
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

PRESENT

The full list of Members present is to be inserted from the Votes and Proceedings. Members identified from the record of this Sitting:

His Honour M. A. CARRINGTON (Speaker)
Her Honour Mrs. M-J. M. THOMPSON (Deputy Speaker)
Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN
Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN (Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development)
Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition)
Miss C. Y. FORDE, J.P.
Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE (Minister of Health)
Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE (Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs)
Hon. S. A. LASHLEY (Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth)
Hon. C. P. SINCKLER (Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS
Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC
Mr. E. G. HINKSON

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South.

CULTURAL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BILL, 2013

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam, that is, Mr. Speaker, at the risk of incurring the ire of the Member for St. Thomas - looking across here under her eyes - I rise at your direction, Madam, 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 Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports for what is a signal moment in the history of Barbados. Art, in the history of Barbados, culture, in the history of Barbadiana, as we have come to say. It is a point, Madam Deputy Speaker, at which we can say to the cultural industry, in truth, here is a piece of legislation. Here is a piece of legislation which can direct your development from here on in. Here is a piece of legislation which will open up opportunities for you. But, Madam Deputy Speaker, it will open opportunities for the practitioners in the cultural industry to really take that next step forward.

I want to say I was especially interested by the contribution of the Member for St. Michael South Central last Tuesday evening. And I took the time out on Tuesday evening myself to go and see the film Payday. And like he 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 crowds, but that is another issue. We will get to that. But what it tells us is that here we are about to, as we launch this Cultural Industry Bill, here we are with an industry which is actually already beginning to make the first steps, so to speak, the first steps in the right direction. And I thought that it demonstrated this story, demonstrated a very realistic part of our culture in Barbados. And the acting certainly was par excellence. And, of course, I know the director myself, a good friend of my son, and I certainly enjoyed the presentation. It showed me, as I said, that Barbados has got a tremendous contribution to make. And we as leaders have a tremendous contribution to give to our people as we direct their paths in this regard.

I want to juxtapose this, Madam Deputy Speaker, for a moment - only juxtapose this - with what the Leader of the Opposition and the 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 the annual conference, of course, they are outside making all kinds of noises, making all kinds of gesticulations to the public of Barbados to pretend that the sky is falling. We have a job on this side, Madam. Sorry, Madam. We have a job on this side to stay focused and to do the work of this Barbados country, 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 that this morning we are ready to deal with any matter that the opposition wants to deal with. But they are not ready themselves. They cannot muster the numbers. They have no confidence in themselves.

And I believe that is the crux of the matter. The army leader, the opposition, does not have confidence in her members to come in here this morning and present that. So she's going to. The honourable member is going to pretend and spend the entire weekend painting all kinds of pictures that she would like to paint. Here comes the deputy leader, though. Yes, honourable.

AN HON. MEMBER: The point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker, the honourable member for Christ Church South is misleading the 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 in your confidence - a motion that was filed, was filed, was filed on Wednesday, Madam Deputy Speaker - that there would have to be a process which we go through that would have made it impossible for that matter to be dealt with today. And I say that, Madam Deputy Speaker, in this way because the honourable member was deliberately, deliberately trying to allude to that motion while appearing to be vague. And he should know better.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable member.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: No. Point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, don't let the honourable members try to push you around. I think you are doing a fine job. We want to compliment you, Madam Deputy Speaker, on the work you've done so far this morning. I'm sure you will continue this afternoon. The point being that if this thing that they speak to is so urgent, vexatious and calamitous - where are they? And where is this thing, whatever it is?

The honourable leader of the opposition - pro tempore, for now - 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. We are here the first day after that mouthing by the honourable leader of the opposition. And the honourable leader is not here. But that's not the point, because we'll have plenty of time. Whenever they come, we will have plenty of time to deal with the matter.

The point is that we are on a cultural path in Barbados which must be importantly joined by all parties. And most importantly, it must be joined by the government. And we have taken the lead, Madam Deputy Speaker, by introducing this bill for the support of this parliament. Indeed, Madam Deputy Speaker, you're well aware I represent a constituency that is very much joined by the activities of culture, by the activities of art, by the activities of tourism and by the activities of entertainment. And these are always issues which we have to deal with in managing the affairs of this constituency.

And 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. I don't want to attribute to the honourable member anything that she did not say, but I don't think she fully developed her position. I think that entertainers and entertainment centres - and she's closely connected to entertainment, I believe she's indeed closely connected to entertainment centres too, in Barbados - Madam Deputy Speaker, the point must be made that we cannot have it both ways. And entertainers and entertainment centres need to utilise - and I've made this point in St. Lawrence Gap all the time - they need to utilise modern technology so that the noise impact in the community is not the kind that has become very accustomed in many of these areas.

The truth is that a number of the operators in St. Lawrence are working towards that objective. Are working towards that objective. And I must say that in working with them, they're committed to the fact that they need to put in place walls that will keep the sound within the confines of their activity and indeed employ special technology by way of speakers, et cetera, and systems that will contain that noise and allow residents in these areas to continue to enjoy. I do not think it is fair to say to any resident that for Friday and Saturday you will have to bear noise - as much noise as we emanate between, say, 10 o'clock and 4 o'clock in the morning. Neither is it fair to a businessman to say that you should have to stop your operation at, say, 1:30, when in truth and in fact that is when you are likely to have your greatest patronage. So these are the kind of issues that can be answered 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 kind of operations, these kind of refinements are put in place.

What is equally important, Madam Deputy Speaker, is of course the incidence of vagrancy. And I use that term in the very broadest sense. And 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, of course, the dining. There are many, many dining institutions along the St. Lawrence Strip. And they're being threatened by the fact that our tourists are constantly badgered by this incidence of vagrancy. And 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. And I want to thank the honourable Attorney General and his team at the Royal Barbados Police Force because they have already started to work with us. They have already started to work with us, very pointedly, to make sure that this situation is wrestled to the ground once and for all. It is threatening the very bedrock of our livelihood in tourism in Barbados, and especially, sad to report, in the St. Lawrence Gap area. So we need to take all of these realities along with us.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the point about this bill is that it opens, as I said, a new opportunity for the entertainment sector in Barbados. The bill will establish, first of all, 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. And this is a very broad statement. And even in the schedules attached to the bill, we have attempted to indicate those areas of the business, those areas of the cultural business which will be immediately listed to attract special concessions by way of relief in taxation and other duties, et cetera.

The point must be made up front, of course. And I'm sure the honourable Minister made the point when he delivered 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. So I am comfortable that this bill will indeed start to open a new panacea of opportunities for all of our artists. And indeed, we had a large number of them in here, upwards of 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 government at work. And that is the important thing that we need to make very clear.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the bill also seeks the establishment of an authority and the composition and administration of the authority. And the authority, of

course, will be charged with promoting and 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 or cultural practitioners submitted to the Minister and the approvals granted in respect of those applications, determining the eligibility of cultural projects for funding, processing the applications for concessions and benefits to be derived under this Act. And it goes on and on.

I dwell on this for a moment, Madam Deputy Speaker, because it is important. There are many times when we establish these legal frameworks that the first cry we get from those for whom they are established to benefit is that there is too much paperwork, there is too much this, 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 authority and it's 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. And I think that this is something which we have to spend time dealing with. It is always a one-on-one issue. It is a personal issue sometimes that you have to manage through with the actual cultural practitioner, that you will have to conform to certain realities.

In business, there are many business people, and sadly it happens all the time, that we go into business and for some reason neglect a part of our business - be it our taxes, be it 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, we are in trouble. So we have to be prepared, Madam Deputy Speaker, as I'm saying, we have to be prepared as a nation to start to recognise that yes, it is wonderful to have our entertainment and enjoy our music, et cetera. But if we are going to move into the realm of management and industry and commerce, we also have to take with it a certain way of operating. That makes sense.

Truth be told, I think that a lot of our musicians are already very close to there. We've had the National Cultural Foundation now for many, many years. I don't know how many years exactly, but upwards of 20 years. I'm sure the National Cultural Foundation has - 53? Over 30 years, 40 years and more. 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. I want to at this juncture, Madam Deputy Speaker, congratulate the Minister and by extension congratulate the team at the National Cultural Foundation, the Ministry of Culture,

Family, Youth and Sport for what I thought was an excellently managed Crop Over season. An excellently managed Crop Over season. Maybe the crowds were not as big, but my reports are that everyone who participated enjoyed it fully. It was essentially incident free.

The Jouvert morning has now become one of the more popular events - Jouvert morning. Sorry, Jouvert. The honourable member for St. Thomas doesn't go to Jouvert morning. She doesn't go to Jouvert evening. I don't know what she's confusing me for. The point is we've had an almost incident-free Jouvert morning. I think that all the participants have enjoyed themselves.

The honourable member for St. Michael South Central 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 challenges. The honourable Minister made the point that Barbados has been looked at by the owners or the promoters of the Indian Film Festival as a likely venue at one time or other. These are wonderful ideas to entertain as they broaden the scope of our cultural embrace and allow us, Madam Deputy Speaker, 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's not that difficult. We are all aware of the smallness of the world. The fact that information - whether it be by letter or by art or by music or by sound or by picture - travels so fast across the Internet that in a flash we are aware of what's happening thousands and thousands of miles away. Everything today is at our fingertips and we are constantly in touch. And therefore we have to be like everybody else. We have to be ready to take full advantage of these great opportunities and 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 that our offerings are always at the modern best.

No institution, no operation can run of course without money. And the bill also seeks very clearly to outline the question of the Cultural Industries Development Fund. And this fund is described in some 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. But let me speak to all five parts smoothly, Madam Deputy Speaker, without having to be urged.

The resources of the fund shall consist of - and I refer to Part 4, paragraph 33(2) - the resources of the fund shall consist of: (a) any money transferred to the fund from the Arts and Sports Promotion Fund. I think that's about

where she started to get stuck. And then (b) any money voted by Parliament for the fund. She was then completely stuck, tyres flat and wheel broken. Part (c) of the fund states very clearly 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. So if she had reversed geared -

Oh yes, your member is now in reverse gear, Madam Deputy Speaker. So along with the money from the sports foundation which she said was all gone, and along with the money voted by parliament which he said they had none, we could get the fund could access money from the private sector. It could raise money as gifts, grants and donations and any other money received from such other sources as the minister may determine. And the honourable either the honourable minister of culture or the minister of the member for St. Paul, St. Michael Central, made the point that already there are many artists in Barbados, international artists in Barbados, donating to the cause of culture and to so many other important developmental causes in Barbados.

Madam Speaker, I got up because I felt that 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 that want to be given from Roebuck Street or occasionally from across 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 you a cultural industries bill. Take it, 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'm obliged to you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: And at the outset I want to remind the honourable members on the other side that government is a continuity and I'm happy to see that this bill has come to this honourable chamber and that we can all discuss, we can ventilate, we can do all the things that are necessary to ensure that business in Barbados continues to flourish and that Barbadians continue to benefit in a very meaningful way from the activities of this government, as had been the case in the past. So the reasons here outlined, ma'am, with the establishment of the regulatory framework, the funding for cultural projects and the duty free concessions and income tax benefits and so on are supported. The persons in the cultural industries

environment really deserve to get some measure of further attention as we continue to develop as a country.

I sought to look at the National Cultural Policy for Barbados of 2010 and I saw a very interesting statement at page 19, paragraph 15.2. And I'd like, please, with your permission, to read it, ma'am. 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 achievements, but for developing in our citizens the ability to solve problems and to be innovative in all areas of endeavour. And I think that 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 educations for so many decades.

I therefore want to encourage this government, as will be any other, to continue to focus on the development of culture in our society, not only at Crop Over or NIFCA during independence, but throughout the year. But I think it is more important that we focus on our schools. We know that 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. And of course, the way we are seeing homes and the whole family structure change or go through the changes where that extended family had lots of people, grandparents, and so on who will continue to give the oral 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 development we would receive at the feet of our foreparents. And I want schools to continue to play their roles. So the special day or the special week of activities, or a month for that matter, for recognition of our African ancestry has to be lauded and continues 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 tell children and let them see what we use for ironing our clothing at one point in time when there was no electricity, and what we used as 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's only now that we're into all these sedentary lifestyles and we are not losing the weight as we should, or we're not getting the adequate exercise to be able to continue to be as nimble as we would have been were we eating the yam pie and the breadfruit cuckoo and cornmeal pop and things of that nature. And 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. So I am in

favour of what is happening here and I know it's long overdue.

But I believe I should also laud those persons who have been the backbone, I would say, of our cultural activity in this society. So for so many years ago. I should like to seek your permission then, Madam Deputy Speaker, to call a few names like Alfred Pignal, the late Alfred Pagner, and Lester Vaughan, who would have been a choir master, a headmaster, and of course the man who beat the bottles that we're not even hearing about bottles anymore. Take a bottle that is empty and 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 Innocent's Primary School.

I would want to make mention of the Escorts. There 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 Clare, one of the most versatile entertainers I have ever met in my life, who can lift up a table. He can lift up the chair you're sitting in and hold it in his mouth and balance it. It's the kind of skill I've never seen any one person have. He could do fire eating and limbo dancing and even sing sweeter than a snow cone. The man is so versatile. He too, with his band, a group of young school children, really deserves to get an opportunity to further practise his art.

I can talk, Madam Deputy Speaker, about so many different persons today. We know of none other than the late Daphne Joseph-Hackett. We 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 their efforts in every aspect 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 same persons - these cultural practitioners who have been reliant on activities, funding and so on, as well as activities to sell their wares and to perform in order for them to survive. We know that there 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 other festivals. And so in order 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. And I believe that this Bill coming here this time, Madam Deputy Speaker, should be able to assist our entertainers in going forward again as long as proper funding is put in place to assist them. Where the funding will come from we do not know. But I would like to encourage the Honourable Minister of Finance and the

Honourable Minister of Tourism and indeed the Honourable Minister of Youth Affairs and Culture and so on, to get their heads together and let us get life back into the hands of those persons who helped make the culture, entertain 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 culture shows its capacity. And we could talk, Madam Deputy Speaker, about culture and sports. Where we know of Sir Garfield Sobers, 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 in sports and the kinds of funding and exposure this country has had. Lots of people spoke about Rihanna already and I'm not going to reinforce that - it is so well known. And we are proud of her as a woman who should be respected. And she has to respect herself. And I believe she's doing a good job at it. And therefore I would not really want to dwell on her.

I believe culture and life and health - culture and health. I know, Madam Deputy Speaker, when I talk about women, it will offend the Honourable Member for Christ Church South. I know it will. But I shall continue and not be sidetracked because our culture has taught our men to respect women. Give them a seat in the bus. Hold them and help them across the road, guide them across the road to safety, keep them on the inside of the gutter when you're walking with them, holding their hands, chatting with them, whatever. And therefore, I know it will ruffle his feathers, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I believe, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we're looking at culture and health, where the healthy lifestyles would come in. We're looking at the meals, we're looking at complementary medicine. So we know of culture and health. We know of culture and education, the ways 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, in religion, where our moral and value systems have been developed and, of course, have been 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 emanates from what we've been doing. We are conscious, Madam Deputy Speaker, of culture and tourism. And I'm sure that if tourism can come alive again - because for me, it's not on its deathbed - that it can enhance a lot of what is happening for our people in the cultural industries.

Much cultural 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're going to make it our own. And I believe that once we are in our homes and in our schools and other places of learning, place more emphasis on what is ours, what is Barbadian, and keep

reinforcing it, it will 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 would all have their backs open in halter tops. And so the biggest earrings, false hair on the head - that is not our culture. But, of course, style and fashion. And people will tell you, well, if you don't buy the hair business, people won't sell, and so on. And I'm not even going to go into that. The point is we should be able to hold on and nurture and develop what is ours. And 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, don't look poor - has always resonated with those of us in here of the age range of 50 and going forward, because we, most of us, if not all of us, came through as very poor people. But what bothers me most is that the failed policies and some programmes of this Government have 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've got their pride, they do not want to be pitied. They would rather want to work honestly in order for them to 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 off - many of them over the last five years are just languishing and do not know where exactly to turn.

I hope that we will 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'm saying. It has never happened before. Perhaps it happened in the 1930s, but it has never happened before in my time as a person, as an adult, for people to be coming and begging for food, for clothing, for money, for various aspects.

I wish that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy will stick to getting Barbadians some houses and let them stop having to pay rentals and run-down homes. Many have evictions from their homes. And so - leave me alone. That is not a part of our culture. Our ministers in Government, as part of our culture, from the time we had a ministerial government, have sat in the offices and looked after the interests of Barbadians. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy should leave me alone. Madam Deputy Speaker, I want houses for my people in St. Thomas. As the Honourable Member for St. Philip North wants houses in his. As the Honourable Member for St. Michael East needs

houses for his and so on. Too many houses are shut off. It's not a part of our culture to have spooky houses or little houses that people can't 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 Government, the Democratic Labour Party Government, is looking at building a society. There didn't seem to be any emphasis on building any economy. And I think it is unreasonable - I should better say unfortunate - that today we have lost both the society and economy under the management, the mismanagement, of a Democratic Labour Party that said that they're going to have equity, good governance, transparency, fairness and all the other things that go with it. And Barbadians are very, 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. We can say that. I will say that. And nobody can put words in my mouth. Because democracy is what our forefathers fought for in this Honourable Chamber and out there on the streets. And democracy must prevail for me. We teach our children: stand up for their rights, do the things that you know that 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 South was this morning. We thank God for his life and his health. I thank God for my own.

Nobody will stop me from speaking on behalf of the people of Barbados and not just St. Thomas, because all people are important. But in the interest of time - too many Barbadians have now become mendicant in the last five and a half years. The failed policies again. Loss of employment, fear of losing homes, loss of health, loss of families, loss of lives. The news this morning I heard about a woman barricading her house in St. Lucy - let the Honourable Member for St. Lucy deal with that - and threatening to turn on the gas, to destroy herself. That is not our Barbadian culture. A woman going on top of the car park at the Highways car park - that's not our culture. Women committing suicide is not a part of our culture. But it has a lot to do with the frustration and the hardship and the abuse that they are undergoing. And some of them reel under the pressure and therefore can't take it. That's not our culture. High taxes are impacting on them. There's general fear and loss of confidence.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Government that has mismanaged Barbados' affairs is clueless, arrogant, uncaring and visionless - for me. Clueless, arrogant, uncaring and visionless. And it is not doing any good to the people of Barbados who are upright, honest and want to be a 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 and 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 - of an amount of \$30, \$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, and so on, to be able to get proper treatment when we are ill. Should it be the Constituency Councils or the Sanitation Service Authority with that \$30 million that is now being taken away and garbage is thrown all over Barbados 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 - I go to St. John because I can go anywhere, as the Honourable Member for St. John can go anywhere and be welcome. And 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 Crossroads 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 \$15 million that is necessary to be able to go forward?

I allowed a young, bright 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. Her opportunity to shine because women must be in the forefront assisting other women and men and children. If the future of Barbados has to go forward, it can't be all men over there except for the Honourable Member for St.

John who is in the distinguished position there. But we need more women in this house, this honourable chamber, to help to carry the flag. Because women will do a better job than most of those men who are in this honourable chamber, especially the ones over there. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Tourism Minister saw the name. You will wake up now to make light better of the approach of offering her the opportunity. But I would have rather, ma'am, that the honourable minister had referred. And the thing is that he acts as the honourable Prime Minister. Act as the honourable Prime Minister with the honourable Prime Minister of Ireland. 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. Sir, I would rather the honourable minister make it his business

rather than to swipe and criticise on Grand Stand to be able to look at tourism. Mr. Acting Deputy Prime Minister, sometimes the honourable Minister of Tourism and give us a real good opportunity of understanding what is happening in tourism. The DLP found a good platform in 2008. All that is now left and all we have is a scaffold. Barbados are wheeling, ma'am, under what is happening. And I would have rather the honourable Minister in his hastily prepared press conference in August to talk about the 10 point plan, 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 get to go to the 7.4, 7.5 per cent VAT. The tourism people are crying out, the hoteliers and others. There is less revenue, high utility bills, fewer visitors, deterioration of the plant, disgruntled staff with less pay and high unemployment. We know it all, we see it all. Our 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 online with accommodation counterparts down from 17.5 to 7.5. What is the status through you, ma'am, from the Honourable Minister as to what is happening in tourism? The hoteliers are waiting. Actions speak louder than words and we want to hear because we know that tourism and culture are inextricably bound and there are persons out there waiting to be able to be properly engaged and not to be mendicant or not for their personal life 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 craftsmen of our faith. And I believe that that should go. And in the interest of time, I'm not going to read you two quotes from the National Strategic Plan, but I want to go a little further to say that the honourable minister in his presentation, I would say boasted because I found that he does a lot of boasting. He boasted of his visits overseas to be part of cultural festivals and so on about China and India and other places. The honourable Minister, I understand, went to China for a weekend festival. For me, a weekend festival is Friday, Saturday, Sunday. I wonder if the public of Barbados understands the thousands of dollars for a - what do you call the seat in the plane? - a first class seat and then a delegation. I want to find out from the minister how is it translated into the local matter? Say no. I thought technical people would have been the ones to go and to bring back information that we can so try to take what is best from the visit. But you know what? For the visit from China, I'm hearing on CBC that they're going to be showing a lot about CBC and its culture and so on. We have a lot of China in here ready. And for me now to have to sit at night if I can't afford STV and MCTV to be watching the Chinese with an umbrella spinning and gardens and what the Great Wall. And so that is not our culture. If that is what the Minister brought back, I am sorry, but it does not satisfy me, it does not satisfy members out there. If the

public Barbadians don't want to spend their weekend watching no Chinese activity.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: On a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. Yes, the honourable member is misleading the House and I get you to stand up. It is not unusual because it demonstrates that she is tall. Totally confused this honourable member in terms of the private sector. The allegation that I was asked to lead to Macau in China had nothing at all to do with the current project which CBC is partnering with the Republic of China. So the honourable member is mixing up two distinct projects. But it's not unusual. It is not unusual for the member who shadows culture to be confused.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Madam Deputy Speaker, let me ease from that then. If the Minister is so ruffled. The tenants at Temple Yard for the last three years plus have been without electricity and you know why? There was a fire and it destroyed. About seven or eight or nine of the shops have been there and I've seen them and they have been trying and to my no help at all. Over 20 businesses, ma'am, are at Temple Yard and those persons, those cultural practitioners are suffering and nobody is taking them on. They have been trying to get some private sector injection of funds. The light and power has been going and making the visits and so on. Again the estimates. But the folk in Temple Yard cannot stay beyond half past five any evening now because we know how nightfall is early at this time of the year. They too have their customers. They cook their food, they sit and they do their sculpting. They do all of their craft and they do excellent work at Temple Yard. But unfortunately, absolutely no help from this government that says they are DLP - Dear Loving People - the Rastafarians and others down there are people too, Madam Deputy Speaker, and they need urgent assistance so that some of the money can come out from whichever the areas that it is being spent that you can't see it to be able to help those people. If it is \$50 000, it will put those craftsmen on a path to be able to generate some 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 that they can ply their trade and encourage others to come in and shop. And I support them. When we look at Pelican Village, that is a ghost town, simply are not coming.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have three minutes left.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Yes, ma'am. Let me get the three minutes then to go back to the honourable minister who is responsible for culture and Youth affairs. And so because my young people in Rock Hall are still waiting for the youth mainstreaming programme. Two years now and none of them has had a chance to come. I am still waiting, ma'am, for the Rock Hall Freedom Village project that the

honourable minister in his ministry would have spent more than a million dollars to build six shops. That not a single fellow has had a chance in Rock Hall or the adjoining communities to open a shop, to say, let me ply my trade with the people coming from the west coast to be able to stop by a glass of lemonade, Mavi, golden apple juice, a fish cake, absolutely nothing. A big holding put up and the residents cannot even venture near there. If that is management and that is interesting, interesting cultural people, then I have a problem. I close. I close. Madam Deputy Speaker, excuse me, because I know of when the Ministry of Education, under Project Oasis, under the Youth Achieving Results, under the Checks Programme, under the Peace Programme, worked with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Youth Development Programme to go into communities and into schools. Tilt Walking, Top Band, Landship, all the Tumblers and so on. We have young men and women in Barbados who have gone to the heights as a result of the training they received in those programmes. I am not seeing it happening the way in communities that I expect because community centres were used by the Youth Development Programme to be able to train people in the villages where they live, in the pavilions, the centres, the schools. That is lacking, because that is where my interest in culture started, where the Ministry of the National Cultural Foundation is to say, send me one letter in the 1980s to say, I want you to be a community volunteer working with Peggy McGarry and Tony Thompson, Ella Lombe and those. And that is what sparked the festivals that we had in Barbados. Madam Deputy Speaker, we had festivals in every parish at one point in time. We had all kinds of activity. I could have been in Mother Sally, but I did not go on the Internet. There was nothing of any Internet in my time, ma'am, that anybody can advertise and people pay for me with pornography - is properly clothed and can really carry out the culture of the Barbadians that we know. 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 folk who have a lot of issues with the new board and how it will be managed and people on the board, as the minister said here about the individual who is managing the particular aspect of the programme, who is assisting law. We don't even nepotism in here. I think it is wrong. I think the honourable minister, he had a good platform when he found this bill in its preparation stage only to change the word and put in the word. Change the title and put in the word Barbados. I believe that this will help to develop this country and we need it at this time more than ever because people who have their skills, their innate abilities and ready for the creative sector are waiting for this government to give them some ease to make a tremendous difference in their lives and in the future of Barbados. I wish to thank you, ma'am.

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

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'll just be brief in my presentation, but I felt that this bill is so significant and so historic that I cannot let the opportunity pass without saying a few words. And in particular, Madam Deputy Speaker, given the fact that I have lived almost all of my life in St. Philip, if not all of my life in St. Philip, where we have had some outstanding exponents of various cultural activities, that I felt compelled. I remember one of my first significant memories would have been going to Princess Margaret Hall and listening to Sing Barbados, of which I believe the Mighty Gabby was part at the time. So this is about 1969 or 1970, and so impressed was I with the standard of singing and dancing, et cetera, that I've always continued having an interest in things Barbadian and in particular, things cultural. I don't pretend to know a lot about culture, but I have over the years interacted with many significant exponents of various platforms and in that regard, have more than a passing interest. In fact, over the last weekend I was in Miami and I had the opportunity to attend the Miami Carnival, where I saw blood at work. I had a good conversation with young Mikey Mercer, who I'm very, very impressed with his talent and his temperament and the kind of recognition that they had from the audience on the road and elsewhere suggests to me that things are well for 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 the tax and other concessions that will enable them to build sort of livelihoods, suggest that we are going in the right direction. And yes, there are some individuals that would have said that this bill has taken too long to arrive where it has. But even now, I can say to you, because as Attorney General, there are lots of persons who believe that the road towards legislation is to contact the AG's office. And various persons have contacted me. And the Ministry responsible for Culture will tell you that they've 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, being idle. It was a case where we want to incorporate as many views as possible. We want to bring as perfect a piece of legislation to this chamber as possible, notwithstanding the fact that we recognise that as time goes by that things may change, there may be different items that need to be exempted, maybe some items that become obsolete. But I am very, very happy that we are where we are today.

We, as I said, in St. Philip, if I'm allowed just to mention a few, as you know, we were the home of the Conquerors tent, the Conqueror's Comedians. My good friend Philip Sinthill was part of that group. In 1982, we brought Calypso down to town in the red plastic bag. I think I'm right in the dates - 1982, when we all came down

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. Needless to say, we cannot speak about culture before identifying our good friend from Bayfield, Matt Fingal, in his own style, whether it be singing or whether it be emceeing. Matt over the years has brought his own unique style. And we have young Alf, who's across from me, young Alf Padmore, who's the - now see that you know that there are opportunities for various aspects of emceeing in Barbados and internationally.

I remember in 1992 or 1993 being in the British Virgin Islands, and young Roland, who is no longer with us, who was a sound engineer - I don't remember his surname - Roland Stevens at the time, who 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's regrettable he's 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 for engineers. For example, sound management is a different craft in itself. Last year, whenever the last Rihanna show was here, I was amazed at the amount of equipment that had to be put up 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 our young people in that regard, and 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 member for St. Michael East, in his presentation earlier this morning, made the point that what we are saying to our young people is do not limit yourself to 280 000 people - that see the world as where you should be advertising your services. There's a young artist in Ruby Development whose name escapes me now, regrettably, who does animation, for example, and I remember having a conversation with her and she was very - I'm going to say angry, but I will say animated - because she felt that, in fact, that we weren't doing enough for art and artists. And I hope that after this bill is passed, because I shouldn't see any opposition to this bill being passed if they're buying from both sides, that in fact not only her, but young artists like that can see the opportunities where they are. So therefore this lends itself not only to my support, but I'm sure to the support of all of us here.

We would have seen the Haas series producing in St. Philip, mostly Chrissy, that no doubt everyone spoke about, again, had its genesis pretty close to my constituency office. And I know that the Wheats, who were centrally involved with these productions, that one of the things that they had and one of the greatest challenges was one of funding. And again, it is my hope, and it's our hope that

after the passage of this legislation, with the opportunities being provided and with the fund that we want to establish, that in fact producers like the Wheats will find it easier to find opportunities for their next projects, the next film projects, whatever they are. But I also want to use the opportunity to say to producers of films, that in fact they should see their projects as an investment opportunity, not only for themselves, but for Barbadians generally. So in other words, that they should be able to come to us, come to the public, and say, look, this is my project. I believe that it will cost \$500 000 to produce, but we can be assured that, in fact, that over the next couple of years you probably get 10 or 11 per cent return on your investment. In other words, share their opportunities with Barbadians on the whole, because I think that in particular there are tremendous opportunities for them to be successful and therefore funding should not be so much an issue as it has been in the past. In the past they've been forced to do a lot with very little, and we will do our part as a government to provide funding. I am sure that the private sector will see opportunities and there are always investment managers and houses out there who are interested in opportunities like this.

I do want to, however, link culture to my ministry, because just this morning I was at the prison and one of the things that we've been doing up there over the last couple of years, as you very well know, even before my time, is we've had a very vibrant art community and this has continued even to this day. But I was very heartened to hear this morning that in fact we should soon be having an exhibition by ex-offenders. And therefore what I'm saying is that we can not only teach them craft while they're with us, but we can work with them to show them that there are opportunities even after they leave us. And hopefully we have given them some tools to make a living. I have said, and I've said again to the prison management, that let us use culture, let us use art, let us use drama, let us use music, let us use all those tools - drumming - to help our young people who are with us. Because my information, my reading, would suggest that where you provide these opportunities, sometimes you unearth talents that even the individuals themselves didn't know they possessed because they were never exposed. And that is what's happened with lots of the young artists that have been discovered in prison because they never really took the time to sit down with a paintbrush, et cetera. But when offered the opportunity, they realised that they had significant talent. In my house, I'm very proud to say this, that in my house I have paintings from a very good friend and one of Dr. Esterbet's constituents - tremendous talent that he discovered whilst he was incarcerated. So there are opportunities there for us to use the art, use culture to assist in rehabilitation.

Again, one of my constituents in Long Bay Development recently invited me to a drumming session. They're using drumming to assist in meditation, to assist,

you know, in getting people in contact with their inner feelings. We're having more and more of that in the community. And if I can reach out to the minister responsible for culture, that in fact that's one area that we can do a bit more in all of our communities, having access to dance and music, et cetera. I know that the NCF has been doing some work. I know that they've had some challenges, but we need to find some creative way. Because I am saying that in my own constituency, where there have been drumming and dance and singing - one that comes to mind is one of my constituents called Jackie Braffitt, who's been doing a tremendous amount of work with young people in the constituency - that in fact we need to create more opportunities so that people can maximise their talents.

So I really wanted, as I said, Madam Deputy Speaker, to link my name to this historic occasion to signal that I believe, like my colleague, that the cultural industries provide Barbadians generally, but in particular our young people, with tremendous opportunities. And I want to encourage them to maximise their possibilities. Let us work together, work with government, work with the private sector to ensure that we can transform this industry significantly.

I just want to make one last point now that I remember it, because we all know that from time to time - and I'm sure that if artists who come into Barbados do it, I'm going to assume that artists from Barbados do it - I am told that artists who come into Barbados come in and say, let me have the rest of my money, preferably in cash. And I'm going to assume, therefore, that some of our artists do it. What I do believe, if that is the case, if I'm right in my feeling, is that in fact we also need to find a mechanism whereby these same artists who are paid usually in US dollars outside of Barbados can maintain their accounts in US dollars in Barbados, so that in fact they need not bother about being paid wherever they're paid, because they know that in fact they can receive all of their money in US dollars in Barbados and maintain their accounts. So that's one of the things that we need to look at to see whether or not we cannot relax our foreign exchange holdings, in particular for persons involved in the cultural industries. So with those few words, Madam Deputy Speaker, I fully support this bill.

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 Speaker, must be 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.

And you know, as we have seen throughout the debate, there is no fundamental political dividend on the need to bring before this Parliament a cultural industries bill by whatever name 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 are maybe 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 Deputy Speaker, you know, 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 that they came and found the foundation of this bill, the fundamentals of this bill, when they came to office in 2008. So whereas the Honourable Minister of Culture seeks to take the credit and as well give the credit to his predecessor on that side, 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 Cummings, Queen's Counsel in Barbados, Ms. Alexandra Cummings of the Barbados Museum, and others who put in tremendous work in formulating the draft of this bill. And 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.

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

And you know, Madam Deputy Speaker, the bill has been around so long, 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 purchases property transfer tax in section 39. Purchases property transfer tax was abolished ages ago by the BLP administration. But you know, it still appears in this Act. And that shows you that this is no new creation of people with any vision. Because as we know, this government has no vision, Madam Deputy Speaker. So the purchases property transfer tax - the government could not even see that that is something that has been abolished years ago. That obviously was there on the drawing table and in the draft because at the time it was drafted, we had purchases property transfer tax as part of the tax law of Barbados. So that is the standard of the other side and shows that they should not be taking credit for bringing this bill to

Parliament now, creating it, and are merely people who have taken up something that was only on the table when they came into office six years ago.

But like I said, Madam Deputy Speaker, we don't disagree on the fundamentals. The opposition has said that we would support the bill in principle. The debate has generally been one on which there has been agreement across the political lines. The contribution this morning by the Honourable Member for St. James South - you know, take it for what it's worth, Madam Deputy Speaker. I mean the Honourable Member, my good friend who I've known for over - for almost 40 years now, five years my junior at secondary school.

I mean, you could understand his triumphalism to see his main rival in the democratic Labour Party for future leadership of the party now on the right ropes and about to fall under the weight of public opinion. So we could understand his outburst and that triumphalism as shown this morning. But there is no divide on these issues. But still, as someone who has been practising law for 28, 29 years in this country, still I 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 Honourable Member for Christ Church South mentioned - and we agree - that a bill can be put perfect and you know it is always subject to future amendment. But still, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think I owe it to point out some differences.

We already spoke on the issue of property purchases, property transfer tax, which does not exist. Section 28 of the bill, Madam Deputy Speaker, 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. I mean, a political party - and again, there was no divide previously, there was no divide previously - on the issue of Barbados' leadership of the regional integration movement. I mean, the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, first and only Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation. The Right Excellent Errol Barrow, one of the founder members of CARIFTA and the movement. The Right Honourable Owen Arthur coming up at the forefront of CSME. The Right Honourable Lloyd Erskine Sandiford - in 1991, 1989 I think, 1989 - the Grand Anse Declaration. But now this Democratic Labour Party looking to just 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.

So I mean, section 28, Madam Deputy Speaker, in my opinion, offends the national treatment and non-discrimination provisions of the Revised Treaty and I would really and truly want to urge the Honourable Minister of Culture to look at that provision again - and you know 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 under the Revised Treaty are entitled to national treatment just as any Barbadian is. And so let it be, in my opinion, Madam Deputy Speaker. I mean, you yourself, Madam Speaker, did not originate from here, but I am making as good a contribution as any of those on the other side to the development of Barbados as well. And so let it be.

In addition to that, Madam Deputy Speaker, the facility of deduction of an allowance equal to 150 per cent of the actual expenditure also has to be given to CARICOM citizens and not only to residents of Barbados, if they come within the Barbados taxation provisions in section 15.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think the Minister of Culture ought also to be aware - I am sure he knows - that the Administrative Justice Act could come into play as regards such a section, that you cannot just refuse. Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member would be misleading the House. As far as I am aware, there is no Act in Barbados called the Administration of Justice Act. The Act is called the Administrative Justice Act. There is no Administration of Justice Act in Barbados.

You know, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and I studied law together. And if he seeks to make a point on something as trivial as he seeks to explain the meaning of temporary - 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 says - that would define - that if a Minister of Culture under section 15 refuses an application, you can take the government to court to give reasons for so doing. And it is noted that where the Minister suspends or revokes the licence 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. And we know, look, the least amount of litigation government is involved in, the better. They already have to pay one man 70-plus million dollars - I cannot find the money. You know, you now have to pay - you now have to pay - a lot of money in legal fees. So you know they have to be minded of these issues.

The issue, Madam Deputy Speaker, of the financing of the Cultural Industries Development Fund - Part six 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? And then what is the private sector? What is the definition of private sector, really and truly, if we are serious about the issue?

Well, the issue of establishing the copyrights and patents, trademarks, industrial design rights - the ownership of the project - what I am wondering, 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 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 rights over his ideas and his creations? Because after all, we know our country - we know that individuals come up with ideas and they take them before bodies, whether it is a bank or whatever other agency, government or non-governmental, they do not have the finance to advance the idea. And the next thing you hear is that somebody who has the money is 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 - as I believe we should, Madam Deputy Speaker - finance the ability of the individual to obtain intellectual property rights over it? Notice that in fact those rights are one of the rights that the Minister can ask an individual to provide and furnish to the Minister on application under section 13 of the Act.

Furthermore, Madam Deputy Speaker, will financial and technical assistance be given to applicants to formulate the required information under section 13? I mean we spoke about the bureaucracy. I think members on both sides are concerned about the bureaucracy in Barbados. The delay and too much red tape. And 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 you know, this has been the problem that a lot of people especially of all colour have found in this country. You don't have the finance or wherewithal. Now to put this in a marketing plan speaks towards financial and budgetary details associated with the proposed project to be advanced. Project feasibility study for forecasting the economic impact of the cultural project on the development of cultural industries in Barbados. Well, the government, Madam Deputy Speaker, 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. And we are asking simple applicants from Westbury and from Sion Hill and from the Whim without the wherewithal to present a project feasibility study for forecasting the economic impact of the cultural project on the development of

cultural industries in Barbados. We're looking to place people at a dead end.

So, ma'am, we are speaking, yes, about something that may be good on paper. But now the usual issue involves the implementation of the bill. All the central bank's experts and we have the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Minister, the other day, all the international agencies predicting that Barbados will be the only country in the western hemisphere over the next two years with a declining economy, and the government unable to forecast that 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. This government has featured - has featured - and six years plus 1991 to 1994.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, sir, 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 Honourable Members on this side, he can do that.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Madam Speaker, are you ruling on that one? Because it's not even worth the ruling.

If the Honourable Member for St. Lucy would listen 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 negative economic growth, ma'am. So, you know, I try to be practical, ma'am. The older I get, the more practical and realistic I get. And I just don't want to know that we have a law here, but my fellows from Road View or Westmoreland or Rotunda really can't access it. And it becomes something in the sky for them that doesn't touch the reality of their lives. And 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. And here we are seeking now to bring in legislation through the Parliament of this country with a proposition by the government to dismantle free tertiary education in Barbados by having students, Barbadian students, pay the tuition fee within the next year. So, you know, where does that lead us in terms now of really allowing the cultural talent of an individual to be developed when they now have to look for \$6 000 at least, and if they want to do law or medicine, Lord 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 the world stage

because we have as much talent in culture and as much intelligence as anyone else.

And how are we going to do that, Madam Deputy Speaker, when you have a Minister of Education who tells us that National Development Scholarships will be cut back - you'll only have about six of them now. I mean, last year you had 23, but going forward now, we're only going to have six. And National Development Scholarships - National Development Scholarships - one means by which individuals who want to go on and qualify in cultural development and in cultural industries would use one of the vehicles that they will use to become qualified academically.

So also of concern, Madam Deputy Speaker, has to be an issue that was raised as well by the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East in terms of the creation of a framework for individuals to develop their cultural talent without having to compete with government agencies such as the National Cultural Foundation, et cetera. And I really hope that going forward that we will allow people to fulfil their cultural talents and not at the expense of government agencies. Because, you know, we need to assist our people as much as possible. We need, Madam Deputy Speaker, the fellows in Upper Carlton who are crying out for an opportunity to have their artistic talent displayed. They need to be able to go and access the benefits of whatever legislation comes into place. And I really hope, Madam Speaker - and you know, I mean, a bill is created, legislation is created and we don't know what will happen in the future, who may be an individual who may be presiding over at ministerial level of this bill. But I would really hope that issues don't come into play in the implementation of the bill - that people look to see where people live or who the families support, and that the validity or the approval of an application is not predicated on whether somebody's political affiliation or who the brother is or the father. Because, you know, 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.

I have seen, Madam Deputy Speaker, just before this Parliament went on summer recess, \$130 million being voted for roads, not one red cent going towards any road in St. James North. And I have written the Ministry about 10 roads in St. James North to be repaired. The truth is that, Madam Deputy Speaker - and I give him credit - the Honourable Minister who is standing up for now.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes, Honourable Madam Speaker, the Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Honourable Member knows that after last month a road was paved in his constituency, unless he doesn't go into his constituency.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: So I would hope, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the people of St. James North are included, are included in this cultural bill and are able to access the benefits of this bill just like any resident or constituent of any seat now held by the Barbados Labour Party.

You know, the Barbados Labour Party, my party, in its manifesto spoke in the section at page 36 of the manifesto, which is the document of the House, on passing a Cultural and Creative Industries Bill which would allow artists and musicians taxation at the same rate as international business companies for any foreign exchange earned outside of Barbados. And this is important because as we have said, and I think we agree on both sides, that we want to see the development of cultural industries for export to earn foreign exchange for this country. And section 39(7) speaks about tax concessions on salaries or fees of individuals paid in foreign currency and speaks to a prescribed percentage. It doesn't define what this percentage is. And I don't know - I believe in certainty, Madam Speaker, and not leaving things to discretion. I don't know if the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Minister, whoever they may be in future - no, no, 60 per cent doesn't apply to that - whoever may be the Minister of Finance in the future will come and clear that up. We don't know, ma'am, because we don't even know about the municipal tax. We get the Minister of Finance in a budget saying it's one rate, the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce saying that rate is wrong, and then last week we get the Honourable Minister of Finance saying no, no, no, no, no, it's right. So we don't know. And that is symptomatic - that is symptomatic - of the government. But as I said, we believe in certainty. And this prescribed percentage without saying what the percentage is concerns me, ma'am.

You know, ma'am, we also 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 that there is no exclusivity or limit to what the definition of a cultural industry or cultural project ought to be. At least I hope so. And you know, I would hope, for example, that the young deaf gentleman who came to my house three Sundays ago seeking sponsorship for a cookbook of Barbados, for example, will be able to access this bill. I would hope that the vendors in Bridgetown, the Rastafarians, et cetera, selling their craft, who right now are being humbugged by this government - humbug - the vendors in Bridgetown, that this government would recognise the linkage of culture and will allow them the opportunity to earn a decent living.

I like the Honourable Attorney General. I mean, I have three paintings in my house from individuals who at the time were incarcerated. And I supported them by buying the paintings. And maybe, maybe if this

government had passed the bill earlier, they may not have been in prison at some other time because they would have been able to hopefully harness such bill and such incentives and realise that life is not without hope for them as it is under this present administration, and be able to demonstrate their talents. But you know, the other side, Madam Deputy Speaker, is speaking about creation of new industries. And this is one which, as I said, we all agree on the creation of. You know, even though I think the other side wants us to - wants to hand over the government to us, ma'am - even though they aren't saying that, because they talk about, tell us what you want, tell us what you would do. Really it is a concession, Madam Deputy Speaker, that they really don't know what to do to get us out of this junk economy and junk society that they are leading us into. You know, so they're telling us, throwing hands in the air, what are we to do. Come and tell us what are we to do, you know.

But we have spoken, ma'am, about the creation of other new industries besides culture. We have spoken about energy, which I don't believe that this government is serious about reducing the cost of electricity and energy. We've spoken about that long time, ma'am. We've been speaking about the development of an international arbitration centre, Barbados as an international arbitration centre, which potentially can bring in millions of dollars in foreign exchange into this country. You know, all of these are ways that a government can look to develop the economy of this country, but which is not being done at the present time.

But the fundamental issue, Madam Deputy Speaker, is also that, you know, it is all well and good to pass this legislation in here - Cultural Industries Bill - and it sounds good and you know, the minister and government roaring its trumpet after, because 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. But can we really, can we really now take full advantage of this legislative framework in the situation in which we now find ourselves? Because culture is also tied in with tourism and we have declining tourism, nine to 10 per cent this year. American Airlines closing down, lessening its flights, reducing its flights to Barbados. Every time you look around - I mean, I understand, I believe from January now, less flights coming from New York. But I read on the internet that the flights are increasing in St. Kitts though, and St. Lucia experiencing a 5.5 per cent growth rate in tourism, especially tourists out of the United States. So where are the tourists going to come from now to help us now develop this cultural industry and help the cultural practitioners - I believe they're defined as the practitioners, the cultural practitioners - now get the foreign exchange? Where are we getting it from? And how are those people with creative talents in St. James North and elsewhere in Barbados really going to feel comfortable? Because you

have to have a comfortable mindset now to be able to really fulfil your true potential. And how is that going to be done when if the mother or father gets sick to go to the QEH and there are no drugs there for them, the life support systems not functioning, and the Honourable Minister of Health telling you don't panic - like if don't panic is going to get you back.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have three minutes left.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Thank you, ma'am. Like if don't panic - the word - like if the word of the Honourable Minister of Health, don't panic, is gonna suddenly create a miracle and get the drugs dropping down from heaven like manna to save your life. And how are we fully going to have a comfortable mindset when as we speak there are only 17 trucks collecting garbage throughout the whole of Barbados - 300 000 people. How are we going to have a comfortable mindset when you know you have three children, poor woman, three children of university age, the one good at university, the not so fortunate.

Like the vast majority of members on the other side have had the benefit of free tertiary education, some with three degrees free from the university or the education, but now they got to pay tuition fees at 20 per cent. And you know, how are we going to feel comfortable when the reverse tax credit cut by 50 per cent. And then one of the worst of all, because persons with disabilities now who have no choice, nowhere to go. Because the other side will tell you that, ma'am, you go out and borrow the money from the student revolving loan fund, able-bodied work for it and pay it back. Someone now who is blind, who is deaf, who has the leg cut off because of diabetes. And the subsidy to the Barbados Council for the Disabled cut by 54 per cent. Honourable Member, I don't understand how that is relevant to the Cultural Industries Bill. You know. So how are we now going to develop our cultural talent? Our time is up with disabilities, ma'am, because persons with disabilities are people too, you know. Madam Deputy Speaker here may feel that people with disabilities - thank you, ma'am. I'm going to wrap up. Persons with disabilities don't have talent. A person with disabilities, ma'am, 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 draconically cut by 54 per cent by a government that seems not to care one iota for the vulnerable in this society. I'm obliged to you, Madam.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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.

One has to recognise, ma'am, that this bill has a significant impact in rural Barbados because it is rural Barbados that will have to drive this bill. And it is also the agency called Rural that will have to drive this bill if we are to maximise the benefits of this bill. And 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 we can create these areas between the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Rural to ensure that we create areas where these cultural activities will not only be in urban Barbados, but will also be in rural Barbados where you would not necessarily have to worry about the noise impact and so on.

Madam 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, we are interested in building manufacturing, and we are interested in building community tourism. And there's a link between this bill, the Cultural Industry Bill, and all of these activities. And there, I may say, is where rural now has to do the building out so that these activities can be right across Barbados, so that when you take a tour bus, they will not be simply going into rural Barbados for a drive, but there will be locations within rural Barbados where you have the necessary activities. And the tour buses will not be driving with their windows up, but they will be able to stop, sight-see and buy.

So one can now appreciate, ma'am, that whereas the honourable members on the other side can only see this bill as for the entertainment aspect of it, we can see this bill from the productive aspect of it and for the industries that it will be supporting.

Mr. Speaker, sometime in the 1990s, the Democratic Labour Party took a decision in the area of Chuckerhall where they had a plain field. And instead of allowing the previous government plans to continue where they were preparing 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 hue and cry by the Barbados Labour Party. When you go to Chuckerhall now, what you see is the football field where people play sports, where you see an exercise park where people exercise, a play park where the trail have the park. And on the opposite side you see an area now that is suitable for vending. So I am not surprised to hear the criticism of this bill because every time we do something productive, they do not have the foresight - they cannot see down the road. So they come in here and they criticise us because they're not fitting.

But that, Madam Deputy Speaker, if you go to Chuckerhall now today, ma'am, and you see what is happening to that same area that we were criticised for, you can now appreciate the foresight. I have also spoken to the Minister of Public Works about that same site area. Because the road that we left for them, they did not understand. And what they did, they built this road that can hold two sets of traffic, but yet still they diverted the traffic to make a 90-degree turn onto the main road when the traffic could easily have gone on the road that was built. And I'm saying to the Minister of Public Works, instead of putting traffic within the village, put the traffic on the road and keep the traffic away from the people. Keep the access away.

And Mr. Speaker, you know it hurts when we can be discussing a Cultural Industry Bill and somebody is telling us that instead of cutting the money from the hospital, how we cut the money from the hospital and give it to constituency council. Madam Deputy Speaker, I will prefer people to be healthy and exercising than to have to go into the hospital, and there's a big divide. We are trying to stop people from going into the hospital and they are hurting for people to go into the hospital, and they do not even understand that if you allow people to exercise, that will keep them away from the hospital. We are trying to keep people away from the hospital and they are asking for people to go into the hospital. This is the big divide. So when people exercise, there's no crime. It makes sense. It's healthy. I know the honourable member for St. Michael East could understand that point, but I know I would have lost it on the honourable member for St. Thomas.

Not only that, this bill - section 214 - it says that the payment on duties and taxes on inputs used for construction and function of a new building or renovation of a building, once it is used for the primary cultural activities, you do not have to pay these duties and taxes. Also, section 261 states that 100 per cent of the interest that you pay will be deductible on your claim.

I also hear about how long it took this bill to come to this House. Mr. Speaker, nobody buys a house with a foundation and when they go and test the foundation and the foundation is condemned - this bill when we came to it was of no use. The foundation was of no use. So we had to excavate the foundation and dig a solid foundation and build on it. So 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. Yes, I have to build on that.

We also recognise the hearts of the corp community policemen. And we even suggested another thing that the community policemen should be there to form a football tournament and to guide the football tournament. You know, they did not implement it, but you know what happened? They waited until they got the opposition and

then came with the football tournament for themselves when it could have been done under the police community tournament. The community police could have been organising those tournaments and it would have made more sense to get the community policemen to organise the football tournament because you would have been able, better able to control and you were able to get better results. Like how you have the Defence Force sports programme. You could have had a football tournament right across Barbados where the police force with those community policemen organised it. But instead of accepting the point and allowing it to happen, they hijacked the idea and kept it and turned it commercial.

Mrs. [Inaudible.] has no doubt that as the Minister has stated that we are not playing with culture. We have to understand the importance of Crop Over. And I know the Minister is looking at the possibility of sunset legislation and so on for Crop Over so that we can maximise the returns on our tourism. It does not make sense for us to get in here and argue for St. Lawrence Gap, Bridgetown, Baxter's Road. When we speak of tourism, we speak of tourism for the total Barbados. And that is why it is important for us as a party to continue to develop rural Barbados. Because it is rural Barbados that will create the majority of opportunities to push forward this economy and to create growth.

Because one thing that people cannot understand, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas will never understand why you will move a rural office from St. Peter serving three constituencies and put it in Bridgetown serving all 20 - where workers only take one bus. But I would not lose my time. The Honourable Member would not understand. Don't care. We explained that thing. I remember the thing. I am not a selfish minister. If I were a selfish minister, I would have kept the rural office in the north for myself. But I brought it to Bridgetown so that 20 constituencies could get one bus to get to it. And the Honourable Member is arguing. But then again, there goes the Honourable Member.

So I am saying, sir, that when one recognises you do not even understand the calculation, the rank - so you really need to keep quiet. Let me deal with this point. The other member would prefer the taxpayers of this country to pay six bus fares to get to the rural office than for the rural office to pay a little more rent. Yes, because the taxpayers will pay more money in bus fares than what the rural office is paying in additional rent. So you need to go and learn to calculate and do your math because it is quite obvious you cannot do the math.

So I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that this cultural bill needs to put some culture in the parliamentary representative of St. Thomas. I heard the Honourable Member speaking about rural not doing anything. But the

Honourable Member is free not only to own a house in St. Thomas and one in [Inaudible.], but she can pick up the paper today and buy one they lost in [Inaudible.] because they are advertising there too. You are worried about the houses. The houses are all booked out, all committed. What is the problem? I am speaking the issue because you are the issue.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please address the Chair.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Yes, Madam Deputy Speaker. And what would the Honourable Minister like to do? The Honourable Member always comes in here giving the impression that it is this government that frustrated the [Inaudible.] project. What the other side needs to do is stop encouraging people to frustrate the efforts of the government to complete that site by allowing one of their own supporters to demand more than what is needed when we are quite prepared to relocate. And remember, do not act as though the Honourable Member is a sentimental person - not to mislead 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 St. Peter in Speightstown and taken to Bridgetown when they were only paying \$7 000 per month for that facility - now to pay \$52 000 per month. That is why this government is where it is, in the quagmire of madness and poverty kicking in people's faces. Thank you for troubling me, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Honourable Member is misleading the House about the amount of money that was being paid in Speightstown. But now that the Honourable Member has brought the issue to the table, I will deal with it. Was it not the Democratic Labour Party government that paid the same people money for the building when they were at Porters? Because it was the Democratic Labour Party government that was in government that paid the same people money and then turned around and moved to Speightstown even though they had paid the same people - that they are complaining about now - money and had the money lying down. So if the Honourable Member wants to tell the truth in this House, let the Honourable Member come and tell the whole truth. Because when the Rural Development Commission moved from Porters under the Barbados Labour Party, they had already paid money - they had already paid money to the same landlords that we are now entertaining.

So what the Honourable Member for St. Thomas is asking us to do is to ignore the money that was paid by the Barbados Labour Party to the landlords and to waste the

taxpayers' money. So 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 waited on them. So now that I have explained, everybody tells me about all sorts of foolishness.

So I am saying, Madam Deputy Speaker, that this bill is so big that it frightened the other members on the other side - for a whole month or two they were all across Barbados telling the people that we did not have anything to do in Parliament and that we should not have been on summer recess. Madam Deputy Speaker, 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. And when you hear them you would believe that this is the first time that we are going on a summer recess. We have always gone on a summer recess but last year we did not go on one. So you know what it means - they believe that once they tell lies and their supporters stylise it and put it on the call-in programmes, that people will believe them. But they do not understand that we will prove to them that they are wrong.

On top of that, Madam Deputy Speaker, you know what is interesting? We came in here today to deal with the no-confidence motion. We were prepared to put aside the Cultural Industry Bill - don't care how important it is - to deal with that. And when we came in here we hardly found anybody to debate us on it. They would not even call it because we were prepared to deal with it. But you know why they have not dealt with it? Because they want to deal with it next Tuesday because they have a conference the following weekend and they want to live for their conference. And that is why they have not brought the no-confidence motion - so that they can get people to attend their conference. And they are trying to use this Parliament to allow that to happen.

So I am saying, sir, that this bill - I want to thank my comrade and friend for being able to go through what he found and being able to come up with something like this. Because 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. And that is what I want to say this evening. I am happy to be part of the Democratic Labour Party - the party that is prepared to do things. And you know what has the Barbados Labour Party frightened? They have recognised that over the years, this government - don't care how hard things are - has been able to deliver. And what is frightening them is that when they look at our capital programme that we are about to roll out, when they look to see that the things that they created and made a mess of that we are about to clean up, they are now fighting.

You would believe - I heard them in here today talking about [Inaudible.]. I could not believe that they had

the gall to speak on that, when they not only bastardised the project but benefited from the project. So I do not want to hear anything from them whatsoever. For the simple reason they should be ashamed to call the man's name. Imagine, they have starved the man of his money. They have starved the man of his money. Now I am hearing that we have many national heroes. But if he is a national hero, I want to make sure - you could call him [Inaudible.], you could call him everything, because that is how we all treated them.

But what I am saying, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that they should never come in here and call that name - never call that name - after treating one of their own the way they have treated that man. And they have got the gall to come in here and speak to it. They have no culture and should not be speaking of any cultural industries based on how they spoke and dealt with that gentleman. They should never even speak of culture given how they have treated that man. Because culture is a kind of community. That is where you build culture - within communities and within people. But they have never treated that gentleman the way he should be treated. And now they have got the gall.

I sat on this floor begging them to pay him. And they refused to pay the man even though they amended the National Housing 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 to some Chinese festival. The first time we heard about Chinese involvement, it was you all. So what culture are you talking about? What cultural divide are you talking about? We do not have anything against the Chinese, but behave - this is the first time you are hearing about Chinese involvement and it is now. So Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to say that I support this bill and I can say that this bill, the Cultural Industry Bill, is another of our economic moves to empower Barbadians and not the too few.

And that is the problem with them, because this bill goes to the heart of every Barbadian. They are vexed because they see this bill as an empowering bill where the rich, the poor, the middle class - everybody will benefit from it. And that is why I say, 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. But what we are building - and we will not be building areas using rural just for Crop Over or special events - 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, we will be able to combine vending of culture and everything. And we will be able to create special festivals to continue to drive the activities.

So I am saying that this bill - and people have to understand - my back is very broad. I take my lashes when they are ready to give them. People get vexed and get very angry with me. They say my hand is light because I wear things cheap. I hope your heart could be light and wearing things cheap. So Mr. Speaker, I am saying that the constituency councils also will have to push this bill and have to run with it because the constituency councils will be empowered by this Cultural Industry Bill. And I am saying that the chairman and the members of rural will have to ensure that they create the infrastructure to ensure that this Cultural Industry Bill has the necessary locations across rural Barbados. Because that is where our remit is. And I am quite sure that urban will do what they have to do to ensure that they create the enabling environment to obtain maximum benefit from this bill.

Because I can see this bill helping the masses of people in Barbados. And as I said before, once the sunset legislation comes, we can maximise the returns from our tourism. So 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 develop Barbados the right way and are able to attract people to travel right across Barbados and to get them to spend - this is the most important thing, to get people to spend. And I am saying that once we do the right things within rural and have this bill in our hand with the provisions, we will be able to increase the tourism spend and we will be able to increase community tourism right across rural Barbados. Because it is community tourism that will make the difference and it is rural Barbados 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.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended for 15 minutes until half past five this evening.

The question that the House be suspended for 15 minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Resumed. Just a minute. When the suspension was taken, we were about to commence private members' business and with that we shall begin. Just let me indicate to members that this session will be televised and members each has just half an hour to speak. Mr. Clerk.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESOLUTION - NO CONFIDENCE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Mr. CLERK: Yes. Item number three, supplementary order paper, in the name of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, to move the passing of a resolution that the House have no confidence in the Minister of Finance and that he be relieved of his portfolio.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, sir. Sir, before I come to the motion, to commence - I just want to clarify you have indicated 30 minutes and to confirm the right of reply that I will have on this matter. Thank you. Yes. Sir, we stand here today with the question before us that what shall each of us do to assure the success of this country which we love at this very difficult and perilous time of its development. Indeed, Sir, 30 of us have had placed in our hands the trust of our people and the willingness of our people to allow us to steer the ship of state, whether as government or whether as members of this legislature, having the right to participate in the discussions, the government clearly having the right and only right to decide on the actions which form the work of the executive. We have come to a point where this is perhaps unparalleled since independence in respect of the collapse of our economy that is upon us, not just the macroeconomic indicators but indeed the welfare of our households, the welfare of our businesses, and therefore the ability to be able to generate wealth and growth.

And why do I say so, Sir? Sir, we have had six straight years as a government of being unable to pay our monthly bills. A current account fiscal deficit for six straight years that is unparalleled in our history, both before and since independence. We have had, Sir, a situation where investment is down and every single productive sector is in decline. We have, Sir, a situation where the Government of Barbados, in addition to facing the largest ever deficit in this financial year, of about \$1.5 billion, and if we net out amortization just under a billion dollars, a billion dollars more in expenditure than we are earning in revenue even when we net out the loans that we will roll over. And on top of that, Sir, \$700 million in arrears, almost 20 per cent of government's annual expenditure is owed in arrears to businesses and people, not only in Barbados, but indeed internationally.

This evidence, Sir, has been largely given not by conversation and rumour, but if you look at it through the statements of the Minister of Finance in various budgetary speeches, through initiatives undertaken by government and through other matters that have come before this Honourable Parliament. And we, Sir, have determined that

we are at that juncture where if we fail to do the right things, we will not secure our way of life. The truth is, Sir, time is not on our side, and time will not be a healer.

This Minister of Finance has therefore been charged today, and I shall not read the motion again because of the limited nature of the time, with a number of issues relating to breaches of the law, incompetence, lack of confidence, failure, Sir, to exercise judgment, failure to deal with the issuance of policies without due care, and, Mr. Speaker, Sir, failure to heed advice all along the way, not just from the opposition and other players locally, but indeed from regional and international organisations. And on a course that can only be described as a collision course, he has carried this country. His is a tremendous power. And there is one thing that the Honourable Minister has control over. He may project revenue. He may seek to implement policies to trigger growth, although there is very little evidence of that. But he has power over the level of expenditure, and to the extent that the government of Barbados today not only faces a deficit of \$1.5 billion, \$1 billion net of amortization, but arrears of \$700 million is contrary to everything this country has stood for. And in that has led to a significant increase in debt held by this country.

Commentary locally, regionally and internationally confirms his own confession given in the budget that there is no confidence in the economy by domestic and foreign investors alike. And that lack of confidence has so conspired to preclude options for growth as well as to stem the bleeding. Barbados has a double date with destiny, Sir. We must be able to pay our bills as a government, and we, Sir, must have sufficient reserves to ensure the orderly functioning of this economy. And in both instances, the Minister has presided over failure and has not given the country any hope for the future. But more importantly, his actions are such that we are at a stage now where every single week counts. And every week that we defer decisions, and every week that we fail to act appropriately, and every week that we fail to take care and provide for those who are hurting the most, at a time when our social services are imploding, we therefore undermine the capacity of the entire country to pull together and to fight this very difficult battle that threatens our way of life.

We have a responsibility. But we must start first by looking at the record of the Minister of Finance. His responsibility for this ministry started in October 2010, and he has delivered four budgetary statements. He has had the conduct of the affairs of the Barbados economy over which it is expected that as Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs there would be an orderly development to one stem the bleeding and two take us back to a pathway of growth. But what has been the results? When the Minister of Finance took over the economy, our nominal GDP, our output, was at \$8.87 billion. It is now today, Sir, at \$8.4

billion, almost \$400 million less we are producing as a country since he has had responsibility. Sir, we have not grown. Indeed, Sir, it is fair to say that our economy is now the size of what it was almost 10 years ago in 2005.

He has presided, Sir, over deficits increasing in spite of telling this Honourable Chamber and the people of Barbados that it is unsustainable for us to continue spending more than we earn. And the revenue of government has collapsed year by year to as recent as this year when he purported to tell this Honourable Chamber that this House would see the raising of \$2.6 billion in revenue with no increase in output. And when we challenged him, Sir, he denied it only to present in a budget figures that would show that if we produce \$2.26 billion in revenue this year, almost more than \$350 million less than he expected to get, we would have done well.

He has presided, Sir, over a reduction in earnings from tourism of over \$300 million between 2010 and now. \$2.1 billion in 2010, \$1.8 billion at the end of last year. He has presided, Sir, over an increase of the NIS debt using the NIS as one of his primary financial instruments to finance the deficit. And indeed, Sir, over \$500 million in the last three years has been taken in an increase in the debt financing from the NIS. He has presided, Sir, in an increase of Barbados' debt by almost \$2 billion, 50 per cent of what it took us as a government, Sir, to raise in 14 years he has done in three short years. And Sir, what does he have to show for it? Declines in tourism, in circumstances where the players in the industry say it is an absence of - a failure one to have the appropriate fiscal incentives, two to place the appropriate marketing funds. And he, by his own admission, the Honourable Member, in his budgetary presentation, recognised this, and announced with great bravado that \$50 million U.S. dollars would be given to the tourism sector over 19 months and that this money was to come from an IDB loan, which, by the way, the country still has heard no more about. And which, Sir, was also to clear \$26 million in arrears owed by the Barbados Tourism Authority to every single person in the local and international markets.

Sir, he has presided over the demise of the sugar industry and those planters who had to wait more than 12 months for incentives announced for planting and other things announced to them in 2012, but only received it this year out of sync with when they needed it to be able to assure production in the sugar industry, have also lost confidence in him. Sir, the international business sector has lost confidence too, because in spite of many, many pronouncements, nothing has been done to secure the platform through funding of this sector and the combined actions of the Minister of Finance to make choices - because government is about choices - to make choices that would see arbitrary cuts to our social services, to make choices that would see a lack of funding to our major

growth sectors, to make choices to speak to this as if something was happening, knowing full well that he does not have the money in hand and that he continues to preside over increased expenditure, reduced revenue, and a failure to take action to be able to put the country in a position where the bleeding will stop and the reserves can improve.

But perhaps that is the greatest failing of all, Sir, that he could stand as Minister of Finance in this Honourable Chamber and admit in the budget that there had been a decline of \$300 million in this country's foreign reserves in three months and that it was as a result of a loss of confidence domestically and by domestic and foreign investors alike - was an indicator, Sir, that we were dealing with a Minister of Finance who did not understand his role and his responsibility to this country to maintain the stability and confidence necessary to take this economy and the people of Barbados out of purgatory as we face these difficult times. Sir, that is the equivalent of a man standing in the dock and saying guilty as charged.

And therefore, when I say, Sir, that this Minister is out of his depth, I say that with an understanding and an appreciation that what is required of him in this job, first and foremost, is judgment and judgment he has been lacking in, in order to be able to stand before this Chamber, this country and the world and concede that we had lost the confidence of the domestic economy, of the domestic investors. Only now to have it confirmed, Sir, by an ill-timed placement of a bond where the international markets confirmed the lack of confidence in Barbados' government paper and where we have been reduced to the indignity, Sir, of comments by players in the international capital markets like Gregory Fisher from Oppenheimer who asserted to the world that Jamaican bonds - a country that has been in the middle of economic difficulties for 40 years - are now preferable to that of Barbados bonds. Sir, I may report a document of the House because it does not read easily by any Barbadian to have to read that is the judgment of players in the international market.

Sir, it is understood that at this stage Barbados has little room for error. And therefore when a Minister of Finance announces budgetary proposals against the background that these are critical to stabilise this economy, we expect certainty, we expect clarity and we expect efficiency in implementation. And what happened after the 13th of August? A solid waste tax was introduced at a rate of 0.7 per cent and I referred to the budget, Sir, to the tables because for the first time ever, the budgetary initiatives were ad-libbed by the Minister of Finance and it is only our transcript of his words and not the reading of the document that we can rely upon today to bring clarity to what was proposed. In that table, Sir, the Minister of Finance told us it was going to raise \$49.3 million. For us only now to

learn that the expected yield of this measure, so onerous as it is, will be if people could pay \$173 million.

He announced the tax, Sir, without the requisite legal authority being invested in the Commissioner of Land Tax to collect it such that when the Commissioner of Land Tax seeks to collect it and people don't pay, there is nothing a single person in Barbados can do or can be affected by enforcement from the Commissioner of Land Tax. Similarly, Sir, he implemented and announced a temporary consolidation tax and we have learned since that it is to be collected by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, no requisite legal authority. And Sir, one would have thought that as Minister of Finance who served as personal assistant to the former Prime Minister Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, who in 1991, in an attempt to increase government's revenue, introduced a stabilisation tax. He would have learnt from then that tax could only be implemented with the requisite legal authority and hence Sir Lloyd would have shepherded through this Chamber a stabilisation tax which was temporary by nature and legislation which is now repealed to authorise the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to collect that tax.

But Barbadian businesses, Barbadian individuals, ran around worried not knowing what to pay, not knowing what constituted gross income, because what was announced in here was so bald and so bare that there could be no understanding of what the definition of gross income was. It is a term not defined in the Income Tax Act, and only to learn that it includes not just revenue, but in-kind gifts. So that if someone, Mr. Speaker, were to give you a cow or two turkeys for Christmas, you would have to be able to pay tax on a base that included all gifts according to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. The Commissioner of Inland Revenue made those statements to make it worse through an advertisement in the Barbados Advocate and then since then has been advertising on radio that there will be penalties for late payment and interest accruing. Now by what legal instrument can the Commissioner of Inland Revenue impose on any business or any taxpayer any penalty or any interest in the absence of the appropriate legal authority.

We accept, Sir, as the motion states, that Section three of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act allows the Minister's words to become law in a budgetary proposal. And even therefore the rate that the Minister announced - 2.5 per cent for income between \$100 000 to \$200 000 and 3.5 per cent for income over \$200 000 - even though the Commissioner now purports to reduce that rate, it cannot be done by an advertisement in a newspaper. And that perhaps says it all about what is wrong with this Minister and this government. You cannot be a lawmaker and a lawbreaker too.

But we learned that, Sir, earlier this year when we found out that the National Housing Corporation was receiving and had received \$45 million in subvention without it coming to Parliament either by way of a provision in the estimates or either by way of a loan approved by the Parliament of Barbados as required by the laws of Barbados. \$45 million not taken in, not being accounted for in a deficit that is already unacceptably high.

And the Minister of Finance can preside over that kind of money being released to a statutory authority without following the laws of the land. You cannot be a lawmaker and a lawbreaker too, sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have 10 minutes in which to conclude.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, sir. In relation to the uncertain climate and its failure to communicate, I don't know where the minister went, sir, after he delivered the budget in August, but it was as if he was in a different world. It was as if he was in a different world in relation to understanding what Barbadians were facing with the uncertainty over these budgetary measures. And Mr. Speaker, sir, in this matter, he said nothing and failed to communicate. When a country is in economic difficulty, sir, people want people to lead and hold their hands. If it is dark, you must hold their hands until their eyes can become accustomed to the dark. But Barbadian businesses and Barbadian households have been left like a lamb to the slaughter to face the environment.

And here you have the Minister of Commerce, otherwise known as the last man standing, speaking at will every week, like if you wind him up and he speaks. And what does he say? That the Minister of Finance made an error. But the Minister of Finance came back and slapped him down and said, error? Why didn't make any error? That was the correct amount. And people across Barbados who are pensioners who would otherwise get a 50 per cent rebate on land tax. People across Barbados who own hotels who would get a 50 per cent rebate have all now been left to face a burden of tax that will literally destroy some of them and feel that their properties are at stake.

But sir, as if that were not enough, this Minister continues to display a level of bravado and a level of propaganda and false hope. I know it is interesting, sir, that the Minister of Tourism this morning put them on the scene of the crime again. Because not only did we see an article on Saturday purporting to give 1 500 jobs for an investment when the takeover by Sandals of CazAriNa will not yield to any net increase in jobs but a saving of the jobs that would otherwise go. And two, that Aman Beach Village will not be able to be the site for any construction for nine to 12 months. So where are these 1 500 jobs coming from? But that twisting of language was repeated

again this morning with the announcement of these grand incentives for Sandals.

I hear the logic now, sir. The minister said, I want to thank the Minister of Finance for his role in this. But if that is the case, the Minister of Tourism has now indicted the Minister of Finance because you cannot impose, you cannot announce an initiative for new taxes for operation and food and beverage by using criteria that relates to investment when Sandals will be operating as a manager but will not be investing in building a hotel. The investment relates to the Government of Barbados and its companies. So how can you use criteria that is based on \$500 million or more to award an incentive for operations in food and beverage? That is the nonsense to which our tax policy has come to in this country, sir. And when I say incompetence, sir, I mean incompetence of the highest order.

And sir, why do Barbadians feel shame? The notion that Barbados will be the only country in the Americas, out of 35 countries, not to experience any growth. We hear every excuse last week when we came in here to deal with the failed bond. What was it that the U.S. government has shut down? Now, sir, when a minister of finance gives a ministerial statement, he has a duty to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. A minister never told us that the bond was undersubscribed at the date of closure on the 30th of September. The Minister never told us that the Government of Barbados had to extend for 24 hours. The Minister never told us that they withdrew because the undersubscription was still there and therefore the same face it was undersubscribed. But I will ask the Minister through you, sir, like the person on Facebook who said, Mr. Minister, the Government of the US is back open. When will Aruba come? Because the bond will raise \$500 million that is necessary for the government to pay wages, pay pensions and service debt.

Because all of the cuts have already come in goods and services. One-third of the buses of the Transport Board not working and you have not implemented the \$15 million cut yet. People can't get drugs at the hospital. \$20 million owed to the pharmaceutical companies and you have not implemented the cuts of \$24 million, which, by the way, Mr. Speaker, comes already on a reduction of over \$12 million from the year before. Cuts in welfare, as you will hear from other people in here. And what do they choose to support? This Minister of Finance puts politics first at every level. You know every minister of finance before took the time to read, took the time to master their subject. And indeed, sir, the article by Tennyson Joseph today is most instructive for the minister not just in his political conduct but in his conduct as Minister of Finance.

When a minister has responsibility for the welfare of people in this country, can you justify putting money in

football tournaments? Can you justify putting money in constituency councils? \$5 million when welfare votes are cut by more than \$2 million. Can you justify putting \$5 million in summer camps for catering? In circumstances where Barbadian children have gone to summer camps for years, but at a time, sir, when drugs cannot be paid for and when, sir, people cannot get to work on time and lose a day's pay because buses are not functioning to time. Can you, sir, justify a minister of finance with the level of bravado that we have seen displayed, where there is no sensitivity to the suffering of people, where there is no opportunity, sir, for people to say, the Cllico policyholders, year after year, they have been promised, and they now have come to the realisation that they may well get cents in the dollar and not a return of principle, as promised by this Prime Minister and the previous Prime Minister and the current Governor of the Central Bank.

Sir, he has gone missing in action. The Minister went missing in action after the budget. And would you believe, sir, that the Minister went to Washington for IMF and IDB meetings? That is where he wants to know the status of the IDB loan. Is there a stumbling block with the policy-based loan in relation to conditionalities? And was there not an indication that the IDB is urgently requesting or awaiting an independent macroeconomic assessment of the Barbados economy because this Minister along with the Governor of the Central Bank conspired not to have the IMF do the Article IV such that the international community and local investors would be able to get an independent assessment of the health of this economy only because an election was coming. All was well until February. The Minister of Bravado again, \$600 million stimulus became all of a sudden a \$429 million adjustment.

Sir, this is our country. And we, sir, have one life to live. And those of us who may now face retirement or not being able to be around for a return to growth or stability in this country ask of us the 30 in here, what are you doing to assure the success of my country? We have been lucky that those who went before us gave us a platform that Barbados could hold its head high. And all around the country yesterday it was Harold Russell. Everywhere you go people are asking what has happened to Barbados. And sir, all we get is government by pronouncement, politics first, bravado, incompetence in execution of measures, lack of clarity, breaches of the law.

And sir, I say to you, you know, it is nothing personal, you know, sir. But I ask you this question. At the very most critical time, will you send a man to negotiate for you when the people to whom he's going do not trust him? And when you have a gun at your head and therefore

no room for error, even if those on the other side like him, and that is a big if, would they send him at this time to be in charge of their destiny? When, sir, would you

imagine that when the minister was in Washington with the IDB and IMF meetings, the one bilateral meeting that takes place between the IMF and the Government of Barbados - having gone to Washington, paid for by the Government of Barbados - the Minister does not go to that meeting week before last and sends the Director of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank. Would you believe that in this country when the rest of us down here worrying, even the Nation newspaper sends up a journalist and in one single meeting - [Inaudible.]

He represents the embodiment of what this country stands for. And he has been found wanting - wanting in breaches of the law, wanting in competence, wanting in bravado and false hope, wanting, sir, and presiding over a reputation that has fallen, buttressed by numbers going in the wrong direction, but worse than that, buttressed by a suffering and a lack of hope on the part of Barbadian people. We say better can be done, even on that side. And I ask each and every one of us as 30 members to remember that we don't stand in here today for ourselves, just as Minister Sealy and Minister Sinckler, the member for St. Michael South Central and a member for North West will not spend the \$500 million in their name. It is the people's money. And we stand here as the people's representatives.

And we stand here knowing that Barbados is going to the next two to three months. We have already seen our reserves drop to an all-time low in 20 years since the Minister spoke about the decline of \$300 million. The free fall is still there. And I say to you, sir, that unless we stand up for our country now, and those who may not be in here have already shown the willingness to stand up by putting their signatures where it matters most. Unless we stand up for our country now, we may come to regard this as a defining moment where we can either stabilise and resume growth with a rescue mission or, sir, we will preside over the loss of a generation, the loss of a quality of life that has been the envy of people across the globe.

I ask, sir. I beseech each person in this House that it is not now what your country can do for you, but it is what you can do for your country by taking the decisions that are not motivated by pensions or job, but are motivated by the stability and need to rescue Barbados. I'm obliged.

AN HON. MEMBER: Second that, sir, and reserve my rights.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. Each Member has 30 minutes and I expect you to be guided by my directive. Thank you. Yes, I recognise the Honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that a motion of no confidence should lightly be brought against any minister of government because no

confidence motion is a very serious thing. You're actually expressing a complete loss, a total loss of confidence in a minister of government. But my colleagues here on this side will tell you that for a while now, I have been of the view that a motion of no confidence had to be brought against this particular minister of finance. And I said that, expressed in here, sir, a few months ago. For too long, the evidence has been mounting against this Minister of Finance. On behalf, sir, to register our protest against the destruction of our economy and of all these social entitlements that we have grown accustomed to, sir, over the years. So the rot that has set in has to stop. Sandy Rot has to stop now. When a Minister of Finance can, for whatever reason, but he gives, can expressly admit, as the Minister of Finance said in his budget this year, that there is a decline in the level of overall confidence in our economy by foreign and domestic investors alike, action has to be taken against that Minister of Finance, because that has really never happened before in this country. There has never been the issue of the loss of investor confidence in this country before, certainly not to the point where it has resulted in the loss of some \$300 million in foreign exchange reserves in a period of three months, as said expressly by this current Minister of Finance.

Whether a Minister of Finance can go through an entire election campaign in February, defending the government's macroeconomic programme, which he had been administering, sir, for about two and a half years, and then in August repeat the words of the Governor of the Central Bank, said a few weeks after the election, to the effect that the government's macroeconomic programme, quote, has gone off track and needs to be brought back into line with what the government believes is consistent with the objectives required for economic stability, sir, end of quote. So then action has to be taken against that Minister of Finance. So quite frankly, we cannot expect to see any turnaround of our fortunes with this Minister of Finance in position, sir. You just cannot have any confidence at all in anything that he says anymore. Sir, the longer that he stays in that position, the more unstable our economy is going to become, sir, and arguably, sir, the more unstable the entire society is going to become.

Sir, simple, little, straightforward things the minister cannot get done, or cannot get done right. Like setting, sir, the correct percentage to be applied in relation to the adjustment in land taxes. A pronouncement, sir, that even forced one of his own colleagues to come out in public and say that a mistake would have had to be made. Sir, if one of his own colleagues could come out in public, sir, and disrespect him to that extent, sir, why on earth should we or anybody else in Barbados have any reason to show him any respect, sir?

Some things, sir - in fact, most things - the minister simply can't get done at all. Or if he gets them done, sir, he

gets them done in his own time. Sir, like, sir, with all the enthusiasm about Alternative and Renewable Energy. The Minister indicated in June of 2012 that by August of 2012 last year, the necessary amendments to the Electricity Act were going to be brought to this Chamber, sir, to give effect to all these high-sounding policies in relation to Alternative Energy. We were to have been here, sir, by August 2012. Sir, in fact, those amendments only got here in October - October of 2013. I know that they have gotten here, sir. They are attracting the ire, sir, and negative comment of almost every relevant stakeholder in the industry, sir.

Sir, assurances by the minister that a super marine yacht - a super yacht marina, sir - with some 80 berths, will have started in January 2012, and the multiplicity of assurances by the Minister of Finance in relation to start-up dates for the Four Seasons Project have turned out, sir, to be realities in the mind of the Minister of Finance only. Sir, so far from new investment taking place in this country, sir, businesses are going under every day and people are losing their jobs. Sir, we have to ask, what level of confidence can we place in anything that this minister says?

Sir, this is a minister who said to this Chamber on November 22, 2010 that value added tax was going to be increased from 15 per cent to 17.5 per cent. And on that occasion, sir, the minister expressly said, sir, and I quote, this increase is intended as a temporary measure for the next 18 months, end of quote, sir. Today, some three years later, VAT is still 17.5 per cent. Sir, something that has resulted in an astronomical increase in the cost of living, sir, on the backs of people in this country, which the government came into office pledging that it was going to be their priority, sir, numbers one, two and three, sir. The Minister of Finance's announcement that the value-added tax was going to be reduced in relation to all the tourism ancillary services, sir, has still not been brought into effect because the minister can only talk the talk, sir, but he cannot walk the walk.

So, but there are more serious and fundamentally flawed and unintelligible and incomprehensible things, sir, that the minister has done and is doing. So I must resort at this stage to the issue of Almond Beach Resorts, sir, because the minister, with the intention of trying to deflect attention away from this budget, from this motion of no confidence today, sir, appeared front page in newspapers on Saturday with a statement about Sandals Resort. And even the Minister of Tourism today decided, sir, again to deflect from this, sir, to make a statement in relation to the said project, sir. Sir, but quite frankly, anything said by this Minister of Finance in relation to the Almond Beach Project should be by way of apology, not acclamation. Sir, because the way the minister has handled this issue, sir, from the beginning, sir, even if he had no other issues at all to deal with, sir, warrants himself being removed from the

Ministry of Finance forthwith. And that's a fact, Mr. Speaker.

The minister showed his total incompetence and immaturity some 18 months ago, when Neelon Massey, the owner of three hotel properties in Barbados, with the largest room stock in Barbados, with perhaps a thousand employees across the board, sir, across the country, sent out an SOS to the minister for assistance because of the difficulties that it was having, sir. It was seeking assistance to ensure the survival of three hotels with the largest room stock and a very, very large number of jobs. The minister turned his back on providing any assistance at all to that entity that called for assistance. Although some little while before, the said Minister of Finance had brought to this Chamber a guarantee in relation to a \$120 million loan - a government guarantee - from a competitor of Neelon Massey, sir, to guarantee a loan from that entity to ensure that a number of private sector entities were paid by another member of the private sector. The minister had no bones about doing that, although as it turned out, he didn't heed our advice when he brought it. And that guarantee has been called. So that Barbadians now have been saddled with a \$120 million debt to repay. And the minister is definitely silent on this.

But having done that a couple of months before, the minister said no. And that project that the minister brought the \$60 million US dollar guarantee in relation to was a project in the ground, in the ground, sir, with no immediate indication that there would be direct economic benefit to Barbados in the medium or short term. It was a project, sir, in the ground. And Neelon Massey sent out an SOS, asked for assistance from the minister in relation to a project that was in existence, operational, with the largest room stock and providing a large number of jobs. And the minister said then no, that he was not providing any assistance. But having said then that he was providing no assistance, he now comes, sir, 18 months after the fact, to now decide - after 600 people have gone home - that he is now going to get into some arrangement, sir, with an entity in relation to this project.

So this has to be examined in greater detail because the question has to be answered. The total cost upfront now is \$106 million - that is what has been disclosed prior to the Minister of Tourism speaking today. Of that \$106 million, of course no more should be paid for it than at least 30 per cent less than that, as the record shows. But there is a \$6 million component, sir, for the Aman brand. \$6 million, sir, for the Aman brand. Now it is established that work is going to begin on the site at most in nine months' time, sir. It is going to be under some lease arrangement with the government, which does not at this time own the property, but is putting into an agreement as if it is the owner. There is going to be a lease agreement under which Aman is going to operate the property. So what is the Aman brand

being bought for at this time, sir? The Aman brand has been allowed to go into oblivion by this government, by the Minister of Finance. The place is completely run down. So what on earth is an Aman brand being bought now for \$6 million, sir? Sir, there is something fishy. There is something very fishy about this, sir. And the question, sir, is who is benefiting or who is going to be benefiting from the purchase of this Aman brand, sir, for \$6 million. Who are the winners going to be in all this, sir? For sure they will not be the people in St. Michael North who used to work there, but now are on the breadline, sir, and cannot put food on the table for themselves and their children. Why is a government seeking to resurrect a brand, sir, that after nine months at most will not exist anymore, and paying, sir, the whopping sum of \$6 million, sir?

The next issue is this. After spending now \$106 million on it, plus interest at 5 per cent on at least half, sir, we have just heard from the Minister of Tourism that the government is now going to be injecting a further \$500 million into this project. Now that is \$606 million to be spent now, when a response to an SOS, sir, and an injection, sir, of maybe less than one-tenth of that could have kept an entity with a known brand name in the market with 600 jobs, sir, and the largest room stock in this country, sir. That's a fact. So the government is now going on to inject another \$500 million, sir, into this property for Sandals to operate. Well, sir, Sandals has it all. And I would not blame any investor for taking advantage of an incompetent government. I would not blame him, sir. But it reminds me, sir, of a song that the Mighty Sparrow used to sing - something about Gene and Dana. Well, if you catch them broken, you can get it all for nothing. And clearly, sir, the government now is a broken government. It is a broken government and has to take, sir, what it gets. So Sandals got them broken so they can get it all for nothing. The government is going to now spend \$106 million and then another \$500 million to hand it over to Sandals to operate, sir.

Sir, and then on top of that now, the arrangement, sir, granting these concessions in relation to food and beverage, sir. So now I would really want to hear the member for St. Michael Central on this, because when you are going to give an entity of this size concessions in relation to the issue of food and beverage, which they are going to import substantially in massive amounts, what is going to happen to the local distributive trade and to the Ministry of Agriculture? It is going to put a number of other players who are not getting any concessions at a significant competitive disadvantage, sir, in relation to this particular entity. Sir. But that is the way, sir. That is the way that the Minister of Finance operates.

So I want to ask as well, sir, what has happened in relation to Couples? Because it is a new story every day. Every minute you are hearing a different story in relation to

Couples leaving, and it is time, sir, we get a true statement on that, sir. And we also want to know if that has anything to do, sir, with the issue of operating costs in Barbados in the industry, and why has the minister not taken any action to ensure that the cost of operation in the tourism industry, sir, is in fact such as to attract investment, sir, to this country.

Sir, but the other issue, sir, that I want to touch on is the \$50 million US loan that the minister spoke about during the course of his budgetary presentation, which was to have been supplied to the Barbados Tourism Authority for marketing and promotional support and to pay off debt. Now, sir, the fact is, sir, that as we speak today, no such funds, sir - not one cent of this \$50 million US dollars mentioned by the Minister of Finance - has been forwarded to the Barbados Tourism Authority for the purposes of assisting the Barbados Tourism Authority to market or promote, sir, or to pay any debt, sir. So in fact, sir, no progress - I can say, sir, that no progress has been made in those negotiations, sir. But the result is now that the BTA's debts in the marketplace still remain outstanding and Barbados' good name that we are accustomed to in relation to the payment of our debt, sir, is now in the mud.

Sir, and we have to answer what is the reason for this slow, sir, or in fact the stalled pace of negotiations in relation to this IDB loan, sir. Is it because of special conditions? Is it because of special conditions that the IDB is attaching to giving this government any money, sir? And is that, sir, not all again traceable to the incompetence of the Minister of Finance, sir, and the complete mismanagement of the economy and the misplaced priorities, sir, of this Minister of Finance, sir. But his incompetence goes further than that.

Because, Sir, the Minister of Finance has starved the Barbados Tourism Authority, Sir, of needed funds. He starved them of needed funds, Sir, to the point where not only does that, as I mentioned before, but the BTA also cannot even pay the airlines to service our routes now. They can't pay them. You know that this minister in his wisdom entered into a number of lucrative revenue guarantee agreements with a number of airlines under which they have to be paid for bringing people here. That was the agreement, and now the BTA has been starved of funds to do anything at all, so they can't pay the airlines the money that they owe them under these revenue guarantee agreements.

So that is one of the reasons, Sir, not the only reason admittedly, that we are now seeing that in two months' time there is going to be a cessation of service by American Airlines out of the New York area. And we will be down, Sir, to one direct service to Barbados from New York from January 15th, Sir, because the Minister of Finance, incompetent as he is, Sir, mixes up all of his priorities. So

you have New York, a major gateway, massive connectivity to all the countries in the world, Sir, and we are now in two months' time, Sir, going to be seeing the cessation of direct services, Sir, out of that market. No, Sir, enough is enough. Enough, Sir, is enough.

On top of it all, Sir, the Minister of Finance has the unique distinction of presiding over two major downgrades of this economy, Sir, to junk. There have been downgrades before. Everybody knows that on both of our administrations. But this minister has the distinction of presiding over not one, but two, and to junk. Sir, enough is enough, Sir.

We, Sir - it is Barbados' relative performance that makes it untenable for the member for St. Michael North West to remain Minister of Finance, Sir. It is all relative performance. So we are now the second worst performing destination, Sir, in tourism in the region. We are second worst, Sir, as of October 9th. So now we are probably going to slip back shortly to being the worst. We are the worst, Sir, for the last several publications of the assessor by the Caribbean Tourism Authority.

So the last time I made a statement that we were last, the Minister of Finance said I was making a misleading statement because - and he rather forgot - he said because at that time, Sir, some 264 493 long-stay tourists had come to Barbados up to July, Sir, when they made the declaration that we were last, and that was numerically more than other countries, Sir. But having been slipped a note by the Minister of Tourism - and he must always be wary of taking notes from the Minister of Tourism, as I exposed in this House before, Sir, in relation to a document he brought from the Caribbean Tourism Authority, Sir - having been slipped that note, the Minister of Finance said that I was incorrect in saying Barbados was last, because there were 264 493 tourists, Sir, without going on to say, as any responsible Minister of Finance should have, Sir, that that represented a 6.7 per cent decline in arrivals to Barbados, Sir, which was the highest level of decline of any country in the entire region, Sir.

And, Sir, which pronouncement, Sir, further exposed his incompetence as a Minister of Finance and explains why, with that thinking and that mindset, our tourism, Sir, is destined to stay at the bottom, Sir, for a very long time to come. Because if you can't understand and appreciate that you have a problem, how on earth are you going to even try to fix it? So we are at the bottom, and the minister wants to convince himself that we are not at the bottom, Sir, in percentage terms, Sir, when we are at the bottom, Sir.

We are now performing at the same level as we were, Sir, in 1998, 15 years ago. We are approaching the bottom half of the list now in relation to our arrivals from the United Kingdom - we used to be at the top. We are now

approaching the bottom half. We are fifth from the bottom in terms of our arrivals from Canada. We are second from the bottom in terms of our arrivals, Sir, from the United States. And this is speaking, Sir, in percentage terms, Sir. And all we have in response to all of this, Sir, is the Minister of Finance, clueless as to what to do, Sir, but robust in incantation after incantation of things, Sir, that will happen, will happen, will happen, Sir. But nothing, in fact, positive, Sir, happens for this country under this Minister of Finance, Sir.

Sir, people in this country are suffering. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sir, is starved of funds, so vital supplies, Sir, are not there. Poor people soon will have to pay to send their children to get an education at the University of the West Indies. Last year, Sir, saw a 20 per cent increase in food vouchers dispersed by the Welfare Department to poor people in this country, Sir - a 20 per cent increase on the year before. People's reverse tax credit, Sir, cut in half. Taxes going up. Violent crime, Sir, in this country is out of hand, Sir, and rising every day. You turn your radio on every day, Sir, to hear who else has been shot or killed by some other means, Sir. Sir, enough is enough, Sir.

And I will conclude, Sir. The minister recently referenced, Sir, the book of Ecclesiastes. He said, for everything, Sir, there is a season. So I will serve just reference that, Sir - use that same book, Sir, adopting it slightly, but using the same sort of thing, Sir. For everything, Sir, there is a season. So there is a time to come and there is a time to go. It is time for this Minister of Finance to go. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes?

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to intervene in this debate in support of the motion which is before this Parliament. On the 14th of August this year, during my contribution to the debate on the financial statements and budgetary proposals, I called on the Minister of Finance to resign, failing which he should be dismissed by the Prime Minister of this country. After his statement on the previous day, presenting the financial statements and budget, I was satisfied that he was incompetent, that he was not fit to be Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of this country. Today, Mr. Speaker, 10 weeks after that date, I am even more so convinced that the Minister of Finance of this country is totally incompetent, totally unfit for the job, and is a disaster to this country. He is easily, sir, the most incompetent Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs that this country has ever had.

This country has had Ministers of Finance and Economic Affairs of the calibre of the Right Excellent Errol Barrow and Tom Adams and the Right Honourable

O.N.C. Moharar. And when we look at the Minister of Finance, the current one, sir, he cannot even tie the shoelaces of any of those individuals. I said this is nothing personal, sir, that I have against the Minister of Finance. He may very well have grown to be one of our more accomplished ministers of foreign trade if he had been left in that position in which he was first appointed after the 2008 elections. He is trained in that area, foreign trade policy, and he may very well have done well rather than be shifted three years ago into a position in which he is not suited. It is unfair to him, sir. And really and truly, the people of St. James North have instructed me to come today to say that they have absolutely no confidence in him and that enough is enough and that it is time for him to leave.

Minister of Finance himself, Mr. Speaker, in his budget presentation at page 26 admitted that he has presided over a decline in the level of overall confidence in our economy by foreign and domestic investors alike. And that lack of confidence, that decline in confidence, has resulted in the loss of over \$300 million in foreign reserves in the second quarter of this year. Now, sir, the foreign reserves and the economy were declining all through from two years ago, last year especially, leading up to the elections. But the country was told that all was well. Suddenly now, after the election in February, we get an admission of a decline in the economic fortunes of Barbados. We told the country, sir, that the decline had started long time ago. The Democratic Labour Party won the election by a nose tip. Suddenly we get confessions. Suddenly, sir, we get the position that unless we arrest that decline in foreign reserves, the Barbados economy will face catastrophe by the end of the year.

Sir, there is a lack of confidence by investors not only in the economy of Barbados but in the Minister of Finance himself. And that lack of confidence is well merited. To begin with, sir, in politics, as in life for anyone in a serious and responsible and significant position of authority, your word should be your bond. Your word should be your bond, because not only 300 000 people in Barbados are depending on the word of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, but thousands of people outside of Barbados. Hundreds of people in an international community, financial and international business sector, an international financial sector depend on the word of two people, sir, especially the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs.

And what is the position of the Minister of Finance on this issue, sir? Some may wish to dismiss his position on the Economic Partnership Agreement, as is mentioned in the newspaper today, as my Honourable Leader referred to, where he changed his position before 2008. He criticised it tremendously, but after becoming the Minister of Foreign Trade, of which I spoke, he praised it. Some

may say that was political posturing. And let us say that it was. But now let us examine his words on CLICO policyholders. Where for over two years, three years, he has been promising them repayment of at least their principal monies. They have not been paid one single cent up to today. And when the head of the policyholders committee speaks out, merely seeking to get her return on investment and that of her fellow policyholders, she is cursed in the most abusive way. That kind of language from a Minister of Finance really should have and ought to have no place on the political landscape of this country.

We speak, sir, on the Four Seasons issue - the Four Seasons issue where for years again we have been told at various intervals by the Minister that Four Seasons will reopen, that a gold mine will be open, that people in Barbados, in St. James North, will get jobs at Four Seasons. Up to now Four Seasons has not reopened. Up to today Four Seasons has not reopened. We speak, sir, of the debt owed by the government to people in the private sector - \$50 million it was said to be towards the end of last year - and the Minister of Finance saying that you will be paid in a few weeks' time, and people depending on that in structuring their businesses and in structuring their daily lives, being responsible as well for the employment of many Barbadians. Up to now we have heard no word about the repayment of this multi-million dollar debt to the people in the private sector after a promise to repay. And those people saying that they have no choice therefore but to lay off people, which they have done on a daily basis in this country since the elections. On a daily basis in this country, sir, people have been laid off throughout Barbados, such that unemployment now is fast moving to where it was in September 1994 when the Barbados Labour Party under the Right Honourable Owen S. Arthur took over office.

The member for St. Peter, Mr. Speaker - local businesses not only sending home their employees, making them redundant, but closing down as well. Their life investment, their heart and soul for the last few years, come to naught at the hands of an incompetent Minister of Finance who has totally mismanaged this country. We speak, sir, of the Al-Barrack judgment - \$70 million plus, with interest increasing by the thousands every day - being told by the Minister of Finance publicly that Barrett will be paid soon, making that statement publicly, and up to now not having received one single cent since he has been Minister of Finance. We speak, Mr. Speaker, of the announcement during the Estimates Debate in March of a \$600 million stimulus package, which was to commence almost immediately, with construction starting within two weeks' time at the Bridgetown Pierhead Marina and housing projects at Exmouth and elsewhere. All of that was to start and a thousand jobs were to be created, such that people in St. James North would finally be able to get some jobs. Nothing done. No word. Now you do not even hear

mention, sir, of this \$600 million stimulus package, as adjustment had to be made in July–August when we were finally told about the large deficit which the country has. A thousand jobs gone through the ether.

And sir, you know, we heard a statement in here today - smoke and mirrors - from the Honourable Minister of Tourism about Sandals purchasing Amman and the Minister of Finance and Minister of Tourism speaking about 1 500 jobs to be created. Is that a figment of the fertile imagination of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs? Because Amman in St. Peter, when it closed, was only employing 500 people. I would love, sir, that Amman would open tomorrow, because most of the people who lost jobs from Amman in St. Peter were from St. James. No, sir, I would love it to open tomorrow. But to tell me, sir, that there will be no jobs until 12 months from now - that is when construction will start - gives no hope to anyone in Weston, no hope to anyone in Sion Hill, Rock Dunder, or Aston Hall, or in any part of Barbados. People want relief today as they are laid off from their jobs. And we have heard too many promises, pies in the sky, from the Honourable Minister to trust his word anymore as representatives of the people.

We need, sir, the Minister of Finance to explain why on the 13th of August he announced the dismantlement of free tertiary education in this country to save \$45 million. The young Barbadians and other Barbadians will now have to pay tuition fees representing 20 per cent of the cost of their education at the University of the West Indies. And this, sir, this, sir, is a knife in the back of Barbadians. It is an insult to the founding father of the Democratic Labour Party, the Right Excellent Errol Barrow, who fought for this and whose vision it was, primarily, that this was brought in. And we talk about a Minister of Finance and we want to show confidence in him. The Barbados government now owes the University of the West Indies \$200 million. When the Democratic Labour Party came into office in January 2008, the Barbados Labour Party had actually paid a surplus in monies due under its agreement with the University of the West Indies. \$200 million - that is what the Minister of Finance has presided over: a \$200 million debt to the University of the West Indies.

Barbados used to stand proud among countries and nations in this world as a country that used to pay its debts, used to pay its dues to all the international organisations it belonged to, used to tell other countries - big countries - no, you do not have to pay our dues; if we cannot pay the dues, we do not deserve to be members of the club. And we now stand in shame - as members of Parliament ought to stand in shame, members of Parliament on the other side - that Barbados now owes the University of the West Indies \$200 million, presided over by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Young Barbadians now will not have the opportunity - young Barbadians who are qualified and

eligible will now not be able to attend the University of the West Indies and rise and improve their economic and social status in this country and that of their families, because of the policies of the Honourable Minister of Finance. As I said during my budget contribution, sir, that is a total shame when almost all of his colleagues on that side, including himself, have been beneficiaries of free university education at the University of the West Indies, some getting three degrees paid for by the taxpayers of this country.

We are in a situation today, sir, where schools are not being given supplies. This is now week seven, I believe it is, in the school term. Some schools, a lot of schools across the length and breadth of this country, have not been given supplies - cleaning supplies, other supplies - by the Ministry of Education. They have got to bring their own toilet paper to school, not being given these supplies by the Ministry of Education because the Minister of Finance has cut the budget. That is the position we find ourselves in now, sir. There has been a marked decline in both the quality and quantity of school meals in this country, again undermining the concept of free school meals which the founding father had brought about. We need not even speak about the total disarray in the public transport system in Barbados, where one-third of the buses are now off the road and where school children cannot get to school on time - those who go to school far from where they live - where people get into work late, not because they do not wake up early and leave home to go to work, but because there is no bus. Up to yesterday, on the call-in programmes, people were calling in saying they had been waiting at the bus stand for two hours and no bus had come in. And the cut of \$15 million to the Transport Board has not even been applied as yet. The Minister of Finance is not giving money to the Transport Board.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, the health of a nation is the wealth of a nation. And when a Minister of Finance could so callously cut the Queen Elizabeth Hospital budget by \$35 million, the question has to be asked: does he want a whole score of Barbadians to die? We have the statement from a leading doctor at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that people will die. We have heard about the alleged incident where, two weeks ago, a victim of a motor car crash said, look, you better carry me to the cemetery - do not worry to carry me to the QEH, because they are going to dead anyhow. \$20 million owed to the pharmacists in this country, and you give them \$2.8 million and tell them, take that, supply the drugs again - as if people are going to accept one-tenth of the money that they are owed.

We have a situation, sir, where there has been a cut in the subvention of the Council of the Disabled. I must declare an interest, sir, because I am a member of the Board of Directors. A cut in their subvention for the third quarter of this year from \$99 000 to \$46 000. You are

cutting the disabled - people who are vulnerable and cannot do anything for themselves. The blind, the deaf, those who cannot walk. They cannot go now to the student revolving loan fund and borrow money for university education, as the government has said that those who will have to pay the tuition fees at UWI from next year can do. What are the disabled to do in Barbados? Mr. Speaker, a cut from \$99 000 to \$46 000 - a 54 per cent cut to the Council of the Disabled. And the Minister of Finance and his Prime Minister and colleagues could say that he must remain in that position, invoking such disaster on the people of Barbados. So we would be failing in our duty as representatives of the people if we were to agree to that here today.

Then we speak about the public servants, temporary and otherwise. The Prime Minister has sought to define 'temporary' as if grown men and women who went to school do not know the definition. Temporary and other public officers, who the government has professed to love dearly and who they professed to be protecting in their employment - many of these temporary public workers, sir, have not been paid for months. Some have not been paid since May this year. I would ask the Honourable Minister of Finance: if he does not get his salary next week, will he be happy?

Or if he has not paid his salary for five months, will he be happy? Or will he call the Accountant General and a cheque come down the same day for his salary? Prison officers, all kinds of people in temporary positions, not being paid and a government headed by a Prime Minister and a Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs feeling comfortable about that, still flying up and down first class, tricks being paid for by their spouses, the people of Barbados suffering. You know, Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility here. In addition, public servants going to work on a daily basis, not having equipment, not having supplies, not having tools to do their job, because the Minister of Finance has failed to transfer money to the government departments, the statutory boards, or these individuals, at least those who are being paid still, because as we said, some haven't been paid for five months so that these individuals can be productive and earn a living gainfully. That is what we have. That's the situation where we have many government departments, the workers don't have the tools to do the job. No equipment, equipment breakdown, the tractor, no money to repair it. Drainage in National Conservation Commission in the public transport ministry all around.

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, has the authority to make choices. He could remove the constituency councils. He could have removed the football tournament that they have. He could have removed the summer camp largesse to the fatted calf. \$3-4 million in catering monies to Democratic Labour Party supporters. He

could have removed the \$1 million to the Pan-African Commission. Not that African studies and development of links with Africa are not important, but let us get rid of the commission. Let us get rid of the commission. Let us get rid. Let us bring the Pan-African Commission one or two people working from the Prime Minister's office. That could have been done. The reality is that people are losing employment on a daily basis. They are unable to find work as a direct result of the Minister of Finance's tax policies and mismanagement of the economy.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the primary reason. That is the primary reason for the state of Barbados' economy today, not any non-existent global recession. The International Monetary Fund, Mr. Speaker, has predicted that world growth, world economic growth this year will be 2.9 per cent. Growth of Caribbean countries, Guyana 5 per cent this year, other countries, 3–4 per cent. We have Barbados declining continuously, no growth predicted for this year or for next year. The only country, as the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East said, the only country in the Americas scheduled to decline in economic growth over the next two years is this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has five minutes in which to conclude.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: And, Mr. Speaker, one has to question the judgment of the Honourable Minister because judgment is key in this whole issue. And the people of Barbados want to know - what reasonable Minister of Finance could give the concessions to Cost-U-Less that he gives leading up to a general election? What could get into a Minister of Finance's head to deprive the economy of Barbados of millions of dollars in foreign reserves by the concessions given to a company, Cost-U-Less, that is not unique? Because it is rivalling Barbadian companies. And because of that, Barbadian companies like Cost-U-Less are closing down, people - Barbadians - losing jobs. What is the reason why that was given? What price have Barbadians had to pay? What price did they have to pay? What price will they have to pay in the future because of Cost-U-Less?

And sir, we speak about integrity and the Prevention of Corruption Act that, even though it has passed both of these Houses, has not been proclaimed because no commission has been set up to have oversight of it. And we wonder why, sir, and we wonder about these concessions given to Cost-U-Less within the context of a Prevention of Corruption Act that has not been proclaimed. And we wonder why it has not been proclaimed despite the Prime Minister saying for years since he was Attorney General that it will be passed. Is it that the Minister of Finance and other members of his cabinet do not want it to be proclaimed, sir, because of issues of Cost-U-Less and otherwise?

Sir, let us make no bones about it. It is better for the Barbados Labour Party that the Honourable Minister remains as Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs. It is better for the Barbados Labour Party because he will preside over the eventual destruction of the Democratic Labour Party. But, sir, I am a Barbadian. I am a Barbadian first and foremost. And what is good for Barbadians is in my mind. Sir, I put Barbadians before my party. And because of Barbadians, the Minister of Finance has to go.

When we have a situation where Barbadians cannot even access funds on the international financial market, and we are told that Jamaica bonds are more favourable now than Barbados bonds - Jamaica, one of the most highly indebted countries in the Western Hemisphere - now their bonds are more favourable than our bonds. And this excuse about the US government shutting down for two weeks and therefore we couldn't access the loan - come, let us be truthful, let us be frank and fair with the Barbadian people. Let us be fair, let us come clean. Let us tell the people that you put up bonds and they were not subscribed. Give the people some hope, show us a way forward. Mr. Prime Minister, exercise leadership on this issue. If the present Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs is the best person on your team, Mr. Prime Minister, to lead this country's economic and financial destiny, Lord help us.

I don't believe that he is the best. I believe that we have an Honourable Member there, the Member for St. Philip West, who trained throughout his political career for the position, who read on the issue, who understands a bit about debt, who trained on the issue. And who can take over the ministry? He will do a much better job than the present Minister. We have one - an Honourable Member who professes [Inaudible.] - they gave it, why can't we give him the chance?

We have a situation where even a fellow cabinet minister speaks about an error in a municipal tax. The Prime Minister should not feel obliged by the decision of the late Prime Minister three weeks before his very unfortunate demise three years ago to be hamstrung by the appointment of the Minister of Finance. This is the time, Mr. Speaker, for us to take responsibility. Stop blaming the non-existent global recession. Stop blaming the shutting down of the US government when the International Monetary Fund said that will have no effect on Barbados.

And even, sir, the statement by the Honourable Minister of Finance that he is not concerned - that virtually all Ministers of Finance since the Right Honourable late Tom Adams have faced no-confidence motions - he couldn't even get that correct, sir, because the late Sir Bernard St. John - sir, Richard Haynes didn't face one. The Right Honourable Member for St. Peter never faced any no-confidence motion. Sir, we have to face our

responsibility to the people. And it should be the duty of the government side to support this motion.

SUSPENSION

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, sir, I move that the sitting be suspended for lunch until 2.00 p.m. this afternoon.

The question that the House be suspended until 2.00 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I take it that no honourable member wants to speak and therefore I propose to wrap up the debate. I will give way if there is an honourable member who would wish to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. Okay.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, sir. I have practised law since 1989 - for some 24 years. I have been called to the Bar, since 1988 in England - 25 years. I have been a member of one or two of these honourable Houses for 22 years. And I have seen multiple motions of no confidence brought in this honourable chamber. I have seen a Leader of the Opposition bring a motion against the then Minister of Housing, Ms. Liz Thompson, and the Prime Minister of the day found it his duty to defend her from up front. I have seen, sir, matters of no confidence brought by a Leader of the Opposition against the Prime Minister, and the Attorney General found it his duty to defend the Prime Minister.

I, sir, equally too have faced one. And I, sir, would have brought one against the former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, which drew from the other side four years ago the now famous quip - it should be punished with laughter. And indeed, sir, the CLICO policy shareholders have truly been punished, as well as the employees of CLICO, as we have learned as recently as yesterday, as more are being retrenched in the absence of a resolution to their problems.

So we have reached a peculiar stage in this country where honourable members of this chamber clearly believe that it is not their responsibility to share with the public, nor do they understand the extent to which communication with the public is perhaps the most important thing that can be done in difficult and troubling times. Indeed, sir, the average man in the street refers to the Prime Minister as still asleep, having gone back thereto after the election.

And the average man in the street is responding to this motion through their own petition by reflecting the fact that this government appears to operate in a different land, to different circumstances, that is oblivious to their suffering - to the fact that the Minister of Finance has presided over cuts that he has not even appropriately studied, or indeed placed for study, if we are to accept the words of the Honourable Prime Minister, who has indicated that he had in September to order a study to determine the implications of the \$50 million in cuts ordered by the Minister of Finance in the budgetary statement.

Now, sir, we have sat in a Cabinet on this side too, and we would not know how to announce to the public \$15 million in cuts that will instil fear and panic among the public servants of this country, to the point where on a Thursday afternoon before the end of August, postmen were called into a meeting and indicated that they would not be coming back to work beyond the end of August. Workers at the Soil Conservation Commission were not paid and still have not been paid in some instances. Workers across other government departments and statutory corporations remain worried and in panic, only to be told about a computer glitch - and thereafter to be told that the Minister of Finance announced these measures without the appropriate study being made.

Now, sir, the mere fact that the Prime Minister can come last week and say that savings are being found is the next strongest piece of evidence that confirms the guilt of the Minister of Finance in failing to do his job. Because in circumstances where you are galloping towards a double-digit deficit, for a Minister of Finance to lay estimates in this Honourable Chamber reflecting expenditure that is neither mandatory nor immediate to growth suggests to us, sir, that the Minister of Finance displayed a flagrant disregard for the need to be able to curtail expenditure as a necessary precursor to the stabilising of the Barbados economy.

Now, sir, whether it is the IMF in their statements to the press - and we await the Article IV independent consultation - or whether it is the Caribbean Development Bank last year in the press release after their board meeting, or whether it is other international institutions, including Standard and Poor's, who base their downgrade, or Moody's, who base their downgrade of the Barbados economy on the basis, sir, of unsustainably high deficits as well as high debt, such that Barbados is now one of the 10 most indebted countries in the world - the reality is, sir, that we have a situation that is perilous. And we have a situation, sir, where the Government of Barbados displays total and utter contempt - not just for the 74 000 people who voted for the opposition. But I am happy to report to the country, sir, that we in less than a week have already collected almost 25 000 signatures - over a thousand online as well, in addition to that 25 000.

And mercifully, Mr. Speaker, the people of Barbados will see the attitude of this government towards their plight and suffering. And mercifully, Mr. Speaker, the people of Barbados will understand why they are suffering - because if a government can treat the people who go to the hospital in a way that sees them not providing them with the adequate sums, because there is one chance at life and one chance alone. And in your constituency, Mr. Speaker, on Friday night, I stumbled upon that accident, and when I read the next morning that a person had died after waiting for an ambulance in this country for an hour, I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that these decisions that we make in here affect the livelihood - or the right to live - of citizens of this country.

And I say to you, sir, that almost after 25 years at the Bar and 22 years in this Parliament, I understand, sir, that we have a clear recognition that while concerns have been laid in this honourable chamber, sir, this government has chosen to remain silent thus far. And one can only assume, sir, as is the case in court and in any other situation where allegations are made, that silence is consent and the Minister of Finance stands guilty as charged.

But you know, sir, you know what the real issue is. You know what the real issue is, sir? That the price of the vote that has been extracted by members on that side is their silence. Because they more than anybody else in Barbados have undermined the Minister of Finance. And they more than anybody else have said that the Prime Minister ought to move him. And they more than anybody else - and they have not only said it to members on this side - they say it when they are eating, they say it when they are drinking, they say it when they are lying. They say it to international bodies. And it is clear that they could not seek to defend what is the indefensible, sir.

You know, sir, the tragedy of all of this is that this debate is not about today. This debate speaks to the future direction of this country. And on the 14th of August, sir, when I spoke to this honourable chamber, I indicated then that we would wait and see. We thought the measures were ill-conceived; we thought there were a hodgepodge of measures. But we would wait and see. And all that spewed forth thereafter, sir, was a series of confusion, missteps, breaches of the law.

And it stands to be noted, sir, that in spite of everything that has been done by the Commission of Inland Revenue, their actions remain illegal. In spite of everything that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce has said, the municipal solid waste tax remains illegal, with no body vested at law to collect it. In spite of everything that has been said, the subcommittee of the social partnership - with the Minister of Finance in town - but then if he would not go to the bilateral meeting of the IMF, why should he go to meet with the private sector and union

movement for the report of progress on the budgetary initiatives? In circumstances where at the national consultation it was made clear that this government's biggest failing is lack of implementation.

And what happened at that subcommittee of the social partnership on Friday, sir? When they asked about initiative after initiative, the only progress that could be reported upon was the consolidation tax which, as we know, is of dubious legal application. When they asked, sir, about the definition of direct tourism services - when the Controller of VAT, Controller of Customs and the person in charge of the VAT division issued a letter to the tourism providers setting out what could and could not be considered - only for that letter to be withdrawn, creating more confusion, because people were told in the car rental business that it would include them in the reduction of the VAT. People in the restaurant sector were told that, and the private sector up to Friday last week could not receive a definition for who would be a beneficiary of a tax, in spite of the fact that the reduction of the tax was to kick in since three weeks ago on the 1st of October. Sir, that is the abysmal incompetence that this country has now been forced to accept and endure from a government.

But it gets worse, sir. When we tell you that this is a government about pronouncements - anything to make it look good. Trinidadians have a saying: making as if. And this morning a Minister of Tourism got up in here and gave a statement - to make as if. And what he should have been doing, if you want to do something, is that the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Tourism should lay the memorandum of understanding signed with Sandals on the table in Parliament.

But let us see what we are talking about. The government has told us - the same Minister of Finance in his speech in the budget - that the Government of Barbados will be taking out a loan from the Chinese government to build an Aman Beach Village. And in fact, sir, if we are to use the English language, which is the only language which we know how to use, I quote him - these were at page 35: 'These will be done by accessing low-cost financing from the People's Republic of China for the reconstruction of the properties which will then be sold and/or reopened under international brand,' et cetera.

Sir, today the Minister of Tourism tells us that they are now in discussions with the Chinese. But that does not surprise me, sir, because at the time at which the Minister of Finance made that statement to this country, there had been no application to the Chinese for any money to build anything. And then today we have incentives being announced for a property that is not even owned by the Government of Barbados - that is subject only to an agreement of sale, and a deposit to come, sir, from whom? From the National Insurance Scheme, in advance of

knowing whether the Chinese will finance the project or not. Disgrace.

If the Chinese do not continue, the future generations of this country, sir, will carry \$600 million in debt because of the liabilities entered into by the Government of Barbados. And you know what is sad, sir? They talk about Grenada. Do you know that in Grenada, Sandals is opening, Mr. Speaker, and that the Grenadian government is not having to invest one single cent in the hotel for Sandals to open - which should open in two months - and that over 12 months of refurbishment have been done? But in Barbados, a country that distinguished itself for its tourism product, there is so little confidence in the economy of Barbados that the private sector will not raise a cent to put into that investment, and the government is now running headlong to do so.

I could say it no better than an honourable member of St. Michael North, in quoting Sparrow's lyrics: when they broken, you can get it all for nothing. And that is exactly what is happening. And that is why action has to be taken - not next week, not next month, not next year, but now - because there will be no next year or year after left under this Minister of Finance. And, sir, if the rest of the Cabinet want to hold his hand, hold it, because they too are not far behind him. In fact, they may even be those who suggest that he is more competent than most of them. But his level of competence is still incompetent by normal standards.

And I say to you, sir, how does the Nation newspaper send journalists to Washington and he does his job? The IMF meetings and the IDB meetings - remember, if St. Peter can tell you - are meetings where people attend, there are a lot of seminars, there are a lot of speeches. But the substantive business takes place generally in two meetings. The meeting between the Caribbean countries and the Director of the IMF - that one should forever stand in the memory of the Minister of Finance - because he allowed a governor who had no local standing as a minister to address Madame Lagarde, the Managing Director of the IMF, in a way that today people still reflect on as out-of-order behaviour, because he had no local standing. If he had local standing, he could tell her whatever he wanted. But the person who should have been speaking was not the second half of the couple; the governor had no right speaking and was allowed to speak.

But the Nation sends somebody and that person does their job by the Nation Corporation. But the Minister of Finance, in whom is vested the responsibility for the orderly development of our economic and fiscal affairs, goes to Washington, spends five days there - I do not know if it is because he was upset by what the Vice President, Executive Vice President of the IDB told him - but he never turned up at the bilateral with the IMF. Your whole

country stands in the balance. There are those who are commenting that they do not know how the Government of Barbados will reach safety in terms of, one, their ability to pay their bills by March, and two, the free-falling reserves that have taken place. We are now at a stage of import cover, sir, that we have not reached for virtually 20 years.

And I expect before sun sets today the Governor of the Central Bank will seek to come and speak through a release to this country and through a press conference tomorrow. But remember this, sir - we are now at a peculiar stage where no September 30th information can help the members of the Cabinet or indeed the country. And I know this: how many members of Cabinet know the true state of the reserves in Barbados today? How many of them have been told? I wonder if the Prime Minister has been told.

And what is sad, sir, is when a country has reached the point where we can lose one-third of our reserves in six months, then it is time to draw bricks. And if there was no other matter to speak on in this debate alone, this government has a duty to the people of Barbados in whose name they temporarily serve. Temporarily, and I do not have to define temporary. In whom they temporarily serve. To explain to the people of this country, sir, rumours abound where there is an absence of conversation and leadership. And some of the rumours may not even be true, but that is what happens when people do not lead from in front. And if the government fears by language that the click or debate should have been punished by laughter, by behaviour they have shown that they feel that this motion is unworthy of their response, or that it is an admission of guilt. One of the two. But in whichever case, there can be no further confidence in the Minister of Finance to act in the name of the people of Barbados, particularly when by his own actions, his own statements and by his behaviour, he has shown a dereliction of duty and undermining of the confidence.

So I talked about this statement this morning and I go back to it, because it is going to be topical. How can you announce in here - the Minister of Finance gives you what? Tax incentives for whom? For construction. Do you know that the major stumbling block with the IDB, the first tax initiative announced by the Minister of Finance in this budget? In the grid, because there are no words, is the reduction of tax incentives and waivers of duties because the IDB has said, look, you have - we thought it was \$500 million. The minister said in his speech \$700 million value of tax incentives and duty-free waivers - and that the IDB and others have said to the government of Barbados, you have to cut that down as part of your fiscal adjustment programme. What is the first bill that comes to Parliament after the Minister of Finance speaks in the budget? A cultural industries bill that is premised only on duty-free incentives and tax waivers. And even if you want to argue

that the Sandals incentives will lead to foreign exchange, the immediate range of incentives under the cultural industries bill is primarily for local usage and practice. We would want there in the future for there to be total exports of cultural industries, but we are not at that stage.

So the first bill that this government brings after the budget - check the sequence of events, let me check it - the first bill that we bring is a bill that repudiates the very Minister of Finance's statement, the very first initiative in the budget. The second thing that is done is that same bill creates a new statutory corporation. And what does the Minister of Finance say in this budget? That he has a study that is coming to cabinet in December to cut a number of statutory corporations, and it is called public sector restructuring, and it covers on page 67 of the budget areas from public housing, sports, facilities management, investment, youth and cultural affairs and sport, expending close to \$130 million. Last week, Tuesday, as this House was meeting, you know that there was a meeting of all of the statutory corporations - Urban Development, Rural Development, National Housing Corporation, COMI, National Sports Council, gymnasium, all of them - were up there to plan a rationalisation, and this Parliament is in here passing the creation of a new statutory corporation. What is the Minister of Finance going to do when the estimates come? The Minister of Culture says you have created a corporation; the Minister of Finance also said in this budget there is to be a freezing of posts. So you create a corporation not to create posts, not to hire anybody - or is this just plain as if we are making as if, sir? Barbados deserves better. Barbados deserves better.

Sir, before I get there, let me go back to Sandals. There is no department that is in charge of tax administration, any part of the world, that can extend incentives for operations and use criteria for investment undertaken by a third party as the reason for tax incentives for operations. Are you not, sir - what has happened? They had to find a way to justify how to give Sandals these incentives while not giving the rest of tourism people. So you set a threshold of a \$500 million investment because there is no such hotel here which has had invested in it \$500 million. But guess what? The court can see through that too, as will the hoteliers who still wait. They do not even want that. They just want you to spend a little bit of money, Minister of Finance. Let them go and do a little marketing. You know that there has been no marketing in the marketplace. You know that Barbados Tourism Authority - you have presided over giving them \$88 million in 2011 to market our most important earner. And then in 2012, you come and give them \$59 million. And know that you owe away \$27 million by your admission. And then you come and tell them, take this, take this. I have given you a \$50 million US that you cannot get sent one from, because you do not even know you are going to get a \$100 million US dollar loan. And 270 000 people out

there suffering in this country. You are the billion dollar problem. They used to be a six million dollar man called the Majors. But you are a billion dollar problem. A \$600 million stimulus in March, I top it off now with a \$100 million dollar adjustment. Now if ever there was a billion dollar problem, it is the Minister of Finance, and it is too heavy a price for this country to take.

The Member for St. James Central reminds me that he has no bionic powers. Sir, you know, sir, I feel passionate about this. You know why, sir? I used to feel a sense of pride. I started in opposition. I felt a sense of pride representing this country because people looked up to Barbados. People now ask what happened to Barbados. People are being called in at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office - private sector people. People are being called in at all international institutions. If the Minister of Finance had the growth of this economy in his heart, he would not allow money to be deprived from the rum industry to bring a case against the US government. \$500 000 US is all that is required to save an \$80 million industry a year. \$80 million a year. Mount Gay Refinery, sir, shut down two weeks ago, only now to be sold. Sir, you know what is sad? That the government of Barbados will spend that same \$1.5 million or more in constituency councils but would not spend it to save our \$80 million industry. An industry where the word rum comes from Barbados, where we have a globally competitive product.

Sir, it is not easy.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have five minutes in which to conclude.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you, sir. Sir, I am saying to you, sir, that we are lawmakers. We are not lawbreakers. And you know, sir, the honourable member last night - he went back because, you know, sometimes it is good to listen. And I listened to the former member for St. John's speech in Bavell. And you know what he said? He said every leader of the opposition in Barbados has been accused of wanting to get somewhere in a hurry and to be power hungry. This is not about me today, sir. This is not about anybody on this side. This is about the fact that when a country reaches a situation where you lose one-third of your reserves in six months, call for help. Call for help. And when a country reaches a situation where it has never, ever had any of its bonds under-subscribed, never, ever had a message from the market that its credit was not good, call for help. And when a country reaches a situation, sir, where it is carrying as arrears 20 per cent of its expenditure on an annual basis, call for help. And when a country reaches a situation, sir, where the first cut that is applied after the budget speech is to the police who have to preserve law and order - who, had the police made the cuts in this fiscal year, the member for St. Joseph would have told you, if we had continued to let this charade

continue here today, we live with the government. You know what the member would have told you? That of the flexibility allowances remaining for the rest of the fiscal year, there is less than \$70 000 left to pay policemen for another five months of the year after they take out what is owed to them for Crop Over. How can you apply a butcher's knife and then, as fate would tempt us, two public health problems break out that have led to serious consequences? Pharmaceuticals in problems.

One-third of your bus - the first thing that goes when you are in trouble, Mr. Speaker, is your goods and services. That is where you cut back first. But the problem is that \$391 million is all we spend over \$3.7 billion in goods and services. So there is only so much cuts you can do. We in Barbados are spending - I want the public to listen to this - \$1.2 billion in interest and debt. Another \$870 million in wages in the central government. Another billion dollars of which 65 per cent comes from wages in statutory corporations - Water Authority, Conservation Commission, Sanitation, et cetera. \$1.2 billion and \$870 million is almost \$2.1 billion. \$2.1 billion and \$650 million is \$2.750 billion, and look in the estimates for how much we spend on pensions, sir - retirement allowances, \$250 million. So three billion dollars of the government's expenditure is either debt or people through wages and pensions. You know what the revenue of the government of Barbados will be as predicted by the Minister of Finance, sir? \$2.264 billion. \$2.264 billion. Do you understand that this is a trend that is out of control?

I only talk about the US government. The US government unemployment today was announced at 7.2 per cent. You cannot find no company for them, from them, for the misery. But sir, this page tells the story of all that is wrong. The Minister of Finance came to this country with a budget to do three things: reduce the deficit; arrest the decline in foreign reserves; and lay a platform for growth. None of the initiatives are actually coming out of the ground in relation to growth. So you can ignore Appendix 2. Everything is a promise, a promise, a promise. None of the initiatives in Appendix 1 in relation to expenditure and revenue - you have to add up. The Minister said that we have a deficit before he brought this budget of 9 per cent of GDP and that he would only cut \$88 million in expenditure in the rest of this fiscal year. This Parliament approved \$3 876 million in March. The minister tells you - and wants the people of this country, that is probably why this page is not available online, but to those who it was distributed to in the House we have the evidence - the minister tells you \$88 million from \$3 876 million is now to be \$3 440 million, so he can falsely get to a projected deficit of 5 per cent. Mr. Speaker, not even the Head Boy at Eagle Hall Primary can subtract \$88 million from \$3 876 million and get \$3 440 million. You get \$3 788 million. What is the implication of that, sir? That instead of a 5 per cent deficit, that come 31st March, this country will carry a deficit that

is near double digit. That you will have carried Barbadians through panic, through fear, through hardship, and still end up where you were or worse. Come March.

Sir, the Minister of Finance is a luxury that the people of Barbados can no longer enjoy. It is a billion dollar problem. And I say to his colleagues, the price for your silence has been your vote. Let it live with your conscience. This debate is not about today. This debate is a year from now, two years from now, when the people of Barbados will stand and hold you responsible for not taking the right decision at the right time. We are not yet at crisis in terms of our reserves, but we are at a worrisome level in terms of the rate of decline - that if we act now, if we act now, we can avoid what Jamaica has had to endure: 40 years of economic wilderness. I am obliged to you, sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, sir, I want to, in bringing this debate to a close, to, I'll do the unusual. I'll thank the members of the opposition, including and especially the lead of the opposition who spoke who felt it necessary to bring this resolution, as I will thank members on this side. I will also thank members on this side for their patience in listening to the rantings of the, well, I can't say that because that's unparliamentary. Unparliamentary. Yeah, because let me say it is unparliamentary. To listen to the words of the leader of the opposition, I know with much interest that clearly the opposition had no strategy for this long awaited no confidence motion, which of course I predicted from very early after the budget, very early in the summer that would come. I expected it. It had a long gestation period and it was today delivered absent of the pomp and pageantry but full, Mr. Speaker, sir, of the bluster that we've now come to expect from the leader of the honourable leader of the opposition.

It is instructive, though, that absence of the strategy or absent of the strategy, the weaker members or to say the less accomplished members of opposition - third division team - were the ones who voluntarily chose to speak. When the more experienced members who clearly, Mr. Speaker, sir - yes, was the - final for the please.

Mr. SPEAKER: What's the point of order, Honourable Member?

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, sir, you cannot impute that type of thing against members of the House.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: What type of thing?

AN HON. MEMBER: You are all here, sir, as equals in the House. To say that Honourable Member that he is less accomplished among the members who spoke on this side, if you will, sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just bear with me. It's a former Honourable Member of the Cabinet of Barbados. There's no point of order. There's nothing wrong with saying a member is less accomplished. That's his opinion. No point of order from, please continue.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, sir. I truly, I know it was not, it really was not a point of order, but if we had allowed him to continue, he would have exactly been the point which I - he would have reinforced the point which I was trying to make - that the less accomplished members of the House from that side, the less experienced in some respects as well, were the ones who volunteered or were told to speak, whichever, and spoke. Instructive as it is that the senior members did not speak.

I already was looking forward to hearing the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter. He didn't speak and has left. I was looking forward to the Honourable Member for St. Andrew. He didn't speak and has left. I was looking forward to the Honourable Member for St. Joseph speaking. He didn't speak and has left. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, sir, I think that more than anything else really turns this debate completely around. Because rather than being into a confidence motion in me, it really is a show of no confidence in the leader of the opposition.

We knew it from before because we were hearing it often. We knew that, Mr. Speaker, sir, the annual conference of the Labour Party is coming up and that the current chairman of the party refuses - refused up until recently - to stand down for the current leader of the opposition to speak, and therefore the histrionics that we've been subjected to in the last few weeks was just to demonstrate the leader of the opposition's capacity as a leader so as to drum up votes for when the time arrives for the Labour Party's conference at the end of the month. So I know this conference is not about me.

I looked through most, if not all, of the no-confidence motions in this House brought against ministers, whether ministers of finance or otherwise. I also went to feel in the Commonwealth to look at others as well. I looked in New Zealand, I looked in Australia, I looked, of course, in Britain. One thing struck me. I also looked beyond the Commonwealth jurisdictions. I looked at the US Congress for impeachment exercises, because impeachment is really a mode of no confidence, a method of expressing no confidence. And in 99.99 per cent of all of those exercises, motions of no confidence so drafted, laid, and expressed against any leader of the executive branch were done on the basis of allegations over very serious breaches, cardinal breaches of the law, bordering on a brand of illegality or a brand of abandonment of the principles of government, so as to bring into disrepute the office which the person has held. In fact, Mr. Speaker, sir,

most of them surround the whole issue of corruption, the taking of bribes, and so forth and so on in relation to those measures.

I am probably the first minister in which a motion of no confidence is brought on the basis that I propose policies on behalf of the government that the leader of the opposition and her colleagues believe have not worked. I have not been accused of taking bribes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member. What's the point of order, please?

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: The honourable member is missing. In 1999, sir, a no confidence motion was brought by the honourable leader of the opposition at that time - the honourable member of Christ Church West - against the then Minister of Finance. And that no confidence was anchored, Mr. Speaker, in the fact that in the judgment of the leader of the opposition, the interests of Barbados could not be secured by the continued tenure of the Minister of Finance because of his failure to maintain confidence in the administration and management of the country's fiscal and economic affairs. It is therefore, sir, not true to say that this has never been done before. This was deemed then - I don't know.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order found. He said in 99.9 per cent of the times and you are not allowed to say that he's telling lies, essentially. No point of order found.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, sir, it is obviously clear that the members of the Opposition are so determined in their mission to do damage to this country that even in the face of wise counsel, even in the face of facts, even in the face of everything or anything that is reasonable that would give them pause on what they are trying to do, they are just not prepared to listen. Not prepared to listen. And I have sat here, Mr. Speaker, sir, and I have listened very, very carefully, as I have listened all summer, indeed, for the whole period of time that we have been in office. And I have noticed a particular trend in this Barbados Labour Party. I have said it before, and I will say it again. They have a cardinal disrespect and disregard for the public of Barbados. They believe in themselves that they are appointed unto themselves as the only governors possible for this country.

They have a sense of entitlement that says that the public of Barbados could only be crazy as to even think, far less do it, in electing anybody else other than the Barbados Labour Party to govern this country. The second point is that how the public - how the public, Mr. Speaker, sir - how the public, Mr. Speaker, sir, is so misguided, that the public of Barbados is so ignorant, Mr. Speaker, sir, that they could possibly consider for election a band of wild boys and wild girls, riff raff and goons, incompetent

degenerates who have no class, social or otherwise, to occupy the corridors of government.

Mr. Speaker, sir, in this country it really is about the psychosociological construction of a particular mindset embedded in them, Mr. Speaker, sir, and particularly infectious to anybody who joins them, because there are people in this country who have grown up and have been taught better. But whenever they find themselves in the vortex called the Labour Party, their entire being and attitude changes towards other people. It is a dangerous thing, Mr. Speaker, sir.

I was born, I was raised in Deacons Road, a product of Deacons. I was born in Bushal, at Savannah Road in Bushal. My father died when I was five years old, and I was raised by a single mother. And I followed every possible rule in Barbados to ensure my own personal success. I worked hard from young. I grew up with a gold spoon in my mouth. I ain't grow up being driven to school. I ain't grow up being tended to by maids. I ain't grow up in Sandy Lane. You understand? I ain't grow up in that way. Mr. Speaker, sir, even if I had grown up that way, I at least would have learned how to transcend the narrow confines of my own class origins to be able to walk genuinely - not through manipulation, but genuinely - with ordinary people. I have to transcend anything because I come from down there.

And I work, studied. I work on a cow farm from the time I know myself. I was working and supporting myself. My mother was working as a maid in a public school. There is no father in the house. And we all contributed to the success of our families. And I say today, Mr. Speaker, sir, I went to university, I went to community college, I went to university, I studied, I work hard. Mr. Speaker, sir, I am not entitled to anything in Barbados. I don't feel I am entitled to anything in Barbados, but that which the people of Barbados and my colleagues and the Honourable Prime Minister believe that I can be bestowed with as regards political office - then I believe that it is my right to accept such responsibilities.

I want to make the point, Mr. Speaker, sir, I am not going to make excuses. I am not going to make excuses. And I'm not going to hide from responsibility. Never have, Mr. Speaker, sir. And I will face any member of the Barbados Labour Party and any of their cohorts outside of the Labour Party anytime to debate, to discuss, to engage on any issue and do so with the full faith that I am doing it not for my own advancement, Mr. Speaker, sir, but for the advancement of ordinary people in Barbados.

When I became Minister of Finance in this country, we were in the throes of the worst ever recession that the world had seen, Mr. Speaker, sir, in 9 100 years. The former Minister of Finance, the Honourable Member for St.

Peter, has said it publicly. He said it in here and he said it otherwise - that as Minister of Finance, I have had to face the worst possible circumstances, none without the creation of mine. I have had to face the worst possible - not the best, the worst possible - circumstances that any Minister of Finance could ever have faced.

When I became Minister of Finance, the deficit in Barbados was almost 10 per cent, reeling from the economic recession and the financial collapse of the world. Mr. Speaker, sir, I was reading an article and making a document in the house - Goodbye, Fat City - about Canada, about Ottawa. I make this a document of the house, sent to me by a former senior public servant, about how Ottawa, one of Canada's richest cities, has been beleaguered by the continuing effects of a global recession that nobody anticipated, very few understand, and fewer still are able to resolve. 19 000 jobs alone out of the Federal Administration in Ottawa have gone home. They say the Minister of Finance said it was going to be gentle. They say gentle? It has been worse than gentle. That was his prediction, Mr. Speaker, sir.

Mr. Speaker, sir, economic decline in GDP - 4.7 per cent in 2009. By 2011, Mr. Speaker, sir, I took over in October 2010. We had reduced that deficit from 9 to 10 per cent to 4.7 per cent, Mr. Speaker, sir. We had halted the economic growth decline from 4.7 per cent the previous year - negative - to a growth of 0.8 per cent the next year, Mr. Speaker, sir. VAT receipts were up tremendously. Revenues were up. By 2012, in the middle of 2012, the world economy started to slow down dramatically. The very same IMF that people are talking about all about here - that is apparently some Barbadians' new best friend, the IMF - the ones that the Labour Party say they kicked out of Barbados and that they hate so much - that is their new friend now, their new best friend. They reported to their chief economists that the world economy had slowed down dramatically and they had to revise their forecast downwards.

And it was true because our main source market for tourists, Britain, went into a double-debt recession. A double-debt recession, Mr. Speaker, sir. The United States continued to sputter. Canada started to feel the effects of the recession when it had survived the earlier period. All of our source markets, sir, started to decline. All of our markets started to decline. And with that, Barbados started to go into decline as well. Our revenues fell. Our foreign exchange inflows fell, Mr. Speaker, sir. And we had to stand by the people of Barbados. And we did that, Mr. Speaker, sir.

So this is the point. We would hear that Antigua is growing. We would hear that St. Lucia is growing. We hear that Grenada is growing. The point is - growing from where? And in all three of those countries, unemployment

is probably above 20 per cent. Mr. Speaker, sir, I am not reflecting badly on them, but people who want to compare Barbados with other places - those who want to compare us with them - they can go ahead in the exercise of futility.

But I want to make the points in relation to the budget because I don't have a whole lot of time. I can speak for about three hours on this, but I ain't got the time. So I am going to speak about this budget, Mr. Speaker, sir. Look, we came to the house with a programme. We came to the house with a programme and we laid out the programme. The Opposition had an opportunity. The Leader of the Opposition had an opportunity to reply to the budget. We stayed three hours talking a whole side of things that had no relation to the budget, because the Leader of the Opposition does not understand any of these issues. The Leader of the Opposition requires somebody to go in a room with her, write out the response and give her. So since the Leader of the Opposition didn't understand the issues in the budget, spoke for three hours, did not connect with the budget, was harassed by her own people - and since that time has been calling for another budget debate.

First of all, it was a public meeting over there in the square. Then it was a press conference to reply to the budget. Then it was call back the Parliament so that we could have the budget do-over again. And having gotten none of that, the Leader of the Opposition now brings a motion of no confidence in me to repeat - or to get the chance to do the budget speech that she ought to have done previous to now.

And the whole thing is - we know what direct tourism services is. I know what direct tourism services are. The Minister of Tourism knows what they are. We say to the tourism industry players - we know what tourism services are. We told the BHDA what our position was. They sent back to say they felt the list was too restrictive. The Minister of Tourism and myself told them we will go ahead with the accommodation services for October 1st. We will have an internal and an external discourse and in short order we will notify them what it was. But it is not wrong with negotiating policy, Mr. Speaker, sir.

The second point I will make is the illegality of the consolidation tax. Now, people only read the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act in relation to the immediacy of somebody saying, as of midnight tonight, there is a tax. The Provisional Collection of Taxes Act allows a number of months - four months - in which not just for the announcement of a tax, but for you to have the opportunity to refine whatever tax measure you have before you put it in permanent law. That is a fact. That is a fact.

The Commissioner of Inland Revenue is the competent tax authority for administering income tax, on the instruction of the Minister of Finance. And on an

administrative level, we advised the Commissioner of Inland Revenue that there was a typographical error in the text - but she already knew it because she was a member of the team that had put together the measures. We told her, Mr. Speaker, sir,

there was a typographical error. We will instruct businesses accordingly. We will prepare the permanent legislation, we would bring it to the house and we would validate anything that needs to be validated at that time. What we understood, Mr. Speaker, sir, was that the taxpayers were not going to be put at a disadvantage. They were actually going to be put at an advantage because the rate which the Commissioner would have applied would have been lower than the mistake that I had in the document, Mr. Speaker, sir.

Mr. Speaker, sir, I go further. I go further, Mr. Speaker, sir. The Leader of the Opposition was Attorney General - was Attorney General in Barbados - when the former Minister of Finance and Prime Minister imposed a secret tax on gasoline, on fuel products in Barbados, and siphoned off the money to go to pay for Crop Over activities through the NCF. And as Attorney General -

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. That is a donation. That is the point of order, Honourable Member. The Honourable -

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: The Honourable Member, sir, is misleading the house. It is inconceivable. It is absurd to say that there could be a secret tax in a country.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Just a minute.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Of its very nature, sir, taxes must pass this place. And therefore, sir, it cannot be secret.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right. No point of order found. Please sit down. The Honourable Member, you have - I think you have about five more minutes or so. You have three minutes in which to wind up.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Right. Good. Right. Mr. Speaker, sir, I said the Right Honourable Member admitted it on national television. And up to this day, the Leader of the Opposition, who was Attorney General and the chief law enforcement officer in the country, never got in here, never went in public and said to him: you are breaking the law, you have to bring the tax.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member is misleading the chamber. No Attorney General can advise that anybody is breaking the law when the incidence of what was being done was a shareholders' directive from the Government of Barbados to a company owned by the Government of Barbados. The misnomer of

tax is irrelevant. It was not applicable to any citizens of the country or to any companies. But if that is what delights the Minister of Finance when none of his colleagues will come to his rescue, let him delight and revel in that.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order found. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, sir. Mr. Speaker, sir, up to this day it has not been validated. And I will also make this point, Mr. Speaker, sir - this is not the first time in the tax history or the levies history of Barbados that a tax -

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Yes. The Honourable Member -

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West must know better. He is a Minister of Finance. He is misleading the house, sir. The Honourable Member, sir, cannot stand in his place and speak of validating that which never existed. There was no secret tax. It is not known to the law of the land. You cannot have a tax that does not pass this place, sir. And if therefore an imposition did not pass this place, it cannot therefore be validated.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order found. This is the final time I rule on this. You made that same submission. Please continue.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, sir. But you know what is worse about the whole affair, Mr. Speaker, sir. The money was collected unknown to this Parliament, unknown to the country, Mr. Speaker, sir. And it was siphoned off and sent by directors' orders from the minister who was his Minister of Finance, I believe. And sent to the NCF and the BNOC board, and its auditors kept asking on what legal grounds and for what purposes are these monies being collected and sent to the NCF? I go further. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East was a member of the cabinet when the former Minister of Finance issued a directive against the best advice that he received for the waiver of taxes and duties in the tune of \$85 million - \$25 million Barbados dollars - to a bank in Barbados that was doing nothing more than an internal reorganisation and merging with another bank. Do you remember sitting down as Minister of Legal Affairs and saw nothing wrong with it? But I gave a few concessions that could not come up to a quarter of that, a quarter of that, and that is the problem. \$85 million of the taxpayers' money, Mr. Speaker, sir.

And a point is made about me going to the IMF meetings and not going to the Caribbean meeting. Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker, sir - again, a whole lot of

misinformation. I went to the meeting. I had meetings with the IMF.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, I was there. It never indicated that the Minister of Finance did not go to the Caribbean meeting. I was very specific and I said the bilateral meeting with Barbados. In fact, what is even more shameful is that he went to the Caribbean meeting and not the bilateral Barbados meeting.

Mr. SPEAKER: By the voice of the Honourable Members, please wind up.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I am so sorry, Mr. Speaker, sir, that I don't have - that I didn't have enough time. I mean, as a person putting the dot on the i's, I really should have more time to defend myself. Mr. Speaker, sir, I went to all of the bilateral meetings. All, Mr. Speaker, sir. I arranged them. I asked for them and I attended every single one, Mr. Speaker, sir, of those bilateral meetings. The only meeting that I did not go to, because I had to travel back to Barbados on business, was the meeting of the Caribbean Group. Mr. Speaker, the bilaterals - I went to all of the bilaterals. We had all of them with the Western Hemisphere Department. We went down to the Fiscal Affairs Department. We went to all, Mr. Speaker, sir.

And I want to make this clarification too, because this is another piece of the misinformation that the Leader of the Opposition spreads, Mr. Speaker, sir. And this is about the Governor of the Central Bank. Last year, at last year's Caribbean meeting, the governors of the banks from the Caribbean and the ministers of Finance met and designated people to speak. And the second person designated to speak on behalf of the group - not by me - was the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados. So he was not speaking out of turn. He spoke with the authority of all of the ministers of Finance in that meeting, all of the governors. Not a set of misinformation, Mr. Speaker, sir.

Finally, sir. Finally. Mr. Speaker, sir, on the bond issue, I want to talk about the bond because I don't have a lot of time. Sir, let me tell you about the bond. It is a dangerous untruth, Mr. Speaker, sir, for the Leader of the Opposition to say that Barbados issued a bond and that the bond was unsubscribed. It is not true. We did not issue that bond. And the bond was not unsubscribed. It is not true.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I said today - and you can send for the transcript, you can wait for the transcript - that at the point of the closure of the bond on the 30th of September, it was undersubscribed; that when it was extended for 24 hours and they realised that it would still be undersubscribed, they withdrew the bond to save face.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order, Honourable Member, please.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Please give me back my time, because it is not a fact. I told this House, Mr. Speaker, sir, on repeated occasions that we went for two exercises - a bond assurance and an asset liability management exercise - in which we were trying to buy back existing bonds from bondholders. The only thing that was in the market was an offer to buy back our bonds. There was no bond issue to be subscribed to. Absolutely none. So I put that on the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: There was an article by one Mr. Paul Kilby, issued by Reuters Thomson out of New York on the 1st of October. The article told the market that they were having trouble getting people to tender - locally, pension funds and insurance companies booked these bonds at par, and since the tender process is below par, it created accounting problems. I am making this a document of the House. I am further quoting: yesterday the sovereign extended the deadline under the debt tender until 11.59 p.m. Tuesday after receiving about \$144 million US in valid tenders for the seven and a quarter percent 2021s and the seven percent 2022s. Barbados was looking to fund up to \$250 million US. Sir, the Honourable Member cannot deny what the international community has already known, and to come in here and try to mislead people - sir, there are consequences for misleading this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, no point of order found. And secondly, Honourable Member, you are not allowed to accuse the Member of coming here trying to fool people. Those comments are struck from the record. All right, Member, please continue.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, sir, let me wrap that issue up and finish. Mr. Speaker, sir, again I say, and I put my full integrity behind it - Mr. Speaker, sir, we did not put a bond issue out in the market. We asked for a tender on our existing bonds to buy them back. The average rate of participation in buybacks on tenders is 40 per cent. We got up to \$140 million on the buyback. We weren't tendering new bonds. We were buying back the old ones. And we were asking the people who held them: do you want to sell us back? They were saying, Mr. Speaker, sir, that they were at a certain rate. We were negotiating at a lower rate. Then the US shutdown came and we pulled out of the exercise.

Let me conclude, sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have one minute in which to conclude.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: I am going to conclude, Mr. Speaker, sir, because the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East clearly, I think, does not understand asset liability management and the bond markets. So let us put that aside.

But, Mr. Speaker, sir, in conclusion, I want to make this point, sir. We have a lot of work to do. None of it is easy. We have a lot of work to do and we have to get on with the work of the people of Barbados. These attempts to distract the Government, these attempts, sir, to overturn an election, these attempts to pull down and tear down and to hurt Barbados and to scare foreign investors from Barbados - that is a dangerous piece of business. And I am saying this evening in this Parliament that the biggest threat to Barbados' stability and future economic recovery is the Leader of the Opposition and the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, sir, I am saying this now because, on my way here, when I was going through the door, I got a call from my secretary that I should return because an inspector - a superintendent from the Royal Barbados Police Force Special Services - wanted to speak to me on a security matter. I didn't know what it was. I went back. And he told me that they had credible information that two people were overheard planning to shoot me. It is a fact. Mr. Speaker, sir, the gentleman said to me that he did not wish me to be overly alarmed, but that for my safety I should be aware of my circumstances and my surroundings; that I should approach Parliament with caution; and that they were going to detail officers for my protection, Mr. Speaker, sir.

And I am saying, Mr. Speaker, sir - they can make light of it all day long. I have a wife and three children. And when you hear and see and read the hate mail which the Barbados Labour Party is promoting on Facebook and otherwise, whilst I don't take a lot of it seriously -

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber to suggest that the Barbados Labour Party is promoting or associated with any hate mail. I say this really has to stop, because this Government has now sought to execute its primary defence by trying to suggest that people are trying to get at them. All of us may have had issues in the past, but what you do not do is get up on the floor of Parliament and use it as an excuse. And it is a distraction.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, no point of order found. Although I remind the House that reports with respect to the threats and so on were received by the Speaker. We know that arrangements were put in place and we have every confidence in the ability of the constabulary to protect us. Please move on. Conclude your speech.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Good. Mr. Speaker, sir, at least they called you too about the incident. And I leave it at that, Mr. Speaker, sir. Just to conclude by saying, sir, that we have one country. We only have one country and we therefore have to ensure that whatever we do as a people, we do not do it to the detriment of Barbados. Political power and political office, and whatever people believe comes with it, are not worth it. And I call all Barbadians, as we move past this frivolity on the part of the Opposition, to bond together and to work as a people to lift Barbados out of these difficulties. Thank you very much, Honourable. I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker, sir.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and the House divided, 14 Members voting Aye and 15 Members voting No.

The question was resolved in the negative and the Resolution was lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: Members, let us continue.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, sir, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended for 15 minutes.

The question that the House be suspended for 15 minutes was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the House accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Members, this sitting is resumed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 11 – RESOLUTION – LAND ACQUISITION ACT, CAP. 228 – ABANDONMENT OF THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MASON HALL STREET, ST. MICHAEL

Mr. SPEAKER: Order number 11.

Mr. CLERK: To move in the name of the Honourable Minister of Housing to move the passing of a resolution to approve under Section 91 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228 of the Laws of Barbados, the publication in the Official Gazette of a notification declaring the abandonment of the compulsory acquisition affected by Resolution Number eight of 2011 of the passage of land together with the buildings thereon situated at Mason Hall Street in the parish of St. Michael in this island. Notice of this resolution was given on October 4, 2013.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. Honourable Minister.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, sir, the matter before this Parliament is a resolution of the abandonment of the acquisition of land at the corner of Mason Hall Street, St. Michael, belonging to the owner Mr. Alan Penn, which was being acquired for housing development. The Cabinet at its meeting held on April 25, 2013 considered Note 13261 from the Ministry of Housing and Lands Number five and approved: the abandonment of the acquisition of the parcel of land measuring 2 461.3 square meters together with buildings thereon on the corner of Mason Hall Street, St. Michael, the property of Mr. Alan Penn, which has been acquired for housing development; that the property should be returned to Mr. Alan Penn, its owner; that the necessary resolution in connection with the abandonment of the property should be prepared with the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and submitted for Parliament's approval; and the subsequent publication of a notice in the Official Gazette under Section 91 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, declaring that the acquisition of the land be abandoned.

A survey of the land was carried out by Mr. Michael L. Bamfield, Land Surveyor, and survey plan number 813-2010 certified on June 17, 2010. It may be noted that the resolution to compulsorily acquire this property under Section five of the Land Acquisition Act was approved by the House of Assembly on February 1, 2011 and by the Senate on February 4, 2011.

The Minister of Housing and Lands and Rural Development considers that the cost of acquiring this property at Mason Hall Street is too high relative to the acquisition costs of three other parcels of land being acquired for housing development at Mason Hall Street and White Park in the city. The resolution for the abandonment of the compulsory acquisition of 2 461.3 square meters of land together with the buildings thereon has been certified by the Attorney General and has been in order for consideration by this Honourable House. And with these brief remarks, I beg that this resolution do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. Honourable Member for the City.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few brief remarks with regards to the resolution that is before this Honourable Chamber. I remember several years ago, before I entered elective politics, that I had some discussions with members of the then Barbados Labour Party government with regards to this property, because for me it was one of the few places in the city of Bridgetown where some proper high-rise apartments could have been constructed. And it was important also because of the gravity of the situation in the city of Bridgetown with regards to low-income housing.

So although I understand what the Honourable Minister of Housing is saying with regards to the cost, I am a bit disappointed that this project has been abandoned, and given the circumstances surrounding housing in the city - the fact that we are not getting the neighbourhood upgrade programme in [Inaudible.] and Greenfields anywhere off the ground - I am wondering if there is an alternative for this project that would facilitate the varied and dire housing needs of the low-income folks of the city of Bridgetown. And that is really something that I would like to find out from the Honourable Minister.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, in asking that this resolution do now pass, I also want to make the point that we have already said that we are not only doing the abandonment of this property - we have already acquired three alternative parcels of land, two on Mason Hall Street and one in White Park. So the Honourable Member will recognise that even though he had his eyes on one, this Government had foresight, and this Government is offering three alternative locations to the one that the Honourable Member and the Barbados Labour Party had their eyes on. And I can assure you that we are providing more solutions.

But I also want to make the point that we have also recognised that the city of Bridgetown needs special attention, and we have recognised over the years that the attention that should have been given to that place was not given. And we are going to ensure that we will not decrease the number of housing solutions in the area, but we will increase the number of housing solutions in the area. And we will also make sure that all the discussion on slums and so on about the city, and all the talk about dilapidated housing, we will correct those matters and we promise that we will provide a lot more solutions for that area.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the approach by the Democratic Labour Party towards housing cannot be compared to the one that we found under the Barbados Labour Party. It is no doubt, sir, that we are not looking only to have arrangements where every relationship that was entered into was a loss to the National Housing Corporation. I hear, on many occasions, people speak to the deficits and the losses that have been incurred at the NHC. But what they do not tell you in this House is that we found at the NHC arrangements where it entered into joint arrangements even with banks - yes, commercial banks - and at the end of the day, the only people that ended up with no money was the NHC. So when you hear people talking about how much money the NHC is losing, we are now about to reverse the position that we found when we took over in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, it is no doubt that in 1994 we reversed that trend; we created an atmosphere where we created commercial laws to ensure that we had the necessary

revenues to run the NHC. The history of the Democratic Labour Party and the NHC is a proud history, because as far back as the sixties and the seventies, it was the Democratic Labour Party that used that as a housing tool to develop the masses of people in Barbados and also to build the middle class. And that is why you have the Cave Hill Heights and the Cave Hill Gardens and you name it, sir. The Democratic Labour Party needs not to be ashamed of a housing policy, and it will continue to ensure that we deliver housing solutions to the masses of people and the middle class. And it is no doubt, sir, that in our time, when one speaks of a crisis in the world, it has been the Democratic Labour Party that has been using the NHC to deliver the solutions to this country.

And if you look at the major housing projects that this country went through, one will recognise that it was the Democratic Labour Party that put their money behind the housing project since 2008 and is still doing it. So much so, we have many solutions and we are completing those solutions, and all the talk I have been hearing about when people are going to get their houses - people are signing up and they are completing the agreements. They asked about Valerie. People are living in Valerie. So, Mr. Speaker, I now beg that this resolution do now pass.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, sir, with that we have come to the end of Government Business for today, and I beg to move that this sitting be adjourned until Friday, the 1st of November, at 10.00 a.m.

AN HON. MEMBER: I beg to second that, sir.

The question that the House be adjourned until Friday, November 1, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

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BRATHWAITE, Hon. A. D. (St. Philip South)
FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
HINKSON, Mr. E. G. (St. James North)
KELLMAN, Hon. D. St.E. (St. Lucy)
LASHLEY, Hon. S. A. (Christ Church West Central)
MOTTLEY, Hon. Miss M. A. (St. Michael North East)
SINCKLER, Hon. C. P. (St. Michael North West)
SYMMONDS, Mr. K. D. (St. James Central)
TOPPIN, Mr. R. St.C. (St. Michael North)

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

Points noted while correcting and preparing this report. Members are named as in the 2013–2018 Parliament.

Q1. Front matter. The source does not record the PRESENT list or the officiant at Prayers; the Members listed are those identified from the record. The source gives the time of meeting as 10.00 a.m. Please supply from the Votes and Proceedings.

Q2. Beginning of the Sitting. Part 1 of the source opens with Mr. SPEAKER's words 'The sitting is resumed.' The proceedings before that point are not in the source. They would include the Minutes, any Papers and notices, the Order under which the Bill was taken, and the earlier speeches in the debate that day, such as that of the Member for St. Michael East, which Hon. A. D. Brathwaite says was given 'earlier this morning'. Please supply from the Votes and Proceedings and the recording.

Q3. Cultural Industries Development Bill, heading. The Bill is called 'the Cultural Industries Bill' in the debate, and its Order number is not recorded. The heading follows the notice given on August 15, 2013 ('Culture Industries Development Bill 2013') and the Bill's 'Cultural Industries Development Fund'. Please confirm the title and Order number. The record ends with the speech of Hon. D. St.E. Kellman and the suspension, so the stage the Bill reached at this Sitting is not recorded.

Q4. Throughout. The bracketed time-checks in the source are out of sequence (for example '[12.30 a.m.]' and '[2.00 a.m.]' during the morning) and have been omitted. The source also records the first suspension as moved 'until half past five this evening' and the sitting as 'suspended at 5.15 p.m.'. That cannot be right, because the luncheon suspension later in the Sitting was until 2.00 p.m.; the time is therefore not printed. Please check against the recording.

Q5. Throughout. Seconders are not identified in the source ('Second that, sir, and reserve my rights' on the no-confidence motion; 'I beg to second that, sir' on the adjournment, which the source runs into the speech of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce). They are printed under AN HON. MEMBER.

Q6. Cultural Industries Development Bill, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce. The speech called as that of the Member for Christ Church South is headed 'HON. RALPH A. THORNE' in the source. He was not a Member of the 2013–2018 House. The speaker refers to the St. Lawrence

entertainment area, and the caption transcript labels the continuation 'Hon. John D. E. Boyce', so the speech is printed under Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE. The point of order that follows ('the honourable member for Christ Church South is misleading the House'), which he introduces with 'Here comes the deputy leader', is also headed 'HON. RALPH A. THORNE'. It is printed under AN HON. MEMBER; please identify the Member.

Q7. Cultural Industries Development Bill, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce. The speaker refers to the 'member for St. Michael South Central' and says 'She mentioned the question of Caribana'. The Member for St. Michael South Central, Hon. R. L. Sealy, is referred to as 'he' earlier in the same speech. The reference is printed as in the source; please check whether the Member for St. Michael South East was meant.

Q8. Cultural Industries Development Bill, Miss C. Y. Forde. The source runs the end of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce's speech, the call of the Member for St. Thomas and the opening of Miss C. Y. Forde's speech into one paragraph; they have been separated. The point of order during her speech is headed 'SPEAKER UNCERTAIN' in the source. The speaker answers 'the allegation that I was asked to lead to Macau in China' and refers to 'the member who shadows culture', so it is printed under Hon. S. A. LASHLEY, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth. Please confirm.

Q9. Cultural Industries Development Bill, Hon. A. D. Brathwaite. Headed 'HON. INDAR A. WEIR' in the source. He was not a Member of the 2013–2018 House. Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER called the Member for St. Philip South, and the speaker links culture to 'my ministry' and his visit to the prison, so the speech is printed under Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE. Please confirm.

Q10. Cultural Industries Development Bill, Mr. E. G. Hinkson. Headed 'HON. CHAD J. BLACKMAN' in the source. He was not a Member of the 2013–2018 House, and no call from the Chair is recorded. The speaker supports 'the lead speaker on this side, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East' and speaks of roads in St. James North and of 'the people of St. James North', so the speech is printed under Mr. E. G. HINKSON. Please confirm. Three later passages of the speech that are headed 'SPEAKER UNCERTAIN' in the source are printed under him.

Q11. Cultural Industries Development Bill, points of order during Mr. E. G. Hinkson's speech. The first point of order is headed 'HON. MEMBER FOR ST. LUCY' and is printed under Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN. The second ('a

road was paved in his constituency') is headed 'SPEAKER UNCERTAIN'. It is printed under AN HON. MEMBER; it may be the Minister responsible for roads, Hon. M. A. Lashley. Please identify the Member.

Q12. *Cultural Industries Development Bill, Hon. D. St.E. Kellman.* Headed 'HON. MEMBER FOR ST. LUCY' in the source. The call 'Honourable Member for St. Lucy' was run into the end of Mr. E. G. Hinkson's speech; it has been separated and printed under Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER. The speech, which deals with the Rural Development Commission, is printed under Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN.

Q13. *No-confidence motion, Hon. C. P. Sinckler.* The point of order on the words 'less accomplished members of opposition' is headed 'SPEAKER UNCERTAIN' in the source and is printed under AN HON. MEMBER. Mr. SPEAKER's reply mentions 'a former Honourable Member of the Cabinet of Barbados'. Please identify the Member.

Q14. *Throughout.* Several interventions from the Chair were run into Members' speeches in the source and are printed separately. Examples are 'you have 10 minutes in which to conclude' during the speech of Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley and 'Honourable Member, you have one minute in which to conclude' during the speech of Hon. C. P. Sinckler. The caption error 'I remember' for 'Honourable Member' in the Chair's calls has been corrected where the sense is clear.

Q15. *No-confidence motion, resumption after lunch.* Part 3 of the source opens with Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley's reply; the resumption at 2.00 p.m. is not recorded. She invites any other Member to speak first and mentions Hon. D. St.E. Kellman and Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe. Part of the debate may be missing between Mr. E. G. Hinkson's speech and the reply; please check against the recording.

Q16. *No-confidence motion, division.* The Clerk's call of the names is largely inaudible in the source; only the first four answers ('No') can be heard. The division is printed with the totals the Clerk announced, 14 Ayes and 15 Noes. Please supply the division list from the Votes and Proceedings.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, October 22, 2013. The record begins after a suspension, with Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair for the resumed debate on the Cultural Industries Development Bill, 2013. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce supported the Bill. He referred to the Barbadian film Payday, noise and vagrancy in St.

Lawrence and the Cultural Industries Development Fund. Miss C. Y. Forde spoke of the National Cultural Policy of 2010, cultural practitioners from St. Thomas, the tenants of Temple Yard, who she said had been without electricity for over three years, and young people in Rock Hall. Hon. S. A. Lashley rose on a point of order about a cultural project with China.

Hon. A. D. Brathwaite spoke of St. Philip's tradition in calypso and comedy and of cultural work at the prison. He asked that artists be allowed to hold foreign exchange. Mr. E. G. Hinkson supported the Bill in principle but credited its foundation to a task force set up under the previous administration. He argued that section 28 offended the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, noted the reference to the abolished purchases property transfer tax in section 39, complained that none of \$130 million voted for roads had gone to St. James North, and cited the 54 per cent cut in the subsidy to the Barbados Council for the Disabled; Hon. D. St.E. Kellman answered him on a point of order. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman said the Bill would have its greatest effect in rural Barbados through the Rural Development Commission and community tourism. The House was then suspended for 15 minutes.

After the resumption the House took Private Members' Business. Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley moved a Resolution that the House have no confidence in the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and that he be relieved of his portfolio. She cited a deficit of about \$1.5 billion, \$700 million in arrears and a fall in nominal GDP from \$8.87 billion to \$8.4 billion. She also cited \$45 million paid to the National Housing Corporation without parliamentary approval and questioned the legal basis of the consolidation and solid waste taxes. Mr. R. St.C. Toppin criticised the handling of Almond Beach, including costs of \$106 million and a further \$500 million, and the \$50 million US loan for tourism. Mr. E. G. Hinkson cited the \$200 million owed to the University of the West Indies and the \$35 million cut to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital budget. The House was suspended for lunch until 2.00 p.m.

In reply Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley argued that the Minister's figures did not add up, saying that \$88 million subtracted from \$3 876 million gave \$3 788 million, not \$3 440 million. Hon. C. P. Sinckler answered that he had reduced the deficit from 9 to 10 per cent to 4.7 per cent. He said that the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act allowed four months to refine a tax measure, and that a typographical error in the consolidation tax would be dealt with in permanent legislation. He said that the bond exercise had been a buyback tender, not a new issue, and told the House of a police warning of a threat to his life. Mr. SPEAKER ruled on a series of points of order from Mr. K. D. Symmonds and Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley, finding no point of order and directing that one remark be

struck from the record. On a division the Resolution was lost, 14 votes to 15.

After a suspension of 15 minutes the House returned to Government Business. Under Order No. 11 Hon. D. St.E. Kellman moved a Resolution under section 91 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, to abandon the compulsory acquisition of 2 461.3 square metres of land at

Mason Hall Street, St. Michael, the property of Mr. Alan Penn. He said that the cost was too high compared with three other parcels at Mason Hall Street and White Park. Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic regretted the abandonment, given the need for low-income housing in Bridgetown. The Resolution was passed, and the House adjourned until Friday, November 1, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.