. We have in Barbados over time some individuals who would have been great ambassadors for Barbados and if one looks back to the 50s, 60s, 70s in particular, one would recognise the presence of great musicians of this country. There was time when Barbados had some very large musical bands, Blue Rhythm Combo, The Troubadours, Wendy Alleyne and the Dynamics, Gabby Scoot and the Revelations come to mind. That was not a large band but it was a musical band coming from the parish Christ Church and I would want recognition to that as well. The Tropical Islanders, the Super 8s, there were several groups and bands who tried their utmost best to develop the musical domestic space and to some extent when they had the opportunity to tour also carried the message of Barbados' music, talent, poetry and writing across the world. That is within the musical genre. One could well remember the Draytons Two and Flatbush as a musical group of being exponents of Spouge music in their own particular and peculiar styles.

To me, we make a leap into the now period which had its genesis way back around the early 1980s when the latent talent of young men and women from St. Philip started to emerge on the musical scene of Barbados. One could well remember the young voices of people like John King, at that time referred to as Johnnie Ma Boy, and Red Plastic Bag emerging out of that particular period as well. Calypso was the particular musical genre and that has blossomed from that period right through until now when a young man, a teacher, won the title of Monarch this year. Ian Webster is a teacher at the Springer Memorial School and a product of the Christ Church Boys School of which I had some 27 years connection as a great educator. Madam Deputy Speaker, one could see the burgeoning of that creativity coming out. One could also reflect on the juniors and the work done by another teacher. He is not as young as he was so many years ago, but Anthony Sergeant, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I know that you would not quarrel with me for calling his name, is another product of St. Philip working with those young people in our schools so that when they come to the stage they can well deliver the quality that one would expect from young people in Barbados.

Several of our musicians are self-made, recognising their talents and taking that talent to the kinds of heights that only they can take it with the support of so many others, the State, family, friends and persons, who are also involved in the musical display.

There are other persons, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is not about persons but I believe that one must recognise persons who have been fighting in the wilderness

for a very long time keeping particularly music alive in Barbados. There are particular sounds that would still ring in your ears and when you hear them wherever you are they will stir you and you have a recognition of the Barbadian presence, so Emmerton and the individual who penned and sang that song. It is as fresh now as it was then when it was written by the Mighty Gabby, Anthony Carter official name and still a musician, that resonates in the bosom of many Barbadians. We applaud their work and their contribution to the development of Barbados.

I do not know, Madam Deputy Speaker, what is their earning capacity but I know that there is earning potential and this Cultural Industries Development Bill seeks to bring that earning potential forward to give them a platform on which they can launch themselves not only within our domestic space but also in the regional space and eventually in the international space. There are current proponents of that form who are on the international stage. I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central, the Minister of Culture, spoke to some of them on Tuesday gone.

Rihanna is a musical talent that has carried the message of Barbados all across the world. You go into parts unknown and once there is a radio or an internet connection, even if it is electricity comes via solar panels, you hear that music.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Right, in remote parts of the world where you have to use technology to bring the music. There is an association of Rihanna with Barbados and there are several others who in their own way and in their own method promote Barbados through their musical talent. I believe that things only happen in the time that they should happen and that regardless of how man tries to push and push to make them happen, there are things happening which would resist that push. I believe that the time is now for the creative talents of our people to blossom in such a way that Barbados as a nation becomes the beneficiary of that talent, so that is the musical form.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not going to be controversial today whatsoever, I do not ever try to be really, it is just the consequence of the use of a word that someone might misinterpret and then blow up to satisfy their own nascent hunger for recognition in the world. Suffice to say, Madam Deputy Speaker, I have said before that there are people who sing who should not sing and there are people who write who should not write. What you have to do is to cause an elimination of selfishness. The creative type can be a peculiar type, that is given, over time. Creative people are extremely talented in their particular way but imbedded within that creativeness can sometimes be a selfishness, that is the philosophical reality.

There are people in Barbados who write well. Their lyrical brilliance flows.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Red Plastic Bag, but I am not going to link him in a manner in which I originally spoke because I believe that he can also sing. He can write and he can sing, so that is a speciality. Not everybody can do all things so we need to come up with a mechanism which pairs good writers with good singers, good vocalization. We need an understanding and an appreciation of the particular cadence of lyrical writing, persons who can capture what they so want to capture with words because the written word in music is poetry. Poetry has form and even though within the modern or the contemporary period the form might not be the traditional form, nobody goes now and particularly puts in the kind of metre, Iambic, Trochaic or any of those metres which make relevance then but they create a style which rest upon the ears to give some comfort. Free verse, wide open verse. You cannot count the beats or metres within any of the lines but somehow they are able because of their talents and ability to bend it so that the ears might find comfort. Madam Deputy Speaker, there are others, never mind how they bend it, their ears run and hide because comfort cannot be found in the lyrics, they then try to rely strictly on the music to carry them through what they pen and what they sing. Madam, there are some in Barbados too, do not let us fool our foot. This Cultural Industries Development Bill, 2013, is not going to change the road for the writer who is terrible, it is not going to change the road for the person who performs that which is awful, what it will do would be to give to those who have the capacity to grow and to develop the opportunity so to do. It gives them the opportunity to find venues in Barbados, where they can perform and where their creative work can be appreciated and paid for.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I remember the days in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when calypso was played at the National Stadium. In those days, it was not very expensive but each period carries its level of expense but persons were still climbing over the walls, even though sometimes the shows were free. Madam, people had so become accustomed to listening to the creative talents of others, that they could shift their *modus operandi*. Madam Deputy Speaker, people who use their minds, hearts or hands to create something of worth and something of value should be paid for those things, that is why I do not support persons who burn CDs of music or movies and retail them on the streets of Barbados for \$5.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Madam Deputy Speaker, it is difficult, though, to run behind each and every person,

education means nothing to those persons who want to become involved in criminal activity. That is, in fact, a criminal activity when your talent or your creative outflow is being poached upon by those who are not conscious enough that you too need to earn a living to support your families or that you too need to develop the capacity to bring to the wider public the benefits of what you do.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have had persons who have played dub, dancehall, reggae and other genres, and you would find spotted talent across Barbados. I know we have immense talent in those who are musicians, those people who play the flute, trombone, base guitar, rhythm guitar, drums, et cetera. In many of our schools there are competent teachers of music, lyrics and the music that goes with those instruments. Madam Deputy Speaker, I could well remember the school now called the Graydon Sealy, formerly the Garrison Secondary School and the emergence of the steel band, where "Patches" Mendoza introduced many of those young students to the steel pan. Steel pan, of course, makes beautiful music. There is also the St. Lucy Secondary School in the north, where not only is the steel pan playing taught by a dedicated teacher of that school, he also involves them in the tuk band music as well.

Madam Deputy Speaker, if you go across all of the schools, you would find great young musicians who have either gone to the Barbados Community College and then ended up as teachers in the United States of America or Canada. York being a place where we have several young Barbadian musicians who are benefiting from scholarships that have been provided by this Government. Those persons are operating at the top of their classes in institutions such as York. We have also sent persons to England. We have young Chantelle Martin who is now in the United States of America and is doing exceptionally well. She is a product of the Combermere School and is supported by the State as well.

We just had, I believe from out of England, a young police musician, Dexter Norville, who is from St. Lucy. He is another brilliant musician. We have another young policeman who is supported by this Government, young Abraham Millington, who I believe has an exceptional mind who, even though a student, plays with a number of well-established symphonies or orchestras in Canada. Hopefully, he would be able to go on and satisfy his Masters before returning home to display that talent to the world. All of that is supported by the State, so that the State has not been sitting idly by and not supporting the talent. Madam Deputy Speaker, we cannot support everybody.

There is also support for the talent in dance. We have supported about four or five dancers over the last five or six years. We have a young lady who is leading a group in Hungary in dance. This is the talent that we have on this

little rock called Barbados. Therefore, we have to continue to urge that talent on by providing targeted resources for the realisation of that talent.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is noted that the creative industries for Barbados are viewed as the next economic sector for exploitation and so it is. It is how we manage the resources to make it thus. It is how the cooperation and collaboration of people across the sectors become highly important for the realisation of that particular economic goal.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to add as well for those who write. We have not had a whole plethora but we have had some persons who have written well, who still spark our minds in relation to what they have penned. George Lamming's "In the Caste of my Skin", remains a piece of work that still resonates among many of our persons and students who write, read and use it as a literature text, to have an understanding of the complexities of Barbados and of persons growing up under the Union Jack. Austin "Tom" Clarke is also a writer of his own particular and peculiar style. They are distinguished Barbadian writers, some of whom are very well-recognised in Canada.

There is also the work of Cynthia Wilson. I am pleased to have within my small library two of her works, through her lenses and imagination, telling a story of families, of living, of relationships in villages, of social disparities and of the struggle to survive.

In fact, there is an Honourable Member of this Chamber who I believe is now on his fifth book, the former representative for St. James North. I believe he was able to peddle to me all four of those works. I cannot say, without contradicting myself that I have read them all because it is a challenge.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: of course, I read yard fowls, which is almost an indictment of the political Party of which he was a member at the time. The important thing is that there are people writing, who come out the St. Michael School. We have two writers and one that comes readily to mind is young Herbert Reifer from the constituency of St. George North, who I believe now is penning his third book and there are other Barbadian writers who do not all readily come to mind. There are Barbadians in the diaspora who are also writing, so we have a pool of talent to be exploited. What we do not have is a publishing house in Barbados which can carry the work of those writers and, therefore, in most instances, you have to go outside of Barbados to get your work published or you have to become a self publisher, doing the kind of research, finding the printing press that will do it for you at negligible cost and I do not

think it really exists, or going as far as China or Taiwan or in Eastern Europe or in North America to have that work done. I do not know who will significantly bell the cat. in Barbados so that the talents of Barbadian writers can more and more come to the fore. I know that today you can go into the e-book printing which makes it a lot easier for persons to get their work out to the public. I must confess that I am more comfortable with the feel of the book still in my hands even though I read e-books as well but there is a particular intimacy that one has with that printed text and the feel of that book as you pass through the various pages in your hand. I hope technology will not cause them to disappear because persons like myself would then become starved even though literature would still be there.

Madam President, can you appreciate, as you conjugate and as you just read a paragraph of great literature and you fold the book using your index finger of your left hand to walk about to think and to reflect and to try to get an understanding of what the writer meant even though sometimes your whole interpretation of what the writer meant is totally false, you have come to a conclusion. Madam Deputy Speaker, not only Barbados but in the Caribbean as a whole has produced some excellent writers. Some have gone on to win Nobel Peace Prize in literature and some have won Commonwealth prizes and other important publishing prizes across the world. Examples of these are Barbadian Hilton Vaughn:

“Turn sideways now and let them see what loveliness escapes the school. Then turn again and be a perfect answer to those fools who prey ...”

Madam Deputy Speaker, the beauty of the language so wrapped and placed before the mind is something else and, Madam, these are Barbadians. Madam, when you venture to Trinidad ...

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member you have two more minutes.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Madam, when you venture to Trinidad and to Jamaica where the passion of writing is still very much there. These are men and women who do not hesitate to write. We have lost great men and great women in this country. Their stories that should have been by themselves before they died and after they have passed, their story should still be told.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I commend the work of the academics at Cave Hill for their historical, sociological and economical writing but more particularly for their historical writing. I believe that the history department of Cave Hill has been the beacon department when it comes to the production of historical literal of straightening that writing pole which has leaned so heavily towards another man's story rather than the story of our people.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I support this Bill and I support those creative talents in our midst on whom this Bill will depend of its sustenance and its life. I do not support the incessant fights some times that one gets at various times of the year. I do not support trashy writing or trashy music but I believe there is a greater pool of talent and good writing out, of good creative juices flowing that we can all support and that we can all bring to the centre.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I give them Bill my wholehearted and undiluted support. I thank you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael East.

Mr. T.A. PRESCOD: Madam Deputy Speaker, I just want to connect with an element of the statement made by the representative in one of the pockets of Christ Church. You are correct when you made reference to Hilton Vaughn and some of the other great artistes, people in the fine arts and in the performing arts who possess a special Barbadian and mainly an Afro-Barbados ethos hat really makes us what we are, so when people write and understand their groundings, it has an impact no only on perimeters of the parochial environment but it has an impact outside of the local environment in the region and in the international market.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is something about those writers that with deep thought you can identify some common thread that makes them unique. Wherever they are and wherever their works are exposed, you know it is something different to what you get from any other pocket in the world and it brings me to my introduction. Tony Martin from Trinidad, a distinguished historian, who died within the last year wrote a major piece called “Philosophy and opinion of Marcus Garvey”. He quoted Marcus Garvey and I think what Garvey was attempting to decree to us, and I have made the point over and over because I want us to be able to think like this. There is a request for a reconnection and a new approach to things that we do. Madam, Marcus Garvey was saying something to us. He asked: “Where are your kings and queens? Where are your men of high affairs? He says: “I will help you to make them, if you pick it down and try to understand the message.”

I also want as we design new models - I am going to support the Bill - to take into consideration what we are doing, what it is that we really want to do. I think the deculturisation of who we are has been so contentious and damaging to our psyche that we cannot bring Bills so segmented. We are dealing with the subject matter of culture. I believe the ambit is extremely wide. I would have been happy to really deal with a Bill which codifies all the various aspects of culture because we are trying to reconnect with the 1960s, that you talked about, that spirit

of the 1960s but we are also trying to move forward with something that is new in the area of culture.

Madam, the Minister in passing did make mention to the period of that great block, Caribbean Renaissance. We spoke of the 'Blue Rhythm Combo'. He spoke about the 'Troubadours' and some of the others. There was something in that period and I think it comes back to might be something cosmologically but comes back to something about us. Although some may argue we were not as modern then as we are now. We saw Jackie Opel. We saw the Merrymen. We saw the Troubadours not depending so much on a 166 square mile country to eat chicken. They were able to penetrate the international market. The Merrymen had tremendous impact in the Canadian market and on many occasions spent more than six months out of Barbados earning a good living.

I am one of the people who believes that do not care how great you are, the size of our population is extremely small. I have been wrestling with the thought in recent times...I know we are trying to get into this mega business and conglomerates and so on with a very small population and a very small population with purchasing power. From all that we talk what I extrapolate is, those artistes who made it big did not make it big because the market in Barbados was given the kind of demand that would have allowed them to live the life of a Rihanna. If Rihanna was concentrating on a limited market like this, Rihanna would still be walking about the streets unknown. She possess great creative talent but it is only when she got into the international market which is extremely gigantic, that she was able to exploit the opportunities which were made available in that market. We have seen a lot of that, but every time we make reference to you I am not unaware that these are people of a certain type who have creativity that we call ours.

I heard everybody talking and I keep seeing everybody dodge it, but we are talking about culture. I know that we talk broad but I do not want to know we have come back to this point that although we are the majority, the minority dominates the cultural strata.

Madam, I am connected to the dance fraternity which include women, and when I hear persons who are given the authority sometimes to judge, there is a long debate among them about on of what is really a true reflection of what is Caribbean and what is Barbadian. They do ballet. They do all kinds of strange things that look alien to who we are but they judge everyone who wants to enter the specific genre by that specific standard that is alien to them. That brings me to a consideration which I think is really fundamental. I know that sometimes people get carried away Afrocentric or rather Afrosacsum on these issues. I really believe they are talking wisdom, people who have miseducated and continue to also dominate.

I still maintain that it is strange to me that the Bill speaks to a cultural industry and defines it, but the Bill does not define culture itself. We should be meeting this head-on as a confrontation. This should generate a debate equally as important as the economy because it is more important to me about who I am than to even talk about other aspects of life, because if you do not know who you are, sadly you will be in real deep trouble. I understand why the energies must come to drive a debate like this and I was hoping the we would have able on Tuesday...my only consideration is, where is the definition? We have to start somewhere and it is on that basis I am giving my full support. I am not going to make any excuse for this institution in these circumstances.

I believe when the Bill first came up I did see a couple things when the Minister introduced the Bill, because I felt this is a serious debate and I do not want to wash it down to end up discussing what the Barbados Labour Party and what the Democratic Labour Party did. It is a serious debate and at that time I felt the Minister should really say all these things, understand why the Bill was delayed. Both political Parties would love to say we brought a Cultural Industries and then add on the words 'Development Bill' to Parliament, but the development bill is only partially development.

Including in all of this I ought to be here dealing with some fossil 8 28 50 that are on the plantation lands. I ought to be here dealing with some serious artefacts people stole from these lands, and if I want the debate to be that we are radically transforming things, we are playing with things. We are not coming here to discuss only who has excelled, demonstrated and made over the creative imagination. We are not only here for that, so we end up highlighting all of those who are in the performing arts but every year we still send men up to Canada, the Waterfront, to exhibit and show how advanced and how unique we are in the culinary arts.

We also made reference today about people in the fine arts as well and it is so important that it is here, it is a good discussion paper, we will pass the Bill, but I would hope that we would understand the importance of complementing this Bill with all the other elements that is absent at this specific moment because I think that to bring that sense of collective consciousness to a society and restoring it would require that we demonstrate to our people that they have played a meaningful role in this great Barbadians civilisation. I generalise on that too because this civilisation put us here. Other people had us out there. We came mainstream because the people wanted us to come mainstream and we must never forget the whole trend of history because that is one of the fundamentals that stopped us from understanding the importance of having a common identity and a common culture.

I know in the United States of America (USA) we have Chinese, Jews, Africans, there would be a debate over who are African-Americans and who are Africans, in Barbados you have the same thing and these are things we need to straighten out once and for all that present and future generations should not have these difficulties. I think the responsibility is our and we need to straighten these things out. Our children are still wrestling. I have heard somebody saying, "What Barbadian culture what? Barbadians do not have any culture." If you have not heard that you really are not Barbadian. That is why I am talking about Afro-Saxon mis-education. They say we copy everything and if Jamaicans speak in a specific way we want to do it, if the Americans speak in a specific way we want to do it, but the reality is that we as Barbadians and as Parliamentarians we need to begin to shape the direction. We have a National Cultural Foundation (NCF), we talk about the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA) and we need to give all these institutions directions.

Asides.

Mr. T. A. PRESCOD: Madam Deputy, I really believe that these points are extremely important and I will tell you why too. Without a definition we cannot leave it to the executors of the Board, whoever is supposed to be executing this, an opening opportunity to allow their independent judgment their biases to influence which cultural project they consider to be appropriate. I know that because I have been involved in cultural activities and I know sometimes you end up exchanging views with judges on what is Afro-Caribbean. In order to qualify sometimes for even the approval for transition from one point in the NIFCA competition you have to state exactly the type of genre you are entering the competition in, so you would get modern dance - in my view which is something that we need to really speak about because I really believe that these are special inflictions, what is modern dance and what is not and what is not, and modern dance do not really apply much to us - and then you have what is African and you are in an environment with all of these people from the same ancestral lineage, but they find difficulty in doing anything that reflects them, they do not see it even as part of the Caribbean but every that reflects the minority, they hold it as the standard of judgment. I think that these things are so important. I think that what preceded the 1960s or what preceded the 1970s, the kind of environment and the matrix of what was occurring in the environment in that period, there was a sense of consciousness - you know we hear people talk about Walter Rodney, "Groundings with My Brothers" and "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa", those writings. You had George Beckford with "Persistent Poverty - Underdevelopment in Plantation Economies of the Third World", you had a whole set of material coming at you, you had C. L. R. James with "Black Jacobins" you had material coming at you. So that sense of consciousness

that was required at that specific subconsciously shaped the minds of our people. You had artistes that directly or indirectly were influenced by the informal and the formal educational system but I think we have drifted away, I do not know if it is because of the North American influences on the society or if it is because of the influences through development, the internet, television and radio, so we find that there is a drift away.

West Indies Records Limited was the biggest manufacturing phonographic - not pornographic - phonographic company in the Caribbean and The Mighty Sparrow, Lord Kitchener, all these people used to come to Barbados and record here. They had a massive staff and they used to be exporting records out of Barbados. It provided work for people of all different categories in the industry. That does not exist anymore. The young people today do not even believe you when you talk about these things because nobody speaks about that.

I would like to see the day when artistes that we have given all this support to would not have to be in Baxters Road after being a king or in Bank Hall - I am not going to call anybody's name but I know what I see - out there sometimes having to ask me or anyone of us for \$20. When the Barbadian public applaud them down at Kensington Oval, 10,000 people and then these people cannot even eat and when they get old they have to be asking the Urban Development Commission for a house. That is what I am talking about but you only understand that or reflect on that if you know clearly that these are some of the challenges which the industry is facing and we would try to see if we could remove those challenges from what these people are experiencing and give them an opportunity.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am hoping that reasonable judgment would be done in the assessment of these projects. I am not one of those people interested in giving anybody false hope, even those who are in the film industry. The reality is that I hope that these people would listen to the debate that we are having here, because if the definition is not there, because all that we are saying is a cultural industry... I know that even on my Side, some people feel that there should be no universal definition for it but I really believe that we can package it well enough to have a clear definition that would tell us where we begin and where we end so that nobody that is on a board or any committee could use the opportunity of not having a definition to impose their own selfish value judgements on the outcome of any specific decision.

While I am supportive of it, and you have to start like you started, I really believe that let it be a clear sign for the artists, the archaeologists, the chefs, the writers, the singers, the lighting people, the sound system people and the people in the film industry because I heard a lot of

discussion yesterday about the development of a new filming industry. There is nothing that should stop us from being able to develop a film industry. As you indicated Nigeria is doing it, Ghana is doing it and Barbadians rush to the shops to get DVDs in order to get something out of Bollywood, and the Jamaicans are doing it. I am not saying this because I think that these people are not capable of doing these things. I am surprised about it but I am saying that all that it really requires is all that we possessed but when we do it we need to do things that really reflect us again because when we see the Jamaican film and when we see the Nigerian film, it is a story that mirrors Nigeria. It speaks about elders and the community spirit in Nigeria and it talks about love stories that exist among people in Nigeria. I do not expect us to produce films and got two holsters stick on on a hat showing that I am a Texan. We can do it without having to spend millions of dollars and that is why I am saying that we can have a model so well adapted that we can produce anything for an hour and a half or two hours that equally is as effective and impactful as what we get from out of Hollywood.

We see the example in what the Nigerians are doing. I know people that sometimes if you go at their houses you see a big box. I could not believe when I saw it that so many people were producing in Nigeria. It brings a lot of pride to people who participate in the actual cultural project in the area of film, people become stars so I would urge you to continue to work swiftly in making that a reality.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I picked up your signal. I spoke on this matter extensively because I wanted to be me and I also wanted to be as objective as I can be with all of the intrinsic obstacles as an individual but I would really like to see us begin to think in that specific vein. I really believe that we can create a new model that can become an impactful model and can penetrate the world. Madam Deputy Speaker, I am much obliged.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Christ Church East.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I rise to make my contribution to this debate but before I do so I should also like to express my indebtedness and gratitude to God the Father Almighty for his love and enduring strength and mercy and for his control over the destiny of man and to speak confidently that my days are numbered only by him and that no one who seeks to propagate the end of my life can do so, that is only in the hands of the Almighty and that those who would seek to put themselves in a position to speak of that kind could only be characterized as inhumane and frankly disgusting.

I am grateful for the support and the love of my family, my colleagues and selected members on the other

side who would have taken the opportunity to express their condolences on the passing of my mum and best wishes for my continued health and success.

Madam Deputy Speaker, you cannot imagine the absolute delight that I have this morning to have my voice placed on record of this debate at this particular time because I realised a long time ago that what becomes of a man can only be determined by God and not by men. I remain faithful to His purpose and to His cause and to my calling to serve the people of this country and to continue to reflect the virtues of His righteousness in all of my life.

Having said that, I want to give full compliments to the Honourable Minister of Culture for the splendid job that he did in laying out the rubrics for this debate on the issue of the cultural industries. The speaker who just took his seat, when you sift out some of the valuable things, said in his speech you cannot deny the fact that to speak of the cultural industries one would have to define culture. I do not expect a Bill to capture everything that we know that needs to be said but we as lawmakers have the responsibility to engage in a discussion that gives full expression to the intent of the Bill and to bring to the discussion other areas that would be germane to this particular debate.

Cultural industries as was so defined by the Honourable Minister of Culture refers to the various businesses that produce, distribute, market or sell products that belong categorically to the creative cultures. That includes not only the performing arts but other expressions of culture that perhaps give best definition to who we are, where we started, where we are and where we are going.

I am thoroughly supportive of this proposed legislation. I believe that the time has come where the collective voices of all Barbadians must take the time out to understand their own cultural identity and in so doing create those vehicles of expression that give the truest meaning of who we are as a people. All civilizations across the globe have unique ways of expressing who they believe themselves to be. Barbadians have been challenged to understand who they are. We all refer to the famous speech given by our founding father the late Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow when he talked about our mirror image.

Madam Deputy Speaker, cultural industries are really not just about the commercial expression or dividends derived from expressions of who we are, cultural industries really create for us a tapestry of opportunities, where we as a people can find the most suitable avenue to delve ourselves into activities that would give the truest expression of our journey as a people. Yes, we too have a journey; yes, we too have started somewhere and yes, we too have a story to tell and a history to preserve and we have to find the ways in which we can preserve the essence

of our very being: who we are, how we move, how we express our selfhood, how we interrelate in interdependent relationships one another, how we respect the rule of law, how we regard our democracy as being sacred, and how we find ways not of antagonising our democracy but enhancing it by our own contributions to the upliftment of the contribution of the very DNA of who we are as Barbadian. Madam, that is what this is about. And I believe that the Honourable Member took the time to walk us through the various pathways of how we should go about contemplating this whole matter of cultural industry.

Cultural industry is really about understanding the value and eccentricity of how we define who are and what we ought to be. It is a central core of value-based systems that allow us to behave in the way that is acceptable, not only acceptable by virtue of who we are, where we have come from and where we are going but acceptable about how we should behave in an orderly society, so that when you go to a store you see artifacts, clothing, CDs, books and other expressions of the cultural industries that we are now seeking to build and to build out, we ought to be looking into a mirror and asking ourselves, is that the best reflection of who we believe ourselves to be.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the reason the definition of culture is important because culture it is often bombarded by other types of cultural modalities, such as subcultures, and perhaps most dangerously, countercultures. A subculture is really a breakdown of our cultural standard. It is a sum expression of our cultural standard, not necessarily intended to create any negative movement away from how we define ourselves. Madam, countercultures on the other hand are those dangerous expressions that seek to create an alternative path, one that is not rooted in the virtues of who we are and cannot find any definition on the preservation of what have become accepted mores and norms in a society, that is why we have to look carefully at the notion of culture.

Madam President, broadly, culture represents a kind of our social heritage. It is a pattern of responses, discovered, developed or invented during a society's history and development. It really is a contemplation of where we have started. We all know, if we are not careful, there are versions of stories out there that will try to influence how we define ourselves as a people but from our own journey, from our own experience, from the emergence of this society, from the building of this nation, we have accepted certain types of cultural values as normative behavioural values that are unassailable, values that are so intrinsically interwoven into our daily lives, that they give full expression of how we move, live and have our being. They are the responses that are intended to preserve what we believe to be the DNA marks of who we are and why we are here.

Madam Deputy Speaker, very often, those persons who tend to exhibit abnormal cultural patterns are persons who have lost sight of our cultural network of norms. They are persons who at times become so self-absorbed that they seek to redefine a society around themselves and not give adherence to those patterns of living and doing business that would have been solidified across generations. Culture is inter-generationally interwoven in such a unique way that across generations culture can still be preserved, so that there are different modalities of cultural phenomenon.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I talked about subculturism and about counter-culturism. Culture is about industry but more than that, before we get there, culture is about solidifying a definition of who we are, that is broadly accepted across the society, that is accepted as the blueprint of how we express who we are.

Madam, that is what the Honourable Member sought to do when he talked about the history of the Bill, when he talked about how the Bill found its journey. It really is not just about a Bill as is inscribed in the Laws of Barbados, as much it is about that inter-generational transference of those unassailable values that are intrinsic in who we are and that continue to define us across generations, even after present generations move on. Madam Deputy Speaker, it is about the actualisation of our identity and its protection against the actualisation of our identity, and its protection against foreign cultural penetrations.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in the different fora we have heard commentaries on how the Barbadian culture may be at risk because of the extent and persistence of attempts to penetrate our culture with other types of normative standards for behaviour. Madam Deputy Speaker, I go back to those persons who have built the nation Barbados, many of whom were not persons of affluence, many of whom were ordinary citizens in ordinary communities, small churches in small communities, some of which were clubs and what we then called lodges, which does not mean the same as it means today in many circles. A lodge was where you went and paid in your twenty-five cents and at Christmas time you got your bonus. It was almost like a 'meeting turn' but when you went there every fortnight, there were any numbers of persons from the community who congregated and shared experiences. Madam, there was one in Cane Garden, St. Andrew, where I grew up. There were any number of persons who sat there and brought in their pittances and then sat and talked about community life and talked opportunities and talked about heritage and talked about the fact that they lived in a society that was largely emerging but still had the fundamentals of their character and their identity ingrained in how they lived and how they move and how they had their being. These small communities were a large part responsible for shaping how you and I now experience our being in the society.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I speak fondly of my late mother who spent so much time not just educating but patterning for us how we should live and your Mum, I am quite sure, whether deceased or alive would have done the same thing and taught us how to live through those times of plenty and those times of need, the latter being more familiar to them than the former. Madam, that is the expression of culture, you could not take that into a store and sell it but the fact is, it played its role in how we develop as a society and, therefore, what this Bill intends to do is to offer us other vehicles where we can express and live out the virtues of our culture. It represents vehicles through which a society gives creative expression to its social, economic, environmental, governance and historical realities. Madam, that is what the cultural industries is all about. It is a vehicle that allows for us to fulfill our development objectives and this Government has set as its development platform economic viability, social balance, environmental soundness and good governance. Madam, those are the pillars upon which we build our development objectives and this Bill is now offering this country another avenue, another frontier, if you will, through which the country cannot only express its identity but through which the country can find ways and means of raising economic opportunities for our citizens through entrepreneurship and the like.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is something called socio-cultural development which takes into account not only the ambit of social development but is associated with our cultural outlook and the social rules of engagement. There are social behaviours some of which are considered typical, some of which are considered atypical, some of which are considered purely social and some of which are considered anti-social. Madam, when you put these all together and you begin to look at the opportunity for cultural industry development, we therefore have to be careful that we are, in fact, giving rise to those social behaviours that we build the norms of our society around. We just cannot say that we are developing a cultural industry and whatever can find expression in the context of culture is acceptable because that would not be the case. Therefore, I would want to suggest that cultural industries represent a kind of creative brilliance or ought to represent the creative brilliance of our society in various forms.

Madam Deputy Speaker, creative brilliance does not start in a store, creative brilliance starts in how we raise our children. It starts in not just the nature of our children but it also starts in the nurture and the environment in which our children grow up. If we, as parents, Madam Deputy Speaker, fail to teach our children about who they are, they will not become the best examples of cultural expression. Madam, that is the point. The bill is not just about creating these rafts where people can get on and sail towards economic prosperity because economic prosperity is an incidental outcome of a larger picture because at the heart

of the cultural industry ought to be a commitment for a society to fully give expression to itself, of a society to give expression whether it is in literary work, film, dance or music, the society must give expression to ourselves.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this is what we are about. It is not about how many artistes can rise up in whatever community, that is all good and well but if the product of these artistes runs afoul of who we are and seeks to divert attention from the real facts of our identity then that cultural expression is not the best for our society. Madam, that is the point I am seeking to make.

Madam Deputy Speaker, therefore, when the Honourable Minister talks about all the areas that Bill is now to address the creative brilliance of our people and the inter-connectivity of our society, there should never come a time in Barbados where one segment of the society believes that maybe because of their economy platform that they can define who we are. There should never come a time when those who would want to carry the message of our cultural identity because there is a lack of resources and a lack of attention paid to their body of work should have to suffer the opportunity to tell the story. It is a story of value, it is a story of virtue, it is a story that must be told and must be taught in the churches and in the school, on the 'blocks', wherever you go and there is an audience, the story of our cultural heritage and our cultural journey must be told.

Madam Deputy Speaker, inter-connectivity of a society's inter-generational journey and socio-cultural expression is what the cultural industries should express. How we develop and how we have changed over time, how we developed and change our socio-cultural systems and how time and globalisation and those factors could have affected us.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Cultural Industries Bill, therefore, sets a structural platform from which we can build a new order for the actualisation of our various expression of the diverse forms of our cultural realities. The Bill also set out the rubrics for systems, systems of analysis, systems of governance, systems of management and systems of enablement. Madam, in this Bill, when you go through section by section, Section 2 of the Bill provides for the establishment, composition and administration of an authority to be known as the Barbados Cultural Industries Authority.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe what the Minister and Ministry were seeking to do here was to set the rules of engagement to ensure that standards are brought to bear upon the emergence of this new economy, to ensure that the players understand the rules and that it is not simply someone picking up a tin and keeping noise and saying this is a cultural expression but that the message of that activity

accentuates our journey. That is the point I wish to leave in my presentation this morning.

The Bill talks about promoting, assisting and facilitating the efficient development of the cultural industries, determining the eligibility of cultural projects for funding and the processing of applications, how we do business. It goes on and on and talks about a whole set of concessions that will be brought to bear on the establishment and the full emergence of the cultural industries.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member you have two minutes left.

Dr. the Hon. D.S. LOWE: Thank, you Madam Deputy Speaker. in closing let me say again the whole legacy of our development as a country will not be captured in the establishment of monuments and specific locations for people to visit, the real story of our legacy will be captured in how we define ourselves in knowing who we are, where we came from and where we are going and successfully passing on through cultural industries the virtues and values of those elements of culture that aptly defined them.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am obliged to you.

MADAM. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James South.

Hon. D. O'N. INNISS: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Of course I rise to give full support to this Cultural Industries Development Bill, just like all of those on the Opposition have given support to thus far, and I wish to join with them in strongly saluting the outstanding work of the Minister responsible for Culture and his team for getting us to where we are today in this Cultural Industries Bill.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this is indeed a very serious piece of legislation which is poised to help transform this economy and society at a time when others, including the Leader of the Opposition and her team are out there keeping a lot of noise, asking what is the direction of this economy and the way Government is taking it, et cetera, this to my mind well captures the direction in which we are going and well captures the opportunities presented.

Madam, as a matter of fact I really came to the House this morning to engage in a discussion with the Leader of the Opposition and her team on some other matters, but since she has absented herself from Parliament today I therefore have to stick to this issue of the Cultural Industries Bill. At least she is not here yet. I have not seen her yet in the precinct.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when we talk about the economy and the society and the way in which we are taking this economy and society, I now reflect on the Barbados Growth and the Environment Strategy of 2013-2020. This is extremely important because there are several individuals in this society including some of my learned colleagues on the Opposition bench and their supporters and rubble rousers, who will go out there day and night to give the impression that this Government has identified a clear path upon which this economy and society ought to go, that this Government has not been clear in terms of the

specific projects and programmes that will move this economy and society forward. Madam Deputy Speaker, I therefore wish to start by reflecting on the Barbados Growth and Development Strategy document, 2013-2020, which was laid in this Honourable Chamber. I invite all of those who say they are at a lost as to where this country is going under the Democratic Labour Party to please take this document up, read it and reread it then ask themselves if there is not clarity of purpose.

Madam Deputy Speaker, on Page 57, permit me to quote from this document. It speaks to the cultural industries and sports, particularly the cultural industries. It says: "The national cultural policy is one that seeks to create a framework for the continued positive development of Barbadian culture and for ensuring that Barbadians and their culture are central to overall national development. The current global economic crisis has created for Barbados one of its greatest challenges and is therefore to culture, values and traditions, which the country must turn as it seeks to overcome the challenges."

I am going to finish now.

"It is accepted that the well-developed cultural sector has not only the ability to capture the expressions of people's imagination, its products and services, but it also offer us opportunities for the sustainable diversification of our economy, and has the potential to generate meaningful employment for individuals and to provide opportunities for earning significant foreign exchange. The cultural industries therefore must be seen as a tool and vehicle for positive social and economic development."

Madam Deputy Speaker, having laid this in Parliament recently, having spoken to this eloquently time and time again, we are here today to move beyond just a general statement of the importance of the cultural industry in Barbados to a stage where we bring legislation, to in fact implement it.

Madam, when I hear individuals talk about a lack of implementation, you cannot have a more glaring example of how the Government has clearly enunciated a policy and within a few short weeks we got it to the stage where we

talk about implementation via allowances in Parliament today.

So I ask myself why is it that those who are keeping so much noise still seem to be in a deep slumber, that is what you call snoring, I believe. The reality is, this Government has continued to be very busy.

We have certainly sought to locate the cultural industry in its rightful place in this society. For years the Opposition Barbados Labour Party has been speaking about a cultural industry and all I saw reflected in their policies was nothing but fetes, Dub Fetes and dances around the place. That is not how you measure and qualify a cultural industry.

I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East is rather new to this, but in time she would grow, learn, understand and appreciate what is really a cultural industry. It is not just about a fete around the place.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I wish to reflect on some other aspects of the cultural industry. As I said earlier I think the Minister did an excellent job in his presentation on Tuesday in this Chamber in terms of setting the broad framework in terms of outlining the legislation and the importance of it, in terms of even speaking forcibly to the implementation that would come about following this legislation.

Our concept of the cultural industry is not just about what has been spoken, generally speaking. We also have to look for example at the craft industry. I note the comments from the Honourable Member for St. Michael East, who spoke very well. I am always happy to sit and listen to him speak about the Black Power Movement and such like. He would make little sly remarks on occasions, but I think his heart is in the right place and I know someday I will come in here and see him sitting on this side.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we talk about the craft industry. This is an important aspect of our cultural identity and our cultural industry as well. I wish to just reflect on what the Government has been doing about this as well.

Madam, the making of craft objects, of course, go back to what I guess what I would call the pre-history of the island when you had the estimated objects whether pottery, shell or basketry which were recognised as forms of material culture by means of which our ancestors lived and experienced and earned a few dollars on the side. Of course, I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael East could tell his colleagues of items such as the monkey pot, the coal pot, the dung basket, the mortar and the pestle, recognise respect and certainly protect such as part of our cultural identity. That Madam Deputy Speaker, to my mind

well captures what we are speaking about here as we transform this economy and society.

We have had over the years and agency such as the BIDC, the former Barbados Industrial Development Corporation now Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, that played a pivotal role in developing our craft industry in Barbados. I believe that some 47 years ago we created the single largest cultural space in Barbados. We are the only place I know in the Caribbean that actually has an industrial park dedicated to the craft industry. Those who are old enough would know of the days when the handicraft sector really went out into the communities and taught skills and helped our mothers, grandmothers and aunts to earn an additional income.

Indeed, all of that has been part of the development of a cultural identity that helps transform the economic landscape of this society. Madam Deputy Speaker, for example, when you took the ??level??? industry and created tan hides and sheepskins that was well used particularly by the Rastafarian community in this society. All of that led to the transformation of a craft industry in Barbados over time. Madam Deputy Speaker, we have certainly made an indelible contribution over the years to the development to that part of our industry.

I am happy to report to you today, Madam Deputy Speaker, and to others that today the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation has forged a relationship with Columbia that is seeing our craftsmen and women having their talents being further hone and developed to the point where we really will be able to earn serious income from the export and the production of the craft industry here in Barbados.

This is a multifaceted approach to this matter. It is not just about the Ministry of Culture setting a policy, but it is about ministries like the ones I have responsibility for taken it and using it to create economic empowerment in this country particularly for the masses as is the commitment of this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Government.

Madam Deputy Speaker, another area of great interests of course, is the music industry. The music and entertainment sector is one of the most if not the most dynamic sector within the creative industries in Barbados' landscape. The range of talent, music and entertainment spans all segments of this very vibrant, dynamic field and I know the the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East has pontificated on that well over the time.

I wish to say that even in the absence of this piece of legislation, the State has been busy supporting the music and entertainment industry in Barbados. The BIDC has been providing financial assistance to music player for

attendance at international conferences, music festivals but organising local industry workshops and training sessions which of course benefited our local artistes, performers and managers.

I have also worked closely with the Industry Association body in getting into the North American market. I do not think that many people in this society who speak of doom and gloom and who speak of a lack of energy and the lack of clarity in the way forward, I do not think many of you recognise that in the last year the BIDC has spent \$34,500 in sending Barbadians artistes up to the National Association of Campus activities in North America exposing our young musicians and entertainers to a North American market, helping them to earn an income. There are young Barbadians artistes who every year earn a decent income performing on the college circuits in North America. That is part of the initiative and support of the Government. Those who say we have not been busy, I say to you, open your eyes and recognise what we have been doing. It is well reflected.

In recent times apart from Rihanna with Def Jam we have had Rupee - and some of you on that side may know Rupee - Edwin Yearwood, Shontelle, Livvi Franc, Hal Linton and Cover Drive. Madam Deputy Speaker, your children and my children know Cover Drive and they have been doing exceptionally well. Excellent music, Barbadian artistes at their best performing around the world.

Government does not have to do everything and the Government does not always have to come and speak about whom it has given financial support. We have started to create an enabling environment that allows these young people to achieve their full potential. If there is one difference between the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) and the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) in terms of development of a cultural and music industry in Barbados is that whilst others have talked, we have delivered. We have started to provide the sort of environment that allow these individuals to achieve their full potential.

There are more Barbadians artistes performing on the global circuit today than there were 14 years ago. Only a few weeks ago there was a group of entertainers who went down to Brazil as part of a Government lead political and commercial mission and I am advised that they are on the cups of landing engagements down there to perform. Brazil, I believe, is the fifth largest economy in the world. That is what this Government has been doing to help transform this economy, venturing into new industries, venturing into new markets and getting our people to move along in the right direction.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I say to you that in the last 12 months the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) Technical Assistance Programme has

provided \$167,290 to the music and entertainment industry in Barbados. The facts are there so those who say that we have not been spending taxpayers money prudently, that we have not actually been providing avenues to help individuals lift themselves up in the music and entertainment industry, I say to you the evidence point in a different direction. We have been busy delivering.

I know, Madam Deputy Speaker, that another part of our cultural industry that has been spoken to and mechanisms being put in place to help develop it and protect it and earn all from it is the Film Industry. For years certainly when I was a young officers employed by the State and working in North America we talked about a Film Industry but it has not gone anywhere. For the first time now we are actually bringing legislation here that helps to identify and remove the blockages, and help to really set the framework for the creation of a film industry in Barbados, one that can earn millions of dollars.

We sometimes hear people pooh-pooh these ideas and sometimes because you are not involved you do not have a greater appreciation of it, but a film industry in Barbados creates a myriad of opportunities for individuals from all walks of life, from those who are doing the background music to the stage handles, the producers, the managers, the lighting people, the transportation, the meals, the venues, one good film in Barbados whether it is locally conceptualised and delivered or whether it is someone using Barbados as a location can earn this economy millions of dollars. Let us not scoff at that, Madam Deputy Speaker.

These are serious times and these are other opportunities for economic development in this country that the Government is pursuing so when individuals speak about a lack of confidence and not understanding direction, et cetera, I say that obviously those who lead that charge have a vested interest only in sitting in Bay Street on Thursday morning and chairing a meeting. They are not serious about moving this country forward. That is all it is about and let us be frank about these things, Madam Deputy Speaker. These are serious times and the call for men and women in this society to be serious not to be frivolous and vexatious, and not to walk around with a hump on their shoulder because they lost an election.

You had a Budget here in August just a few weeks ago where the Opposition had been given all the opportunities to castigate the Government, to lay bare all of the workings of the Government and to offer all the alternatives and they failed and failed miserably. They went the Sunday after the Budget down over here in Heroes Square and kept bear noise but did not get any traction and now instead of coming in here and giving support to a Bill like this that is going to help transform a cultural industry and move this economy and society forward, they want to

go out there and be rabble-rousers and keep a lot of noise, once again not offering any alternatives whatsoever.

I say to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, and those on the Opposition Benches and their supporters that this Democratic Labour Party Government has clearly enunciated a policy and programme both in terms of legislative reform as well as the implementation via the ministry and stakeholders that will create a viable industry in Barbados called the cultural industry. I ask the Opposition Barbados Labour Party what is your alternative to this. Getting signatures and keeping noise around the place is not a viable alternative. Nitpicking is not a viable alternative.

This country is at the cusps where we have to have serious dialogue about the challenges that confront this economy and society. I am not about getting personal and name calling and all that kind of crap, there is a time and place for that. The reality about it is that this country is calling for serious dialogue on the issues, identifying the challenges that confront Barbados, identifying where we are going to take this country and how we are going to get it there. The Democratic Labour Party has been very clear, very concise.

I reflect again on the Growth and Development Strategy, the budgetary proposals... All of them have copies of this too. You see they only want to walk with the Barbados Labour Party manifesto even though they do not read it.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Yes, wear a red rag about the place, let me tell you something hear. Madam Deputy Speaker, these are serious times. Let me make it clear that not only as a Member of Parliament or as a Minister am I going to speak to these issues in this Chamber. As a father of two young children who have to grow up in this society I am going to lend my voice anywhere in this country on any issue that speaks to how this economy and society can move forward. I am not interested in joining the agenda of those who are only interested in themselves. They had all the opportunities in the world to come in here and to engage in these things and nothing has been done.

We have had the film industry, certainly that has been moving forward. We have also had the fashion industry, another important aspect of the cultural industries in Barbados as well reflected in terms of our design work and what is Barbadiana, et cetera. The BIDC and state agencies have been leading the charge in this as well. They may not have done everything perfect but I am happy to report to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the BIDC through its Export Readiness Programme has been identifying young designers, pulling them along and

creating opportunities for them to be exposed here and around the region and the world in terms of a contemporary fashion industry. Certainly in the last two years, the State has provided financial assistance to the fashion and design sector in Barbados to the tune of \$184 058.80. I like to be very precise with my figures because there are those who like to say that nothing has been done. Now, it is not only that cheque that has been written or cheques written of \$184 000 but it is the many other things that cannot be quantified in terms of dollars and cents, the opportunities to which young Barbadians have been exposed. Next month, I believe the first weekend in November, there is going to be a fashion show in Barbados, BB, of young Barbadian designers who will showcase internationally accepted standards of design and fashion and I encourage all to go. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas perhaps could do well to attend that fashion show, there is something for everybody. The reality about it...

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Seriously, Madam Deputy Speaker, you see the truth of the matter is that these are all opportunities that are being pursued. The Government is firing on all cylinders because we recognise that not only in the cultural industries is there a music and entertainment industry, there is also a craft industry and there is a fashion design industry. These are things that speak to capturing well what is uniquely Barbadian and using it to help create jobs and earn money.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: It is not the Big and Beautiful for the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Yes, they should go because you know, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James Central not too long ago labelled three of the ladies on his side now as being 1 000 pounds of blubber you know, do not forget these things. I did not hear the women on that side say anything there and then. Of course, he was on this side at that point in time but now the Honourable Member for St. James Central who had some of the vilest things to say about women in the Barbados Labour Party sits in their bosom and now want to castigate us. The Honourable Member for St. Peter had some of the vilest things to say about the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. The Honourable Member for St. Peter said that the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is a piece of chattel house on a valuable piece of real estate. The Honourable Member for St. Peter went up in St. Andrew and said that the Democratic Labour Party's candidate up there has

fibroid and all sort of issue and I did not hear anybody on that side nor the Women's League keeping noise.

Asides.

Hon. D. O'N. INNIS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I know it is a little aside so I am going to wrap up just now.

All I am saying is that we have serious issues to address in this country. The Democratic Labour Party is on a mission to identify the challenges, unravel them and find sustainable solutions. I cannot speak to all of them now but I can simply say to you that we have recognised that in the Barbadian cultural sector we have the opportunity to create a viable industry one that would hone the best of our talents particularly among young people and to clearly help us to identify and remind ourselves constantly of what is Barbadian, an opportunity to create jobs, to earn foreign exchange and to locate Barbados to its rightful place in the global environment.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East queried that fund that has been set up and why state agencies ought to get involved. The truth of the matter is that thanks to our tax treaties we have an international business sector, and state agencies that are involved in sectors like these that can help earn income overseas as well. It is an integral part of our tax treaty network and we will use it well in the international business sector to go there as well.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I just wish the message to go forth that this Government is not idle. We will not be distracted by rabble-rousers. We have identified challenges and we have identified solutions. The cultural industries are an integral part of our Growth Strategy as well enunciated by the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Culture is prepared to lead the charge and he has the full support of all of us on this side and the support of the entire cultural industries, all the performers. I saw them in Parliament on Tuesday all looking happy not with frowns on their faces as they looked when the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East was in charge of the cultural industries.

I say to those who wish to keep noise in this country to come into this Chamber, do your work and let us engage in serious dialogue and discussion and debate about how this country is going to go forward. The Democratic Labour Party, Madam Deputy Speaker, has clearly identified the cultural industries as another opportunity to move this country forward. I could only invite the Barbados Labour Party and their noisemakers to come on board and let us get serious and move this country forward.

I am obliged to you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, after that sterling contribution, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for lunch until 2.30 p.m. today.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Honourable Members. This Sitting is now resumed. When the Suspension was taken, we were on Order No. 4, with that we shall continue. The Leader of Government Business.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, at the risk of incurring the wrath of the Honourable Member for St. Thomas, who I see looking across here under her eyes, I rise at your direction to make a contribution to this very important cultural debate. I think it is important that at the onset I lend my unrelenting support to the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, for what is a signalled moment in the history of Barbados, Barbadiana as we have to say. It is a point, Madam Deputy Speaker, at which we can say to the cultural industry, here is a piece of legislation which can direct your development from hereon in; here is a piece of legislation that will open out opportunities for you the practitioners in the cultural industry to take that next step forward.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to say I was especially interested by the contribution of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central last Tuesday evening and that I took the time out on Tuesday evening to go see the film "Pay Day". Like the Honourable Member said, it was an interesting experience. Tuesday evening is not a big evening for cinema, of course, so do not let me comment on the crowd, that is another issue we will get to. Madam Deputy Speaker, what that tells us is that here we are, as we launch this Cultural Industries Development Bill, with an industry which is already beginning to make the first step, so to speak, in the right direction. I thought that the story demonstrated a very realistic part of our culture in Barbados and that the acting was certainly par excellence. Of course, I know the director, who is also a good friend of my son and I certainly enjoyed the presentation. It showed me that Barbados has a tremendous contribution to make and that we as leaders have a tremendous contribution to give to our people, as we direct their paths in this regard.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to juxtapose this for a moment with what the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and Members of the Barbados Labour Party would want to foist on Barbadians this morning in respect, not of their support of this Bill, because you know, we can do one thing in here but in preparation for their annual conference, where they are outside making all kinds of noise and gesticulations to the public of Barbados, pretending that the sky is falling. Madam Deputy Speaker, we have a job on this side to stay focused and to do the work of this country Barbados. Our job is to continue to maintain the equitable development of this country and to make sure that the business of this Parliament is completed. Of course, the truth is, this morning we are ready to deal with any matter that the Opposition wants to deal with but they, themselves, are not ready, they cannot muster the numbers, they have no confidence in themselves. Madam, I believe that is the crux of the matter.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition does not have any confidence in her members to come here this morning and to present that, so the Honourable Member is going to pretend and is going to spend the entire weekend painting all kinds of pictures she would like to paint.

Asides.

Hon. K. D. SYMMONDS: Madam Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. The Honourable Member must be sufficiently familiar with the rules of the House by now to have understood that if that which he speaks to is the No-Confidence Motion that was filed on Wednesday, there would have to be process which we go through that would have made it impossible for that matter to be dealt with today. Madam Deputy Speaker, I say that in this way because the Honourable Member was deliberately trying to allude to that No-Confidence Motion, while appearing to be vague and the Honourable Member should know better.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member, no point of order is found.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, do not let the Honourable Members try to push you around. I think you are doing a fine job and I want to compliment you on the work you have so far done this morning. I am sure you will continue this afternoon. Madam Deputy Speaker, the point being, if this thing that they speak to is so urgent, vexatious and calamitous around Barbados, where are they and where is this thing? What are they? Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, for now, is pretending in the Press that this situation is so calamitous that it needs a Motion of No-Confidence in the Minister of Finance, we are here the first day after that mouthing by the Honourable Leader of the

Opposition and the Honourable Member is not here. Madam, that is not the point, we have plenty of time. Whenever they come, we will have time to deal with the matter. The point is that we are on a cultural path in Barbados, which importantly must be joined by all parties and most importantly it must be joined by the Government. We have taken the lead, Madam Deputy Speaker, by introducing this Bill for the support of this Parliament.

Madam Deputy Speaker, indeed, as you are well-aware, I represent a constituency that is very much joined by the activities of culture, art, tourism and entertainment. These are always issues which we have to deal with in managing the affairs of this constituency. Madam, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East did refer to the question of noise and entertainment in our constituencies, when it comes to the comfort of our residents. Madam Deputy Speaker, I do not want to attribute to the Honourable Member anything that she did not say but I do not think the Honourable Member has fully developed a position. The Honourable Member is closely connected to entertainment, I believe she is, indeed, closely connected to entertainment centres in Barbados. Madam Deputy Speaker, the point must be made that we cannot have it both ways, and I make this point in St. Lawrence Gap all the time. Madam Deputy Speaker, entertainers and entertainment centres need to utilise modern technology, so that the noise impact on the community is not the kind that has become very accustomed to in many of these areas. The truth is, a number of the operators in St. Lawrence Gap are working towards that objective. I must say that in working with them, they are committed to the fact that they need to put in place walls that will keep the sound within the confines of their activities and indeed employ special technology by way of speakers and systems that will contain that noise and allow residents in these areas to continue to enjoy their lives.

I do not think it is fair to say to any resident that for Friday and Saturday, you will have to bear as much noise as we emanate between say 10.00 p.m. and 4.00 a.m. Madam, neither is it fair to a business man to say that you should have to stop your operation at 1.30 a.m., when in truth and in fact, that is when you are likely to have your greatest patronage. These are the kinds of issues that can be handled by technology. They have been answered by technology throughout the world and Barbados need not shy away from the fact that we can make sure that these kinds of refinements are put in place. What is equally important, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the incidences of vagrancy and I use that term in the very broadest term. This has started to threaten the very livelihood of the operation of the St. Lawrence Gap facilities both the hotels and the entertainment sector along with dining institutions along the St. Lawrence strip and they are being threatened by the fact that our tourists are constantly battered by this incidence of vagrancy. I really do appeal to those who can

do better to desist from this kind of irritation of our visitors. It is not necessary and I do appeal.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Attorney-General and his team at the Royal Barbados Police Force because they have already to work with us very pointedly to make sure this situation is wrestle to the ground once and for all. It is threatening the very bedrock of our livelihood in tourism in Barbados and especially, it is sad to report, in the St. Lawrence Gap area. Madam, we take to take all of these realities along with us.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the point about this Bill is that it opens a new opportunity for the entertainment sector in Barbados. The Bill will, first of all, establish a regulatory framework to facilitate and encourage the sustainable growth and development of the cultural industries. It will provide for the funding of cultural products and it will provide for duty-free concessions and income tax benefits in respect of cultural projects. This is a very broad statement and even in the Schedules attached to the Bill, we have indicated those areas of the cultural business, which would be immediately listed to attract special concession by way of relief in taxation and other duties, etc.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the point must be made up front and I know the Honourable Minister made the point when he made his contribution on the Bill that no piece of legislation is ever perfect. We know that there will be areas in the Bill which we shall need to revisit from time to time and that is exactly why we have the authority in this Parliament, Madam Deputy Speaker, to come back here and make amendments to this Bill from time to time/

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am comfortable that this Bill will, indeed, start to open a new panacea of opportunities of all our artistes. Indeed, we had a large number, about 30 of them who came here on Tuesday to be part of this very important historic occasion. Again, Madam Deputy Speaker, a Democratic Labour Party at work and that is the important thing that we need to make very clear.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill also seeks to the establishment of an authority and the composition and the administration of the authority. The Authority will be charge with promoting, assisting and facilitating the efficient development of the cultural industries, designing and implementing suitable marketing strategies for the effective promotion of the cultural industries, maintaining a registry of the applications of cultural entrepreneurs our cultural practitioners, submitting to the Minister and the approval granted in respect of those application, determining the eligibility of cultural projects for funding, processing the application for concessions and benefits to be derived under this act and, Madam, it goes on and on.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I dwell on this for a moment because it is important. There are many times when we establish this legal framework that the first cry we get from those, for whom they are established to benefit is that there is too much paper work, there is too much this and there is too much that. Madam Deputy Speaker, we cannot have it both ways. We need to understand that if we are going to establish a cultural industries and it is going to be regulated and managed by an Authority which seeks to put in place certain rules under which access can be gained, it means by inference that there are certain other rules, or lack of rules by which access will not be gained and benefit will not be gained. Madam, I think this something which we have to spend time dealing with because it is a personal issue sometimes that you have to manage through with the actual cultural practitioner that you will have to confirm to certain realities in business. Madam, sadly it happens all the time that we go into business and for some reason we neglect a part of our business be it our taxes or whatever and then, at the end of the day, when we cannot benefit from the final payments that are made because of one thing or the other either garnishment or the fact that you have to meet these liabilities first and then we are in trouble. We have to be prepared as a nation to start to recognise that, yes, it is wonderful to have our entertainment and to enjoy our music et cetera, but if we are going to move into the realm of management, industry and commerce, we also have to take with it a certain way of operating that makes sense.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the truth be told, I think that a lot of our musicians are there and those who are not near there are very close to there. We have had the National Cultural Foundation now for many years. I do not know how many years exactly, but it is upward of 30 years I am sure the National Cultural Foundation has ...

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: It is 40 years and more that I am being urged but the point is that over the last two years and certainly over the last year, we have had what I term a trouble-free National Cultural Festival and I want to, at this juncture, congratulate the Minister and by extension congratulate the team at the National Cultural Foundation, the Ministry of Culture, Family, Youth and Sports for what I thought was an excellently managed Crop Over season. Madam, maybe the crowds were not as big but my reports are that everyone who participated enjoyed it fully. It was essentially incident free. The Fore Day Morning morning has now become one of the more popular events ...

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas does not go to Foreday Morning neither does

she go to Foreday. I do not know what she is confusing me for.

Asides.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: You heard somebody with that. You do not know anything about Fore Day Morning. The Honourable Member has already been advised. The point is, we have had an almost incident free Fore Day Morning, in the J'ouvert. I think that all the participants enjoyed themselves. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East was quite right to make the point about the competition. She mentioned the question of Caribana in Canada and the competition we have and that will continue to be part of the problem.

The Honourable Minister made the point that Barbados has been looked at by the owners, the promoters of the Indian Film Festival as a likely venue at one time or the other. These are wonderful ideas to entertain as they broaden the scope of our cultural embrace and allow us to share with the world a wonderful Barbadian cultural mix and to allow the world to hear our expression as well as we to benefit from their expression. That is not that difficult now.

We are all aware of the smallness of the world. The fact that information whether be by text and not text in the sense of the text itself but by letter, art, music, sound or picture travel so fast across the internet, that in a flash we aware of what is happening thousands of miles away. Everything today is at our finger tips and we are constantly in touch. Therefore we have to be like everybody else. We have to be ready to take full advantage of these great opportunities, to take full advantage of these great opportunities for Barbados because we have prided ourselves and we thrive on the fact that we are a tourism destination and as such we need to make sure our offerings are always at the modern best.

No institution, no operation can run, of course, without money. The Bill also seeks very clearly to outline the question of the Cultural Industries Development Fund. This Fund is described in five parts, although we had a little difficulty urging the principal spokesman on the Opposition to turn the page to look at the other constituent parts of the Cultural Industries Development Fund. Let me speak to all five parts smoothly without having to be urged.

I refer to Part VI, 33.(1) and (2):

"The resources of the Fund shall consist of,

(a) Any money transferred to the Fund from the Arts and Sports

(b) Promotion Fund..." I think that is where

she started to get stuck, and then:

(b) Any money voted by Parliament foreign reserves the Fund..."

She was then completely stuck, tires flat and wheel broken.

Part C of the Fund states very clearly:

(c) Any money received from the private sector..."

So the Fund can accept donations from the private sector and apply it to the business of cultural development in Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: The Honourable Member is now in reverse gear, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Along with the money from the Sports Foundation, which she said was all gone, and along with the money voted by Parliament, which she said they had none, the Fund could access money from the private sector. It could raise monies as gifts, grants and donation and any other money received from such other sources as the Minister may determine.

Either Honourable Minister of Culture or the Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central, made the point that already there are many international artistes in Barbados donating to the cause of culture and so many important developmental causes in Barbados.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I got up because I felt I needed to add my voice to this debate. I also wanted to demonstrate to Barbados the constituency which we serve that contrary to the impression given from Roebuck Street or occasionally from here in the Office of the Opposition, the Government of Barbados is hard at work continuing to build out solutions for the people of Barbados, continuing to open up new areas of development for the people of Barbados and saying to the Barbadian population, saying to our business people, saying to our cultural icons, come here we are. Here we offer a Cultural Industries Bill. Take it. Walk with it. Walk with us. Let us make sure that this Cultural Industries Bill marks the next phase of development of industry and opportunity in Barbados.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am obliged to you.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to remind the Honourable Members on the other side that Government is a continuity. I am happy to see we can all discuss that Bill which has come to this Honourable Chamber. We can ventilate. We can do all the things that are necessary to ensure business in Barbados continues to flourish and Barbadians continue to benefit in a very meaningful way from the activities of this Government which has had been the case in the past.

Madam, the reasons here outlined with the establishment of the regulatory framework, the funding for cultural projects and the duty free concessions, income tax benefits and so on are supported. Persons in the cultural industries environment really deserve to get some measure of further attention as we continue to develop as a country.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I sought to look at the National Cultural Policy of Barbados for 2010 and I saw a very interesting statement. At Page 19, paragraph 15.2. I would like with your permission to read it, Madam.

“The role of education is critical to the development of the creative imagination of our people, a creative imagination which is vital not only for artistic achievement but for developing in our citizens the ability to solve problems and to be innovative in all areas of endeavour.”

I think this statement aptly fits what should be happening with us as a people who boast of our education and who have had that wonderful privilege to be receiving free education for so many decades.

I therefore want to encourage this Government, as any other, to continue to focus on the development of culture in our society, not only at Crop Over time or the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts, during Independence, but throughout the year. I think it is more important that we focus on our schools. We know homes played an important part in the past where parents were able to transfer a lot of sayings, a lot of stories and so on about their culture. Of course, the way we are seeing homes and the whole family structure go through the changes where that extended family had lots of people, grand parents and so on, who would continue to give the old stories of our history and our culture. Many of them are now going into the nuclear family units and therefore our children and our new generations are missing out a lot on the kind of training and developing we would have received at the feet of our foreparents.

I want schools to continue to play their roles. So the special day, week or month of activities, for that matter, for the recognition of our African ancestry has to be lauded and continued throughout the year. Also, the churches play their role and I believe that as we continue to work hard in independence period where we bring in all those

implements of the past and let children see what we used for used for ironing our clothing at one point in time when there was no electricity and the implements we used under the bed that were integral to not having to go out in the yard, distances away from the household and so on, and the foods that we eat or that we had to eat that were so important to our own health and development. It is only now that we are into all these sedentary lifestyles and we not losing the weight as we should or we are not getting the adequate exercise to be able to continue to be as nimble as we would have been here we eating the yam pie, breadfruit cou-cou, cornmeal pap, and things of that nature. As a result of losing a lot of that our children are into this newfound fast food era where we can hardly get them to eat even a banana in the household. I am in favour of what is happening here and I know it is long overdue but I believe I should also laud those persons who have been the backbone of our cultural activities in this society for so many years. I should like to seek your permission then, Madam Deputy Speaker, to call a few names like the late Alfred Pragnell, Lester Vaughan who would have been a choir master, a headmaster and of course the man who beat the bottles that we are not even hearing about bottles anymore. Take a bottle that is empty, fill it with a certain measure of water and use it. Those skills were passed on to us in the school which I attended, none other than Holy Innocence Primary School. I would want to make mention of The Escorts that was a band from St. Thomas that carried the sway in the 70s and indeed in the 80s. I want to talk about Bumba who is a St. Thomas person. I want to mention Cassius Clay one of the most versatile entertainers I have ever met in my life who could lift up a table. Madam Deputy Speaker, he could lift up the chair you are sitting in and hold it in his mouth and balance it. It is a kind of skill I have never seen any one person have. He could do fire-eating, limbo dancing and even sing sweeter than a snow-cone. The man is so versatile. He too with his EGGS Band, a group of young school children really deserves to get an opportunity to further practice his ware. I can talk, Madam Deputy Speaker, about so many different persons today. We know of none other than the late Daphne Joseph-Hackett can talk about those various entertainers that sat in this Honourable Chamber on Tuesday to be a part of what is happening here. I want to congratulate them for all the efforts in every aspects of culture and not only the performing arts, the individual arts, fashion and so on.

My sad feeling though today, Madam Deputy Speaker, is associated with what is happening with these cultural practitioners who have been reliant on funding as well as activities to sell their ware and to perform in order for them to survive. We know that they are entertainers and others who did not have a steady job as to be going to an office every day and doing work, but they relied on what was happening in the hotel sector and in festivals in or to survive. As a result of this economic crisis, Madam Deputy Speaker, many of them are unable to work, pay their bills,

do the things that they did before because business is so slow or you can almost say business is dead. I believe that this Bill coming at this time should be able to assist our entertainers in going forward as long as proper funding is put in place to assist them. Madam Deputy Speaker, from where would the funding come? I do not know, but I would like to encourage the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Honourable Minister of Tourism and indeed the Honourable Minister of Youth Affairs, Culture and Sports to get their heads together and let us get life back into the hands of those persons who helped to make the culture by entertaining the tourists and the locals, and build their families and society. I think it is significant that we refer to a number of areas in which shows its capacity and we could talk about culture and sports where we know about the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers and his efforts in cricket. We know of Obadele Thompson and what he has been doing in the international arena. We know of Ryan Brathwaite and the kinds of funding and exposure this country has had. Lots of people spoke about Rihanna already and I am not going to reinforce that. That is so well known and we are proud of her as a woman who should be respected and she has to respect herself. I believe she is doing a good job at it; therefore, I would not really want to dwell on her. I believe culture and health, Madam Deputy Speaker, I know when I talk about woman it would offend the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I know it will but I shall continue and no be sidetracked because our culture has taught our men to respect women, give them a seat in the bus, hold them and guide them across the road to safety, keep them on the inside of the gutter when you are walking, holding their hands and chatting with them; therefore, I know it would ruffle his feathers. I believe that we are looking at culture and health where the healthy lifestyles would come in. We are looking at the meals and complimentary medicine so we know of culture in health. We know of culture in education they way of life of our people. We know about culture and agriculture, slavery, the sugar industry, our wonderful landscape. We know of culture and mass media and of course of religion where our moral and value systems have been developed and brought to the test at this time in our history. We know about culture and technology and of course we need to harness whatever is good that emanate from what we have been doing. Madam Deputy Speaker, we are conscious of culture and tourism and I am sure that if tourism can come alive again - because for me it is now on its deathbed - that it can enhance a lot of what is happening for our people in the cultural industries. Much penetration too has impacted on our society where we have started to develop other people's culture and it seems to be as though we are going to make it our own. I believe that once we in our homes, schools and other places of learning, place more emphasis on what is ours, what is Barbadian and keep reinforcing it, it would help to make a difference. Sadly, there are adults who are also taking in that culture and passing it on to their children - which is so negative - our pants dropping off our

behinds is really not a part of our culture but almost every little boy wants to have it. Our girls with all their backs open in halter tops, the biggest earrings and false hair on their heads, that is not our culture, but of course, style and fashion and people will tell you "well if you buy the hair, business people would not sell" and I am not even going to go into that. The point is we should be able to hold on, nurture and develop what is ours. That is where I think our biggest challenge is in this technologically sound environment that we are all in. Bajans have their pride, Madam Deputy Speaker, and of course our saying, "though poor, do not look poor" has always resonated with those of us in here of the age range of 50 and going forward because most of us if not all of us came through as very poor people.

What bothers me most is that the failed policies and some programmes of this Government has led a lot of our people down that road where the poverty is really showing in every sphere of their lives. Many of them seem to lose their dignity as a result of where they are now and of course because they have got their pride the do not want to be pitied. They would rather work honestly in order for them survive even if they work for less. Unfortunately, that is not happening now. So many thousands of our people, especially those in the cultural area are out of opportunities for employment because of tourists not coming here, business people closing down, many of them - over the last 5 years are just languishing and do not know where exactly to turn. I hope that we would be able to bring out a measure of prosperity, a measure of hope to these people who are at the stage now where some of them are actually coming to politicians begging cap in hand. Every last one of these politicians in here can vouch for what I am saying. It has never happened before, perhaps it happened in the 1930s but it has never happened before in my time as an adult for people to be coming and begging for food, for clothing, for money, for various aspects.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: I wish that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would leave me alone and stick to getting Barbadians some houses and let them stop having to pay rentals in run-down homes. Many have been evicted from the homes and so and that is not part of our culture. Our ministers in government as part of our culture from the time we had ministerial Government have sat in their offices and looked after the interest of Barbadians. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy should leave me alone, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, I want houses for my people in St. Thomas as the Honourable Member for St. Philip North want houses for his and as the Honourable Member for St. Michael East needs houses for his and so on. Too many houses are shut off. It is not part of our culture to have spooky houses or little houses that people cannot step in and therefore I want the Honourable

Member for St. Lucy to leave me and let me continue, please.

I say shame on this Democratic Labour Party Government for the morass that this country is in. We are told that the Democratic Labour Party Government is looking at building a society. There did not seem to be any emphasis on building any economy. I think it is unfortunate that today we have lost both the society and the economy under the mismanagement of the Democratic Labour Party that says that they are going to have equity, good governance, transparency, fairness and all of the other things that go with it. Barbadians are very concerned about what the next slip will be with this Government at the helm.

Today we can say that the Democratic Labour Party has literally destroyed Barbados and its landscape. I will say that. Nobody can put words in my mouth because democracy is what our forefather fought for in this Honourable Chamber and out there on the streets and democracy must prevail for me. We teach our children to stand up for their right, do the things that you know are right, be honest and so on and so forth. I shall be honest with God's help as the Honourable Member for Christ Church East was this morning. He thanked God for his life and his health, I thank God for mine. Nobody will stop me from speaking on behalf of the people of Barbados not just the people of St. Thomas because all people are important.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in the interest of time, too many Barbadians have become mendicant in the last five and a half years, the failed policies again, the loss of employment, fear of losing their homes, the loss of health, the loss of families and the loss of lives. On the news this morning I heard about a woman bombarding her house in St. Lucy, let the Honourable Member for St. Lucy deal with that. Threatening to turn on the gas to destroy herself is not our Barbadian culture. A woman going on top of the high-rise car park is not our culture. Women committing suicide is not a part of our culture. It is a lot to do with the frustration, the hardship and the abuse that they are undergoing. Some of them reel under the pressure and therefore cannot take it, that is not our culture. High taxes are impacting on them. There is general fear and loss of confidence.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Government that has mismanaged Barbados' affairs is clueless, arrogant, uncaring and vision-less for me and it is not doing any good to the people of Barbados who are upright and honest and want to be part of the system to be able to make their contribution.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the heavy expenditures in some areas that I consider to be unnecessary should have been placed in areas where the social services in education

could have been propped up. Should there be a football tournament over the health of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the people of Barbados in the amount of \$35 million? I say no. We want to keep that culture of going to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and getting our medication, paying our taxes or income tax, VAT and so to be able to get proper treatment when we are ill. Should it be the constituency councils or the Sanitation Services Authority with that \$30 million that is now being taken away and garbage is strewn all over Barbados at this time of the day? Should it be the summer camps or should it be the National Conservation Commission getting that \$6 million that is so necessary to clean up the whole of Barbados? I went through Henley in St. John yesterday evening and when I saw...

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: I go to St. John because I can go anywhere as the Honourable Member for St. John can go anywhere and be welcomed.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: I will go to St. Michael South and I will come to St. Philip to see the Honourable Prime Minister too, that is what freedom and democracy are about.

Should it be the crossover in the Pine over the Barbados Marketing Corporation of \$12 million needed to help us to grow the food and do the research in agriculture and make Barbadians get back into the fields and cultivate them and feed ourselves? Should it be the roundabouts with the massive cost overruns over the Transport Board and the \$50 that is necessary to be able to go forward?

I allowed a bright young member of this Honourable Chamber to speak because I know of her capacity, her brilliance, her exposure in the area of culture and her opportunity to shine because women must be in the forefront assisting other women, men and children if this future of Barbados has to go forward. It cannot be all men over there except for the Honourable Member for St. John who is in the distinguished position there. We need more women in this Honourable Chamber to help to carry the flag because women will do a better job than most of the men who are in this Honourable Chamber especially the ones over there.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Minister of Tourism sought, I know he would wake up now, to make light weather of the approach of offering her the opportunity. I would rather, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the Honourable Minister had referred.... The thing is that he acts as the Honourable Prime Minister when the Honourable Prime Minister is off island and I thought that his contribution would have been steeped in culture and how tourism has

the synergies with culture and the other agencies but he sought to make light weather of what was taking place with the Honourable Member on this side. I would rather the Honourable Minister make it his business rather than to swipe and criticise and grandstand to be able to look at tourism, Mr. Acting Deputy Prime Minister sometimes, the Minister of Tourism, and give us a real good opportunity of understanding what is happening in tourism. The Democratic Labour Party found a good platform in 2008 and all that we have left now is a scaffold. Barbadians are reeling man under what is happening.

I would have rather the Honourable Minister in his hastily prepared Press Conference in August to talk about the Ten-point Plan and give us an update as to what is happening in tourism in relation to the policy for persons to be able... and the hoteliers to go to the 7.5 per cent VAT. The tourism people, the hoteliers and others, are crying out. There is less revenue, high utilities bills, fewer visitors, deterioration in the plant and disgruntled staff with less pay and high unemployment. We know it all, we see it all. All constituents across Barbados know what is happening and it would have been wonderful if the Honourable Minister had told us about the new VAT rate on accommodation, 7.5 per cent or the direct tourism services to be brought in line with accommodation counterparts down from 17.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

What is that status, through you, Madam Deputy Speaker, from the Honourable Minister as to what is happening in tourism? The hoteliers are waiting. Action speaks louder than words and we want to hear because we know that tourism and culture are inextricably bound. There are persons out there waiting to be properly engaged and not to be mendicant or not for their personal lives to be exposed anywhere to be coming begging and asking favours. Our National Anthem reminds us that we should be strict guardians of our heritage and firm craftsmen of our fate, and I believe that should go.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in the interest of time, I am not going to say the two quotes from the National Strategic Plan but I would want to go further to say that in his presentation, I would say the Honourable Member boasted. Madam, I find that the Honourable Member does a lot of boasting. The Honourable Member boasted of his visits overseas, to be part of cultural festivals and so on. The Honourable Member boasted about going to China, India and other places. I understand the Honourable Member went to China for a weekend festival. Madam Deputy Speaker, a weekend festival for me is Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I wonder if the public of Barbados understands that it costs thousands of dollars for a first-class seat, along with a delegation. I would want to find out from the Minister how does that translate into the local matters? I thought that technical people would have been the ones to go and bring back information that we can so try to take

what is best from that visit? Madam Deputy Speaker, do you know what? Madam, from the visit to China, I am hearing that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is going to be showing a lot about China's culture and so on. We have a lot of China in here already and for me to have to sit at night, if I cannot afford STV or MC-TV, to be watching the Chinese with an umbrella spinning, and the Great Gardens and the Great Walls and so on. Madam, that is not our culture. If that is what the Minister has brought back, then I am sorry but it does not satisfy members of the public nor me. Barbadians do not want to spend their retirement watching any Chinese activities.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: On a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House. It is not unusual because it demonstrates that the Honourable Member is totally confused. This Honourable Member, in terms of the private sector delegation that was asked to lead to Macan in China, has nothing at all to do with the current project which the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is partnering with the People's Republic of China. Therefore, the Honourable Member is mixing up two distinct projects but it is not unusual for the Honourable Member who shadows culture to be confused.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, let me move on from that, if the Minister is so ruffled. The tenants at Temple Yard, for the last three-plus years, have been without electricity because there was a fire that destroyed about eight or nine of the shops there. Madam the tenants have been trying...

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, more than 20 businesses are at Temple Yard and those cultural practitioners are suffering and nobody is taking them on. They have been trying to get private sector injection of funds. They have been getting the estimates from the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited but the folks in Temple Yard cannot stay beyond 5:30 any evening, because we know at this time of the year that night closes in early. They too have their customers, they cook their food, they do their sculptures, they do their craft. Madam, they all do excellent work at Temple Yard but unfortunately, there is absolutely no help from this Government that says they are DLP "Dare Loving People". Madam Deputy Speaker, the Rastas and others there are people too and they need urgent assistance, so that some of the money can come out from whichever of the areas that it is being spent, that you cannot see it, to be able to help those people. If it is \$50 000, it would put those craftsmen on a path to be able to generate funds to feed their children. I think it is a very difficult time. The Rastafarians and

others at Temple Yard have made it clear they do not want handouts, they want to get opportunities to ply their trade and to encourage others to come in and shop and I support them.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when you look at Pelican Village, that is a ghost town.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has three minutes more in which to conclude.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, let me take that three minutes to go back to the Honourable Member who is responsible for Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports because it is two years now that my young people in Rock Hall are still waiting for the Youth Mainstreaming Programme and none of them has had a chance to come to stream. I am still waiting for the Rock Hall Freedom Village Project that the Honourable Minister and his Ministry would have spent more than \$1 million to build six shops, where not a single fellow in Rock Hall or the adjoining communities has had a chance to open a shop to be able to ply their trade, with the people coming from the west coast to be able to buy a glass of lemonade, mauby, golden apple juice or fish cakes. Madam Deputy Speaker, absolutely nothing has been done, yet a big holding has been erected and the residents cannot even venture near there. If that is management and an interest in cultural people, then I have a problem with that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, under Project Oasis, the Youth Achieving Results, the CHECKS programme, the PEACE programme, the Ministry of Education worked with the Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs, to go into communities and schools and teach them about stilt walking, tuk band, land ship, how to use tumblers and so on. We have young men and women in Barbados who have gone onto higher heights as a result of the training they have received in those programmes. I am not seeing it happening in the way that I expect with communities. Madam Deputy Speaker, community centres were used by the Youth Development Programme to be able to train people in the villages where they live, that is lacking in the pavilions, centres and schools.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, that is where my interest in culture started, where the National Cultural Foundation sent me a letter in the 1980s, asking me to be a community volunteer, working with Peggy McGeary, Tony Thompson, Elombe and others, that is what sparked the festivals that we have in Barbados. We had festivals in every parish. At one point in time we had all kinds of activities.

Asides.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I could have been the Mother Sally. I did not go on the internet. There was no internet in my time that anybody could have advertised and people paid for me with pornography. A Mother Sally is properly clothed and can carry out the culture of Barbados as we know it. I want to ask the Honourable Minister to continue to make sure that this Bill goes to the next level and that the Concerned Cultural Group, who have a number of issues with the new Board and how is it going to be managed... As individuals said here about people who manage the particular aspect of the programme, who is your sister-in-law. We do not deal with nepotism in here, I think it is wrong. I think the Honourable Minister had a good platform when he found this Bill in its preparation stage, he only had to change the title and put in the word Barbados. I believe that this would help to develop this country and that we need it at this time, more than ever because people who have their skills, their enate abilities, who are ready for the creative sector are waiting for this Government to give them some ease for them to make a tremendous difference in their lives and in the future of Barbados. I wish to thank you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I will just be brief in my presentation but I felt that this Bill is so significant and historic that I could not let the opportunity pass without saying a few words, particularly given the fact that I have lived all of my life in St. Philip, where we have had a number of outstanding exponents of various cultural activities. I remember one of my first significant memories would have been going to Princess Margaret School Hall and listening to Sing Out Barbados, which I believe the Mighty Gabby was part of at the time. This was about 1969 or 1970. Madam, so impressed was I with the standard of singing, dancing, et cetera, that I have always continued having an interest in things Barbadian, particularly things cultural. I do not pretend to know a lot about culture but I have, over the years, interacted with many significant exponents of various forms and in that regard I have more than a passing interest. In fact, over the past weekend, I was in Miami and had the opportunity to attend the Miami Carnival, where I saw "Blood" at work. I had good conversation with young Mikey Mercer, with whom I am very impressed by his talent and temperament. The kind of recognition that they had from the audience on the road and elsewhere suggests to me that things are well with our young people, with the amount of talent that they have.

In that regard, therefore, to have a Bill that sets out a framework for them to operate within and to give them tax and other concessions that would enable them to build certain livelihoods suggest that we are going in the right direction. Yes, there are some individuals that would have

said that this Bill would have taken too long to arrive where it has but I can say to you as Attorney-General that there are a lot of persons who believe that the road towards legislation is to contact the Office of the Attorney-General and various persons have contacted me and the Minister responsible for culture would tell you that there have had lots of discussions from the cultural practitioners themselves who wanted various changes and who felt that X needed to be added and Y needed to be deleted, et cetera, so it was not a case of the Bill just there sitting and being idle. It was a case where we wanted to incorporate as many views as possible. We wanted to bring as perfect a piece of legislation to this Chamber that was possible. Madam, notwithstanding the fact that the fact that we recognised that as time goes by that things may change and that there may be different items that need to be exempted and some items may become obsolete but I am very happy that we are where we are today.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as you know, we were the home of the Conquerors tent and the Conquerors comedian and Philip St. Hill was part of that group. Sir, in 1982, we brought Red Plastic Bag and calypso down to town and in 1982, we all came from St. Philip with our red plastic bags and calypso as we know it, took on a different life and that rivalry that we brought from St. Philip today still lives on in the calypso arena in Barbados.

Madam Deputy Speaker, needless to say, we cannot speak about culture without identifying our good friend from Bayfield, Mac Fingall, in his own style whether it be singing or being a MC, over the years Mac has brought his own unique style. We have young Alf Padmore who is seeing to it that there are opportunities for various aspects of being an MC in Barbados and internationally.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I remember in 1992 or 1993 being in the British Virgin Island and young Roland Stevens, who was a sound engineer and is no longer with us, that he provided engineering services across the Caribbean, so as early as 1993, there was a Barbadian making a living out of providing engineering services for bands across the Caribbean. It is regrettable he is not with us anymore but I remember many conversations with Roland because he often came to the British Virgin Islands when I was there, and there are still opportunities of engineers, for example.

Madam Deputy Speaker, sound management is a different craft in itself. When the last Rhianna show was here, I was amazed at the amount of equipment that had to be put to have that show in place but even more amazed at how it was taken down, just as quickly and just as efficiently and that in itself is a science and there are opportunities for young people in that regard. We want to encourage them to see this Bill as a way for them to make a living, not only in Barbados ... I believe that the

Honourable Member for St. Michael East in his presentation earlier this morning made the point that what we are saying to our young people is not to limit themselves to 280 000 but to see the world as where you should be advertising your services. There is a young artiste in Ruby Development, whose name escapes me now regrettably, who does animation, for example. I remember having a conversation with her and she was very animated because she felt that we were not doing enough for art and for artistes. I do not see any opposition to this Bill being passed by both sides but, Madam, not only her but young artistes like that can see the opportunity where they are. Therefore, this lends itself not only to my support but I am sure to the support of all of us here.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we would have seen the Hush series which was mostly produced in St. Philip and no doubt everyone spoke about Chrissy. Hush had its genesis pretty close to my constituency office and I know that the Weekes who were centrally involved with these productions that one of the greatest challenges was one of funding. Again, it is our hope that after the passage of this legislation with the opportunities being provided and with the fund that we want to establish that artistes would find it easier to find opportunities for their projects, whatever they are. I also want to use opportunity to say to producers of films that they should see their projects as an investment opportunity not only for themselves but for Barbadians generally. Madam, in other words, they should be able to come to the public, say what is their project, say that perhaps it will cost \$500 000 to produce and that they can be sure that over the next couple of years you would get 10 per cent or 11 per cent on the investment. Madam, in other words, show the opportunities to Barbadian on the whole. I think that in film, in particular, there are tremendous opportunities for them to be successful and, therefore, funding should be not so much an issue as it has been in the past. We have been forced to do a lot with very little and we are going to do our part, as a Government to provide funding. I am sure that the private sector will see opportunity and that there will be investment managers who are interested in opportunities like this.

Madam Deputy Speaker, however, I do want to link culture to my Ministry because just this morning I was at the prison and one of the thing that we have been doing at the prisons over the last couple of years, and even before my time, we have a very viable art community and this has continued even to this day. I was very heartened to hear this morning that we should soon be having an exhibition by ex-offenders. Therefore, I am saying that we can not only teach them craft while they with us but we can work with them to show them that they are opportunities even after they leave us at Dodds and hopefully, we would have given them some tools to make a living.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have again to the management of prison to let us use culture, art, drama, music, drumming and all those tools to help our young people who are with us because my information suggests that when you provide these opportunities that sometimes you unearth talents that the individuals themselves did not know they possess because they were never exposed. Madam, that is what has happened with a lot of young artistes that have been discovered in prison because they never really took the time to sit with a paint brush et cetera but when offered the opportunity, they grasped it and realised that they had significant talent.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am very proud to say that in my house I have paintings from a very good friend in one of the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Philip West. It was tremendous talent which he discovered whilst he was incarcerated. So there are opportunities for all of our communities to have access to dance, music, et cetera. I know the National Cultural Foundation has been doing some work. I know they had some challenges but we need to find some creative way.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have seen it in my constituency where there is drumming and dance. One name that comes to mine is one of my constituents called Jackie Brathwaite who has been doing a tremendous amount of work with young people in the constituency. We need to create more opportunities so people can maximise their talents.

I really wanted, as I said, Madam Deputy Speaker, to link my name to this historic occasion that I believe, like my colleagues here, the cultural industries provide Barbadians generally, particularly our young people, with tremendous opportunities. I want to encourage them to maximise the possibilities. Let us work with the Government, work with the private sector to ensure we can transform this industry significantly.

I just want to make one last point, as I remember it. We all know that from time to time if artistes who are coming to Barbados, other artistes from Barbados do it, I am told artistes who come in say, "You have to let me have the rest of my money preferably in cash." I am going to assume that therefore some of our artistes do it.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I do believe, if that is the case, if I am right in my feeling, we also need to find a mechanism to allow these same artistes who are paid usually in US dollars outside of Barbados can maintain their accounts in US dollars in Barbados, so they need not bother about being paid because they know they can receive all of their money in US dollars in Barbados and maintain their accounts. That is one of the things we need to look at to see whether we cannot relax our foreign

exchange holdings in particular for persons involved in the cultural industries.

Madam Deputy Speaker, with those few words I fully support this Bill. Thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I rise to make my contribution to this Bill before Parliament and to associate myself especially with the speech of the lead speaker on this Side, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East in what, Madam Deputy Speaker, must have been one of the finest speeches in recent times by a new Member of this elected Chamber within their first year of sitting in this Parliament, in terms of its quality.

Madam, as we have seen throughout the debate there is no fundamental political divide or the need to bring before this Parliament a Cultural Industries Bill by whatever name it is called. As the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East said, this Bill had been knocking around for a while. The fundamentals of the Bill really and truly may be an indictment on both Parties that it had not been brought much sooner. The Barbados Labour Party had it on the table and therefore, Madam, we have to give credit where credit is due. The other side seeks to take ownership of this Bill rather than be forthright to this Parliament and say they came and found the foundation of this Bill, the fundamentals of this Bill, when they came to office in 2008. So whereas the Minister of Culture seeks to take the credit and as well as to give the credit to his predecessor on that side, they should also, or they should rather speak to where the foundation of the Bill came from, a national task force committee that had been set up under the administration of the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter and people like Dr. Adrian Cummins, a Queens Counsel in Barbados, Miss Alexandra Cummins of the Barbados Museum and others who put in tremendous work in formulating the draft of this Bill. They are the people who should be given the credit, no politicians on the other side, for the establishment of something that was here a long time ago.

Madam, I know because in the last 18 months leading to the 2008 general election, I sat as a member of the Board of the National Cultural Foundation and we were discussing this issue. The other side has now taken six whole years in their second term of office to bring this before Parliament and have lost the opportunity by delaying the presentation to Parliament of this Bill for many people in this country with talent in culture, in St. James North especially, I know, to have had the opportunity to take advantage on the creation of what we recognise is a new industry.

Madam, the Bill has been around so long and the other side has only now brought it, that it speaks as the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East pointed out, about purchaser's property transfer tax in Section 39.2. Madam, purchaser's property transfer tax was abolished ages ago by the Owen Arthur administration but it still appears in this Act. That shows you this is no new creation of people with any vision. As we know this Government has no vision, Madam.

The purchaser's property transfer tax, the Government could not even see that is something abolished years ago that obviously whilst there are on the drawing table and in draft, at the time it was drafted we had purchaser's property transfer tax as part of the tax law of Barbados. Madam, that is standard of the other side and shows they should not be taking credit for bringing this Bill to Parliament for mainly presenting us something that was on the table when they came into office six years ago.

Madam, like I said we do not agree on the fundamental. The Opposition said we would support the Bill in principle. The debate generally has been in which there has been agreement across the political lines. The tirade this morning by the Honourable Member for St. James South, still take it for what its worth. The Honourable Member, my good friend whom I have known for almost 40 years now, five years my junior at secondary school. We could understand his triumphalism to see his main rival in the Democratic Labour Party for future leadership of the Party now on the ropes and about to fall under the weight of public opinion. We could understand his outburst and that triumphalism as shown this morning but there is no divide on these issues.

Asides.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, still as someone who has been practising law for 28-29 years in this country, I still believe that I owe it to the Parliament and to the people of Barbados to point out some of the legal issues that could cause some problems within the Bill.

The the Honourable Member for Christ Church South mentioned and we agreed that a Bill can be perfect and it is always subject to future amendment, but I still think I owe it to point out some differences. We already spoke on the issue of Purchases Property Transfer Tax which does not exist. Madam Deputy Speaker, Section 28(2) of the Bill in my opinion offends the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Of course, the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas now seems to be a document that the Other Side would like to do away with and disappear, and there was no divide previously on the issue of Barbados' leadership of the regional integration movement. The Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, first and only Premier of the Federation of the West Indies, the Right Excellent Errol

Barrow, one of the foundering members of CARIFA and the moment, the Right Honourable Owen Arthur coming up at the forefront of Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), Sir Lloyd Sandiford in 1989, I think, the Grand Anse Declaration, but now this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) looking to throw away all the regional integration and look at people at CARICOM like if they are aliens. We do not really know where they stand. Madam Deputy Speaker, Section 28(2), in my opinions, offends the national treatment and discrimination provisions of the revised Treaty and I would want to urge the Honourable Minister of Culture to look at that provision again where it speaks about work done by a resident of Barbados because we are talking about culture and its implications at CARICOM level and of course CARICOM citizens are entitled to national treatment just as any Barbadian is and so let it be. Madam Deputy Speaker, you did not originate from here but is making as good a contribution to the development of Barbados as any of those on the Other Side and so let it be.

In addition to that, Madam Deputy Speaker, the facility of deduction of an allowance equals to 150 per cent of the actually expenditure also has to be given to CARICOM citizens and not only to residents of Barbados if they come within the Barbados taxation provisions. Madam Deputy Speaker, in Section 15(2) I think the Honourable Minister of Culture also ought to be aware, as I am sure he knows that the Administration of Justice Act could come into play as regards such a section that you cannot just refuse ...

Hon. F. J. STUART: On a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. As far as I am aware there is not an Act in Barbados called the Administration of Justice Act. The Act is called the Administrative of Justice Act there is no Administration of Justice Act in Barbados.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, do you know the Honourable Prime Minister and I studied law together and if he seeks to make a trivial point as he seeks to explain the meaning of temporary to big, hardback adults who have had free education which the Government now seeks to take away and undermine, I stand corrected, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I have no problem with that.

The essence of the issue is whatever is the name of the Act there is law in Barbados that would define that if a Minister of Culture under Section 15 refuses an application that you can take the Government to court to give reasons for so doing. It is noted that where the Minister suspends or revokes the license he has to give reasons, but Section 15 does not provide for reasons to be given where the application is refused and I wonder why. Again that is

something that could cause unnecessary litigation. We know the lease amount of litigation the Government is involved in the better. They already have to pay one man \$70 million plus and cannot find the money. They now have to pay Shanique Myrie a lot of money and legal fees so they have to be reminded of these issues.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the issue of the financing of the Cultural Industries Development fund in part 6 of the Bill also comes into play. Madam Deputy Speaker, is it proposed that the money, for example, paid into the fund by the private sector will be tax deductible if you are seeking to encourage the private sector to lend support to this fund under section 33(2)? What is the definition of private sector really and truly if we are serious about the issue? Will the issue of establishing the copyright and patent trademarks industrial design rights of the ownership over the project? What I am wonder, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the financing of the establishment of these rights because clearly there are legal costs involved if an individual is going to go to seek to establish copyright over their creation or industrial design rights. Will the Government assist in terms of financing the individual's ability to gain right over his ideas and creations because after all we know our country, we know that individual's come up with ideas and they take them before bodies, whether it is a bank or whatever other agency, Government or nongovernmental, they do not have the finance to advance the idea and the next thing you hear that somebody who has the money using the intellectual property and idea of an individual and they cannot do anything about it because it has not been established as a legal right. So are we going to - I believe we should, Madam Deputy Speaker - finance the ability of the individual to obtain intellectual property over it. Notice that, in fact, those rights are one of the rights that the Minister can ask an individual to provide, advance and furnish to the Minister on application under section 13 of the Act.

Furthermore, Madam Deputy Speaker, will financing and technical assistance be given to applicants to formulate the required information under Section 13? He spoke about the bureaucracy. I think that Honourable Members on both Sides are concerned about the bureaucracy in Barbados, the delays and the red tape. Section 13 really and truly seems to me like a lot of red tape, a lot of provisions that are required that can be requested by a Minister on submission of an application. Are we proposing, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the Government would assist the applicant in the marketing plan because you have a great idea, you have natural creative talent exuding from you but this has been the problem that a lot of people especially of our colour have found in this country. You do not have the finance or the wherewithal now to put this in a marketing plan.

It speaks towards financing and budgetary details associated with the proposed project to be advanced, a

project feasibility study forecasting the economic impact of the cultural project on the development of cultural industries in Barbados. Well, the Government has not even been able to forecast the decline in the economy in Barbados to junk bond status with all the advisors that they have. We are asking simple applicants from Weston, Sion Hill and the Whim without the wherewithal to present a project feasibility study forecasting the economic impact of the cultural project on the development of the cultural industries in Barbados. We are looking to place people at a dead end. Madam Deputy Speaker, we are speaking yes about something that may be good on paper but now the usual issue involves the implementation of the Bill.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: All of the Central Bank experts and we have the Minister of Finance the other day... All the international agencies predicted that Barbados will be the only country in the western hemisphere over the next two years with a declining economy and Government unable to forecast data and doubting it when everybody in Barbados can see that has been so. After all, the last eight of nine years that the Democratic Labour Party has been in office in this Government, has featured...

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Six years plus, 1991, 1994...

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading the House because for the last nine years we were not in Government. If the Honourable Member wants to attack his own political party because he thinks that he is attacking the Honourable Member for St. Andrew he can do that.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, are you ruling on that because it is not even worth the ruling. If the Honourable Member for St. Lucy was listening to me carefully, he would have heard me say the last eight of nine years of Democratic Labour Party rule. If I need to do the math for him, Ma'am, 1991 to 1994, 2008 to 2013, nine years, eight of which was negative economic growth.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I try to be practical. The older I get, the more practical and realistic I get. I just do not want to know that we have a law here but my fellows from Road View or Westmoreland or Rock Dundo really cannot access it and it becomes something in the sky for them that does not touch the reality of their lives.

Ma'am, we cannot look at culture and cultural industries and development in a vacuum. As the Honourable Member for St. Thomas said, it has to be looked at as well in terms of education. Here we are seeking now to bringing legislation into the Parliament of this country with a proposition by the Government to dismantle free tertiary education in Barbados by having students paid their tuition fee within the next year. Where does that lead us now in terms of really allowing the cultural talent of an individual to be developed when they now have to look for at least \$6 000, and if they want to do law or medicine, the dog dead.

Where are we going with this and with the development of the cultural talent of young people now having left school at age 18 and saying look I want to create my own cultural business and employ 20 people and go on the world stage and carry this industry throughout CARICOM and increase the reputation of Barbados as a country where no matter how small we are as a country we can compete on a world stage because we have as much talent in culture and as much intelligence as anyone else. How are we going to do that when you have a Minister of Education who tells us that National Development Scholarships would be cut back. You would only have about six of them now. Last year you had 23 but going forward now we are only going to have six. National Development Scholarships are one means by which individuals who want to go on and qualify in cultural development and in cultural industries would use to become qualified academically.

Of concern also, Madam Deputy Speaker, has to be the issue that was raised as well by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East in terms of the creation of a framework for individual to develop their cultural talent without having to compete with Government agencies such as the National Cultural Foundation, et cetera. I really hope that going forward that we would allow people to fulfil their cultural talents and not at the expense of Government agencies because we need to assist our people as much as possible. Madam Deputy Speaker, the fellows in Upper Carlton who are crying out for an opportunity to have their artistic talent displayed, need to be able to go and access the benefit of whatever legislation comes in place.

Madam Deputy Speaker, legislation is created and we do not know what would happen in the future or who may be the individual who may be presiding over this Bill at ministerial level. I would really hope that issue does not come into play in the implementation of the Bill that people look to see where people live or who their family support and the validity or the approval of an application is predicated on people's political affiliation or who their brother or their father is because I get the distinct impression, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the people of St.

James North are being left out of the development of this country by this Government because they do not support this Government. Madam Deputy Speaker, I have seen, just before this Parliament went on summer recess, \$130 million being voted for roads and not one red cent going towards any road in St. James North. I have written the ministry on ten roads in St. James North to be repaired. The truth is, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I am giving him credit...

Asides.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St. E. KELLMAN: On a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable House.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Barbados Labour Party, in its Manifesto at page 36, spoke on passing a Cultural Industries Development Bill that would allow taxation to artists at the same rate as International Business Companies, on any foreign exchange earned outside of Barbados. Madam Deputy Speaker, this is important because as we have said, and I think we on both sides have agreed, we want to see the development of cultural industries for export, to earn foreign exchange for this country. Madam, section 39(7) speaks to a prescribed percentage of tax concessions on salaries of individuals paid in foreign countries, yet it does not define what is the percentage. Madam, I believe in certainty and not being left to anyone's discretion, I do not know if the Minister of Finance, whoever he or she may be in the future, will clear that up.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: We do not know because we do not know about the municipal tax. We had the Minister of Finance in a Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals saying it is one rate, while the Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development saying that rate was wrong. Last week we then got the Minister of Finance saying no, it was right. Madam, we do not know but that is systematic of the Government. As I said, we believe in certainty and this prescribes without saying what is the percentage concerns me, Ma'am.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have culture at many levels and even though the Bill has sought to define cultural industries and cultural projects by saying what it includes, I think we all recognise there is no exclusivity or limit to what is the definition of a cultural industry or a

cultural project ought to be. At least I hope so. I would hope, for example, that the young, deaf gentleman who came to my house three Sundays ago, seeking sponsorship for a cook book of Barbados would be able to access this Bill. I would hope that the vendors in Bridgetown, the rastafarians, et cetera, who are selling their craft, who presently are being humbugged by this Government, that this Government would recognise the linkage of culture and would allow them the opportunity to earn a decent living.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, like the Attorney-General, I too have three paintings in my house from individuals who at the time were incarcerated. I supported them by buying the paintings. Maybe if this Government had passed the Bill earlier, they may not have been in prison because hopefully they would have been able to harness such a Bill and such incentive and would have realised that life is not without hope for them, as it is now under this present administration, and would have been able to demonstrate their talents before.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, the other Side is speaking about the creation of new industries and this is one which, as I said, we all agree on. *Asides.*

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I think the other Side wants to hand over the Government to us, even though they are not saying so. Their talk about "tell us what you would do" is a confession that they really do not know what to do, to get us out of this junk bond status society and economy into which they are leading us. They are asking us what are they do to, to come and tell them. Madam, we have spoken about the creation of other new industries beside culture, we have spoken about energy, which I do not believe this Government is serious about, reducing the cost of energy and electricity.

Madam Deputy Speaker, for some time now we have been speaking about the development of an international arbitration centre. Barbados, as an international arbitration centre, potentially can bring in million of dollars in foreign exchange into this country. These are ways that a Government could look to develop the economy of this country but that is not being done at the present time.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is all well and good to pass this legislation here, it sounds good with the Minister and this Government blowing its trumpet. I mean, after all, it may be the only one small bright light in the tunnel of darkness which envelopes Barbados at the present time. Can we really take full advantage of this legislative framework, in the situation in which we now find

ourselves? Madam, culture is now tied in with tourism and this year we already have a decline in tourism of 9 or 10 per cent. American Airlines is reducing its flights to Barbados every time you look around. I believe from January there will be less flights coming from New York but I read on the internet that flights to St. Kitts and St. Lucia are experiencing a 5.5 per cent growth rate in tourism, especially with tourists out of the United States of America. Madam, where are the tourists going to come from to help us develop this cultural industry and to help the cultural practitioners to earn foreign exchange? From where are we going to get it? How are those people with creative talents in St. James North and elsewhere in Barbados going to feel comfortable? Madam, you have to have a comfortable mind set to be able to fulfil your true potential. How is that going to be done, if the mother or father becomes ill and goes to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and there are no drugs there for them? Madam, the life support systems are not functioning, yet the Honourable Minister of Health is telling us not to panic, as though not panicking is going to make you any better?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has three minutes more in which to conclude.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, it is like if the words from the Minister of Health telling us not to panic would suddenly create a miracle and have the drugs dropping down from heaven like manna, to save your life. How are we fully going to have a comfortable mind set when, as we speak, there are only 17 trucks collecting garbage throughout the whole island of Barbados 300 000 people? How is a poor woman with three children, who all want to go to the University of the West Indies, who are not as fortunate as the vast majority of Honourable Members on the other side who have had the benefit of free university education, some of whom have two and three degrees, who now have to pay tuition fees at 20 per cent. How is that poor woman going to have a comfortable mindset?

You are a poor woman and you have three children of university age. They want to go the university and they are not fortunate like the vast amount of members on the other side to have had the benefit of free tertiary education, some who have three free degrees from the University of the West Indies but not these children have to pay tuition fees at 20 per cent. Madam, how are we going to feel comfortable when the reversed tax credit was cut by 50 per cent and persons with disabilities now have nowhere to go. Madam, the other side would say that you could borrow the money from the Student Revolving Loans Fund and that since you are able-bodied, you can work for it and pay back but what about someone now who blind or deaf, or who has a leg cut off because of diabetes? Madam, the subsidy to the Council for the Disabled has been cut by 54 per cent ...

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I do not understand what how that is relevant to the Cultural Industries Bill.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: How are we going to develop our cultural talents when people have disabilities because persons with disabilities are people too, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time is up. Please wrap up.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: Madam, I am going to wrap up. Madam, persons with disabilities must be able to access this Bill with the freedom of mind knowing that they have the financial support and potential and that their subsidies should not be just draconianly cut by 54 per cent by a Government that seems not to care one iota for the vulnerable in this society.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak on this Bill and to say from the outset that I totally support this Cultural Industries Bill. I was waiting for a long time to hear the Opposition connect with this Bill and to see how they can appreciate that this Bill can transform the whole of Barbados. Madam, one has to recognise that this Bill may have a significant impact on rural Barbados because it is rural Barbados that will have to drive this Bill and it is also the agency called rural that would have to drive this Bill if we are to maximise the benefits of this Bill. Madam, that is why it is going to be very important for us to continue doing the work that we have been doing over the last six years in building out rural and ensuring that those areas across rural Barbados that now are not densely populated that between the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Rural to ensure that we create areas where these cultural activities would not only be in urban Barbados but they would also be in rural Barbados where you would not necessarily have to worry about the noise impact and so on.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one has to appreciate that we, as a Government, are not only interested in building the cultural industries but we are also interested in building agriculture and we are also building manufacturing and we are interested in building community tourism. Madam, there is a link between the Cultural Industries Bill and all of these activities. Madam, there I may say is where rural has to do the building out so that these activities can be right across Barbados so that when you take a tour bus it will not be going into rural Barbados just for a drive but there will be locations between rural Barbados where you have the necessary activities and the tour buses will not be driving with their windows up but will be able to stop, site, see and

buy. One can now appreciate that whereas the ordinary members on the other Side can only see the entertainment aspect of the Bill but we can see this Bill from the productive aspect of it and for the industries it would be supporting.

Mr. Speaker, some time in the 1990s, the Democratic Labour Party took the decision in the area of Checker Hall, where they had a playing field and instead of allowing the previous plans of the Government to continue where they were prepared to take the road and remove a large number of houses, we took that road through the playing field, we took off a piece of the playing field and there was a human cry by the Barbados Labour Party. Madam, when you go to Checker Hall now, what you would see is the football field, where people play sports, then you see an exercise park, where people exercise, a play park where the child play and on the opposite side, you see an area that is suitable for vending. Madam, I am not surprised to hear the criticism of this Bill because every time we do something productive, they do not have the foresight and they cannot see down the road, so they come in here and criticise us because they lack vision.

Madam Deputy Speaker, if you go to Checker Hall today and you see what is happening to that same area that we were criticised for, you can now appreciate the foresight. I have recently spoken to the Minister of Public Works about that same area because the road that we left for them, they did not understand and they build a road that can hold two sets of traffic but yet still, they diverted the traffic to make a 90-degree turn on to the main road when the traffic could easily have gone on the road that was built that was enough. I am saying to the Minister of Public Works that instead of putting traffic inside of the village, to put the traffic on the road and keep the traffic away from the people and this will keep accidents away.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it hurts when we could be discussing a Cultural Industries Bill and somebody is telling us that we cut the money from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and gave it to the Constituency Councils. Madam Deputy Speaker, I would prefer people to be healthy and exercise than to have to go to the hospital. Madam, that is the big divide. We are trying to stop people from going to the hospital and they are arguing for people to go to the hospital. They do not understand that if you allow people to exercise that it keeps them away from the hospital. We are trying to keep people away from the hospital and they are arguing for people to go into the hospital. Madam, that is the big divide. When people exercise, there is no crime because it makes them healthy. I know the Honourable Member for St. Michael East could understand that point but it would be lost on the Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Madam Deputy Speaker, under Section 21(4) of this Bill, it says that the payment on duties, taxes and imports used for construction and furnishing of a new building or renovating business once it is used for cultural activities that you do not have to pay these duties in taxes.

Madam Deputy Speaker, also at 26(1), it states that there 100 per cent interest that you pay that would be deductible on your claim. I also hear about how long it took this Bill to come to this House. Madam Deputy Speaker, when a person buys a house with a foundation and that foundation is not good, they do not continue to build the house. Sir, when we came to the table, this foundation of this Bill was of no use, so we had to excavate the foundation, add a solid foundation and build on it. If it took us six years, it is because we had to repair the damage that was left to us by the Barbados Labour Party. Madam Deputy Speaker, did they expect us to build on that?

Madam Deputy Speaker, we had something called Community Policemen, in our time we even suggested the Community Policemen should be used to form a football tournament and to guide the football tournament. Do you know they did not implement it? Do you know what happened? They waited until they became the Opposition they then implemented the football tournament themselves, when it could have been done under the Police Community Tournament.

Madam, Community Police could have been organising those tournaments, it would have made sense to get the Community Policemen to organise the football tournament, which would have been better to control for better results like the Barbados Defence Force Sports Programme. You could have had a football tournament right across Barbados organised by the Community Policemen. Instead of accepting the point, allowing it to happen, they highjacked the idea, kept it, and turned it commercial.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is no doubt, as the Minister stated we are not playing with culture. We have to understand the importance of Crop Over. I know the Minister is looking at the possibility of Sunset legislation and so on for Crop Over, so we can maximise the returns on our tourism. It does not make sense for us here to argue for St. Lawrence Gap, Bridgetown and Baxters Road. When we speak of tourism, we speak of tourism for total Barbados and that is why it is important for us as a Party to continue to build out rural Barbados, because it is rural Barbados that would create the majority of opportunities for push forward this economy and create growth.

Madam, one thing that people cannot understand is...

Asides.

The Hon. D.St. E. KELLMAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would never understand the reason for moving rural office from St. Peter which served three constituencies to Bridgetown serving all twenty where you will only take one bus. I would not lose my time. The Honourable Member would not understand. No matter how you explain it to the Honourable Member...I am not a selfish minister. If I were a selfish minister I would have kept it in the north for myself, but I brought it to Bridgetown so twenty constituencies can take one has to get to it, but the Honourable Member argues. Then again, there goes the Honourable Member.

I am saying when one recognises...

Asides.

The Hon. D.St. E. KELLMAN: You do not even understand the calculation about rent. So you really need to keep...Let me deal with this point.

The Honourable Member would prefer the taxpayers of this country to pay six bus fares to get to Rural, than Rural to pay a little more rent.

Asides.

The Hon. D.St. E. KELLMAN: The taxpayers would pay more in bus fares than what rural is paying in additional rent. So you need to learn to calculate and to do your Maths. It is quite obvious you cannot do the Maths.

I am saying this cultural Bill needs to put some culture into the Parliamentary Representative for St. Thomas.

I heard the Honourable Member speaking about the Rural Development Commission not doing anything but the Honourable Member is free not only owning a house in St. Thomas and one in Cane Garden, but she can pick up the paper today and buy one also in Dean Town because they are advertising in Dean Town too. You are worrying about the house. The houses are all allocated, all committed. What is the problem?

Asides.

The Hon. D.St. E. KELLMAN: I am speaking to the issue because you were the issue.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member please address the Chair.

The Hon. D.St. E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas is always giving the impression that it is this Government which is frustrating the Workhall

Project. The Honourable Member needs to stop encouraging people to frustrate the efforts of the Government but to complete that site by allowing one of our own supporters to demand more than what is needed when we are quite prepared to relocating that person down to Arch Hall, but the Honourable Member told the person not to move.

Miss C.Y. FORDE: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber. He is speaking of me frustrating the efforts of the Government. This is the very first time I have ever heard anything of what he speaks. The Honourable Member should tell the public of Barbados why the Rural Development Commission should be relocated from the Omni Centre in Speightstown and taken to Bridgetown, when they were only paying \$7 000 per month for that facility, but are now paying \$52 000 per month. That is why this Government is where it is in the quagmire of madness and poverty kicking in the people's face. Do not trouble me.

The Hon. D.St. E. KELLMAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is lying about... I am sorry. The Honourable Member is misleading the House about the amount of money paid in Speightstown. Now the Honourable Member has brought the issue to the table I will deal with it. It was not the Democratic Labour Party Government that paid the same people money for the building when they were at Porters, because it was not the Democratic Labour Party Government in office that paid the same people money, then turned around and moved to Speightstown even though they had paid the same people that they are complaining about now, who had the money lying down. So if the Honourable Member wants to tell the truth in this House, let the Honourable Member get up and tell the whole truth.

Madam, when the Rural Development Commission moved from Porters under the Barbados Labour Party they had already paid money to the same landlords whom we are now entertaining. So the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is asking us to ignore the money paid by the Barbados Labour Party to the landlords and to waste the taxpayers' money.

I am saying if the Honourable Member wants to discuss these issues, the Honourable Member has to bring all of the issues. I can answer all of them. I am waiting on them. Now that I have explained it...everybody is talking about all sorts of foolishness.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am saying we have to understand this Bill is so big that it frightens the Honourable Members on the other side. For a month or two they were all across Barbados telling the people we did not have anything to do in Parliament and we should not have been on summer recess.

Madam, I have been in this House for 19 years and for 19 years minus one, which was last year, we have always gone on a summer recess. Would you believe this is the first time we are going on a summer recess. We have always gone on a summer recess. Last year we did not go on recess. Do you know what it means? They believe once they tell lies, that is their supporters. Once they supporters tell lies on the call-in programmes people would believe them. They do not understand we will prove to them they are wrong.

Madam, on top of that, do you know what is interesting? We came here today to deal with the no-confidence motion. We were prepared to put aside our Cultural Industries Bill, although it is an important bill to deal with, when we came here we hardly found anybody to debate us on it. They would not even call it because we were prepared to deal with it. Do you know why they have not dealt with it they want to deal with it next Tuesday, because they have a conference the following weekend and they want a lift for their conference. That is why they are bringing a no-conference motion whip up support so they can get people to attend their conference, while trying to use of this Parliament to allow that to happen.

I want to thank my comrade and friend for reviewing what he found and come up with something like this. When one looks at what they had, and what you have now it is really chalk and cheese, because we have buried the chalk and we have brought out the cheese. That is why I want to say this evening that I am happy to be part of this Democratic Labour Party. The Party that is prepared to do things.

Madam, do you know what has scared the Barbados Labour Party? They have recognised that over the years this Government, never mind how hard things are, has been able to deliver. What is frightening them, when they look at our capital programme we are about to roll out, when they see the things they created and made a mess of and we are about to clean up, they are now frighten.

Would you believe I heard them here talking about Barack. I could not believe they had the gall to speak and call that word Barack, when they not only bastardised the project, not only benefited from the project. So I do not want to hear anything from them about any Barack or whatever for the simple reason that they should be ashamed to call the man's name. Imagine they have starved the man of his money now I am hearing that we have made him a national hero. Well if he is a national hero I want to make sure one of the things ...

Asides.

The Hon. D.St. E. KELLMAN: You could call him Barrack, you can call him rat, everything because that is

how all of you treated him. You were on the Board at National Housing Corporation (NHC) too? Oh, it is Dale. Oh, okay. What I am saying, Madam Deputy Speaker, that they should never come in here and call that name. After treating one of their own the way they have treated that man and now got the gall to come in here and speak to it. They have no culture and should not be speaking on any cultural industries based on how they spoke and dealt with that gentleman. They should never deal with culture in here because culture is a kind of a community. That is where you build culture, within communities and within people but they have never treated that gentlemen the way he should be treated and now got the gall ... I was on this floor begging them to pay him and they refused to pay the man even though they amended the National Housing Corporation (NHC) Act to allow the man to build a building when they found out that they had no powers for him to build the building and then after he did everything he had to do they kicked him out, brought in the Chinese and now talking about the Minister going some Chinese festival. The first time we heard about the Chinese was through you all so what cultural divided are you talking about? We have nothing against the Chinese, but do not come in here and behave as if this is the first time you are hearing about Chinese.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to say that I support this Bill and I can say that this Cultural Industries Bill is another of our economic moves to empower Barbadians and not the too few. That is the problem with them because this Bill goes to the heart of everybody in Barbados and they are vex. They see this Bill as an empowering Bill where the rich, poor, middle class, everybody will benefit from it. That is why, Madam Deputy Speaker, that it is going to be very important for that sunset legislation to come along with this Bill because once you get the combination of the Sunset legislation and this Bill people right across Barbados will be able to benefit from this Bill especially at Crop Over time. We will be building areas that people will be able to use on a weekly basis and we will be able to combine community tourism, vending, culture and everything and we will be able to create some special festivals to continue to drive the activities.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is telling me that she is hyper.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: You cannot hear Asides but I am prepared, especially in this session, to answer all Asides I hear. They are some people who could throw big rocks but they cannot take the little small pebbles.

People have to understand that my back is very broad. I take my lashes and when I am ready to give them people get vex and get very angry with me. They say my

hand light because I am wearing cheap things. How can your hand be light and wearing cheap things.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am saying that the Constituency Councils would also have to push this Bill and run with it because the Constituency Councils will be empowered by this Cultural Industry Bill. The chairman and members of Rural Development Commission (RDC) would have to ensure that they create the infrastructure to ensure that this Cultural Industries Bill has the necessary locations across rural Barbados because that is where our remit is and I am quite sure that Urban Development Commission (UDC) will do what they have to do to ensure that they create the enabling environment to take maximum benefit from this Bill. I could see this Bill helping the masses of people in Barbados and as I said before once the Sunset Legislation comes that we can maximise the returns from our tourism. This Bill does not mean that we necessarily have to increase the number of tourists coming to Barbados if we do the right things and build up Barbados the right way and able to trap people to travel right across Barbados and to get them to spend. This is the most important thing. I am saying that once we do the right things within rural and have this Bill in our hands with the provision we will be able to increase the tourism spin and increase community tourism right across rural Barbados because it is community tourism and will make the difference and it is rural that will empower this Bill and help to create the economic activity that we would like to see coming from this Bill.

I am very grateful to you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for 15 minutes until 5.30 p.m.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: I beg to second that, Madam.

The question that the House do now suspend for 15 minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Madam Deputy Speaker suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

ORDER No. 4 (RESUMED)

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to be part of the debate on the Cultural Industries Development Bill. First of all, I want to begin by congratulating the Minister of Culture, the Honourable Stephen Lashley, for being able to pilot this Bill in Parliament because I believe that at a time when this country is going through the type of economic headwinds that we see happening that the type of creativity that has been applied in terms of the development of this particular piece of legislation is one that certainly this country can benefit from at this time.

It also, I believe, addresses some of the criticisms that have been made in respect to the fact that we have been one-dimensional in respect of the development of this Barbados economy because the Bill as it is presently constructed provides an impetus to certainly that sector of the economy which I believe have not been taken advantage of fully. It offers too the level of confidence that is required by the participants in that sector to proceed in its development.

One of the interesting things, Madam Deputy Speaker, that you would notice about the Bill is that it certainly invites the type of investment that is required in order to ensure that we can promote our cultural industries because we know that culture in every respect is a diversified activity. The reason why you certainly cannot define culture is because of the fact that it is dynamic. It resides in the communities, it has interactions and it changes from time to time, so to attempt to define it and hold it fast to something is something that we should not indulge in. What we need to do and which the Bill actually does is to bring forward the ability to facilitate those dynamics that are happening within the society. In that regard, I think we need to congratulate the Honourable Minister for being forthright in doing so.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one of the things I believe we need to address is the fact that while Government is prepared to put the level of resources behind the development of culture, I also believe that to a certain extent our private sector should also be prepared to facilitate Government in that regard because when you look at the development of culture, at the end of the day our society would be able to benefit from the economic activity that is generated generally. It therefore means that while Government would put those resources, it cannot be expected to put all of those resources because when you look at the earning power that would come then to those artistes that would be supported and those persons involved, it is something certainly that we need to look at in a serious way of developing this country and of course providing a likelihood to those people involved.

Madam Deputy Speaker, even within St. Michael West Central I would wish to say that we have young

budding artistes and experienced artistes there at the same time who are involved in all aspects of cultural activities. We have excellent painters. I would want to say too that from time to time we have held showcases in the community in which we have had budding artists who have been able to participate in them. We have offered the opportunity for young entertainers who would want to showcase their skills to also participate. The point I am making is that you are giving the opportunity for those persons to not only develop their skills. I think that what we need to see even moving forward here is an attempt on the part of the business community to see the extent to which they can partner with these young individuals in helping them to develop their talents.

One of the interesting things, Madam Deputy Speaker, we saw before was in the area of literary arts and drama where for instance we had a lot more drama productions than we had before. I think that what we would want to see is the business community working with artistes within the communities to help to put on drama productions. We have on an annual basis, productions such as Laff-it-Off, but I believe that we can have the business community working more closely with artistes that for instance we can even have more drama productions during the year. We do not necessarily have to stop at the level of NIFCA. What I would like to see even at the level of the communities themselves are community shows in which we develop the artistic talents of individuals whether or not in drama.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when you visit other countries in the region you have these small theatres in which well-produced shows are put on where, for instance, people in the community who have dramatic talents can actually have an opportunity to practice them.

The other thing that we can also seek to develop especially in the communities are things such as artistic showcases. We can actually change the ambiance of those community centres by helping artists to showcase their work in a more effective manner. Especially during this period where we are trying to stimulate economic activity at all levels, we have to give the opportunity for persons who reside at all levels within the society to be able to at least show their creative talents.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we speak about tying it into the whole question of tourism because again the Bill comes at a time when in order to build up now the attractiveness of the island for tourists, it offers us an opportunity to showcase the cultural talents and skills of Barbadians to work with the business community to expose more tourists to those cultural skills and talents. Certainly one of the things that I would like to see is our hotels getting involved in those cultural skills. We have a situation where we have major hotels such as the Hilton and I do not think that it is

inconceivable for us to involve artists within the communities to come in on a particular day and put on an art show and in a sense what we can do is actually work with those hotels to bring in those visitors to come and see it.

Madam Deputy Speaker, not only that, it offers the community an opportunity to even bring in other artistes at the same time. What this would do is to actually enrich the visitor experience that we have within the island. I think that again when you look at the kind of initiatives that you have within this Cultural Industries Development Bill, they certainly give the opportunity for the involvement of businesses.

The other aspect of it is that it helps to reduce the cost of actually setting up these things. When you look at some of the rebates and the low interest rates that are offered, for instance, you have the duties and taxes week importation of equipment, which I think was referred to by the Honourable Minister, it reduces the cost of putting on these functions. There are also the tax allowances in respect of expenditure on approved cultural activities; property transfer tax; interest rates; subsidies; and borrowed funds. What it actually does is allow you to go out there and borrow funds in respect of a particular cultural activity. I think that is something that we do not understand. The other is for the purpose of calculating assessable income, deductions in respect of direct investment, incentives for heritage and cultural activities. I am saying that these in themselves represent a platform on which those persons who are involved in cultural activities can actually benefit from.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think that what is also critically important for us to also recognise is that it offers businesses which might have sums of money to invest to actually invest in those activities because you can make money from them. We have a lot of shows in this country, whether or not they be reggae shows or whatever, and I am sure that if the persons who are actually putting on these shows were not making money they would not put them on. I am saying that from that perspective to the extent where Government is even willing to help persons to put on these cultural shows again I believe that it offers an opportunity for revenue-making and economic expansion in different areas.

Madam Deputy Speaker, at least it widens the area. Madam, what I would also say is that what many of us do not understand is that you cannot stage-manage it, it is culture in its many aspects, whether in dancing, art or drama. It is a creative expression of people's desire to express themselves. Madam, that is one of the things that we need to recognise. Madam Deputy Speaker, what I think we might want to see from this, is where we can have

that strong community link we had in the past, in terms of the cultural activities at the community level.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I would want to think that the development of this Cultural Industries Development Bill would help to see that return more to Barbados. One of the sad things we have seen under the previous Government was that at the community level, the ability of the communities to develop was hampered considerably. I think what we want to see now is that kind of creativity within communities blossoming more. Madam, we should not underestimate the type of talent that exists in those communities. I think it is extremely important that we put systems in place to ensure that we see that kind of development in communities, where the community practitioners come out and are able to benefit under this very Bill. Madam, I want to say that we can only support the development of this particular piece of legislation. We could anticipate that certainly there will be people who would be able to benefit from it.

This attracted me to something else which I think we need to look at. When you look at some of the shows that we have on an annual basis in this country, we see a huge amount of talent in the area of fashion design. As a matter of fact, I can think of one person in the St. Michael West Central community who practises the art of fashion design. Even in that respect, I do not think that sometimes those persons had been afforded the opportunity of actually developing their craft to the extent that they could have. I think that is one of the things that we need to appreciate, that this Cultural Industries Development Bill affords the opportunity to that section of the community who, hitherto, has not been able to develop their craft. I think that is extremely important.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when it comes to the area of local designs, what I would like to see, for instance, especially with regard to prominent stores such as Cave Shepherd, why is it that we cannot have a situation where there is a section where local designers are given the opportunity to showcase their designs? Madam, that is one of the issues I think we need to look at.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when we talk about supporting local, very often we are talking about supporting our tangible goods. What we also forget is that we need to support the skills we have in the community. Madam, in the area of fashion designing, for instance, when you attend shows on an annual basis such as BMEX, you see local designers coming out with wonderful designs but where is the opportunity given within our whole business community for those designs to be expressed?

Madam Deputy Speaker, sometimes we talk of a price but I see people who dress to go to functions, who are prepared to pay out \$500 for a dress and all of these things

and our own local designers at home, who are going to charge the same price for a piece of clothing, which is just as well-designed and with all the expertise and looks just as attractive, I must say we have a difficulty in paying that price. Certainly, we have to look to see how we could find ways to encourage our local business community to support our local designers by giving them more space. Madam, that is one of the issues that we have, so we would like to see the Cave shepherds of this country supporting them. We would like to see the other stores that are involved in the area of clothing still to support them at the same time. We must have that kind of regime that helps our designers to be able to make a living, that is what we call cultural expression. In fact, from this piece of legislation, I would like to see cultural renaissance, in that, for instance, we should be able to see those local cultural practitioners being given the opportunity to earn their living under the sun.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one of the issues I have, generally, when we look at cultural artists in Barbados and in the region, it seems as if they are part of an underground economy, they have not come to the front, largely because of the fact that I do not think that our business people have really recognised that the cultural industries is one that we have not fully exploited the opportunity to earn valuable foreign exchange for this country. Very often, when you go to many of the stores in this country, what are they showcasing? Madam Deputy Speaker, they are showcasing the cultural efforts of other countries. Madam, in terms of development we see, for instance, we can help our local craft people develop their skills. Again, this Bill brings that to the fore, that is why we have to be extremely supportive, in terms of what this Bill is trying to do, to help develop our local craft industry at the same time.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Government has been charged with the fact that they have not been taking every opportunity to develop this country's economy but if you look at the importance we have given to it, if you look at the fact that at this point in time we are opening up a new dimension which the previous party had not thought of. Really, they have tried and I give them credit, the point is that we have taken it to this point where it is critically needed and I think you have to give us credit for that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, let us agree that certainly the Cultural Industries Development Bill by itself would not do it. I think we also need to see a greater effort on the part of our private sector, to support those local cultural artists, that is why I would want to say this. I know there are people around who would want to say, even for our Crop Over celebrations, they would like us to bring in a number of foreign artists and things like that. I am not saying that foreign artists are not good, what I am saying is that the respect we give to foreign artists must also be given to our local artists. We cannot expect our local artists to develop, if we do not give them the same level of

treatment and respect that we give to foreign artists. When you listen to our local artists, it is only the question of exposure that they need.

I have another concern too, which is very interesting. Sometimes I question the fact that these people earn huge sums of money when they come here to perform, yet we talk about foreign exchange leakage. Where does it go? To what extent does it benefit Barbados? We have a number of shows here, I heard a number of people saying yes, we are having a number of visitors and things like that and that we should be able to benefit economically. Madam, I want to say that it is time Barbadians take a very serious look at the shows they have, whether or not they are adding to the preservation of foreign exchange or whether or not they are draining that foreign exchange. Madam, sometimes we do not see the level of attendance on the part of tourists that we are looking for, instead we see a number of locals. On the other hand, we pay foreign artists very high fees and they go but where is the hotel occupancy at the same time?

Madam, not only that, one of the things I wish to ask is this, where is the partnership we need to see between the hotels and our local artists, in order to maximise the earning of foreign exchange? We have a number of hoteliers in this country saying that Government must spend more in promoting the industry but where is the backing that you sometimes need, especially for those local shows? Where is the backing from the same hoteliers that ensures that when we hold a show here, at the same time they are doing promotions overseas, to ensure that we get the tourists here and at the same time they can report that their rooms are full? That is how we would know that we are earning the foreign exchange. We must not continue fooling ourselves by thinking that because we have this massive show, that there would be massive numbers of people, while at the same time we are sending that foreign exchange abroad. That is one of the issues that we need to look at.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I would want to applaud the Minister of Culture for his efforts in this regard. I would want to encourage him in terms of the development of local culture. Madam, when I say that, I mean all round. I do not think we should restrict it to any particular aspect of culture because, as I have said before, it is dynamic and it is not something that we can stage manage and even in many cases, we cannot prescribe the results that you would get either, so we need to allow for that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, what I would like to see from this whole development Bill is that Barbados is able to put itself in a better position and create another revenue earning source for this economy.

Madam Deputy Speaker, for that I thank you for allowing me to make my contribution.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael Central.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make a brief contribution to this debate. First of all, I rise to give support to this Bill. Madam, let me congratulate the Honourable Minister of Culture and his staff for seeing the delivery of this wonderful bouncing baby - I do not want to put a gender to it - this Bill call the cultural industries development Bill through its three simesters and finally to delivery.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to pay special tribute to the staff of the Minister of Culture. I know that in most cases the Minister often leads the charge on development and the execution of these particular Bills but I know the staff, dedicated staff as they are, he would have inherited most of the staff from me when I was Minister of Culture and I want to say that they are professional in every regard, very much like the staff that I have the signal honour to work with in the Minister of Social Care. I want to signal them out for special commendation and bouquets because I know they work assiduously towards getting this Bill to fruition, of course, with the guidance of the Minister.

Madam Deputy Speaker, its period of gestation with this Government has been a little long but because we intended to get this Bill right by consulting with the public and generally with the cultural industries' stakeholders in ensuring that we got everything in order. I feel a sense of attachment with this process today having been the Minister who was given the responsibility in the first two years of this administration to resurrect and resuscitate the Bill and prepare its intensive work that was done by the current Minister of Culture and his dedicated staff.

The Ministry is holding true to its remit to develop a strong sense of national pride and entity and to initiate and implement a policy for the enhancement of postive, cultural development in Barbados and that is the principal remit of the Ministry of Culture. I believe that is the \$21.5 million allocated in this year's Estimates to the Division of Culture will be spend to see those noble objectives come to fruition over the next few months and at the same time pursuing the far-reaching goals embedded in the new legislation governing the Cultural Industries Bill.

Madam Deputy Speaker, let me also congratulate the Ministry for the other stellar achievements over the last six years and the accomplishments which it has chalked up over that year. The Ministry planned and executed six successful Cropovers since returning to office in 2008 and I eagerly anticipate next year's festival which would mark our 40th anniversary for Cropover in Barbados and I eagerly look forward to the kind of celebration that would be emanating from the Ministry of Culture.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Ministry was also successful in negotiating the bid to have Bridgetown and its Garrison listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and also continues year after year with bold initiatives to improve NIFCA while unearthing some exciting new talent and showcasing their wonderful talents over the last few years.

Madam Deputy Speaker, cultural industries is defined in the Barbadian policy document as covering performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, photography, craft, culinary arts, libraries, museums, galleries, archives and the lot. It also touches on design which is advertising, architectural, web and software, graphics, industrial design, fashion, communications, interior and environmental designs and also, last but not least, it also touches on the media, which is broadcast, television, radio, cable, digital media, including computer services. Madam Deputy Speaker, that is separate and distinct from what we want to define as culture and several of the contributors in today's debate would have touched on the definition of culture. Madam, if we ask all 30 members of this Honourable House what is the definition of culture, it would probably vary from each individual member of Parliament. If you go out into the public and ask the average Barbadian on the street what is Barbadian culture it will probably differ from person to person but I believe that Government should clearly define what is Barbadian culture because we run the risk of some sub-cultures overwhelming what is really main stream culture in Barbados. I do not know if you can legislate what culture really is but I believe the Minister and the Ministry of Culture should really pay some attention to exactly what is the clear definition of what culture is in Barbados. Madam, we have a clear definition of what the cultural industries consist of and, therefore, we need to have a clear definition of what culture is in Barbados.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to concentrate for a short while on museums and galleries and one unexploited feature of our cultural awareness that should really reignite national pride and assist in propelling us as a people, a people that are pregnant with deep Barbadian nationalism. I want to touch just briefly on some of the physical structures of Barbados which we ought to pay some attention to while at the same time we are concentrating in implementing some of the features of the Cultural Industries Bill. For instance, I want to touch on the Carnegie Library which was entrusted to the Government of Barbados by the Carnegie family. I believe that is a building that is crying out for restoration. I know that against the financial constraints which we are now experiencing that the restoration might be a bit costly and it might be prohibitive at this time but nevertheless such is the long term plan that we must put in train some measure to address the restoration of this building. It has beautiful architectural features and it really merits most of the architectural

acceptance of what we have accepted to be the Barbadian way of building. I believe we should take a close look at refurbishing this building. It is a purposely built building, it is central to the average person in Barbados from the point of view of accessing it and I believe that we should pay some attention to restoring this building in the shortest possible time as long as we can source the required funds for this particular building.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Carnegie Building is the one building that we should look at seriously over the few years. I oversaw the transfer of the library to its current location some time in late 2008, early 2009 and although it is not a building that is purpose built for a librarian, it is serving its purpose at this time but I believe that some time very shortly, we should return to this building that was bequeathed to us by the Carnegie family to serve the purpose of a purpose built library.

The other physical structures in Barbados we should look at while we are pursuing the cultural Industries Development is the restoration of the Queens Park overall, the number of buildings that exist in Queens Park. Between 2008 and 2009, I believe 2008 and 2010 we restored the Steel Shed. I believe we are at the juncture now we should be looking seriously at renaming the Steel Shed. I believe, I do not want to be presumptuous or previous but I believe the renaming of the Steel Shed should really be done in the honour of Jackie Opel. It should really be the Jackie Opel Steel Shed. I do not want to influence the naming of this building but I think Jackie is a worthwhile person and believe that the Steel Shed should be renamed, maintaining Steel Shed but just adding Jackie Opel's name to it at this time.

Also the Queen's Park House, that once was a Gallery of Art. From my information I understand the contents of the Gallery have been transferred to another location and I believe we should restore the Queens Park House to its former glory. Again, we are against the constraints of our finances but nevertheless that should be sourced where the Queens Park House could be restored to its former glory. In that particular Queens Park House we have the Daphne Hackett Theatre which was a venue of several local plays including Laff It Off and plays of that ilk. Therefore, I believe we should return very shortly to that.

The Queens Park Restaurant, one of the properties in Queens Park was a venue in the past. It was a popular watering hole and also a dance arena, a dance venue. I believe that is the least expensive to be restored at this time. I believe some attention should be turned to the Queens Park Restaurant where it provides a wonderful ambience for people frequenting the Queens Park and its general environs, and they can use that restaurant again as a wonderful watering hole in Barbados and in Bridgetown.

The Stables is a wonderful structure. If it is redesigned it should be redesigned for a facility either for the National Youth Orchestra or a similar group to be utilised. I believe our attention should be turned in that regard in the restoration of the overall Queens Park and its facilities there.

Madam, when I spoke earlier about a feature of our cultural awareness that should reignite some national pride and assist in propelling us as a people. One of the areas that I attempted to address as Minister of Culture was the question a national dress. When I watch several opening ceremonies whether it is national games or anything that would attract the national dress of several nationalities, the absence of a national dress worn by our competitors or participants in any particular games, our Barbadian contingent is always bereft of a national dress. I believe it is at this time that we should infuse some national pride into our people by salvaging the national dress. It would add to some self-esteem building into our people of Barbados. I believe we should move post haste in designing, putting out a tender and attracting people to submit national designs for our national dress. I believe the time is right for our people to be outfitted in a national dress that we can call our own here in Barbados.

Madam, the question of the National Art Collection, I know we waited on the buildings at the Garrison to house our National Art Collection and the building of the CXC soon to be completed, I believe that space will soon be created so we can centralise our National Art Collection. Also, one of the features we should be addressing with our National Art Collections, the allotment of pieces of art in buildings owned by the Government. We have two new buildings that recently have been given to the Government for Government offices. I believe that in those buildings should be placed pieces of national art. Of course, a percentage of the overall cost of any new project from here on, should be segmented and allocated to the purchase of national art from our many artistes in Barbados and placed in buildings rather in the foyer or throughout the building to be displayed. I think that would be a way, of course, of buying pieces of art from our Artistes throughout Barbados and placing them in our Government properties.

Madam, those are four areas we can address while we are addressing the national cultural industries along with all of the other features of that particular industry. I think our physical spaces need to be addressed.

I want to pay tribute to the architects of our music industry. Several of our contributors today in this debate touched on a number of the exponents of the art form in one way or the other and I pay tribute to them. I too would like to dedicate this particular Bill to the memory and part of the legacy of those builders in the cultural industries in Barbados, the informal cultural industries in Barbados,

people who the current exponents of the art form would have ridden on the backs of these people who were foundation builders. People like Tony Grazette, Clarence Thompson, Richard Stoute, Lord Radio and the Bimshire Boys, El Verno del Congo, Ernie Small, Madame Yvette, Edward, 'The Magician', Shillingford Agard and, of course Joe Tudor, people of that ilk. I believe this particular Bill should be dedicated to their memory and, of course, I pay tribute to their legacy.

Madam, this is a watershed initiative in the legislative agenda of this present Government. The enactment of this Bill would lay the foundation for another economic platform from which we could build another solid economic sector. I commend this particular Bill to all Barbadians. I wish and hope that we will all support this particular Bill because it is an exciting time in our history and I really recommend it to all Barbadians.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member for St. George North.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am indeed honoured today to speak on this important piece of legislation. First of all, I want to say from the outset that like all Honourable Members we support this Bill, not only because it has its origin from this Side but because I believe it is important for Barbados at this time. I want to compliment those who have spoken about the importance of the cultural activities of this country and the economic benefits that can be derived from these activities.

I believe when we look at this piece of legislation one is reminded about an article written by Austin Clarke. Austin Clarke wrote the *Polished Hoe* in which he described, Madam Deputy Speaker, that life in Barbados is slow. Life in Barbados is about drinking a rum. Life in Barbados is about doing the things that are not found elsewhere in the developed world. That is what culture is all about, the Barbadiana we now have. I hope Honourable Members would read that book by Austin Clarke, showing how life in Barbados has remained the same for the past century.

I say so because I was listening very attentively on the Attorney General (AG.) on my way to Parliament and he was making an excuse of the delay of a Bill. He said that it takes long to turn out from his office because of various reasons. That is why I remembered October 23, 2013 that particular book by Austin Clarke.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: It was a case in which life had been really good and life had been great in the Caribbean and one which we do not take very serious. That is the culture of our Caribbean people. We have a distinct culture

music, arts, craft and we have a number of artifacts, historical buildings, heritage buildings and the life goes on and on. I believe that as Members have said before the service and creative industries are indeed the way forward for our people in which a platform can be developed for moving this economy forward.

I believe that we have missed a golden opportunity in involving the private sector more than we have done over the past 20 years. I believe the time has come and I would have hoped that the Government would have shown the way in terms of developing a financial package that would be meaningful and push this particular sector beyond expectations. Madam Deputy Speaker, this sector is so important when you look at the world today we see the cultural sector with film, transportation and tourism as being more important than even manufacturing. The film industry in the world today has surpassed the manufacturing of goods and the amount of money being dispensed in this sector is indeed beyond our imagination. I thought that we could have involved the private sector for funding more than we do.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I also believe that the role of the State continues to be paramount in this Parliament. I want to say I believe that the State has a role to play. The State has always had a role to play within our democracy. The State has a big role to play in our democracy, but the State must not see itself as being everything for everybody. The State cannot fund everything for the people of this country or the people of the Caribbean. The State must see itself as the directorate, the overseer but the State must inspire confidence in a society. The State must give incentives for people to use their resources.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we are talking today of an economy of billions of dollars within the private sector. We are not only talking within Barbados but within CARICOM and the English-speaking Caribbean. We have billions of dollars that are now being spent or invested or persons are waiting for investment opportunities and I believe the time has come for us to incorporate what we see here within Barbados but within the wider Caribbean within CARICOM and within the world. I started by saying that the book is important not only because it was written by a Barbadian author. Do you know that the Canadian Government has recognised this and the author of Barbadian heritage was recognised not only by the Canadian public but was given special incentives by the private sector within a big economy. I am saying that if you have this sort of thing where persons are recognising the talent that is coming out of Barbados and are prepared to put money behind talent I believe that we must embrace the private sector within our midst. The Government must see itself as the protect of our heritage, but a Government must give incentive and be prepared to give incentive because at this time in our history we must say that we cannot pay the

way for all of these various artistes. Madam Deputy Speaker, for example, one film might cost the Government \$100 000 million. It is known in the world of film today that a big film production might run into millions of dollars. We cannot fund that and we do not have the funds for it in Government. We have to be able to find incentives and I must say when I look at section 32 of the Bill, it speaks to the purpose of the fund, the investment, the dividends and it speaks about the establishment and resources of the fund. It says that the money voted by Parliament transfers from the arts and sport promotion fund. It also speaks of money received from the private sector. It carries a 'c', 'a', 'b' and 'c'; money arising from gives grants or donation and other money received from such other sources as a Minister may determine.

I am of the view that we have to do more than creating the atmosphere that the Government must fund it. Where are we going to find \$100 000 million in any one year to promote the arts and craft. Madam Deputy Speaker, this Bill includes cultural heritage and all types of the conservation from the various material, arts and culture design; the broadcast media including television, radio, cable, digital; this Bill is wide. This Bill is wide and it has a lot of implications for Barbados. How do we fund this because it could be very frustrating in today's society where persons are asking for funds to do a project but do not have the funds? There are so many times in Barbados many musicians - and I speak about local musicians, entertainers who sometimes need four or five thousand dollars to get their songs or music promotion and they do not know from where to find the money. If you set up this fund it is mainly for small enterprises but what about the large ones? What about persons who want to do a big project? Where are we going to find the money from? Of course, I discussed the Bill with the Minister recently. It seems to me that persons who have big projects will have to continue to line up for small tokens and it does not work. You are going to cause frustration. Many persons would be frustrated because they would not be able to get the amount of money coming out of this project. How much money can Government really earmark for this project? I believe that even if Government decides to earmark in any one year \$20 million, that \$20 million may very well not be able to do very much.

I believe that Government should look also at the Revolving Fund Programme that has been successful over the years. I speak clearly about the Student Revolving Loan Fund and about the Housing Credit Fund which was a revolving fund that was established in the 80s. In that fund, are funds with seed capital from USAID of US\$10 million. Madam Deputy Speaker, we are saying that in 1981 a fund was established in the Ministry of Housing and Lands and it continues with US\$10 million. Today that fund has over \$150 million to on-lend to persons as full income. It is now run by the Central Bank, it is the Housing Credit Fund.

We also have the Student Revolving Loan Fund with seed capital of \$20 million which was set up in 1975. I am saying to you that with a revolving fund where persons are able to get funds without the Honourable Minister or without the Government, with the direction of the Government that persons will to my mind feel better able to go to the fund and get the necessary financial assistance. That is what I am saying should be the thinking of Government, revolving funds, because Government cannot be all things to everybody at the same time.

With a revolving fund, Madam Deputy Speaker, persons are able to get the funds that they require and you could set the limit, you could set whatever and you could get the involvement of the private sector as well to set up the seed capital. I believe that with this type of thing you are going to need millions of billions of dollars if you want the industry to take off because this is the one area that can help the Government and Barbadians. Ten years ago we saw this as very important to the cultural industries of Barbados. It has taken long yes, but at this time we need it more than ever, but do you have the funding for it. I am saying that we have to be able to put the correct funding in place. At this time there is a need for the Honourable Minister and the Government to look more to the private sector. We need the direction because we do not have the money to put into this fund in order to make it a viable programme.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when you look at this Bill there seem to be some confusion as to, I see 150 per cent in some cases and then I see 100 per cent. A person can get their income tax 100 per cent so I am not sure which one. Can a person get 150 per cent of his investment based on income tax or get it refunded or if he needs 100 per cent? I see 150 per cent in certain cases and then 100 per cent, so I am not sure. In this case it is 150 per cent. If I invest in a project or help an entertainer I can get 150 per cent. What is it? Is it 150 per cent or 100 per cent? I guess the Honourable Minister can clarify that when he gets up.

I believe that this Bill can help transform Barbados but it has to be implemented in the right direction. With Government, as many people have said, the programme seems to be very, very slow. The Government has good intentions but it is slow to implement. The Board, if it is a statutory board under the ministry, has to be staffed. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East spoke about this yesterday. She spoke on the fact that we need to have a body of competent people, a body of persons who know the industry, not necessarily a body of persons who belong to A or B, to implement this in the right direction. I want to compliment those persons. For example, I would like to compliment the Minister of Education. I do not always compliment the Minister. When you look at the Student Revolving Loan Fund, it is a fund that the Minister does not administer, it is administered through his ministry

but at the same time everybody can get a loan for a particular study area and that is why I say that we need a revolving fund to help manage a programme where persons in the recording industry, where persons who want to write a book, where persons who want to develop a heritage building can go to the body and put forward their case, and why should the Minister object.

In this Bill too, I do not see a review board. In the Canadian Bill, there is a review board which is private sector driven and separate and distinct from the Minister. The Minister has nothing to do with it. There is a review board where if the body turns down an application, the review board can review the application and make recommendations for all satisfaction. I suggest that we could look at that as well.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe that we may also have to amend the Income Tax Act in order to give effect to this particular Bill. If we are talking about a review board we may have to look at the Income Tax Act as well because you are talking about property because this is property, persons who are developing their ideas, and we are looking at down the road. Twenty years from now we are talking about a person who wants...

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: There may be many Rihannas or there may be many Tom Clarkes writing books, writing all types of plays and so on and they may definitely need not only funds but general direction so we would need to have competent persons who understand the industry. Madam Deputy Speaker, therefore, we need to have competent persons who understand the industry, who can review and make suggestions on the way forward. I see this as being important for the future of Barbados. I see it as being important for tourism. I see this as important to help us to understand and underscore what is happening, not only in Barbados but also within the Caribbean.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is another point I want to mention, where it speaks in the legislation to persons who come to Barbados for a total of 182 days, whether these persons can claim to be residents as well. I do not remember the particular Act or passage but I believe we need to look at that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has three minutes more in which to conclude.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Madam Deputy Speaker, section 2.2, page 12, speaks about 182 days. It speaks to a person who comes here for six months and performs their art or based on the criteria of the Single Market and Single Economy, persons can now enjoy the Treaty of Chaguaramas with regards to skills. I am saying we need to

look at that to see if it is consistent with the Treaty and if there is a need to further amend this particular section.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe that both sides support this. I have seen within today's society there is a lot of music and that many Barbadians are complaining. Some people believe that the shop limes occur every day in our midst now, there is the Love Vine, the Town and Country....

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I attend them, it is really creating a good atmosphere. I believe we have to look at this type of atmosphere for our country. Is it what we want for the future or is it only to give effect to those shops that need some assistance? We need to do a holistic repair to what is contained in the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, 2008, to see how best they could be helped. I believe we also need to look at the Noise Pollution Act, to see how that affects persons in society. We have people in certain 'Heights' who have been complaining and we need to do it in a way that will be pleasing to all in our society. Madam Deputy Speaker, I am obliged.

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

Hon. F. J. STUART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to say a few words in support of this Cultural Industries Development Bill. I should like to congratulate the Minister of Culture and his staff for making this Bill a reality at last. It has had a long gestation, dating back to the days of the previous administration. There was a lot of talk about it, they have talked, we have done and not all of the perfumes of Arabia can sweeten their case on this matter. Under the Barbados Labour Party, when the Right Honourable Prime Minister was Minister of Culture, the story was that they were concerned about the spread of the 'bashment' culture in Barbados. In fact, that was the specific complaint of the then Minister of Culture, so there was really no time to deal with any Cultural Industries Development Bill, it was a time of trying to control the 'basement' culture, about which the then Prime Minister was complaining and about which all Barbadians were complaining, in fact, because it appeared as though rather than being the cultural metropolis of the Caribbean, we had become the 'bashment' metropolis of the Caribbean. Therefore, I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central for making this Bill a reality.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate other Honourable Members on the other side, generally-speaking, for the contributions which they have made in support of the Bill. The speech of the Honourable Member for St. James North is one of the prices you have to pay for

democracy but we have learnt to live with that kind of thing. Madam, generally-speaking, Honourable Members on the other Side have been supportive of the legislation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the issue of culture is important to all of us as a people. The anthropologists tell us that culture had its beginnings when mankind ceased to live a nomadic life, that is, moving from place to place in search of food and shelter; when he developed agriculture and domesticated animals and was able to live in one place and to produce food to feed himself. Madam, the earliest form of culture, according to the anthropologists, was agriculture, so culture began as the way by which men and women fed themselves and with the passage of time it developed and diversified into many other areas.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Michael East raised a very interesting point this morning because as long as you are discussing culture, especially in societies like the societies of the Caribbean and societies in Africa, post-colonial societies and post-slavery society, there is always the question of whose culture are you really talking about because in post-slavery societies there were slave masters and slaves; in post-colonial societies there were colonisers and colonised. One section of the society had power and the other did not. The section of the society that had the power had the power to impose its views, values, norms, ideals and aspirations on the remainder of the society and to this day that debate has not ended. There are still schools of thought that say that in societies like others, there are two separate cultures in contention, that is why sometimes you would hear the complaint that a certain section of this society thinks that all culture is culture from the waist down, while the other section of the society would be talking about the finer or more refined habits appropriate to their taste. That is a debate that is not going to end any time soon but governments have to determine the coast of society.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think it was the Nigerian Novelist, Chinua Achebe, who said that if lions do not have their own historian, whenever the story of the hunt is told, that story will glorify the hunter. It is a very important point because the culture of a society is supposed to be what makes that society distinct, what makes that society an individualised entity, what makes that society stand out in stark contradiction of our feelings because as Fran Franol described culture, it is that whole body of effort made in the sphere of thought to describe, to justify and to praise the means by which we create ourselves and the means by which we keep ourselves in existence.

Madam Deputy Speaker, our culture should reflect us and should make us distinct and we are a distinct people. It is true that there is always the threat of cultural penetration but in the world in which we live now there is so much access to our minds that the kind of penetration to

which we are exposed can sometimes dilute our distinctiveness but that is a matter that is not going to end and that is a matter we have to continue to fight.'

Madam Deputy Speaker, what is interesting is that we are not just discussing culture, we are discussing cultural industries. There was a time when if you had put the word "culture" and the word "industries" together, they would sound like contradictory terms and for the very simple reason that creative people, performers and artistes of various kinds were seen as people, and they saw themselves as people too who were just there to delight those before whom they performed. The consumers of their performances went home feeling good and they went home feeling good too and that was the end of the matter. The same thing happens in sports because for many years we went to cricket and to football and watch people playing to our inexpressible delight and then we went home feeling good about what we and it never occurred to us that they were working, that was how they were supposed to be earning their keep and the same thing was happening in the area of performing arts and so on. There was always the tendency, for example, that if a joiner built a table and you saw it and liked it, you ask him how much it costs but if the author wrote a book, you begged him for a copy because a book was not supposed to be something you sold, that was not production. It was what the joiner was doing that was called production but mercifully, those habits have been changing and we are now more inclined to respect and due deference to those people who create, however they create and to recognise that what they are doing is really of an industrial character. In fact, it was the English philosopher John Locke who observed that it is human labour that really gives title and adds value to everything. We have to see creation, whether as musicians, painters or whatever as the application of human labour to the creation of something new and then we will understand that an industry is being organised.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Cultural Industries Bill that we have discussed here on Tuesday and again today is now an acknowledgment of that fact. We have now matured to the point where we accept that the creative sector is an industrial sector and should be treated like every other area of industry in the economy. In that context, all the waivers, exemptions, concessions and so all are appropriate to other areas of production and are now being made applicable to this area as well because this is an area in which people are producing as well. When a man sits down to write a song, he is producing. When a man goes to sing a song before thousands of people, he is producing. Madam Deputy Speaker, painters produced, film makers, producers, and sometimes Film makers reproduce and these are fact that we have now began to face and these are the facts that this legislation is now beginning to recognise.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this a great leap forward for Barbados in terms of the future direction of the creative sector. We have all conceded now that globally this is a billion dollar, if not trillion sector and there is a lot of money to be made from this sector as long as people are prepared to apply their genius, their individuality, their craft and their skill to the process of production and to the generation of original products that marks us out as a distinct people having a separate history because all of our cultural actors are really historians. They are the persons who make our history and who reflect our history. Madam, we need these historians because if the lions do not get their own historians whenever the story of the hunt is told, it will glorify what the hunter has done rather than what the hunted was about.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central for the excellent work he has been doing in this area and for his passion. He has been bringing to the Ministry a passion equalled by that of his predecessor, the Minister of Social Care who spoke in this debate and who also had a lot of passion of this sector and I want to congratulate the Government overall for recognising the importance not just of culture but of cultural industries, the fact that we now have a sector that can lay its own claim to the same treatment that other areas of production claim in our economic arrangement.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Bill qualifies for my full support. I think our creative people, our artistic community, our cultural ambassadors can now feel secure that there will exist very shortly in Barbados a piece of legislation to which they can turn and through which they can make applications to various agencies and so on, to get the same kind of assistance that manufacturers do, that people in agriculture do and that people in the international business do. They now have their own avenue for making a significant contribution to the local economy and guaranteeing for them a viable livelihood.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to make that intervention and to say that this Bill has my fullest support. I want to congratulate the Minister and the Ministry and I think this is a great day for Barbados.

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

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I detailed insight not only into the Bill but certainly what would have informed the Bill and it is not my intention to repeat what have already been said. Several Honourable Members on this side would have elucidated various aspects of the Bill. I just want to refer briefly to a few of the points which have been in this debate and to some extent clarify some of them.

One of the points which was made in relation to the lead spokesperson for the other Side has been the issue of the role of the National Cultural Foundation within the context of the Cultural Industry Authority that is being proposed under this Bill. I would say is, as I have before, the National Cultural Foundation, of course, will be restructured. The process and the work towards that has already begun, but there is no threat to the fundamental role of the National Cultural Foundation within the context of its prime role to develop culture in Barbados generally and certainly there will be ambit for the National Cultural Foundation to spend quite a bit of time and certainly its resources on cultural development, broadly speaking within the context of Barbados both at the community level and also in relation to the national level as well.

Of course, there is the very important role of training and research. Those areas would be looked at, but within the context of what is required to establish the proposed authority, the Business Development Unit of the National Cultural Foundation will, of course be looked at. At the appropriate time the nature of the restructuring that would be necessary to the National Cultural Foundation will be disclosed, but suffice it to say there will be changes in relation to some components of the work of the National Cultural Foundation upon the establishment of the authority under this Bill.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have noted all of the suggestions that have been made and I thank Honourable Members for making them. Some have been in relation to the Bill itself and some, of course, have been in relation to culture generally in Barbados. I have taken copious notes of all the suggestions.

There has been some discussion in relation to some of the components of how the process would work. There was a concern raised in relation to confidentiality of works that would be submitted to the authority for funding. The regulations which will inform this Bill will take care of many of those areas of concern which have been raised. Those regulations are in the process of being drafted.

We have had very wide range discussions and consultations with the sector and I have already indicated to them that their concerns and issues will be taken into account, and we have put in place and certainly embarked on a process of consultation and working with the sector, not only on this Bill but on the activation and implementation of the Bill.

I wish to give the assurance that will be the style and the approach which will be adopted in relation to this, because we hold the view, certainly the Government holds the view, that our approach is one of consultation and working with the sector that is particularly earmarked to the main beneficiaries of this Bill. We have a number of

systems in place already where we have adopted an intersectoral approach to how we would move forward with this Bill and I certainly look forward to ensuring that the Bill comes onstream, that it is proclaimed, that the regulations are put in place and the systems are activated.

I want to thank Honourable Members again for their contributions. I note the concern in relation to the Heritage buildings and structures. I have heard my predecessor and, of course, colleague and friend, his passionate pleas for the restoration of the buildings and so on. We have with the blessings of Cabinet established a very high profile task force which is charged with the responsibility of working with the Government in sourcing finance and other areas of assistance, which will go a long way towards the restoration of these structures. I did allude to the fact that work will shortly start on the Empire Theatre. The work on that will be entwined with the restoration of the Daphne Hackett Theatre as well.

The Carnegie Library is also part of the structures which fall within the ambit of that task force and a special foundation is being established, which will be used as a key vehicle for receiving donations and other funding which will come into the Government by means of providing the financing required, along, of course, with any financing the Government provides. We have set in place those mechanisms. The restoration is, of course, as a result of years of neglect, but we have started and we will continue along that path.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as I said, I am not going to go into every single thing being said, except that I have noted them and want to thank Honourable Members for making their various contributions. It is clear that this Bill commands the bipartisan support of this House. They have been pledges of support for the Bill although there have been some suggestions made and certainly those suggestions will be taken into account as we continue to develop the cultural industries legislative agenda, and certainly develop the cultural industries generally in Barbados.

Madam Deputy Speaker, with those brief remarks I do now that this Bill be read a second time.

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

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended five minutes..

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

The question that the Sitting be suspended until 7.05 p.m. today was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION On the motion of Hon. S. A. LASHLEY, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, the House resolved itself into Committee, Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This House is now in Committee. Part I, Clauses 1 - 2 were called and passed. Part II, Clauses 3 - 11 were called and passed. Part III, Clauses 12 - 20 were called and passed. Part IV, Clauses 21 - 25 were called and passed. Part V, Clauses 26 - 32 were called. Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: There is a proposed amendment to Clause 27. In the heading the words "an exemption from property transfer tax" are deleted. Clause 27(b) is therefore deleted. This means that Clause 27(a) is now consolidated into Clause 27. Part V, Clauses 26 - 32 as amended were passed. Part VI, Clauses 33 - 38 were called and passed. Part VII, Clause 39 was called and passed. Part VIII, Clause 40 was called and passed. Part IX, Clause 41 - 43 were called and passed. The First Schedule was called.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, paragraph 13 of the First Schedule should be amended to read as follows:

"The Chairman or in the event of his absence from Barbados or inability to act as such, the Deputy Chairman may at any time call a Special Meeting of the Board and shall call a special meeting within seven days of the receipt of a request for that purpose addressed to him in writing and signed by three other directors of the Board."

The First Schedule as amended was passed.

The Second Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. S. A. LASHLEY, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Her Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of one Bill with Amendments in Committee and MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. S. A. LASHLEY, seconded by Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Cultural Industries Development Act, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, with that we have come to the end of Government Business for today and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. when the matter

of such national urgent import that we have heard about for the past three days I trust will be dealt with by the Members of the Opposition.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

CONTENTS

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 4 (resumed).....	2
Hon. S. A. Lashley.	

THE CULTURAL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT
BILL,
2013

Her Hon. Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON.....	2
Hon. R. D. Jones, 2, 3, 4, 5; Mr. T.A. Prescod, 5, 7; Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, 8, 11; Madam Deputy Speaker, 11; Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, 11, 14, 15.	

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 4 (resumed)

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 15, 16, 17, 18; Hon. K. D. Symmonds, 16; Miss C. Y. Forde, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 32; Hon. S. A. Lashley, 22; Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, 23; Mr. E. G. Hinkson, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Hon. F. J. Stuart, 26; The Hon. D.St. E. Kellman, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33.

RESUMPTION

ORDER NO. 4 (resumed)

Mr. J. D. Paul, 34; Hon. S. D. Blackett, 37; Mr. G. A. Clarke, 39, 41; Hon. F. J. Stuart, 41; Hon. S. A. Lashley, 43.

SUSPENSIONS.....	15, 33, 44.
------------------	-------------

ADJOURNMENT.....	44
------------------	----

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 44; Hon. R. D. Jones, 45.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BLACKETT, Hon. S. D. (St. Michael Central)
BOYCE, Hon. J. D. E. (Christ Church South)
BRATHWAITE, Hon. A. D. (St. Philip South)
CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
HINKSON, Mr. E. G. (St. James North)
INNISS, Hon. D. O’N. (St. James South)
JONES, Hon. R. D. (Christ Church East Central)
KELLMAN, The Hon. D.St. E. (St. Lucy)
LASHLEY, Hon. S. A. (Christ Church West Central)
LOWE, Dr. the Hon. D. S. (Christ Church East)
PAUL, Mr. J. D. (St. Michael West Central)
PRESCOD, Mr. T.A. (St. Michael East)
SPEAKER, Madam DEPUTY
STUART, Hon. F. J. (St. Michael South)

SYMMONDS, Hon. K. D. (St. James Central)
THOMPSON, Her Hon. Mrs. M-J. M. (St. John)

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. Chair labels. Although Madam Deputy Speaker presided throughout, the Chair is labelled ‘Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER’ before Mr. E. G. Hinkson’s speech and during Hon. D. St.E. Kellman’s, and ‘Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT’ (a Senate title) before Mr. G. A. Clarke’s speech and in the procedural sentence on the suspension until 7.05 p.m. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 4, quotations. Several quoted passages and asides are typed as procedural lines in the source, so they print in italics: the passage from the national cultural policy quoted by Hon. D. O’N. Inniss, and Hon. J. D. E. Boyce’s reading of Part VI, clause 33 with his remarks ‘she started to get stuck, and then:’ and ‘She was then completely stuck, tires flat and wheel broken.’ Printed as in the source.

Q4. Committee. The Committee proceedings on Parts I to IX, including Hon. S. A. Lashley’s amendment to clause 27 deleting the words ‘an exemption from property transfer tax’, are run together in one paragraph under Mr. CHAIRMAN’s label, and the resumption after the short suspension (‘RESUMPTION On the motion of Hon. S. A. LASHLEY...’) is run into one line. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 4, Hon. S. A. Lashley’s reply. The motion reads ‘with those brief remarks I do now that this Bill be read a second time’, apparently missing the word ‘move’. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Suspension before Committee. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce moved that the Sitting be ‘suspended five minutes’, while the procedural sentence records a suspension ‘until 7.05 p.m. today’. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Friday, 18th October, 2013 at 10.15 a.m., with Madam Deputy Speaker, Her Hon. Mrs. M-J. M. Thompson, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Canon Father Ivan Harewood. The Minutes of 15th October were deferred, and on the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce Standing Orders were suspended for the rest

of the Sitting. The House then resumed the debate on Order No. 4, the Cultural Industries Development Bill, 2013, which occupied the whole of the day.

Hon. R. D. Jones commended the Minister responsible for Culture, Hon. S. A. Lashley, and spoke on the protection of artists’ work from piracy. Mr. T. A. Prescod spoke of the Afro-Barbadian ethos in Barbadian artists’ work and argued that the Bill needed a definition of culture so that the Board’s own biases would not decide which projects were approved. Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe thanked members for their condolences on the death of his mother before speaking in support. Hon. D. O’N. Inniss quoted the national cultural policy and said that the BIDC Technical Assistance Programme had provided \$167,290 to the music and entertainment sector in the last 12 months and \$184 058 to fashion and design in the last two years.

After the lunch suspension, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce spoke of the cultural activity in his constituency and read the provisions on the Cultural Industries Development Fund; a point of order by Hon. K. D. Symmonds was ruled not to be a point of order. Miss C. Y. Forde supported the Bill’s concessions but asked whether \$35 million should go to a football tournament rather than the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and spoke on the more than 20 businesses at Temple Yard and on the Rock Hall Freedom Village shops. Hon. A. D. Brathwaite welcomed the framework of tax and other concessions for practitioners.

Mr. E. G. Hinkson said the Barbados Labour Party’s Manifesto, at page 36, had promised such a Bill, and argued that the allowance of 150 per cent of expenditure should be extended to CARICOM citizens; his speech drew points of order from Hon. F. J. Stuart and Hon. D. St.E. Kellman, and Madam Deputy Speaker questioned the relevance of some of his remarks. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman linked the Bill to agriculture, manufacturing and community tourism, and exchanged points of order with Miss Forde over the Workhall Project.

After a short suspension, Mr. J. D. Paul said the Bill answered criticism that the economy had been developed in only one dimension. Hon. S. D. Blackett, a former Minister of Culture, paid tribute to the Ministry’s staff. Mr. G. A. Clarke said the Bill had its origin with the Opposition, and raised the 182-day residence provision. The Prime Minister, Hon. F. J. Stuart, said the Bill had had a long gestation dating back to the previous administration.

In reply, Hon. S. A. Lashley said the National Cultural Foundation would be restructured within the proposed Cultural Industries Authority, and that a task force had been set up on heritage buildings, among them

the Carnegie Library. The Bill was read a second time without division. In Committee, with Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair, clause 27 was amended to remove the exemption from property transfer tax and paragraph 13 of the First

Schedule was amended on special meetings of the Board. The Bill was read a third time and passed as the Cultural Industries Development Act, 2013, and the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 22nd October, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.