
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

PRESENT

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

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT, (Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development)

Mr. J. D. PAUL, B.Sc. (Chairman of Committees)
Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, Dip. Theology, B.A., M.Ed., Ed.D. (Minister of Environment and Drainage)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. E. G. HINKSON, LL.B (Hons.) LEC, LLM

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

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

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

Prayers were taken by Rev. Father Mark Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: Good morning Honourable Members, this Sitting of the House is now in session. Let me take the opportunity to welcome you back from our short break. Well, I am sure that most of you enjoyed the festivities of the season and I wish you well as we go forward to continue to do the people's business. You too the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have with me the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes for the Honourable the House of

Assembly for its Meeting of Tuesday, December 15, 2015, be confirmed subject to any omissions, corrections and/or observations.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have with me a letter from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West seeking leave of absence to facilitate convalescence from her recent illness. We will have the usual motion at the appropriate time. I am sorry, I have been told that there was some difficulty hearing me.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay. Fine.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is also a very relevant observation, Honourable Leader of the House. I said that I was in receipt of a letter from the Honourable Member for Christ Church West seeking leave of absence to facilitate convalescence from her recent illness. I also said that we will deal with that when we have the usual motion at the appropriate time which will be led by the Leader of the House. Yes, Mr. Clerk of Parliament.

PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) University of the West Indies, ... Order, 2015.

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

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Cost-U-Less Barbados Inc., Order, 2015; and

2. Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Citizens and Permanent Residents Order, 2015.

Hon. D.O'N INNISS: I beg to move the First Reading of the following Bills:

1. The Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2016;
2. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael

Central.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the First Reading of the following Bills:

1. The Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
2. The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. F. J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the First Reading of the following Bills:

1. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael North-West. Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the First Reading of the following Bills:

1. The British American Insurance Company (Barbados Limited) (Preservation of Investments) Bill, 2016.

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

MOTIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, as was indicated earlier, I beg to move that the application for Leave of Absence by the Honourable Member for Christ Church West from January 26, 2016 to March 01, 2016, be granted.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ORDER 24

SECOND READING OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(PROTECTION ORDERS) (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2016.

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

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Mr. Speaker, before I start my presentation, I wish to seek this Honourable House's permission to have the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2016 debated along with the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

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

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Mr. Speaker, today in the life, sociology and functioning of Barbados as a society, one which has as its core the traditional family structure in whatever formation that presents itself. This structure, Mr. Speaker, as we know it has become frail, extremely weak and less resilient over generations, but generally speaking, in spite of that, some of its core values have withstood and survived the rigours of evolving foreign influence cultures.

Mr. Speaker, this family structure of which I speak is one that we have become accustomed provides the bedrock, the foundation and the anvil on which society must be hammered and shaped for the proper ordering of what is expected of us as a people. If we as Barbadians strive not to disappoint our founding fathers, Mr. Speaker, we must in all spheres of life remedy any errors that threaten to turn a country on its head and dilute the essence, the very intrinsic nature of our Barbados that has nurtured and preserved us over time.

Against this background, we are approaching this debate this morning, and the subsequent passing of these amendments to the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act, 1992-4 with all of these considerations at the forefront of our mind, if it is the will of this Honourable Chamber.

As I have said before, it is watershed and historic because as a Government and as a people, we have observed there are fundamental deficiencies within the current legislation processes surrounding domestic violence and we are here today, Mr. Speaker, to correct these deficiencies as much as was prescribed, but our society very much mimics what occurs in other jurisdictions here in the Caribbean and certainly internationally with regards to domestic violence. Throughout time spanning as far as my memory serves me, the sordid practice of violence within our households has been ever present and straddles

our ethic, religious and social strata. As a levelled, sophisticated and civilised society, Mr. Speaker, we as a people must muster our collective strengths to rid from the landscape of our beloved country as much as possible this repugnant scourge. This action is but one to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves as a Government to being a socially balanced society.

This Government, of course, Mr. Speaker, is of the view that the current legislation governing domestic violence in Barbados is outdated and borders in some cases on being antediluvian and in dire need of reform and relevance to modern-day occurrences. Mr. Speaker, just to give some background information on how we got where we are today. Yes, we know the legislation is outdated and lacks scope, but we did not arrive at that conclusion, Mr. Speaker, by any hunches or presumptions, but by hard evidence-based empirical information we gleaned from a study that was commissioned by the Bureau of Gender Affairs of CADRES (Caribbean Development Research Services) back in 2008 to determine the definition, prevalence and characteristics of domestic violence in Barbados. At the time, Mr. Speaker, we also asked them to develop an abuse profile which would highlight the demographic and sociological characteristics that appear to predispose persons to become victims of abuse. Mr. Speaker, some of the data that came to the fore in this particular study was confirmed by what was revealed in a national study designed to determine the prevalence and characteristics of domestic violence in Barbados. That national report informed us that 27 per cent of Barbadian homes had in fact experienced some form of domestic violence, with an average of 21 per cent of murders in Barbados between the years 2000 and 2007 credited to violence in the homes. This represented one in every five murders committed in Barbados. All the victims of those murders, Mr. Speaker, were our precious women.

Some other statistics which that study revealed was that the highest incidence of death due to domestic violence over the last 11 years occurred in 2003 in Barbados, with a figure of ten women dying at the hands of men. Mr. Speaker, in 2005 we had nine deaths; in 2007 we had seven deaths; in 2008 there were six deaths; in 2009 there were two deaths; in 2010 there were three; in 2011 there were five; in 2012 there were seven; in 2013 there were nine; and in 2014 there were three. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, for the year 2015 we had one reported death due to domestic violence. What must be pointed out, though, Mr. Speaker, is that the prevalence and incidence of domestic violence is not fully known with certainty as a result of under-reporting and our limited record-keeping. With that said, though, Mr. Speaker, one of the first recommendations from the research of CADRES was the need for review of the current legislation. Against that background, we set about constituting a domestic violence law reform working committee in February 2012 to consider and make

recommendations for reform of the Domestic Violence Act. The committee comprised a number of people from the judiciary, the Welfare Department, non-governmental organisations, the Institute of Gender and Development Studies, the Bar Association, and legal consultants. Mr. Speaker, the committee members in their wisdom made some recommendations that there was a need for reform in the existing legislation to ensure greater responsiveness of the administration of justice to victims of domestic violence, as well as the need to strengthen protection options available to all persons who experience abuse within the domestic context.

Mr. Speaker, I must point out at this stage that our existing Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act is based on the CARICOM model, and has a number of strengths, such as: It responds to the victims' perception of their need for safety and protection, it promises speedy hearing of the cases and the comparable determination action, and it provides a meaningful alternative for women who do not want to invoke the criminal process and pursue the case against the perpetrator. However, Mr. Speaker, prior to the enactment of this specialised law, persons who experienced physical violence within interpersonal relationships were forced to rely on the police and the criminal justice system for protection, or otherwise seek injunctive relief in the High Court.

Mr. Speaker, these relationships would pertain to man-woman, man-man and woman-woman relationships, as well as adult relationships with children. But what was revealing is that male-on-female domestic violence, Mr. Speaker, was the most common form experienced in Barbados, with the man being the frequent abuser. The data further revealed that there was a disproportionate quantity of information on domestic violence against men, and in these few cases it was clear that there was even greater hesitation for males to come forward and report such acts. Mr. Speaker, what was also revealing was the fact that violence was most prevalent in St. Michael as a parish, which is not surprising since it is the most populous of all 11 parishes. The other high incidence of violence occurred in St. James, St. Peter and Christ Church in that particular order.

CADRES further estimated that the levels of domestic violence in Barbados are, in reality, in line with international averages, but I must point out, Mr. Speaker - I must point out - that we as a people are not wearing this comparison as any badge of honour. This situation was, to our mind, unsatisfactory, given that, no matter how many cases come before the courts, we as a society have a level of tolerance for what we call family violence. We sometimes, Mr. Speaker, believe it is the husbands' and wives' business, and should be solved within the four corners of that household, and has nothing, absolutely nothing, to do with persons external to that particular

household. But, Mr. Speaker, sometimes it goes further than that; for often, as we all know, love runs deep and there are certain emotional attachments that stand in the way. More often than not, Mr. Speaker, there is fear of the perpetrator or the shame that will engulf the family, or the intimidation by the abuser, as well as the intimidating nature of the criminal justice process if the case goes before the law courts. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, the dependence on the perpetrator for financial support inhibits the pursuit of the case because the accuser does not want to criminalise or bring shame to their partner or certainly to their children's father.

The draft model that is used for these amendments, Mr. Speaker, was taken from the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) legislation, along with Trinidad and Tobago, New Zealand and Australian domestic violence legislation. They were intended to increase the legal options of persons experiencing domestic abuse and to ensure access to protective relief for their very own safety. This model, Mr. Speaker, did not create criminal offences except where a Protection Order of the court is breached. It was meant to be complementary to the existing criminal justice system, as all forms of physical abuse and threats of physical abuse, whether against a partner or a stranger, constitute crimes in the Caribbean. The legislation gives a class of persons who are abused within the household or family context the right to apply to the magistrates' court for Non-molestation, Exclusion and Occupation Orders. The law is described as civil as opposed to the criminal process and the person applying for protection need only prove the case on a civil standard of proof that is, on the balance of probabilities. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, we in Barbados live in a cultural setting cultural setting which does not recognise or accept that the domestic violence is everybody's business no matter who the victim may be, as I have said earlier. Sir, to make this amendment work effectively, we must seek to eliminate this seeming tolerance of domestic violence and the basis that it is a private matter between two persons into which no one should intervene.

Mr. Speaker, even when the crime is being committed for everyone to see, many of our citizens prefer not to get involved, even family members, they see domestic violence and prefer to do nothing about the particular situation. Sir, this sometimes results in persons feeling powerless, believing that the victim provoked the abuse and is deserving of the beating and violence perpetrated against them. Sir, what is worse is that when the police is called, a full report is made most of the time but in 31 per cent of the cases, investigations were stopped by the victim or survivor through fear of the perpetrator, or even worse, sometimes the victim believe they are deserving of the beating or it is a manifestation of the perpetrator's love and affection. Sir, these scenarios are sometimes observed by the broad civil society, including

crisis centres and the church who have significant role to play in helping to reduce the incidences of domestic violence, such churches sometimes even adopt a role and through counselling encourage victims to stay in abuse relationship with the expectation that matters will take a turn for the better as time passes. Sir, this kind of tolerance is not the exclusive preserve of domestic violence. This has now become almost pervasive across our country in almost every single category of violence in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I have provided to the background to the reason why it was necessary to make these amendments and highlight the mechanisms that was used to make these amendments and highlight the particular mechanisms that was used to achieve the subjective. I would now walk this Honourable Chamber through the proposed amendments to address domestic violence in this country because as Barbadians we must display our abhorrence and exhibit our intolerance of all kinds of violence and this must be done across the social spectrum. Sir, before I do that, let me inform this Honourable House of the objectives and reasons for the introduction of this Bill to amend the previous Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are about to ensure that there is an accurate reflection of what currently obtains in Barbados and to make provision for a comprehensive definition of the term domestic violence. We also intend to extend the classes of persons who are considered to be victims of domestic violence and also the classes of persons who may intervene in applications before the court on behalf of victims. We are also ensuring this morning that victims receive the appropriate counselling and therapy and facilitate the enrollment of the perpetrator in the appropriate rehabilitation programme offered in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill establishes the duty and the powers of members of the police force in relation to allegations of domestic violence including the power to issue Emergency Protection Order and maximise the safety and protection of victims and ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to the amendments of the Act. I want you to bear with me because I will go through each and every amendment for clarity and so every single person in Barbados understands exactly what we are doing here this morning.

Firstly, the new legislation amends Section 2 of Cap 130A and deletes the old definition of the words “child, harassment and spouse” and provides new definition for them along for definitions for a number of other words appearing in the amendments. Sir, for instance, child abuse now means any act of domestic violence perpetrated against a child and includes causing or permitting a child to risk, hear, or to be exposed to domestic violence, that is the

new definition for child abuse. Sir, cohabitational relationship is defined as a relationship where persons who are not legally married are living together in the same household as husband and wife. Sir, dependant in the new legislation means a person who by some physical, mental or other disability is wholly or partly maintained by a perpetrator or victim of domestic violence. In the new legislation, Mr. Speaker, domestic relationship means a relationship between a perpetrator of domestic violence and victim who is spouse, former spouse, child, dependant or any other person who is considered to be relative of the perpetrators by virtue of consanguinity or affinity and includes cohabitational and visiting relationships. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is now defined as a willful infliction or threat of infliction of harm by one person in a domestic relationship upon another person in that relationship and includes child abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Mr. Speaker, emotional abuse now means any act by a perpetrator which causes psychological pain or injury to a victim and includes harassment, the use of threatening words or behaviour and withholding from the victim access to the victim child, parent or guardian.

Mr. Speaker, financial abuse is now described in the new legislation as the exercise of control by a perpetrator over a victim access to financial resources through coercion, deception or intimidation, the effect of which is to hinder the victim’s financial independence or ability to maintain a children or dependent and to ensure financial dependence on the perpetrator and includes exploitation of the victim’s financial resources and withholding the financial support necessary to maintain a victim, or child or dependant.

Mr. Speaker, perpetrator is not interpreted as a person who commits an act of domestic violence and a person at risk is a person named in an Emergency Protection Order for whose safety the order is issued.

Mr. Speaker, physical abuse is any act or omission by a perpetrator which causes pain or injury to the body of victim. Sir, a respondent is a person against whom an application for a Protection Order is made and sexual abuse means the performance by a perpetrator of a sexual act on a victim by the use of force, threats, fear, manipulation and includes the actual attempted commission of any of the offences stated in Part 1 of the Sexual Offences Act, Cap 154.

Mr. Speaker, subordinate police officer has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the Police Act, Cap 167, and a victim means a person against whom an act of violence is committed and also includes a child. A visiting relationship with some of our single colleagues you may have some problem with is a relationship where the parties

do not live together in the same household, but in which they are romantic, intimate and sexual relation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute, Honourable Member, sorry to interrupt at this stage.

The Speaker vacated the Chair and Madam Deputy Speaker assumed the Chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Continue Honourable Member.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I felt I should spell out those definitions because they will emerge at different stages as I explain the amendments.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I informed you earlier of three words that appeared to be in the legislation that were changed, for instance, the definition of harassment. That is now defined to include areas of the social media and modern means of telecommunications. It is now defined as:

“(a) intimidation of a victim by a perpetrator through (i) persistent verbal abuse; (ii) threats of physical violence; (iii) malicious damage to the victim's property; (iv) persistently contacting the victim by any means including via e-mail, facsimile, post, telephone, or text message; or (v) any other means; or (b) persistently following a victim about from place to place; (c) hiding clothes or other property owned or used by a victim or depriving the victim of the use thereof; (d) approaching, besetting or watching the house or other place where a victim resides, works, carries on business, studies or happens to be; (e) publishing on the internet or by other mass medium, statements or other material relating to a victim without the victim's consent; (f) keeping a victim or the victim's communications under surveillance without the victim's knowledge or consent; and (g) any other act, the purpose of which is to intimidate, scare or cause the victim to apprehend harm”

Madam Deputy Speaker, the definition of child is now in the new amendments. Normally we use a person under 18 years of age, who is not married and is considered to be in a domestic relationship by virtue of continued residence or a relationship of continuity or affinity where the perpetrator or victim of domestic violence, this is an expanded definition, Madam Deputy Speaker, of the original Act and goes further to include an adopted child, a step-child or a ward.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the definition of spouse is now described as “a party to a marriage” with the added definition as also a “co-habitational relationship”. The Bill goes further though and amends Section 3 by deleting the old section and substituting that with a scope the Protection

Order now covers. I must point out, Madam Deputy Speaker, that these amendments place heavy emphasis on the matter of the Protection Order. The amended section now reads, Madam Deputy Speaker:

“(1) Where on an application made in accordance with section 4 the Court is satisfied on a balance of probabilities that a person has engaged in or has threatened to engage in behaviour that constitutes domestic violence, the Court may make an order in this Bill restraining the person from engaging in that conduct or similar conduct.”

Embedded in the Bill also upon the hearing and determination of the application for the Protection Order the Court can now make an interim Protection Order before even considering the application for the Protection Order and this can be done whether or not the respondent is present at the proceedings or has been given notice of the proceedings.

Thirdly, by way of Interim Protection Orders bid, the Court shall fix a date for further consideration of the application and that date shall be no later than the date on which the order will expire and fourthly, I want to point out a caveat in that the Interim Protection Order, under subsection (2) cannot be made unless the protection order is supported by oral evidence on oath or by evidence on affidavit given by the complainant.

This interim protection order, Madam Deputy Speaker, shall be served on the respondent as soon as possible after it was made and the respondent shall be summoned to appear before the Court for a further hearing of the matter, at which time the Court may do three things. Madam Deputy Speaker, these three things are to (a) fix a date of the hearing of the substantive application and extend the interim protection order until the date fixed for the hearing of the substantive application or until such time as the Court considers necessary. It shall not exceed the period of 28 from the date of filing of the application. Secondly, the Court may revoke the interim protection order; or, may hear the substantive application and make a protection order under subsection (1).

Madam Deputy Speaker, it should be noted that the principal Act has been amended by deleting section 4 and substituting it by saying an application for a protection order shall be made in accordance with Form 1 as set out in the Schedule of the Act by doing a) the spouse of the person against whom the order is sought where an act of domestic violence was committed against that spouse or a child; b) any other person in the domestic relationship with a person against whom the order was sought, where the act was committed against that person or child; and c) the Commissioner of Police on the behalf of the victim of domestic violence, d) a person other than the persons I

have mentioned just now as an agent for a victim of domestic violence including a Social Worker, a Probation Officer, or a Representative of any NGO which renders support services to service the victims of domestic violence, where that person has obtained leave of the Court and in the case of a victim who is mentally capable of providing consent and is over the age of 18 years, the consent of the victim; or e) a Child Care or Welfare Officer on behalf of a child, or a person who is mentally handicapped - I do not like that word but it appears within the information - against whom an act of domestic violence was committed.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Section 4(2) the person against whom the order is sought shall be the respondent through the application and 4(3) where an application for protection order has been made to the Court under subsection (1), the Court shall issue a copy of the application together with a summons, in accordance with Form 2 set out in the schedule, to the respondent forthwith to be served personally on the respondent.

In section 4 states, where it appears to the Court that it is not reasonably practicable to serve the respondent personally with a copy of an application for a protection order, the Court may make an order for substituted services, including services by, 1) registered post to the last known address of the respondent; 2) leaving the document at the last known address of the respondent; or 3) by advertisement in two daily newspapers printed and published in Barbados, which service is deemed to have been effected on the date of later advertisement, and the cost of which should be borne by the complainant; or at section 4(4B) order that the copy of the application be served by such other means as the Court thinks just.

Madam Deputy Speaker, at 4(5) of the amendments says clearly, notwithstanding anything in this Act, any document required to be served upon this Act may be served by an attorney-at-law or his agent. At 4(6) it goes on to state that where a complainant is a person referred to in paragraph C or subsection (1), a protection order shall not be made in respect of the application unless notice of the application in accordance with Form 2 of the Schedule was given to the victim.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the amendments go on and state at 4 (7) that where it is proved by evidence on oath to the satisfaction of the Court that a summons and the copy of the application were served on the respondent in accordance with subsection (3) or (5) within what appears to the Court to be a reasonable time, and the respondent fails to appear at the time and place appointed for the hearing, the Court may do two things:

1. Proceed to hear and determine the matter in the absence of the respondent; or

2. Where the court is satisfied, having regard to the information before it, that it is appropriate to do so, adjourn the matter and issue a warrant for the respondent to be apprehended and brought before the court.

At Section 4 (8), where the respondent is present but the claimant or person on whose behalf a complaint is made or their attorney-at-law fails to appear at the time and place appointed for hearing, the Court may do two things:

1. Where it is satisfied that there is reasonable excuse for the absence of the complainant or person on whose behalf a complaint is made or their attorney-at-law, adjourn the hearing of the matter until such time and on such terms as it considers just; or
2. Dismiss the application and make an order as to costs.

Section 4 (9) then says: An application for a Protection Order shall be heard within two days after the date of service of the application or soon as practicable thereafter.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Section 5 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (1), which says: "evidence on an application for a Protection Order may be given on Affidavit" and substituting that by inserting fresh wording. The wording now goes on: "evidence on an application for a Protection Order may be given on an Affidavit". What is new is that it goes on to say: "in accordance with Form 2A as set out in the Schedule to this particular Act".

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Protection Order subject to this Act makes clear provisions restraining the respondent from a number of things in the new Section 6 (1), for instance:

(a) being on the premises on which the complainant for the Protection Order or the child in respect of whom the Order was made, resides;

(b) being on the premises that are the place of education or work of the complainant or the place of education or work of the child in respect of whom the order was made;

(c) being in a specified locality, being a locality in which premises as mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) or any other premises the Court deems it necessary to specify, are situated;

(d) approaching within a specified distance of the complainant or the child in respect of whom the Order was made;

(e) entering or remaining on the premises, while intoxicated or under the influence of a drug, where the respondent continues to reside with the complainant or the child in respect of whom the Order was made; and

(f) causing another person to engage in conduct referred to in paragraphs (a) or (c) of subsection (3).

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill, after describing the geographical and physical parameters of the Protection Order, now goes further and described what is required of a respondent at 6 (2). For instance, the respondent is required to leave the premises referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (1). Secondly, the respondent is required to continue any legal or other obligation the respondent may have to pay the rent, mortgage, utilities or taxes of the premises referred to in that subparagraph where the respondent is asked to leave under subparagraph (1). Thirdly, the respondent may allow the complainant to enter and remain on the premises referred to in paragraph (c) of subsection (1). Fourthly, he may pay compensation for pecuniary or monetary loss suffered by the complainant as a result of the acts of domestic violence committed by the respondent, including medical expenses, legal expenses, loss of earnings, the cost of accommodation, the cost of transportation or any other expense reasonably incurred by reason of injury to the complainant's person or property. Fifthly, he must make payments to the complainant for the maintenance of a dependent of the complainant and respondent.

Under the new Section 6 subsection (6) and (7), the new Act allows for the court to make orders if not covered in a number of Acts including the Maintenance Act, the Minors Act and the Family Law Act. In other words, the onus, Madam Deputy Speaker, is now placed on the respondent to act responsibly even including surrendering to the police, for the duration of an interim or final Protection Order, any licences or permits issued under the Firearms Act or any ammunition, firearms or other weapons in the possession or control of the respondent, whether or not such weapons were used to commit an act of domestic violence, or specify conditions subject to which the respondent may be on premises or in a locality specified in the Protection Order.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill even touches a provision under Section 6 (3) (a) restraining the respondent from taking possession of personal property of either the complainant or the respondent, being property that is reasonably needed by a member of the respondent's household; (b) directing the respondent to give possession of such property as is specified in the order, to a specified member of the respondent's household. The provision at (c) also prohibits the respondent from damaging the property of the complainant or a child of the complainant or respondent; or (d) prohibiting the respondent from

causing any person to engage in the conduct referred to in paragraph (a) or (c).

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Protection Order demands that in each case, the respondent against whom the Order was sought, attends the Family Services Division of the Welfare Department or such other agencies as the Court specifies, for appropriate counselling and therapy. Where an Order referred to in subsection (4) is made against a male respondent, the Court shall direct that the respondent enroll in an appropriate programme that is facilitated by the Ministry of Social Care. For instance, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Partnership for Peace Programme.

While I am at it, I would like to speak a little bit about this Partnership for Peace Programme. It originates within the Ministry of Family which is now located in the Ministry of Social Care. In the Partnership for Peace Violence Intervention Programme is a psycho-educational 16-session curriculum for men geared towards decreasing male violence against women and family violence. It is based on the premise that violence is intentional and that the abusive behaviours are chosen methods for granting control of persons and situations.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Programme has 10 goals. To help participants stop violence in their lives and help them understand that violence is a choice. It also helps them to accept responsibility for their behaviours and to choose new behaviours that are free of violence. They must understand the cost of violence to themselves, their partner, their children and society in general. It goes further, to teach participants skills for addressing conflict and responding to stress.

The Programme also establishes a model and atmosphere of respect within the group and challenges disrespected behaviour and empowers them to take steps toward improving their lives and relationship. It also encourages participants' examination of where their violent behaviour began. It goes on to create a network of men who will advocate for non-violent relationships. It also prioritises the safety of the victim.

Madam Deputy Speaker, while referrals are made essentially through the Magistrate's Court, referrals can also be made through social services agencies. Self-referrals are also encouraged, however, this has implications for matters of attrition since these participants would not be accountable to any agency or court or to leave without benefiting from the programme that was prescribed.

To date, seven cycles have been completed and 62 men have benefitted from the teaching administered by select facilitators. The eighth cycle is due to commence

some time this year, following referrals from the courts or from other social service agencies, and that is exactly what we do in the Ministry of Family which is located in the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, the PEACE Programme.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I should probably thank all of those who are involved in our Ministry with this programme for of course shepherding in through all the processes and of course the evident results are clear here in this particular programme.

Madam Deputy Speaker, while the respondents are enrolled in that programme, it is incumbent on the Welfare Department, on the other hand, to submit to the court a report setting out the dates on which the counselling took place, the nature of the counselling and the therapy carried out in that particular programme and the response given to the counselling and therapy by the parties to the order.

Now, in determining an application for a protection order, Madam Deputy Speaker, the court has regards for a number of areas specified in the new Section 7 of the Act that has been amended in Subsection (1), by deleting paragraphs (c) which read: “the need to preserve and protect the institutional marriage or union other than marriage and to give protection and assistance to the family or a natural and sentimental unit of the society.” That was one of the area with regard to determining application for an order, that has now been deleted from the legislation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Sections 11(A) and 11(E) have been inserted immediately after Section 11. These additions address how the amended legislation now deals with the duties of members of the Royal Barbados Police Force.

“Duties of members of the Police Force

(1) A member of the police force shall (and that is the

operative word) respond to every complaint alleging domestic violence.

2. *The Commissioner of Police shall keep a Domestic*

Violence Register for the purpose of recording

information obtained by a member of the Police Force

who responds to a complaint alleging domestic violence.”

Madam Deputy Speaker, it goes further to say:

3. *“A member of the Police Force who responds to a complaint alleging domestic violence shall complete a report in accordance with Form 6 set out in the Schedule to this Act and record the information in a Domestic Violence Register to be maintained by the Commissioner of Police.”*

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Act continues:

4. *A member of the Police Force shall, as soon as is practicable after completing a report in accordance with subsection (3) provide the person making the complaint with a copy of the report.”*

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill also prescribes:

5. *“Where practicable, when responding to a complaint alleging domestic violence, a member of the Police Force shall render assistance to a victim of domestic violence by*

(a) seeking medical attention for a victim who has suffered injury;

(b) accompanying the victim onto premises for the purpose of retrieving personal property; (c) ensuring the welfare and safety of children and other persons who are on the premises; and (d) preventing further breaches of the law.”

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill reinforces that,

6. *“A member of the Police Force shall, as soon as is practicable after receiving a complaint alleging domestic violence, verbally inform the victim of domestic violence of the victim’s rights and provide a printed copy of those rights as set out in Form 7 of the Schedule to this Act.”* Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill continues:

7. *“A member of the Police Force shall, pursuant to an order issued under section 11B or an order of the Court, seize any ammunition, firearms or other weapons in the possession or control of the perpetrator, whether or not those weapons were used to commit an act of domestic violence.”*

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill continues at 11B(1):

“Power to issue emergency protection order.

(1) Where a member of the Police Force exercises his power of arrest in accordance with section 12(4), a subordinate police officer may issue an emergency protection order in accordance with Form 8 as set out in the Schedule to this Act, where he has reasonable cause to believe that the issue of an order is necessary to ensure the safety of a person at risk.

2. A subordinate police officer may issue an emergency

protection order under subsection (1) without the consent of the person at risk. 3. In determining whether to issue an emergency protection order under subsection (1), the subordinate police officer shall consider -- (a) whether the person at risk has immediate access to the Court to make an application in accordance with section 4; (b) the likelihood that the perpetrator will continue to commit acts of domestic violence against the person at risk; (c) the welfare of any children residing with the perpetrator or the person at risk; (d) any hardship that may be caused if the order is issued; and (e) any other matter that, in the circumstances of the case, the member of the Police Force considers relevant.”

Madam Deputy Speaker, under Section 11C, I want to deal with the service of emergency protection order. Madam Deputy Speaker, it says:

“Service of emergency protection order

1. Where an emergency protection order is issued, it shall be served personally by a member of the Police Force on the perpetrator as soon as is reasonably practicable after the order is issued.

2. An order served under subsection (1) shall remain in force until such time as an order is made by the Court pursuant to an application under section 4, but no longer than 7 days from the date on which it is issued.

3. A member of the Police Force who serves an emergency protection order shall explain to the perpetrator in a language that he understands,

(a) the purpose, terms, duration and effect of the order; and

(b) the consequences that may follow if the perpetrator fails to comply with the terms of the order.”

Madam Deputy Speaker, it does not end there, it goes on to say:

4. A member of the Police Force shall, as soon as

is reasonably practicable after serving an emergency protection order, notify the person at risk of the order and the purpose, terms, duration and effect of the same order.”

Madam Deputy Speaker, let us now turn our minds to the effect of the emergency protection order. Under Section 11B

“Effect of emergency protection order

11D. Where an emergency protection order is served on a

perpetrator, the perpetrator shall immediately cease

to engage in behaviour that constitutes harassment

or domestic violence towards the person at risk and,

for the duration of the order, shall

(a) vacate any premises occupied by the person at risk; and

(b) surrender to a member of the Police Force

any licences or permits issued under the Firearms Act, Cap. 179 and any ammunition, firearms or other weapons in that person’s possession or control, whether or not such weapons were used to commit an act of domestic violence.”

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill also frowns on any breaches of the emergency protection order.

Breach of emergency protection order

11E(1) Where an emergency protection order is issued

and served in accordance with sections 11B and

11C and the perpetrator contravenes the order in

any respect, the perpetrator is guilty of an

offence and is liable on summary conviction to

a fine of \$2 500 or to imprisonment for a term

of six months, or to both.”

2. A person who is arrested for contravention of an emergency protection order shall be brought before the Court within a period of 24 hours beginning at the time of the arrest, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.”

Madam Deputy Speaker, under the new Section 12 two amendments are being made, first, subsection 2 which reads as follows:

“Where a power of arrest is attached to an order under subsection (1), a member of the Police Force may arrest without a warrant, a person whom he has reasonable cause to suspect is in breach of such order, by reason of that person’s use of violence or unauthorised entry into the premises or areas referred to in section 6(1).” Madam Deputy Speaker, that is now replaced by the wording: “Where a power of arrest is attached to an order under subsection (1), a member of the Police Force may arrest without a warrant, a person whom he has reasonable cause to suspect is in breach of such order, by reason of that person’s use of violence or unauthorised entry into the premises or areas referred to in section 6(1).

Madam Deputy Speaker, the difference between the old and new subsection 3 is the specifics of the locality which restrains the respondents, they are now clearly identified in the amended Section 6(1). The other Subsection 4 formerly read “where powers of arrest are attached to a Protection Order and a person to whom the Order is addressed is arrested under Subsection 3”. That particular is now changed and adds some immediacy to the action of the police to truncate any pending danger to the complainant. The amendment goes further by inserting immediately after Subsection 4 a Subsection 5 which says “where a person is arrested under Subsection 3 or 4, he shall be brought before the court within the period of 24 hours beginning at the time of his arrest or as soon as is reasonably practical”.

The amendments further require the police, Madam Deputy Speaker, to enter premises, by deleting Section 13 and substituting it with what now strengthens the police’s hand by saying at Section 13 (1) that “a member of the Force may without warrant enter any premises for the purpose of giving assistance to anyone present if he has reasonable grounds to suspect (1) an emergency Protection Order, an injury Protection Order or a filed Protection Order is being breached”. Therefore, the police can now enter premises if any of the three of these things are in breach.

If, upon the indication that a person resident at the premises or independently, meaning anyone of course outside of the particular property, has reasonable grounds to suspect that a person on the premises has suffered or is in imminent danger of suffering physical injury at the hands of some other person, Section 14 (2) nevertheless

observes basic rights of the property owner, Madam Deputy Speaker. It clearly states that where a member of the Force exercises a power of entry under Subsection 14 (1), “he shall as soon as is reasonably practical, after exercising the power of entry, submit a report to the Commissioner of Police through the Station Sergeant for the district in which the incident occurred”.

This report would include:

(a) *the reason for entering the premises without a warrant,*

(b) *the offence being committed or about to be committed,*

(c) *the manner in which the investigation was conducted, and*

(d) *the measure taken to ensure the safety and protection of the person at risk or injured.*

Madam Deputy Speaker, the final amendments address the concerns which were highlighted recently in Barbados regarding the care and protection of the country’s children, which are among my Ministry’s prime responsibilities.

Asides.

Madam Deputy SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. S. D. BLACKETT: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. The final amendments address the concerns which were highlighted recently, and those were concerning the care and protection of the country’s children, which are among my Ministry’s prime responsibilities. However, before I do so, I would like to reveal some of the statistics that were compiled over a 13-year period between the years 2002 and 2015 on child abuse cases in Barbados. For instance, between the years 2002 and 2008 there were 1 594 physical abuse cases of children in Barbados. That is a six-year period. Between 2008 and 2015, a seven-year period, there were 1 656 cases of physical abuse of children in Barbados. In the period between 2002 and 2008, there were 1 406 cases of sexual abuse of children in Barbados, and for the period 2008 to 2015 there were 1 441 cases of sexual abuse of children in Barbados. Between 2002 and 2008, the same six-year period, 3 608 were children neglected in Barbados; and for the seven-year period of 2008 to 2015 there were 4 199 children reported as being neglected in Barbados. In terms of emotional abuse, between 2002 and 2008, there were 653 children reported to be suffering from some kind of emotional abuse; and for the seven-year period between 2008 and 2015 there were 706 children who suffered from

some form of emotional abuse. In terms of abandonment, between 2002 and 2008 there were 28 cases in Barbados; and between 2008 and 2015 we had 14 cases of abandonment in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, though the number of cases is not something we should be proud of, they nevertheless indicate that there is no breakdown or severe dislocation of what is expected of us as a society, comparatively speaking. This I want to reinforce because so often, it is being trumpeted by many of our Governments and uninformed detractors.

This amendment, which addresses the care of our children, inserts Section 19 (a) and this deals with the obligation to report child abuse in Barbados. At 19 (a) 1, it states that “a person who attends to, examines or otherwise interacts with a child and has reasonable cause to suspect that the child is a victim of domestic violence shall immediately notify the Child Care Board or a member of the Royal Barbados Police Force of his suspicions”. At Section 19 (a), a person “who is aware or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of domestic violence and fails to notify the Child Care Board or a member of the Police Force”, or (b) “knowingly and maliciously makes a false, inaccurate or misleading statement to the Child Care Board or a member of the Police Force alleging that the child is a victim of domestic violence, that person is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of \$5 000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months’ imprisonment or to both”. The insertion of Section 19 (a) is important to the care and protection of our nation’s children, and it now obligates and obliges persons to report any cases of domestic violence of children in Barbados through the appropriate authorities if they have any suspicions. It also does something else, it penalises such persons if they fail to notify the authorities or, on the other hand, make a false, inaccurate or misleading statement to the same authorities of any such cases.

I have just presented the rationale behind the amendments and the genesis of the changes to the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act 1992-4, and I have also detailed the same amendments and explained their position and their positive implications. These amendments are intended to bridge the lacuna that prevailed and which facilitated the non-inclusion of certain classes of domestic violence and the provision of counselling and therapy. I went further and explained that the amendments created the environment for the facilitation of enrolment of the perpetrator in rehabilitative programmes, and also extended classes of persons who may intervene in applications before the court on behalf of the victims. I chronicled, Mr. Speaker, how they also extend and establish the duties and powers of the Royal Barbados Police Force as it relates to allegations of domestic violence, including the power to issue emergency Protection Orders. Last, but certainly not least, the

amendments maximise the safety and protection of victims and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

We are also mindful of the protection and care of our children who cannot care or protect themselves. Because of these amendments that are being tabled here today, Barbados will be a far better country in which to move, work, play and do business. The society may not rid itself completely of the ravages of domestic violence but by this new legislation Barbados will most definitely be in a far better position to positively address the incidences and consequences of this scourge and blithe for the better protection, especially of our treasured womenfolk. They are as dear to us as males formed from Adam’s rib.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, let me say a special thanks and acknowledge the contribution of the UN Women for standing with Government in the vanguard in promoting best practices throughout the Commonwealth in protecting against all forms of violence in the home. I am sure that there is a Memorandum of Understanding in place to guarantee the funding and support mechanisms for UN Women to train our police officers and our court officers on the application of these amendments so as to ensure efficient and effective justice and security for all citizens from domestic violence.

I also want to thank them along with all of the other organisations for their constant and fierce advocacy against this scourge called domestic violence. I want to single out the National Organisation of Women, the SAFE Foundation and other such associations and especially I want to thank the Bureau of Gender Affairs for putting in the hard work, laying out the road map and navigating all to this destination here today. Mr. Speaker, I say to you, well done, you are all a credit to the Public Service of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister with responsibility for family, children and for gender issues, this is definitely one of the fundamental highlights of my tenure as a member of this Frontbench. The introduction of these amendments coincide wonderfully with the observation of our nation’s 50th Anniversary. This is not a coincidence, this is certainly a display of nationalistic maturity where you can clearly say that one aspect of our Government structure was broken and we fixed it. If I have achieved nothing else as Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, if I have achieved nothing else of significant in my life but the passing of these amendments here today in this Honourable House, I would settle to have inscribed on my headstone that I was part of a Government and an administration that introduced legislation that fundamentally addressed the issue of domestic violence, its ravages, its pain, it hurt, its

dislocation and its brutality to women especially in Barbados.

By the grace of God and all that is right, I commend these amendments to this Honourable House and beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that the Barbados Labour Party supports the significant amendment to the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act. I recollect many speeches coming from the Other Side where in them those speakers have trumpeted the fact that after 30 years of existence a piece of legislation is bound to need updating at some point and this legislation having been passed first in 1992 has more than come in for criticism because of its shortcoming and the time to amend it is now and, in fact, could have been sooner.

Mr. Speaker, I remember as a young lawyer in the early 1990s welcoming this piece of legislation because it had been clear to the Bar and all other interested individuals that the playing field at that time was one which in terms of the legal system and capacity to protect the sanctity of households was sadly lacking. The legislation was trumpeted and I remember myself in those early days rushing across to the Magistrate's Court to try to protect women and children from the vicious of rapacious males living in the household. One of the things that is obvious is that we cannot address the matter of domestic violence with histrionics on one side and platitudes on the other side. Domestic violence is a blight not just one the Barbadian society but it is a blight on any society that considers itself to be civilized. They have been people who argue that violence is violence but I subscribe to the view that domestic violence is very different from ordinary violence. Sir, a cuff of a man or woman in a bus stand is qualitatively different to a cuff delivered to a member of your household and I think the basis reason for that is the fact that a household is supposed to be a place where nurturing and comfort exists. Sir, a household is built on the very existence of trust and affection and, therefore, it is irrational to expect that the ordinary course of criminal legislation could ever be intended to deal with that creature call domestic violence. Sir, violence in its ordinary sense does not threaten trust but violence in the setting of a domestic arrangement is inimical the trust that one expects to exist.

Mr. Speaker, there are many adjectives for it, highness and evil. In fact, there are almost as many adjectives for domestic violence as the expression of domestic violence itself. We all know in this Chamber that repetition is not a good argument and I believe that it

would not do me well to repeat many of the things that have been said by the Minister, who has introduced it. I agree with virtually everything that he has said in terms of how domestic violence impacts on our modern Barbados and it would do this Honourable Chamber well to reflect on the fact that domestic violence in any form is not just limited to the exact of some domineering feature whether it is withholding money, or delivering a blow, or abuse or putting something on the internet, it is not just limited to those things, Sir. That is the expression of it, but what is more debilitating is the long term consequences of that conduct and those consequences are not just economic consequences to Barbados and its people but there are also consequences in terms of our psyche, our psychology, our mentality, and also consequences of terms of how we exist as social beings.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in St. George - a good parish - so I am embarrassed to say that I, as a child, have witnessed instances of domestic abuse, not in my family, but in my community and noted that the response of the adults was not one of empathy or sympathy but one of laughter. Instances of domestic abuse, unfortunately, became stories for our entertainment. I remember an instance - well a quaint village, sorry, I lived down a cart road, the Honourable Member for St. George North knows it, he gets every vote in that particular cart road in every election that he has run in - and as a little boy, Sir, I cannot call the names because I think at least one of them is still alive, but I remember vividly, I was in primary school at St. George Boys' School so that would tell my age. I remember vividly seeing a man chase a woman with what appeared to me at that tender age to be a huge soft stone block. Now that might have been the perception being that I was only about 7 or 8 years old, to me it seemed huge at the time, perhaps it was not so huge but you know, Sir, I remember watching people along the side of the road laughing and telling the lady to run fast before he kills her. There was nobody who sought to intervene, it was something to entertain and I am sure that for many weeks after people would have been slapping that man in his back and saying man I remember when you pelt that soft stone at ... but the Honourable Member who just spoke talked about a tolerance for violence, and I think that we have to accept that is the depth to which Barbados has sunk. Perhaps that calls for another debate but we are seeing a level of violence and an almost accepting attitude towards violence in our society. Young men are now accepting that it is perfectly in order to find their firearm and shoot into a crowd or a female perfectly acceptable to be found with firearms in their bags instead of a make-up kit.

I do not want the ladies to get together and think that I in anyway am suggesting that women should only have makeup kits in their bags, but it is frightening, Sir, that our society now accepts that for our twenty and twenty-one-year-old young women, that having a gun in her possession

is now a badge of honour. That is not a Barbados that we should be celebrating in a 1st year of independence or in its 50th year of independence, but it is that tolerance for violence which, regrettably, Sir, forces us to examine domestic violence not just in the context of the household in which it occurs but in the context of the society in which they exist.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the Minister who was brave enough to give use those statistics. I think there was only one statistic in which there was any diminution all of the others were on an upward trend whether slight or severe. It takes courage to recognise that there is something in our society that is going dreadfully wrong but it is the absence of that courage, Mr. Speaker, is what has bedevilled our ability as a society to deal with domestic violence because the fact of the matter is that Barbadians and perhaps Caribbean people have always felt that families and households were some things that were people should not be peering into. You should not know what is going on in my household. I am sure we have all heard, keep your voice down I do not want the neighbours to hear what you are saying because our families or domestic arrangements were in a cocoon and nobody was allowed to peer in.

To bring domestic violence legislation was a recognition that as a society we were obligated then and still are obligated to be our brother's keeper. We have absolutely no difficulty in supporting these amendments, there are some and I intend very briefly to address them. There are some that we, as an Opposition, find very a little troubling and I believe it is important to say that as part of this Parliament we have a sworn and solemn obligation to point out to a Government areas in which we think better could be done or areas in which we think missteps are being made but the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that this debate today is not a debate about a statute and a statute alone but perhaps a debate about the level of maturity that we need to reach as a society if we have not reached it yet.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has gone through, with the greatest possible of detail, the Bill and there are some elements of it that we feel flag not only issues that require being dealt with in the context of domestic violence but that we require attention outside of a domestic violence relationship.

Let me give this Chamber a simple example. When two people are cohabiting, or whatever you want to call it, and one of them post intimate pictures on the Internet, that person is potentially caught under the Domestic Violence legislation, but a boyfriend taking nude pictures of his girlfriend, one lives in St. Lucy and the other lives in The City or St. George North, and does exactly the same thing, is not dealt with adequately under our existing legislation. We have legislation under the Electronics Transactions

Act, there is no doubt about that, but what I am saying is that we deal with it in a different way and in a way that is not necessarily satisfactory.

Mr. Speaker, there is the instance of child abuse. This Bill deals with domestic violence or child abuse in the context of this statute but our legislation which substantially deals with child abuse is an Act that was first enacted in 1936 and last amended in 1996 which is called the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act. This Bill places a duty on a particular kind of people who have information and imposes penalties on them but the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act does not address it in the same way. All I am saying from that point of view, Mr. Speaker, is that this should be seen as opening up an opportunity for this Parliament not just to view these instances in total isolation in the context of domestic arrangements but to recognise also that many of the areas which we deal with here exist in another legislation and the laws in that context are outdated and need updating as well.

Mr. Speaker, even though this Bill may seem long, in many instances what is found here are repetitions of what was in the original Act but for drafting...

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: If one examines, for example, Section 6 (1), 6 (1) (a) is not amended, 6 (1) (b) is not amended, 6 (1) (c) is not amended, 6 (1) (d) is not amended, 6 (1) (e) is only inverted, and 6 (1) (f) is not amended, so from the point of view of drafting, it is a drafting technique, it is not a criticism of anybody. In the entire Section 6 (1), which takes up all of page 12, the drafters just found it more convenient to replace the entire thing when the only thing it needed was to invert a few words. In the original Bill, it says where the individual enters, while under this one, it says entering or remaining on premises while intoxicated, so I am not being critical, I am simply trying to point out that even though the Bill may seem long, it is not an indication...

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: The original Bill was enacted in 1992. I believe Sir Maurice King was the Attorney-General then so when you see him you could tell him that.

The point I am making is that the public should not feel that in many respects what is here is so alien that they need to be alarmed, that is all I am saying about that part of it, however, there are some things that are new. One of the things that is new, for example, relates to the role of the Royal Barbados Police Force.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any Attorney-General in this country who has not been met with phone calls complaining about situations where there is domestic violence and the police go to the door and peep in and realise that this is a family thing and walk away and say find a lawyer, this has nothing to do with us. I certainly got those complaints, and I would venture that the current Attorney-General gets them and all previous Attorneys-General got them. It has been a constant criticism of the Royal Barbados Police Force that it has taken over the years a sort of deferential attitude to instances of domestic violence, and the criticism is at its sharpest when a homicide or some grievous bodily harm comes out at the other end.

Mr. Speaker, I am in Opposition so I do not need to defend the police but the fact of the matter is that except you give the Royal Barbados Police Force a clear statutory regiment under which to operate you end up having a grey area in which the individuals who are the first responders might find that there is some uncertainty or trepidation as to how they should proceed. We have a clear distinction in Barbados between the civil law and the criminal law. The criminal law is the only law that attracts the attention of the police so unless a police officer is satisfied that there is a criminal occurrence, then that police officer is going to have to vacate the premises. Now, you may say that it is easy if fists to cuffs are involved, if people come to blows, but as long as there is always an assault there is a crime, but many of the things that are covered here will not easily fit within the rubric of a criminal act. For example, this new Bill brings into the ambit certain kinds of economic harassment. Financial abuse is covered in the Bill, but if a person calls a police officer, calls District "A", and says to him or her my husband or the person living here refuses to give me money or refuses to buy food or pay the rent, what on earth would you expect a policeman to do. It is in his mind, and rightly so, a civil matter, but within the context of this legislation, it is now being seen as an act of abuse.

The police, I believe, from this amendment would recognise that they have a greater role to play than before and I think that should be saluted, but there is a danger I feel, Mr. Speaker, speaking on the behalf of the Opposition, that we ought to point out. We are concerned, I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that the power given to the police in the amendments to Section 12 of the Act are likely unconstitutional. The new Section 4 says: A member of the Police Force may arrest without a warrant a person who he has reasonable cause to suspect has committed or is about to commit an offence of domestic violence.

Now, the difficulty here is this, Sir. I believe we accept if police see something is going wrong, they are expected and are obligated as a part of their sacred trust with the people to intervene, but this Bill, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Attorney-General is giving the police a power to arrest.

Now, the difficulty attendant with that is that the power of arrest relates to a criminal act -- I am not talking about a civil arrest which is a different thing -- that you have already done. In other words, if an individual is walking down the road with a spliff in his pocket and is arrested for having a spliff in his pocket, fine. On the other hand, an individual who leaves home and says I am going some place to buy a spliff, no doubt he is about to do something which is illegal, but he has not yet done it.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an exercise in sophistry, this is a serious Parliament and whether or not the others want to accept the criticisms, I certainly believe that it has merit. We are not at all suggesting that the police should not have a power to intervene, all we are saying, Sir, is that the power of arrest is one which is connected to a criminal act, but what we are saying here is that we are asking the police -- and this creates difficulty for the police, because we are asking the police to form a reasonable view of something that has not yet happened, something in futuro, and to arrest an individual because he believes that individual is about to do something.

Now, what is the arrest for? Mr. Speaker, as I have said, based on my knowledge of the criminal law -- and I am happy to be corrected -- you arrest people for offences that they have already done. Now, all I am saying, Sir, is that we may want to give the police a specific power to intervene but I believe, Mr. Speaker, that when once you arrest somebody you have to charge them.

Mr. Speaker, how are you going to charge somebody for something that you believe they are about to do? Mr. Speaker, there is a whole raft of things which might cover an incident like the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is mentioning. There is conspiracy, there is attempt, there might even be asked propriety to, but all I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that this is too serious an issue for us to look at it and say that let it go ahead, because what we are doing is not solving the problem, we may in fact be making the problem worse.

Hon. M. A. LASHLEY: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House as it relates to the powers of the police. Mr. Speaker, the powers of the police are laid out in Chapter 167 of the Police Act. In fact, Section 20 (1) of the Act speaks as follows:

"It shall be lawful for any member of the force to arrest without a warrant any person who is suspected upon reasonable grounds of having committed an arrestable offence..."

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to say also:

"Any person who is charged or any other person who has committed an aggravated assault in this case in

which such member of the force has good reason to believe that such an assault has been committed....”

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to say:

“Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect has committed an offence rendering them liable to be arrested without a warrant.”

Mr. Speaker, so there are powers under the Police Act, even the common law power that talks about reasonable suspicion, the police can arrest without a warrant.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, no point of order is found, the Honourable Members are allowed to differ on the matter. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I believe that I cited a clause in this Bill which said that a police can arrest somebody who is about to commit an offence, but rather than committing an offence, is about to commit an act of domestic violence. My learned friend wants to get up and say police have powers and everything he has read says “has committed an offence,” suspicion that they have committed an offence. Anything, Sir, is past tense.

Nowhere in the legislation that has passed through this Parliament did the Minister of Public Works say that we have an equivalent section which says that a police can arrest a man where he is about to commit an offence. If I could only have got up on a point of order which says that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North is misleading this Honourable Chamber.

The point is and I believe that the sensible brains or the sensible people on that side, including the last speaker will accept, even with resistance, that there is a dearth of difference between something that has been done and something that has not yet been done. I support a law which will arrest an individual for something which has been done but the circumstances in which an individual should be deprived of his constitutional freedom for something that he has not yet done must be severely circumscribed, that is absolutely all. If the Honourable Member cannot understand that, then I am of no help to him.

Mr. Speaker, the point here is that we cannot come to Parliament and draft Bills to protect individuals and in the midst of it all create such a lacunae that we have made things worse, that is all I am saying.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the Other Side will just go along, as they have done, with anything that we have ever suggested, perhaps tweaking. They will go ahead

and pass it anywhere but it is our responsibility to point out that we think that it is a misstep.

Mr. Speaker, we also have a concern in relation to the new Section 19A (1). It is salutary in its intent, no doubt about it, but we are concerned. I do not think there is any rational being in any society who will say that a Parliament should not put the strictest of measures in place to save our children from child abuse, and we support it. However, Section 19A (1) says this, Mr. Speaker:

“A person who attempts to, examines or otherwise interacts with a child and is aware or has reasonable cause to suspect that the child is a victim of domestic violence shall immediately notify the Child Care Board or a member of the Police Force of that suspicion.”

Mr. Speaker, I think that at first glance, that would appear to be a very laudatory expression: “A person who attends to, examines or otherwise interacts with”; but you must remember, Mr. Speaker, that law exists in a society, and this law is creating, Mr. Minister, obligations on other people. There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that a person who attends to a child would be doing so under a duty, perhaps as a doctor, a nurse or a psychiatrist. A person who examines a child is also doing so under a duty, but what do you consider to be a person who interacts with a child? Interacts. Is it that a member or individual of the public, a bus driver who carries home schoolchildren, for example, interacts with a child such as would require him to be caught by this piece of legislation?

Asides.

Hon. D.D. MARSHALL: The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that there are some categories of individuals who clearly are interacting with a child under a duty to do so, but the difficulty is that we have to be careful about creating an environment where anybody and everybody who passes a child on the road and says “good morning” or “good afternoon” is interacting. That is an interaction. Are we intending as a Parliament to extend the class of individuals? Is that what we intend to do as a society? We have to create duties in realistic circumstances but we are concerned about the bald use of the word “interact”, because interaction can cover situations where you are interacting as a duty, where you do not interact, or where you interact other than out of a duty. This Parliament needs to be clear on what it intends, and we would suggest that just leaving the term “interact” to be defined or to be ruled on by some arbiter somewhere down the line creates a serious challenge. You or I or any of us may interact with a child but not perceive reasonably that we are under a duty of the kind created here, which makes us potentially subject to a penalty.

What is interaction? Interaction is not defined in the statute. We are left to define interaction in terms of its common meaning, and we are concerned, Mr. Speaker, that this Parliament should not, if we are going to draft a law for the protection of people, build in weaknesses into it. Let us make it clear that the people we intend to capture are those whose interaction may not be necessarily professional. A teacher obviously is interacting with his or her students. A teacher is known by all to be a person in loco parentis. Okay? However, is a bus driver in loco parentis, or a minivan driver, or a person serving a child a snack box in Chefette? Let us not create difficulties for ourselves when we pass laws. Mr. Speaker, we feel that this is something that seriously ought to be dealt with. We prefer a clear definition.

Mr. Speaker, I have said that we support the Bill and I have said there are certain things in it that are laudatory, and I want to compliment the Minister's team for making the change in the form, and by "form" I mean the literal form on which the affidavit is now being taken. I pointed out to the Chamber that as a young lawyer, I used to rush across to the court but I did not say why. Under the existing form, it has to be signed before a magistrate, so you literally had to rush across to the court and hope to find a magistrate sitting, and if the complainant came to you at 2:30 or three o'clock an afternoon, it would be a weird thing to find a magistrate still available on the bench. If it happened on a Saturday evening, you could not find a magistrate at all. You now had to wait until Monday. However, this simple amendment, Mr. Speaker, allows the affidavit to be taken before a Justice of the Peace (JP), and we think that accords with a practical approach to the issue. It does not require an individual who may be in St. Joseph, for example, to have to try to find a magistrate when in fact they could find a JP - not, I have to admit, around the corner but - in sufficiently close proximity that the matter could be sworn and filed on that day. That is a simple amendment, Mr. Speaker, but it is one that promises a practical approach to the protection of individuals simply because we are not, therefore, bound to having a magistrate be the individual before whom the form is deposed.

Mr. Speaker, there are some other elements of this Bill which I believe over time and perhaps through other speeches in the Chamber will be addressed, but we recognise that it attempts to create some decent things. By "decent", I think that in Section 7 which says where a Protection Order includes provision under subsections 4, 5 or 6, the Family Services Division of the Welfare Department, and so on, shall submit to the court a report setting out the dates on which counselling took place, the nature of the counselling and the therapy, and the response given to the counselling and the therapy. You see, Mr. Speaker, what happens is that a magistrate, sitting as a judicial officer who may have spent the entire day hearing criminal cases, will make a Protection Order which will

seek to protect Individual A from domestic violence. However, the bald truth - and I have said that domestic violence has economic, psychological and social consequences -- is that simply making an Order to deal with the domestic violence as a species does not go anywhere toward solving the problem. The fact is that, inasmuch as domestic violence takes place in a household or in a domestic arrangement, there are any number of factors which might trigger it. Some of those factors might be fatal to the continuation of the relationship, but given counselling, it might be possible, Mr. Speaker, for that unit to be salvaged. Law exists in a society as much to build up relationships as it does to protect individuals, and by putting in place a provision which insists or which leads people toward a need for counselling and therapy, it is a recognition by this Parliament, Mr. Speaker, that you cannot solve the problem simply by saying "you are excluded from the house but you have to continue to pay rent and pay maintenance and those things. Leave this place". We are human beings, and I ask Members of this Chamber to consider, for example, an individual in a domestic relationship who is compelled by the court to carry out particular obligations in circumstances where that individual has just been dragged into court by the police, perhaps, and is being told that he or she has to continue to pay rent and so on and there is a resentment that builds up. Sir, we know this, so do not let us bury our heads in the sand.

Asides.

Mr. D. MARSHALL: Sir, another thing is this. At least in the High Court the raft of remedies and the amount of evidence that will come before a High Court judge one would expect would be deeper in depth and would attract greater judicial consideration by a judge but the form which is going to be the foundation for domestic violence application is a very simple form which says:

I, so and so, of this place and says as follows:

(1) I am the complainant herein.

(2) The facts and matters that appear in this Affidavit are made of my own knowledge.

(3) My relationship with the respondent is so and so.

Sir, there is nothing significant yet. It then goes on:

(4) The circumstances which gave rise to this complaint are that.

Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: I understand the issue but the point I am making is that a magistrate with his or her

workload is trying to dispatch that comes before him or her in a mere two days. This is the only Affidavit and we are asking a magistrate to make an order which can fundamentally affect people's lives and relationship. Mr. Speaker, I am saying that once you establish this, the significance of the counselling and the therapy take on a different aspect. They become vital simply because the Magistrate's Court arrangement is of necessity going to be a quick in and a quick out and there is no opportunity for significant consideration. Therefore, Sir, we would like to commend the Government. Mr. Speaker, to be truthful, we do not often reason to because I rather suspect that much of the domestic violence that is taking place now has to do with the rampant unemployment so, we, Mr. Speaker, are praising the Government for this par initiative. Mr. Speaker, as I close, and perhaps it would have convenient to deal with the other Bill which I understand is to come to the Chamber again, the Sexual Offences Bill as a conjoint ... Asides.

Mr. D. D. MARSHALL: Sir, on that particular Bill, the fact of the matter is that the Opposition will find no difficulty with that either because a husband who commits an offence of rape against his wife is perhaps considered to be classic domestic violence. Sir, perhaps we do not serve ourselves well by categorising a thing over here and re-categorising it over there and creating a separate thing for it over there. It is important that it be dealt with as a criminal offence and that is what is here but it demonstrates the fact that we need to take all of these things in context because a rape occurs in a domestic relationship, rape has a particular definition and there are particular consequences that follow. You get arrested, you get dragged before the courts and you get sent up to Dodds as long as you are convicted. Sir, it is plain and simple and there is no middle ground to it. Perhaps it could be seen as the most hideous form of domestic violence and, therefore, to that extent, we would also support that particular amendment to the Sexual Offences Act. Sir, we must always remember that law exists in a society and if the law does not take into account the values of our society, if it does not support those pillars of mutual peaceful co-existence then that law perhaps, should be considered as being no law at all. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is a very emotional issue and we do not like to talk about it. It is something that many people prefer to sweep under the carpet and beat it as we would beat a dusty rug then, Sir, the ills of our society will continue to prevail. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Attorney-General may want to comment about the fact that a lot of violence that is being demonstrated by our young people, some of it is learnt on the streets, yes, but some of it is also learnt in the home and if a child grows up seeing a particular kind of conduct in the home year after year after year, by the time that boy or girl reaches 18, they are not become socialised into thinking that kind of behaviour is acceptable and so we perpetuate it and we end up burying our heads in the sand because we feel that the violent young people are the young

people on the block and that, Mr. Speaker, is when our society will truly be doomed. Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended until 2.00 p.m.

Hon. R. JONES: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members this Sitting is resumed. When the suspension for lunch was taken we were on Order No. 24 and to that we will revert. The Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I want to start by first congratulating the Government in this the 50th year of the celebration of our independence and demonstrating to the world that we are truly democratic in our process and that we support equality for one and all. By bringing this Bill it shows that we have no bias against any gender and that in the 50th year of our independence that we are demonstrating our maturing in society for having legislature like this which is dominated by men that we are quite prepared to seek equality for all in this country.

It is no doubt for a number of years, we have spoken on platforms and we have spoken on the streets about this particular Bill and since 1992 when this was first brought to this Parliament by This Side of the Honourable House, nothing has been done even though it has been spoken about but in 2016 when we are now going to celebrate 50 years of independence, this Democratic Labour Party (DLP) has seen it fit to ensure that the voices that have been heard in the streets of Barbados have been acknowledged and that we are listening to the people of Barbados. It is not doubt, Sir, that we, as a caring society, have to understand when a country has matured and after 50 years we are showing our maturity and we have demonstrated and about to demonstrate that we are prepared to tackle any subject matter in the interest in the country of Barbados and to show our maturity.

It has been said that in domestic violence, people tend to believe that it is only one side of the coin but those of us who are political practitioners and who traverse this country Barbados would know that it is not only male beating females, but sometimes the reverse is true and that is why we are quite prepared to look at it from a holistic

view and not look at it through the eyes of men or through the eyes only of women. We are prepared to tackle this issue and to solve this particular problem.

When one looks at the statistics one gets the impression that the person doing the survey does not recognise that a holistic view should have been flowing and they tended to look at it from a one-sided view, but I beg to differ and I want to say that if we are to correct the problems of society we cannot have a bias but we must be prepared to look at the problems, confront them and also to solve them. I am also happy to see that we are quite prepared not to wait until something happens to deal with the problem.

I listened very carefully to the former Attorney General (AG) of Barbados who would have been responsible for looking after the law when he was Attorney General (AG) for the Other Side and I beg to differ. I do not believe that you should wait until a crime occurs before you deal with it. When the Honourable Member St. Joseph was speaking I kept making the point to him that if a man or a woman is prepared to blow up the airport if you are prepared to wait until he/she blows it up to arrest the person, or if you have the knowledge, whether you would stop that person before they blow up the airport. He preferred to give another example, one that was simplistic, I am not prepared to deal with anything that is simplistic, I am prepared to strike the balance. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that as a developing country and 50 years of experience that we have to recognise that after 50 years of being an independent country and over 50 years of free secondary education we must be prepared to use the educational backbone that we have, to be able to make the correct judgment and stop wrongs in this society.

I beg to differ from the Honourable Member for St. Joseph and I was a bit surprised when one considers that the Honourable Member was the Attorney General (AG) on the Other Side but he was quite prepared to see the airport being blown up and then to charge the person after the fact. I am prepared to stop a person from committing suicide and I think it all would have been, I sure am getting up on a point of order and stop him from committing political suicide when he made that statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, now that you have raised it, you have me in a quandary here because I really did not hear your interventions.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I said that I should have.

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that there are many things that can provoke people but people have to be responsible and people have to understand that at time you have to hear things and be mature. You cannot go and overreact because if all of us in the society overreacted I do not know how many people would be living in Barbados, but we have to understand that we have to make the judgment call, understand how serious life is, how mature we are and we need to understand that do not care how much stress we are put under that sometimes we have to shake it off and move on, even if the situations are economic situations you do not look at the negative. Normally I would be making this point to my comrades and people I speak to that we, as a society, tend to focus too much on the problem but we do not focus on how to find the solution. I beg to differ from society whenever you see a problem it is your job to see what is the solution and to solve the problem not to allow yourself to be stressed by naysayers, not to allow yourself to be stressed by problems, but to find the solution so that you can use that as the example so that others to follow to know how to correct the particular problem. Instead of doing that, we spend all our time lamenting saying what is wrong. It is not what is wrong, it is how we are going to solve the wrongs in society and if we are not big enough or strong enough then we are not in position to be examples and leaders for persons who have to follow us and that is why I am one who will continue to make the point, that if we continue to bellyache Barbados will never be able to move forward. That is why I am proud that in the year 2016, there are many examples in this Administration to demonstrate that we are prepared to accept that we are a matured society and that we are truly celebrating 50 years of independence. I have already said the Prime Minister that I believe that in the 1960s when the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow introduced free secondary education, he introduced it not for us as parents for our parents and that is something I strongly believe in.

After 50 years of free secondary education, we have to develop people, and what the State did for us as children and for our parents we cannot now after 50 years be asking the State to continue to do, we have to be mature and appreciate that it is time for us not only to look after our children but to be able to look after the State when the State needs us. This is where I differ from the nay-sayers in society because instead of looking at the negative aspect I am prepared to move and recognise that if in 1963 we had a foundation and we are still at the foundation then we would never be able to get a house. After 50 years of independence and over 50 years of free secondary education, we should be a developed people and we should be supporting the State not waiting on the State to support us.

Today, this legislation is a good example of a Government acknowledging that after 50 years of the State

looking after its people that we are about to move to another level. I want to thank this Government for being so bold in recognising these achievements and not allowing the nay-sayers to keep them down in the gutter but by acknowledging that we were there and now we have moved on.

The year 2016 must be the watershed year in the history of Barbados. It is the year that this Government has asked the people to appreciate that they are going in a different direction and that this is the year that we are telling people to recognise that there is some type of maturity in society and to stop being beggars in society and to appreciate the contribution and the worth that was laid for us in this society by the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow who had a vision, because if after 50 years of that vision and we cannot recognise that we need to wean ourselves from off the nipples, then something is wrong. Are we still children or have we matured? The question is: If we are still children after 50 years, we must continue to get the milk free, and if we are now a mature society, then we must earn the milk, and this is where we are, and stop depending on getting the milk for free.

Asides.

Hon. D. St. E. KELLMAN: You see the point with you is that you like too much guessing. I am about the science and the practicality of life.

Mr. Speaker, there is also alcoholic abuse. I am one who believes that there is nothing wrong with alcohol even though I do not drink it myself. I believe that there is a role but in life the problem is not alcohol, the problem in life is the abuse of anything and wherever you see abuse you have to deal with the particular problem. Mr. Speaker, because I do not drink alcohol it does not mean that there is a crime in somebody else drinking alcohol. One of the things I have always said to this Parliament, especially when we come to look at the Road Traffic Act, is that we cannot judge anybody's intake based on one person because I have always said I know of a man who can drink about two bottles of rum a day and you do not even know that he had a sip, so you cannot use one man's measure for the other man's measure. Sir, that is why when you are dealing with certain issues you have to be very careful how you are prepared to judge somebody based on ourselves but we must be prepared to judge the case as it comes to hand.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of delaying this House. I want to say that I support this Bill and when the Act is proclaimed I will support it too, but I want to make the point that I think today is a wonderful day in the life of Barbados and I as a sitting Member of Parliament feel proud to see the maturity of this Parliament and the maturity of the society when we could come to Parliament and discuss this issue and get support from both Sides of

the House. I expect all of us to speak on this because after 50 years of independence and 50 years of education, I think all of us should acknowledge and appreciate the maturity of this Parliament and to understand the importance of this particular Bill that we have before this House. I challenge all my comrades on this side that they have to get up and speak on this because I expect total support on this particular Bill to demonstrate to the society that we are not about laws but about having a better society. That is what this is about, it is not about passing a law, but developing a better society because what I am seeing in my society today sometimes I do not like. I am hearing cases like when I was at school. When I was at school we had to scrub this and scrub that. The leaders used to demonstrate to children what they should do while in the society. There is nothing wrong with a teacher or a headmaster or a headmistress or a judge or anybody seeing something wrong and demonstrating to a junior how it must be done or there is nothing wrong with a junior acknowledging that there is nothing wrong in doing certain things in society. We have to understand that Barbados belongs to us and all of us have to protect Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks I want to thank this Government again for what it has brought before this House and I see it as very enlightening and a piece of social engineering. As I have said, we are laying the foundation to build us because what we are saying to society is that we must have a better society and also a more productive society because once you protect the rights of anyone you are also protecting the productivity of a country because there is no stress to deal with. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise, Mr. Speaker, to lend my support to the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Bill. I do so, Sir, because I am very passionate about this piece of legislation and the amendments that are being made to it not only as a woman but as a citizen of this country because over the past few years I like many would have been reading articles after articles appearing in the Press of reports of persons, particularly women, losing their lives as a result of domestic violence. I would have heard a number of concerns expressed both by persons who work within a number of the organisations supporting women who are the victims of domestic abuse and also from the victims themselves that the system sometimes does not seem to address with a certain degree of urgency the needs of a number of these persons who are affected by the abusers in our society.

We would also have heard over the past few years that while we had the legislation in place since 1992 that because of the number of deficiencies that have existed a

number of persons having lost their lives have resulted in a number of children as well being motherless, a number of children having their fathers going to jail and in some cases, where the fathers take their own life, being without both parents and having to grow up without both parents, so I applaud this Administration for recognising the importance finally of making the amendments to the legislation as I am sure we are aware since 2004 that the Report of the National Commission on Law and Order would have made certain recommendations as it related to the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act. Unfortunately, I must mention the fact that sometimes it takes too long for justice to be done in this country and perhaps that is something that we must all reflect on when we recognise the number of lives that have been lost.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start with the recommendations because I think it is important that those who are listening and certainly those who have an interest in this area appreciate a number of the challenges that the system would have faced in making the necessary enforcements with respect to the legislation and the Commission back in 2004, the Report of the National Commission on Law and Order, which I believe is already a document of this Honourable House, would have indicated that amongst the recommendations there was a suggestion that an agency be established to deal with domestic disputes, likely to result in domestic violence. They also recommended that special training be provided to members of the Police Force in the most officious steps to be taken when dealing with domestic disputes and violence. It was also recommended that appropriate shelters and safe homes be established to offer temporary accommodation and protection to victims of domestic violence, and their children. It was also recommended that threats of violence or actual violence be dealt with swiftly and firmly by the police, and the offending party placed before the courts where appropriate. Finally, the last recommendation was that mandatory therapeutic care for the perpetrators of domestic violence be effected.

Mr. Speaker, it has taken us since 2004 to come to a position today where we on both Sides can endorse not only the recommendations of this report but certainly see that these recommendations have now be enshrined in this legislation to be able to give some kind of relief to the persons who have been fighting for the changes to the legislation over the past few years, but also to persons who may be victims, right now, of domestic abuse to give them some assurance that hopefully the system would move somewhat faster than it did before, to give them the support that is necessary for them in their difficult circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I take the view that there are a number of persons who have been advocates for these changes and those persons certainly need to be complimented. They know who they are but a number of women's organisations

in this country have played a pivotal role in ensuring that these amendments have been made and I think they too feel a certain sense of pride in actually being here today to actually witness this piece of legislation being passed.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that the system does not move fast enough does not make any of us comfortable on either side and I think it speaks to what needs to be done in order to allow us not to lose any more lives. Mr. Speaker, a number of these recommendations suggest that there needs to be training of the police officers, because this legislation speaks to an even greater role for the police officers to play in issues of domestic violence, giving them certain powers to be able to arrest persons who are either suspected of being involved in domestic violence, or as was stated earlier, who may be intending to pursue such an act.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that when the Honourable Attorney-General enters this debate that the Honourable Member would be able to speak to what resources have been put in place for the police officers to be able to deal swiftly with these matters. Mr. Speaker, it is all well and good that we stand here to pass legislation but I do believe that the people who are affected need to know that not only are the officers trained but which officers are being trained and that certainly resources are continually being dedicated to maybe a particular unit or to a particular number of officers to be able to deal with these matters.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think we can just brush it off because the concerns are very real, that sometimes officers have gone to homes and again not seeing the seriousness of the nature of anything and have ignored the circumstances that may have confronted them at the time, it obviously leaves the victim in the position where they feel vulnerable. I want to applaud the fact that in this legislation one of the rights that the victims have is a right to have the officer take them to seek medical attention. This is something that I think is very progressive because as we all know, officers by law, really, are traditionally known as just persons who will pursue the charge against an offender but I think that when you see the Schedule to this particular amendment reference being made to rights of the victim at Form 7(4), there is a specific right where the victim has the right to request the assistance of a member of the Police Force in seeking medical treatment or accompanying the victim and the children, if any, to a medical facility. This actually sets out a number of rights where the victim must be advised of what rights they are entitled to.

I think again that is something that is progressive, a lot of people do not know what their rights are and insisting on a response on the training that the police officers have been given, I think it is important that this work hand in hand because for them to have to be the first on the scene to deal with a matter after it has been reported to them, it means that the person is obviously very traumatized and

certainly is going to require people who understand the circumstances through which the individual, male or female, is going and is going to need somebody who can explain to them what are the steps that need to be taken in order to pursue legal action or to pursue counselling.

Mr. Speaker, it also sets out the rights of the victim being to have advice, that they can request the assistance of the members of the Police Force in the protection of the victim and children, if there are any. The list goes on. Again, I want to commend the persons who would have been responsible for this because persons need to know exactly....

Asides.

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Whether or not it is the Government or the drafters, I do believe that it is important that people know their rights. Now, I come across a number of persons who have been abused, who are in abusive relationships and one of my concerns, Sir, is that we have a shelter in Barbados and I have on occasion had situation where persons, for instance, had other children, they are seeking to leave the home of the abuser where they reside but because they have older boys who may be over 18, because of the sensitivity of the other women who may be in the shelter to persons who are obviously male and who are looking very mature and the fear that these women may have, we have a situation where they are not allowed access into the actual shelter.

Mr. Speaker, in a situation like that I do appreciate that all attention has to be paid to the persons who are actually residing in the shelter but I do think that Government and the respective agencies must also look at alternative accommodation for persons who have children who are over 18, particularly boys. Now, whether that is in the form of assistance through the National Housing Corporation or the Welfare Department, I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that the agencies need to be in discussion about how to deal with situations such as those, because I am aware of situations where because persons have been told that they cannot go to the shelter because there have a male who is 18 years or older, but that they can take the younger siblings and/or the mother but that they are not going to be able to take the older child and that mother cannot find anywhere to place her other children, she then finds herself in a situation where she does not want her family to be disrupted.

Mr. Speaker, some may say he is 18 or 19 and therefore he should be on his own, but in the interest of keeping families together, if he is in tertiary education, it is important that I do think that we do look at what is happening because it is a situation that I certainly have come across and despite some of the individuals actually requesting the assistance from the National Housing

Corporation or actually writing to the National Housing Corporation, they have not been able to get the assistance that is needed.

Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate that this Government in particular may take a position that they do not want to open the floodgates to persons saying that they are in an abusive situation and that they want accommodation for the entire family, I do feel that in working with the respective agencies who deal with these types of matters that there can be some kind of dialogue that takes place, to see how these matters can be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, the other situation that I have also come across is a situation where there is a general reluctance to leave the home, the home where the person resides with the abuse and I think that is a common problem that the police have experienced when they have tried to intervene. Despite seeing what the circumstances may be at the time, when the police ask the victim whether she wants to press charges, oftentimes they are told that she wants to put it off or that the abuser has apologised or has calmed down. That has been a difficult situation for both the victim and the police on several occasions. I do feel that the respective agencies that deal with domestic abuse need to play a greater role in perhaps being on the scene when some of these things happen; probably through some kind of relationship with the police department and the counselling services so that, again, whether the police are trained or equipped to deal with the person, they can be taken through the steps as to how to deal with it.

A lot of times, it is necessary to intervene before the actual act of violence takes place, and it is very difficult to intervene because sometimes these people, people who are victims, do not want to say that they are being abused. People know they are being abused, but oftentimes you hear from them that they do not want to act because the person who is the abuser is also the financial provider in the home. That is the person who is paying the bills.

Asides.

Miss S.J.O. BRADSHAW: Therefore, there is a certain stigma that has been attached in our society to persons who come forward and say that they are the victims of a domestic abuse relationship. It is a difficult one, Mr. Speaker, but I feel it is one that, with the appropriate resources, we as a country can overcome.

We also have to realise that the shelter would have suffered at the hands of this Government, certainly in having a reduction of resources going to it. There are implications for reducing the amount of money that goes to the shelter for women in abusive relationships in this country. We have to realise that it is not just the physical scars that create problems for us in this society. It is also

that you are taking someone who has been abused, and that person, for whatever reason, may now not be able to be as productive as he or she used to be. A number of persons suffer psychological trauma after being abused; they are unable to function as they would like. Many women who I encounter want to work but, again, because they have gone through such psychological trauma, find it difficult to be able to get the support that is necessary to get them back on their feet. We need the support systems and we need the financial resources to be able to assist a number of the care agencies to carry out and conduct their work. I know the agencies have cried out for a restoration of the funds that were once due to them. It has made their work very difficult, but I must applaud the efforts of the volunteers who continue, despite the limited resources available from Government, to try to mete out as much assistance as possible to persons who are in abusive relationships.

Finding the resources to deal with this, Mr. Speaker, has to be a priority for this Government. It cannot just be that we pass this legislation today but then the resources for assisting the shelters do not exist. Women or men who take advantage of this legislation need to be comfortable and confident that the necessary systems are in place to enable them to have that support system after they take such a major step to transition their lives. Without that, Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully submit to this Chamber that we are not being as progressive as we need to be. Passing the legislation on its own does not solve the problems that exist in our society. These agencies require financial support, whether from corporate sources or even from Government, to be able to carry out their functions, and they need the support to meet the demands of the various types of relationships and the various types of families that currently exist. Sir, it is imperative that in budgeting that Government certainly dedicate the necessary resources to enable this to happen.

Abusive relationships also put a drain on our health care system because it is not just the physical injuries which you are going to see when a person comes to a medical facility but, as I said before, it is the psychological trauma that you have to deal with. A number of people, because they are basically cuffed in their stomachs - and their faces sometimes - end up with some gastro-intestinal disorders. That presents other complications as well for the health care system. You may be going in for one bruise to the face but you are also, as a medical facility, treating other ailments that the person is suffering from as a result of being in that domestic relationship. This legislation enables persons - and I believe my colleague from St. Joseph would have spoken to it when he left this side - who have a professional responsibility such as practitioners in the medical profession, guidance counsellors and persons who are vested with that responsibility, to report.

From what I have seen in other pieces of legislation, some countries have made it mandatory for that reporting to be carried out by the health professionals. Obviously, we have in this legislation made it mandatory for those persons to report for child abuse, but I do not see a similar provision in relation to adults. I believe the reason for that is because there is some concern that sometimes the mandatory reporting forces the abused person not to want to report it. There is almost a certain level of confidentiality that arises when you can go to a healthcare facility and be treated; but if you know that when you go, you are actually going to be reported and you do not know what the consequences of being reported will be, a lot of times people would refrain from actually either going or disclosing the full extent of the abuse. I therefore believe that is the reason why it is not mandatory for the reporting from the healthcare professionals when they suspect some sort of domestic abuse. However, what I would say is that in other jurisdictions we have found that there is a situation where the healthcare professionals are trained to refer these persons, if they suspect that they are victims of domestic abuse, to the various counselling outlets. Therefore, those persons, rather than being taken to the police, can take the healthcare professionals into their confidence and be then referred to the appropriate persons to handle such situations and to advise them. I think, again, that speaks to the need for necessary resources, not only in terms of training of our healthcare professionals but certainly in terms of, again, allowing the healthcare professionals to direct persons to care providers who can guide these individuals as it relates to what is necessary to pursue an action against the person who may be abusing them.

Hon. J. D.E. BOYCE: On a Point of Elucidation. The Honourable Member is misleading the Chamber to give the impression that there is some reduction in the amounts of monies available for these very important activities. My research tells me that for the past three years, \$316 000 has been made available to the Business and Professional Women's Club Barbados for the management of their affairs, including the provision of the home to which she refers. Therefore, the Honourable Member has to either get the correct facts or desist from giving the impression, or creating a scenario, of some kind of deprivation of funds.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thanks for the Point of Elucidation. Honourable Member, please continue.

Miss S.J.O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I respect the Honourable Member's intervention but I do recall that it was perhaps around the same time when money was being poured into the Constituency Councils for constituency football that the head of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Barbados would have spoken out about the fact that money was going into everything by this administration, but was not going into

assisting with the shelters, and that the funds had been reduced to such a proportion that it made it difficult to carry out their functions. Mr. Speaker, to say that in the last three years it was at a certain amount but to not speak to the fact that there had been reduction over the previous years from what the organisations would have had, is still to suggest, Sir, that the person who would have spoken on behalf of the association was not factual. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that that is the case because I do believe that the subject of this debate is about allowing more resources, not saying that you had given the same resources for the last three years, instead you should be saying that because we are passing this legislation it is important to continue to support these organisations, which have been doing such a sterling job and that more resources are coming. Sir, I am not surprised by the interventions, so I shall move on.

Mr. Speaker, what I appreciate about this legislation is that the forms that are attached to the Schedule have been simplified and simplified in such a way that it actually assists both the police but also the victims in filling out the application form, the Protection Orders forms. What I have noticed with the domestic violence report is that there is actually like a check box which assist the police in being able to indicate what are the reason why they did not make an order, and I would hope that this would be of some benefit to the next person who takes up the file because the fact is that sometimes things are written down and people do not understand what has been written previously but I think that the way the form is done gives a better approach to being able to quickly pick up a file, if you have been called to a scene of an incident and being able to reflect on the circumstances which pre-existed the report and also to be able to deal quickly and to make an assessment quickly of what needs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I know of the domestic violence register as well. I am very curious as to how that is actually going to work in terms of confidentiality as well as in terms of person because obviously those persons' names that have been reported go onto a register. I am very curious as to how that is going to work. Is it that when a call is made the officer goes to the computerised system. How is it going to work that you are going to know that person on this register has been charged. I am not quite clear from the legislation how it is intended to actually work but I think that Attorney-General can shed some light as well on that.

Mr. Chairman, in every jurisdiction there has been limitations on when persons can apply under this type of legislation and it is interesting because it has been introduced because the feeling is that you do not want to give the victim the impression that there is an open-ended period for which they can report cases of domestic abuse. Sir, that is not in this legislation but I raise it simply because this is a very serious innovative piece of legislation that put a lot of power into the person who is the victim and

while we do not have a limitation period in it, I think that it is important to mention that because we are fortunate that it is not in it in some respects but we would not want persons to take it for granted. Sir, what it means is that we need to have the public education, we need to have the resources that are available so that persons understand that this legislation can work for them and to be able to take advantage of it quickly. We do not necessarily want to limit persons in terms of being able to apply. I think we have to see how this works first of all to be able to make a judgement call as to whether down the line it may even be necessary because the fact is that we now have legislation which has been called upon by all of the various agencies but we have to educate the victims in our society with respect to what their rights are.

Mr. Speaker, just one final point too on the legislation. Sir, it is a practical point because I note that the court can make certain orders with respect the victims remaining in a particular household. One of the things that struck me is that for instance in a community like St. Michael South East and certain areas where you have housing areas, a number of persons, as you know, do not own the units they reside in, a number of women sometimes who even live in a house with a male may be living there because of the circumstances and that it belongs to a family member. They are in the middle of household and they may have grown up in the household but two or three other siblings may be living in the household who may be equally entitled to the National Housing Corporation unit. Now, I have had situations, for example, where one woman has three children for the male, lives in a household where the house does not belong to her. She has been in a Common law union for over five years but if she for instance because of the domestic violence situation an order is made where she has to leave the premises, the reality is that when an order is made, for instance, for her to remain there really technically she has no rights to remain in the house because the people who are beneficially entitled to the unit can ask her to leave. Sir, I am saying that the point the Honourable Member for St. Joseph was making earlier with respect to the court determining the application sometimes on the basis of Affidavit evidence needs to be looked at a little deeper because a lot of those issues I have just raised will not necessarily come out of the Affidavit evidence. The person may say that I live at x address and I want this person to leave the house because he is abusing me and the order may be made for the person to leave the house for a period of time. I think that we need to have guidelines to the Magistrates indicating that a number of these situations could possibly arise where orders made be made but, in truth and in fact, the persons really have no beneficial entitlement within the actual property.

Mr. Speaker, I raise that more as a practical matter and I have all confidence that the guidelines which will be

given to the magistrates in making determinations in this matter will be guided on similar principles as to what obtains in the High Court but I do raise it because it is a practical matter that I certainly have encountered on a regular basis and until this administration finds it within its power to ensure that persons actually can get the title deeds to the National Housing Corporation units, obviously that is a complication that will continue to arise. Sir, again, as the Honourable Member for St. Joseph would have said, Honourable Members on this side have no difficulty with the amendments being made to this legislation. Indeed, it was just in November 2014, where the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would have brought a Private Members Resolution asking this Chamber to lay the amendments to this particular piece of legislation within six months to have it debated and, unfortunately, she could not be here today but I do know she would have expressed a similar sentiment that she is pleased that even though it is after the six-month's period that we are in fact having the opportunity to debate such an important piece of legislation that would certainly affect several victims of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, again I want to join with the Honourable Member for St. Joseph in applauding the efforts of all of the organisations that have brought this piece of legislation to this point. It is regrettably that we have lost so many lives along the way but I do hope that with the appropriate resources applied, with the right training to the people who are to carry out and give teeth to this piece of legislation that we can certainly see more victims of abuse taking advantage not only through the law courts but taking advantage through the various facilities. The fact remains that our children sometimes become the victims and are the victims of the abusive relationship and if we do not find ways to break the cycle, we find there is a continuation of the abusive relationship. The studies will all show that children who grew up in abusive relationships tend to continue in abusive relationships as well and, therefore, we have a number of issues within our school systems where they ask the question why are children behaving a particular way but if we step back sometimes and the guidance counsellors are doing what they are supposed to do and the social workers are doing what they are supposed to do, and the Ministry of Education is doing what they are supposed to do, they would realise they are underlying issues. It is not just domestic violence that may be at the root cause of the behavioural issues we have in our school system with our children but it does play a large part in our society. We have a number of attitudes that need to change both from our men and from our women because a lot of times people are not sensitive to the behaviour that is necessary that we need to instill in our young people as it relates to respect for men and women and we have a history of not respecting our women, that is something that is cultural and it is something that is historical but it is up to us, Mr. Speaker, and I hope to be able to break that cycle and to educate our young people and indeed our older citizens about respect not only for themselves but also

about respecting their partners and persons who they may be, either intending to be in a relationship or in a relationship with. I know, Mr. Speaker, that time is running out ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, your time has expired.

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you. On behalf of This Side I do endorse the amendments to this particular piece of legislation and I can certainly speak for other Honourable Members of This Side in saying that we are glad to see that this Bill has finally come.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central.

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the amendments to the Domestic Violence and Protection Order Act. Mr. Speaker, when we look at the Act, I believe that we need to again compliment the Minister for the fact that he has brought this piece of legislation in order to address an issue in our society which certainly is of concern to many of us.

One of the things, Mr. Speaker, that we should not forget is that while we may be able to bring different pieces of legislation to address issues and occurrences in our communities, the legislation in and of itself will not totally achieve the objective that we wish to achieve which is really that to see the occurrence of domestic being removed from out of society because at the end of the day what we are trying to do is to change behaviours in terms of how people react to situations so that we can have a society in which people can live lives which are more fulfilling and can have relationships which in themselves can lead to greater respect and dignity for the human being. What it does, the fact that we have had to bring that piece of legislation is the fact that we have too many people in our society today in relationships which the value of the worth of the human being and the dignity of the human being. I think that as a society we have to feel sad that we have to do this but it is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, it also shows that we also have to look to ensure that other resources are brought to bear in terms of fighting the issue of domestic violence. I heard the member for the Opposition making a constant stress on Government in the forefront but to a large extent it is also going to mean other agencies and institutions in our society being a part of the fight against domestic violence. One of the things that we have excellence pieces of legislation on our books that if they were enforced to the extent that they should be Barbados would be a society in which all of us would feel comfortable to live but it is a start to which we are prepared, as a people, to ignore the transgressions of others, and not only that to stand at the side of it and pretend it does not exist is the reason why we see a lot of

the occurrences that we see today because people fail to take notice or to take action because in many cases we feel it does not impact on us but to the extent that anyone in our society goes through this vicious cycle of violence it is something that we really need to take note of and we also need to pay attention to. I recall even in my constituency clinics that I hold that there are cases where persons would come to you and there are instances where you can see these types of things happening and sometimes there is a sense of helplessness in terms of what is happening to them. What I am saying is that in respect of this legislation I am hoping that maybe now you have at least some of the tools that will help us to effectively give comfort to those persons, and not only give comfort but to resolve many of the difficult issues that we face in terms of tackling the whole issue of domestic violence in our society.

One of the things about legislation it also tackles the question of child abuse is something in our society, in some cases, you hear about and you turn a blind eye to it. There are things too that we have to say is that we as a society, and I think that this particular piece of legislation and the discussion that would come from it would also make us reflect on the fact that we also need to change our attitudes to each other and in fact we need to maybe look out when things occur around us and be vigilant because I can recall that last year, there was instances or let me say suspected instances where children were involved and you would hear the society the whispers of saying well I say this thing going on for a long time but in that whole situation, what you find sometimes is an inability of people who can see something going wrong and warn them but at the same time, failing to take action in terms of what is happening and in that regard we have institutions such as the church. We have institutions such as community groups, we have the family as an institution and I think we have to ask ourselves why is it that many of our institutions that we have seem to have that kind of impotence in terms of dealing with the whole issue of domestic violence and with this type of abuse and the violence that happens in our society. We have to ask ourselves, are we really hiding the fact that essential we are maybe in some ways harbouring a very violence society that we need to actually find strategies in order to deal with.

It is interesting that today, because I think we must recognise this, that the debate has ended up, with women and I think rightly so, as the main victims of domestic violence. I think that we need to understand that. The reason why we have members of society who have the attitude to women that make them feel like the only way in which they can have a successful discourse between a man and a woman in terms of discussing things and when things have reached a head you have to resort to violence in order to prove a point. I think that in itself is a sad indictment on our society and the way in which we bring up our young men, the sad fact is that in a society in which many of our

homes are headed by women also says something, that is what it is. There is a blame game and we adopt that blame game very well and because women are the main victims, we tend to blame men. I have heard MESA, the Men's Education Support Association, stoutly defending men in terms of the whole question of their roles in the family. One of the issue that we need to look at in a very serious way is how do we have a debate in which both sexes respect the roles they have in terms of raising children.

When we look at the attitudes that we see coming from young males in our society, and now sadly when we look at the attitudes of our young women in society, it is also getting there, there seems to be a confrontational approach to resolving issues, there seems to be a resort to violence very quickly. As a matter of fact, a few weeks ago violence flared up in a restaurant in Black Rock in my constituency. I saw it on Facebook, it was splashed across social media, and I said to myself have Barbadians really understood what happened there and what are the lessons that we need to learn in order to ensure that we do not have those kinds of things repeated because what we do not understand is that it is saying something about us, our attitudes to each other, and how we relate to each other.

Going back to the point I was raising in terms of the role of our young men and how we raise them and the fact that again when we look at the process women are the main victims of violence that we are seeing and we have to ask ourselves are the families in which we are raising our young men and young women in society giving those young people the best opportunity to have satisfied relationships with each other. Are we unwittingly in our society encouraging a situation where we promote an adversarial relationship between our young men and our young women?

The other point I wish to make in terms of when we bring this particular piece of legislation and we understand its role, is that we need therefore to understand that legislation in itself has a role because what I think it at least does is that it gives us an opportunity to use various means to say to people not only let us have a time-out but at least to give some kind of legal force to ensure that there is a time-out when a relationship reaches a situation where there is an ultimate breakdown, that is what it does.

Sir, in a sense, we all have to recognise that there must be a sense of responsibility on all stakeholders in this matter. It is not just a question of what resources Government can find to put to it because in many cases it is not financial resources alone that would resolve the very difficult issues that are faced when it comes to the whole issue of domestic violence. It also means that we also have to look at our value systems and to see the extent to which we are promoting negative value systems and the extent to which those value systems that we are promoting are

impacting negatively on relationships that exist between our young men and young women and our families because in many cases we seem to forget that behaviours are learnt.

In going back to the reference of the 50th year of independence, there is one thing the Right Honourable Prime Minister said when we had the independence celebrations, which I think we need to recognise, is that there are some things that we as Barbadians currently do that we need to let go. I really wonder whether or not we sit down as a nation and as families and look at ourselves and evaluate ourselves and look and see whether or not there are some things which we need to look at and let go because in today's world we seem to be the puppets of the commercial brokers in which we promote every single material item as the means to happiness but we also forget that in doing so once people do not have it they basically begin to become a different animal. I think that is something, Mr. Speaker, that we need to address in terms of this whole question of how do we get involved after putting this piece of legislation in place, how do we involve the various agencies that exist in our society to assist in this.

Unfortunately, when the men's grouping, MESA, was making the arguments in respect of the pros and cons of the whole relationship between men and women in our society, I think that it has reached a stage where I believe there needs to be an active national debate. I think really that the critical organisations that are involved, which are the MESA and the women organisations, need to sit down in an environment in which we have solutions crafted because I keep on saying that the legislation in itself will not solve many of the difficult issues that we face and it will not at the same time address the reasons why we have domestic violence occurring. What it will do, as I said before, is to provide tools by which it can be managed. Our objective, Mr. Speaker, should not only be able to manage it, our objective should be to find ways in which we should actually minimise its occurrence in our society. What I am saying is that unless the institutions in our society develop strategies that at least do that we would have failed and the legislation in itself would ultimately fail.

We need now, Mr. Speaker, to move into our communities armed with the legislation. Many times we watch how persons deal with situations in front of us and in some cases we can see definitely that they went overboard. Some people have the attitude that it is the person's child that they are dealing with because how you discipline your child also determines at the same time how when that young child grows up and have children they would discipline their children. Therefore, when we watch these things we sometimes take a hands-off approach and say that we are not the person to discipline that child, that it is not our business, and sometimes we tend to think it is so for good reasons because at the same time there is the view

that if you interfere with the process of a parent who is disciplining a child, at the same time you may be unwittingly doing would be undermining the authority of the parent in front of that child. That is true, because as we all know there is a time and place for everything and you do not want to go to the point of interfering in a situation where a parent is disciplining a child, while at the same time you are destroying the parenting process in front of the child. That is not something that you would want to do but certainly there are other ways in which you can try to deal with that situation. In the same tune, Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do is to recognise that again an overreliance on the legislation would not in and of itself solve the problems relating to domestic violence without understanding at the same time that there also need to be some strategies that we need to work out now that this particular piece of legislation has come into force in our communities that seek to address it. Sir, logically what we would want to do is to take the parent who we may suspect of disciplining the child in the wrong way, pull that parent aside and have a forum, a facility or an environment in which you can sit and speak to that person in a very rational way or where you can show him or her another way, if in fact there are other ways. Again that is where the agencies such as PAREDOS come in.

Again, they need to come in and play a role in terms of trying to ensure that we achieve the objectives of this legislation which is really to try to reduce, eradicate and minimise the incidents of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, it can be achieved, but we also have to recognise that in order for it to be achieved the role that agencies will have to play in terms of trying to deal with this.

I want also to acknowledge the fact that the Minister has made a determined effort to try to isolate those persons who are subjected to domestic violence, especially our women. One of the things certainly that we do not sometimes appreciate is the emotional state of the individual when he or she is subjected to domestic abuse because we find in many cases women who come in and their whole sense of self-worth is undermined. Not only that, sometimes they have nowhere to go and nowhere to turn.

How do people subject another human being to that type of emotional turmoil in their lives? The question we have to ask really sometimes is, do the people who perpetrate this type of action on women actually understand that is what they are doing. Sir, I go back to the point, in many cases a lot of them do not understand that is what they are doing, because they see it and they go with it.

I want to say this whole thing about domestic violence also has to do with the level of respect that we display to women, even our ladies. The fact of the matter in our own West Indian societies is that most of the jokes that

we tell and the songs that we sing, even our songwriters in our societies need to take a look at themselves too because a lot of it sometimes encourages the view of women which sometimes is pretty negative. Not only that too, maybe because of the fact that we as a society generally accept it, it is not inconceivable that you have young people who might be in family situations that are dysfunctional and they are not being shown anything differently, that is one of the issues that we need to recognise, so when we expose them to literature or songwriting that basically devalues the worth of a woman, what then?

Again, I want to emphasise that the legislation in and of itself would not achieve what we want to achieve unless we also address certain aspects of our society which unwittingly promote this type of behaviour, and the way we approach and deal with issues in our society. We have to take a very serious look at this. Again I believe that is where we have to get institutions such as the National Organisation of Women, the Men's Educational and Support Association and PAREDOS which of themselves have a critical role to play. We also have to look at the role of the churches in our communities, also our youth groups.

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

Mr. J. D. PAUL: Mr. Speaker, these groups will have a role to play in terms of ensuring that we are successful not only in reducing and minimising but if I want, again I would want to say of eradicating domestic violence from our society. I believe that we cannot, really, as a developed nation want to think ourselves as being developed, while at the same time we have a significant proportion of our society which has caused us to bring this particular piece of legislation, where they cannot feel comfortable about their emotional state and that they are subjected to this.

I believe that we as a nation now need to take action, we need to take notice and let us start to implement those things along with the legislation that will help us to create a nation in which all of us can feel that we have a fair chance to be treated fairly and to be given the treatment that we deserve. With that, I thank you, Sir.

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

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join this debate on the Domestic Violence (Protection Order) (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2016. I will start by saying that in my eight years of sitting in this Honourable Chamber it is perhaps the most profound piece of legislation that addresses the issues that engender relationships in

Barbados, matters akin to what takes place within domestic arrangement in households.

Needless to say, these pieces of legislation reflect upon the need for the State to continuously find ways to protect our minors and our children in this society. Therefore, I think that, in terms of social engineering, this is perhaps one of the most profound pieces of legislation we have had enter the Chamber in the last couple of years. In that vein, I will start by making a call for all 30 of us sitting Members of Parliament to join this debate. I say this, Sir, with all levels of seriousness. I am not interested in any personal affairs or whatever - let he that is without sin cast the first stone -- but, certainly, we as elected Members of Parliament must take our duties to this society seriously, and lead the national discussion on such profound pieces of legislation that certainly impact upon all of our constituents, our children and the wider society, and help set the stage for the kind of Barbados that we are going to have as we go forward in the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to start, in reflecting upon this legislation, by looking at the children. At the end of the day, a lot of the issues that arise in this society in terms of domestic arrangements, violence, abuse, whatever, are not only about men and women but certainly there are many children who suffer physical abuse and emotional scars that last a lifetime. I want to say that the legislation certainly cannot envisage every aspect of our conduct or behaviour, or every aspect of our society's value system. However, we have to recognise we are duty-bound to ensure that we weigh in on the importance of children in this debate. I start by reflecting upon what I believe all of us who have grown up in the Christian faith would know, which is to "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it". I believe that is Proverbs Chapter 22:6. I start there by saying that it is not only reflecting upon the children who are victims of these circumstances, but more importantly, we have to start by asking ourselves what kind of children we are raising in this society today and how we are raising them.

The truth of the matter is that we talk about the domestic violence perpetrators and define them, but violent behaviour and anti-social conduct do not start when we become 21 years old. Quite often in such discussions in Parliament, we talk about the conduct of adults and are oblivious to the fact that we ourselves are raising children who will themselves go forward and conduct themselves in a manner that we would not wish them to behave in. I want to say that perhaps this society needs to step back a little bit and ask ourselves, even with the advent of this legislation, what kind of children are we raising in our society? Are we raising men who are being taught to respect women? Are we raising young men today who have no fear, no inhibition, no challenges with having a female boss? Are we raising boys in our households today to respect their

sisters and other women in the house? Are we raising boys who we accept have a right to curse and be disrespectful to the female gender? Are we raising young women today to whom we can say that they can achieve whatever they wish without using their feminine wiles? Are we saying that in order to be successful in life today, you have to behave yourself as if you were the opposite gender? These are issues, Mr. Speaker, which really and truly must be at the bedrock of every conversation we are having. If not, 20 years from now somebody is going to come with another piece of legislation that builds upon this amendment today and this Bill, and will speak about challenges that we should have been addressing today. Just as today we can stand here and ask whether we did some things right probably 30 years ago, and whether we would have been in this position today where we have to stand here and speak with empirical evidence about the level of domestic violence and abuse in Barbados. I think we have to weigh in heavily, Mr. Speaker, and do it in a very fronted manner, on the issue of the way in which we are raising our children in Barbados today.

Whenever we have a conversation about domestic violence and sexual abuse, you know it is always the men who are the perpetrators. Let me start at this point.

Asides.

Hon. D.O'N. INNISS: If that is what the evidence shows, so be it. However, I am afraid that if we do not go back to a few basics and start in the households and communities in terms of the way we are raising our children, we are going to have some serious problems. There is another reason why I raise this matter at this stage in terms of how we are raising our boys and our girls because, based on what is reflected in here, if not properly applied, we will find that we are going to have some serious gender issues in this country. I really and truly hope that this piece of legislation, this Bill, when it comes into law, is not used as a weapon against men in this society. That is something that some people may quietly talk about but the truth of the matter is that it is a reality that we all have to face.

As the father of two sons -- I have no daughters yet and I do not think I am going to have any -- I have to be very concerned about the males in this society, because at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, we cannot have a serious conversation about gender issues in Barbados where you only hear the perspective of the females and not the perspective of the males. I am not afraid of any political backlash as a result of holding that view. No conversation about gender issues in Barbados can be considered to be balanced, fair or equitable if the perspective of the males is not taken into consideration. If we do not do that, we are doing far more harm to the females than we can ever imagine in this society. Let us, therefore, Mr. Speaker, start

on that basis and recognise, as I said, at the very beginning that any conversation about domestic violence is not just about a piece of legislation but about how we are going to reshape our society, starting with our young people - our young males and our young females -- in terms of how we raise them. We come here in Parliament and talk about men beating women and holding back sex and holding back money and all these kinds of things, and when we go home to our own domestic space, our conduct is sometimes not helpful to what we are seeking to address in some national gatherings around this country. There is too much hypocrisy sometimes, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker.

I wish now to talk about some of the matters that are very specific in respect to the piece of legislation before us. I thought that it was obviously a Bill that has engaged consultation as far and wide as possible for the public officers. I wish to commend those in the Ministry of Social Care and, of course, those in the Chief Parliamentary Counsel's office who were able to bring all the perspectives together and print this Bill that we have before us today. I note, of course, that in the definition section we have sought to delete the definitions of child harassment, spouse, and certain others. One includes child abuse which is the act of domestic violence perpetrated against a child, and causing or permitting a child to witness or be exposed to acts of domestic violence. That, Mr. Speaker, is extremely critical. I am very grateful that this has been placed in this piece of legislation, because sometimes we think that a child is not harmed in any way when that child consistently witnesses their father physically or sexually abusing their mother. That child is scarred for life, and I am very grateful that we have come to the point as an enlightened Government -- while noting the support from the few Opposition Members present today -that this matter recognises the need for us to accept that abuse comes in many shapes, forms and fashions, including the aspect where children witness abuse by one adult upon another and it leads to very serious emotional scars, and may very well -- I am not a psychologist -- be partly responsible for the manner in which some of these children conduct themselves when they become adults.

Asides.

Hon D.O'N. INNISS: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly allow the Honourable Member for St. Michael East to get up and give his confession when he chooses to speak. Mr. Speaker, it also reflects upon the issue of dependent, a person who by some physical, mental or other disability is wholly or partially maintained by a perpetrator or victim of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, it also reflects on the issue of Sir, the reality of that is that we have too many circumstances in Barbados where one individual is the sole breadwinner and feels that give him or her the right to call all the shots in the house, so I am the sole breadwinner so my partner or spouse therefore must give me whatever I

want, my meals must be ready when I want, my clothes must be pressed when I need them and the intimate relationship must be there when I really need regardless to how anyone else feels. Sir, we are very grateful this Bill has gone to point of defining dependent and the definition of abuse that may occur therein.

Mr. Speaker, it also speaks to co-habitational where persons are not legally married and living together in the same household as man and wife and, of course, domestic relationships.

Mr. Speaker, let us not bury our heads in the sand. Sir, one of the issues that this society has to confront is the issue of same sex relationships and the Bill is not defining this in this context but let me make it abundantly that I am not going to bury my head in the sand, there are women who have serious relationships with women and there are men who have serious relationships with men. I am not going to stand here in judgement over any of them but those are relationships which also exist in this society and the State must not run away from a discussion around that. Sir, I have two sons and if one comes home and says he is in love with another fellow, I do not know how I could disown him, so let us start to face reality in this respect.

Mr. Speaker, of course, the argument that is going to come from the Attorney-General Chambers, not from the Attorney-General himself, is that the domestic Violence Act or some other piece of legislation protects victims of such circumstances but the reality is that these are kinds of relationships that also must be defined and accepted within this context as well. The intention is to accept that the State has a duty to protect everyone in circumstances where there is abuse, physical or what not. Of course, I know that some people would not want to have this discussion and debate and I am not going to force anybody or drag them out to prick their conscience but the reality is that circumstances exist in Barbados today. They existed before I was born and they will exist long after I am gone. Sir, hopefully I will be around a little longer than my 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, the point about this is that you must have a very holistic approach the issue of relationships, to the issue of domestic violence and to the issue of abuse, accepting that abuse does not only come in a physical form but that it also comes when you withhold money and you start to manipulate and control every one. Sir, it is about control and that is why I commend the staff of the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, the civil society groups and non- governmental organisations who continue to raise this issue because it is really a reflection of how we move away from plantocracy into a very contemporary society recognising of what the sociologist, social scientists have pontificated for year. You come to the issue of emotional abuse, where a perpetrator causes psychological pain or

injury to a victim that includes harassment, the use of threatening words or behaviour and withholding from the victim access to the victim's child, parent or guardian.

Mr. Speaker, we also speak of financial abuse and I do not need to go into that but let me also say, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about emotional abuse and financial abuse and domestic violence, it is not just that the maternity leave is the perpetrator, there are women in Barbados who are the heads of households for whatever reason and are deciding where the man should go and what and what he should wear. Of course, we have raised our boys in this society to believe that a boy should never, or a boy should never seek out help and there are many men in this society who need to call for help. They may be big macho men driving fancy cars and wearing all the designers and whatever but the reality about it is that some of them are in dire need of help and, Sir, that is why I go back to my earlier point that you cannot have a serious conversation about domestic abuse and violence unless you weight in heavy on gender issues in contemporary Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, harassment is another issue that is addressed her. The issue of persons at risk of physical abuse and the whole like. Sir, visiting relationships are raised in here. Sir, this is a case where ...

Asides.

Hon. D.O 'N INNIS: Mr. Speaker, I do not want my colleagues just to hear me. I want them to take copious notes. I may be giving some guidance in case they have not read the legislation but when you have your girlfriend or boyfriend who you visit occasionally and you have intimate relationship with them occasionally that is now a partner in law, that is somebody who can call the police say that they are a victim of domestic abuse, so I want people to understand that it is no longer about a co-habitational relationship or living together for five year as a common law union and feel that they are not protected by law. If you live in St. Philip and you have a girlfriend in St. Lucy and because of the challenges with the bus route and transportation you can only get there three nights a week, remember, you run the risk of that girlfriend in Pie Corner in St. Lucy by Mr. Kellman, being considered a partner who can now call the police and say that he or she is now a victim of domestic abuse.

Mr. Speaker, visiting relationship means a relationship where the parties do not live together in the same household but in which they are romantic, intimate or sexual relationship. Sir, you are not just living together.

Mr. Speaker, these are serious matters that I really hope our society is very appreciative of, the direction in which the State is going, where we are now basically bringing greater clarity to reality and to the kinds of

relationships that exist in Barbados, bringing greater clarity as the circumstances under which one can be accused of domestic abuse and violence and such like. Sir, the one point I must speak about even though I give full support to the Bill before us is in respect of the role of the police and their ability to take action. We have always been troubled in this society by a situation where there are accusation of domestic abuse and then the police feel as though their hands are tied, we have to go to court, the process is very slow, very laborious and sometimes very costly and then in the intervening period, the person who is abused, the victim may have fallen in love again or in the circumstances may say that if she presses the case, she will not get support for my children. If I press this case, the light will get turned off, or if you are in the upper echelons in society, if she presses the case, my neighbours and friends would know what kind of man she is married to. Mr. Speaker, all of these are the kinds of issues that played out a lot.

Mr. Speaker, having listened to the concerned and stakeholders the State has arrived at a point in this journey where it is saying that the police need to be given the power. Sir, a subordinate officer, who is supposed to be a person of great responsibility, to take action, to basically do what hitherto you would need to Magistrate's Court to adjudicate upon, to remove the victim, or remove the perpetrator and to restrict that perpetrator from entering into the premises where the victim feels at great risk.

Mr. Speaker, I am not objecting to that because obviously you need some quick action in order to avoid circumstances where that victim can end up in the hospital, where there could be more stress, turmoil or harm in the wider society, et cetera, but I can only hope that those officers who are so empowered continue to be trained and re-trained. I must commend the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF), I know that in recent times they have been making a considerable investment in the training and retraining of officers in what we would called some softer issues, for example, domestic violence issues, child abuse issues, you know those kind of relationship issues so it is not just about running around thieves and vagabonds, but it is also about the role of the police in building and sustaining family units in Barbados.

I therefore expect that as we go forward in matters like protection orders and the role of the police and such like, that it is the acceptance on the part of those enforcing law to recognise that they have to do so in a very fair manner, in a very judicial manner and one that will not create more harm than it perhaps sought to avoid in the first instance.

Mr. Speaker, as my time winds down let me say that I also noted in the legislation the role of treatment and counselling for victims, but I also want to say that it must also extend to the perpetrators because they are those

individuals who may be perpetrating maybe on the one of chance related boiling in them for the longest possible time and then something triggers it and they blow a head gasket, for the want of a better term, but the perpetrators also need help so that we can avoid them become repeat perpetrators in this society. I expect that the same level of assistance rendered to victims will also be rendered to those who are indeed perpetrators or accused as perpetrators because I want to stress a point here, Mr. Speaker. We must operate on the principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty and this sometimes, in this particular circumstance in domestic violence can be a very tricky thing. A man is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Some people will interpret this legislation as being so skewed in favour of the victim that a man is guilty until proven innocent but the reality about it is that we do not want circumstances where some groups in some parts of our society feel that they are somewhat powerless nor do we want the situation to arise where after this becomes law there are some people in our society who feel oh so powerful now that they are going to call the police for ever little disturbance in the household. That is why I say that the State will do its best in legislation here but there is a lot of work we have to do in the wider society. There are still too many men and women in this society who live together who are not speaking to one another, who are not having marital relationships or whatever and they just cannot seem to get it work. I am of the view if it cannot work, it cannot work you cannot force anybody to live together. There are those who sometimes cannot be apart for whatever reason, they may not be able to live apart for whatever reason but the truth of the matter is that we do not want an abuse of the law because several groups in society now feel more empowered because of the passing of a piece of legislation in Parliament. That is why civil society need to really step further up to the plate and continue their educational programmes, the more proactive in terms of cost and whatever. We must work closely with our children. Mr. Speaker, we have to recognise that children are not only victims in many instances but they are also the ones who if we do not deal with them now they certainly can become perpetrators later on. What do you say, Honourable Member for St. Michael East, do you know the Bible? Children are a gift from God, Psalm 127 verse 3 you said? I do not know, but the truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, is that as I come down to the end I just want to quickly comment on the Sexual Offences Act and we have a Bill here too that we are doing together Sexual Offences Bill, CAP 154, to provide for circumstances under which the offense of rape is committed by a husband against a wife. It says, a husband commits the offence of rape where he has sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent by force or fear where he knows that she does not consent to the intercourse or is reckless as to whether she consents to the intercourse. This is a very profound piece of legislation that has been put her and I hope that people are paying attention to it, particularly you men.

Let me summarise this, Mr. Speaker, a husband can be charged with rape if you have sexual intercourse with your wife without her, well most likely it is a her, consent. Mr. Speaker, it is a serious piece of legislation that I hope men are paying attention to because I know the women are paying attention to it, as they rightly should be but a husband can commit rape where he has sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent and does it by force or fear where he knows she does not consent to intercourse or is reckless as to whether she consents to the intercourse. I could see a lot of these matters coming up before the law Courts in Barbados to adjudicate on but there you go, Mr. Speaker, as I summarise this. We at the crossroads of the development in our society. We are at the point where the State is now bold enough having listened to the Stakeholders to say, we have to get to the stage where we are willing or have the intestinal fortitude to place on the Statute Books matters pertinent to the definition of domestic violence and domestic abuse where we speak as to the role and of our children, where we reflect upon the kinds of abuse that can occur, financial, emotional, physical and such like and where the State has gone a step further and say we have to protect the victims and protect them as quickly as possible, obviously not seeking to disrespect the rights of alleged perpetrators thereon.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, let me simply say that the task now is up to the rest of society to take the baton and to assure that the days spent at times clogging up the court system with matter like these that we go back to the fundamental issues of seeking to define and rebuild the family unit in the Barbadian context. With those few words I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that we postpone for further consideration of these Bills.

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

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

ORDER No. 10(1)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House resolves itself into Committee of Supply for consideration of grants of sums of money for the service of the island.

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

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

ORDER No. 21

RESOLUTION THAT THE HOUSE RESOLVED
ITSELF
INTO COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY TO CONSIDER
THE GRANT OF SUMS OF MONEY FOR THE
SERVICE OF THIS ISLAND

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, seconded by Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

(a) Resolution to grant the sum of \$7 005 827 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 2015-2016 as shown in the Supplementary Estimates No. 7 2015-2016 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

HEAD 73

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND
DRAINAGE

\$7 005 827

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

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, the matter before the Committee is a request for a Supplementary in the sum of \$7 005 827 which is being sought under Head 73, the Ministry of the Environment and Drainage, to supplement sums of money under the Sanitation Services Authority and the National Conservation Commission.

Mr. Chairman, the need for this money has arisen out of the fact that in the case of the Sanitation Services Authority, their funding was cut at the beginning of the year and it has become necessary now for us to invite in the amount of money that would be necessary to push us to the end of the financial year.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the Sanitation Services Authority would have had to respond to some challenges with the collection of waste early in the financial year which necessitated incurring additional costs in one point and in another circumstance the Authority had also calculated the collection of tipping fees in the amount of up to \$8 million which was not realised because of

adjustments in the fee and the late introduction of the fee which was introduced in May rather than at the beginning of the calendar year, and basically what we are seeking to do now is to have approved the amount of \$6 088 284 to supplement the operating costs of the Sanitation Services Authority, Programme 400 under Environmental Health Services, Subprogramme 0372, and Standing Account Code 316 is the area which the moneys will be applied. Mr. Chairman, we could, of course, have an extended conversation on the challenges of the Sanitation Services Authority. I think it is well documented that there have been a series of challenges that we are addressing very systematically at this time. We are not just simply looking to spend more money or less money but we are looking to refashion and reorder the Sanitation Services Authority to become a more efficient institution and as a result we have been very methodically going through all of the operational issues faced by the Authority and I am satisfied that only recently we were handed a restructuring plan that would give rise to addressing a number of those issues.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of vehicles has been an ongoing issue. I am satisfied that the Ministry of Finance has responded. Only today I was informed that there would be some sum of \$10 million allocated to the Sanitation Services Authority in a matter of weeks so that we could bring in the vehicles that are required. We are going to bring in about 15 new vehicles. We have already contacted the manufacturer and we anticipate that those vehicles would be on site within the next four to five months as well. In the meanwhile, we have an average of 17 vehicles per day on the road and I would think that any objective observer would say that we have been able to maintain the circumstances of the collection of waste over the period particularly over the Christmas holiday where we did much better than some people said we would have done, but that does not negate the fact that we have to replenish the fleet. The fleet is an old fleet and most of the vehicles are 20 or more years old and that by any stretch of the imagination is way beyond the operational life of any utility vehicle in any service whatsoever, so we are moving towards having that matter rectified as quickly as possible.

In a new restructuring plan, we were able to leave out a lot of the duplication. According to the new plan, we have been able to come up with over \$4 million in savings as a result of the restructuring programme. Of course, the programme now has to go to Cabinet for Cabinet's approval and then it will be implemented immediately, but I am satisfied that we are moving in the right direction as it relates to the Sanitation Services Authority.

Mr. Chairman, we acknowledge that the tipping fee issue has some imbedded challenges in it pending. In a recent conversation at our Estimates meeting with the Ministry of Finance we all acknowledged that there are some challenges with the tipping fee. Aside from the fact

that it has become somewhat challenging for waste haulers, we believe that the spread was too narrow, and if we follow the global conventional belief that the polluters pay then it means that everybody who is involved in waste generation has to become part and parcel of the process of paying for the collection of waste. What we do not accept, however, is that a tipping fee should encourage anyone to engage in illegal dumping. Illegal dumping is not a function of the tipping fee, illegal dumping is the function of the behaviours and attitudes of some Barbadians who still believe that the Government must pay to do everything that needs to be done for their comfort and are not prepared to take responsibility for their actions.

Only today I had a conversation with the Honourable Minister of Health and I reminded the Minister of Health that the matter of policing illegal dumping is a function of the Ministry of Health under the Health Services Act. The Environmental Health Officers are working and we agree that they will continue to police the process as much as possible, but at the end of the day I believe that every single Barbadian must take responsibility and anybody who joins into a conversation to try to prosecute the State for the attitudes and behaviour of persons who know better, I believe they are wrong and they know that they are wrong. As we just heard in another debate, laws would not change things, people have to choose to change people's attitude. Illegal dumping has been a thing in Barbados for many years, that is why we have had to do gully studies and gully clean up and all of the rest.

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: The truth is, Mr. Chairman, that this Government has brought to the fore the scourge of illegal dumping to the extent now where ordinary citizens have now become part and parcel of the watchfulness of individuals. Only yesterday somebody sent me a video. We have the number of the vehicle, we have the stuff that was dumped and witnesses came forward and said they witnessed it too and we are going to pass it on to the Ministry of Health so that they could take the corrective action.

Mr. Speaker, we have a situation in the Belle right now where a waste hauler who when the fees were introduced said to the small waste haulers that they may suffer but that he would benefit. Now we have a case where there is an illegal dump site in the Belle, very close to the water table, and the Belle being one of the substantive water tables in Barbados, it is not a lime facility and the Environmental Protection Department has just submitted a report to the Ministry saying that they are dumping materials that will produce leachate that will contaminate the water source, and you have persons who are walking around and saying that it is because of the tipping fee that somebody would go and set up an illegal dump site and

then you have advocates who are saying to persons who want to develop different products in Barbados to go and build a treatment plant for Storey Gap but not for the Belle, and the Belle has been on the table for a treatment plant for years.

I am saying as the Minister with responsibility for the environment that this Government takes environmental governance seriously and anybody who decides that he or she wants to benefit... They quarreled about a \$40 tipping fee and one of the same persons who is now involved in the illegal dumping is charging \$40 to \$60 a load to collect from householders and take and dump in the Belle.

I urge the Ministry of Health to get out there and give them the 14-days' notice and shut down that operation immediately. I know that the Town Planning Department has already started court proceeding but that is a protracted process. I am not going to hold hands with anybody who decides to break the law under the guise of trying to help collect garbage in Barbados. It is wrong and the Sanitation Service Authority is not in agreement and I know that our colleagues in the Ministry of Health are very worried about it.

Sir, the same caution goes out for these coconut vendors. Now, I believe that they should be able to vend, and I have no difficulty in that, but I have a real problem with them leaving the shells beside the road. In some cases they are not even splitting those shells. Now those shells are becoming harboring sites for mosquitoes. Barbados is now on a new mosquito alert and I believe that those persons need to be cautioned that it is against the law, first of all, to set down garbage beside the sidewalks and then not to retrieve it sometimes until months after. The Sanitation Service Authority has had to go Warrens and pick up a whole bunch of coconut shells because they were blocking the waterway. When the rains started to fall they were clogging up and creating flooding. The Sanitation Service Authority has had to voluntarily collect those shells, yet there are other persons who are doing services for the Government but who are yet engaging in illegal dumping. The molasses case is one of those cases.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we as Barbadians have to take responsibility for the upkeep of our country. We have to be responsible in helping to upkeep our environment, it is not just the Government responsibility it is every Barbadian's responsibility because it is our country at the end of the day and we have to protect it. Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue to reform the Sanitation Service Authority, it is an institution that was built since the 1940s, it has gone through a variety of stages but there has not been any radical reform of the institution and we are now going through that process. As I have said before, the consultants have handed us the documents and we are

going to Cabinet with it very shortly, to get Cabinet's approval so that we can move ahead with the programme.

Mr. Chairman, the \$6 088 284 is to supplement the shortfall that would have occurred as a result of the cutting of the resources to the institution and the shortfall in the tipping fees to the Sanitation Service Authority.

Mr. Chairman, the other matter under subprogramme 0386 -- Account Code: 316, Standard Account: 416 -- the National Conservation Commission where we are asking for \$300 000 - grants to public institutions, and another \$617 543. This is for the cleaning up of the circumstances that we incurred. We incurred a significant cost as a result of the sargassum seaweed situation. Again, you would recall that Barbados experienced a deluge of seaweed around the country on our beaches and we had to spend a significant amount of money and also invite many Barbadians from private sector institutions to come on board and to assist in the cleaning up of our beaches. I am happy to say that the beaches are now in very good shape and that we continue to work to make sure that we continue to maintain those beaches.

Mr. Speaker, let us face the hard facts, the National Conservation Commission would have experienced a significant cut in their work population and therefore a number of workers were retrenched, the numbers available to do a lot of the work that would normally be done was reduced by 200 workers. Since the retrenchment another 61 workers have gone home as a result of retirement or medically unfit, so what we are doing there, really, is exactly what the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs had intended, that is that once you consolidate your numbers, you manage the numbers of the institution by ensuring that those areas that are not necessarily to be replenished are not replenished and that we continue to shave our numbers down as a result of attrition by retirement, death or any other reason.

Mr. Chairman, the National Conservation Commission invested \$600 000 or thereabout in the purchase of two pieces of world-standard equipment that is responsible for cleaning the beaches. I do not know if any of you have been following the story in the Press but those two pieces of equipment have been doing outstanding work around the country in moving debris off the beaches without moving the sand. One of the problems that we had in the early stages was that when the heavy equipment went on the beach to clean up the sargassum seaweed, they were taking a lot of the sand as well. Now we have remedied that problem. The equipment has been in Barbados now for about a month and a half, the manufacturers have sent down a team to train our people here, the training has been completed and now the equipment is being operated by members of staff of the National Conservation Commission, so the National Conservation Commission

really expended money not only in terms of equipment but also in additional hands to get the work completed and of course we were able to again see a success of that equipment. The other good thing about that equipment is that in the event of oil spills or any such catastrophe, that equipment is also outfitted to be able to respond to those situations.

Mr. Chairman, our heaviest areas were those in the east, Consett Bay and those areas and in the far north, River Bay. Those areas have since been corrected and I applaud the leadership and of course the staff of the National Conservation Commission for the job that they have done in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, this request, really, is a needed request that will get us to the end of the financial year and also gives us a good gauge on how we should point going forward. In our recent Estimates meeting, we were able to satisfy the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs that we have calculated correctly in terms of what we will need to go forward, while at the same time we are continuing to stimulate the revenue-generating arms of both institutions, to make sure that they continue to earn their way as far as possible.

Mr. Chairman, we do know, based on the challenges that our economy has faced, that many of the statutory corporations have been a drag on the domestic operations of Government and therefore we are going to do our best to ensure that our institutions under our Ministry are responsive to that particular requirement.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 73 stand part.

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

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

Lt. Col. JEFFREY D. BOSTIC: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me say first of all that the Members on this Side have no difficulty in supporting the request for the Supplementary in principle, because we of course would want to support anything at all that has to do with the health of this country and of our citizens as long as that which we are supporting is economically and environmentally sound. I was happy to hear the Honourable Minister speak in terms of the new vehicles which the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) is expecting, and I hope that this would happen in quick time because this is a critical area of concern, as the delivery of the service from the Authority continues in some areas to decline, obviously because of the shortage of trucks and other equipment. I made a number of calls and checks

around Barbados between the Christmas period up to this point in time to see exactly how the Authority was responding to the collection of garbage in the country, especially during the Christmas period. There were mixed reviews; in some areas the collection was quite good, and in other areas the collection was not good at all and continued to decline. However, one thing one can say without any fear is that the workers at the Sanitation Service Authority deserve to be praised for the effort which they are putting into what they are doing in spite of the challenges confronting them. They should be commended for work they have been doing over the last several months.

My issue, Mr. Chairman, really has to do with the situation confronting us at this point in time where we have water issues and we have obviously, the rise of mosquito-borne diseases; Zika, I believe, being the latest one. This is something really that should concern us as a nation, as a country, because if we do not address this situation then it can have some catastrophic circumstances for us. In this regard, one of the things that I really want to speak about here is this whole question of illegal dumping because I think this is very serious matter. It is something that is prevalent within the capital city of Bridgetown, and it is prevalent throughout the length and breadth of this country. I believe, sincerely, that this is really becoming a mass human issue and it is something which I think a lot more thought and effort has to go into. It obviously calls for a lot of education on the part of our citizens, because they too have a role to play in this, and I think the time has come, because of the difficulties we are facing with water and mosquito-borne diseases, that we really need to look at this issue from a legal standpoint. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the time has come where we may actually have to look at having something akin to environmental police because this is a serious issue. There are countries, yes, including Belize which has an environmental protection agency that actually polices these sorts of things. I do not think that we can continue to allow this problem with illegal dumping to grow unchecked, because of the dangers obviously associated with it. Not only does it affect the landscape of Barbados, certainly from a tourism point of view, but the possible consequence of diseases that result from this really bad and horrible practice is something that we need to take a little more seriously.

It would be interesting if some sort of study could be done to see exactly the scale of illegal dumping that exists in this country, and for us to be able to determine if it is really getting worse, as I believe it is. However, that is just from a personal perspective. I would like to see illegal dumping being addressed as a topic on the front burner in terms of the efforts of not only the Sanitation Service Authority but the entire country. Sanitation and health go hand-in-hand, so this is something that should concern every citizen of this country.

Mr. Chairman, I have no difficulty at all in terms of funds being sought for drainage and those other areas as well, because that is something that obviously is of concern to me and should be of concern to all of us. I can say that prior to the laying off of people from the Ministry of the Environment, the Drainage Unit was doing a very good job in terms of keeping things clear. I would go on record to say that, certainly within the City of Bridgetown which is prone to flooding, that the incidence of flooding was significantly reduced when the Drainage Unit workers were able to do what they did. After those persons were laid off, we have had some serious encounters once again with flooding; not only in Bridgetown but within the St. Michael area generally and even some areas outside of the urban corridor.

I would like to ask also, Mr. Chairman, what is happening with regard to the two sewage plants -- the South Coast and Bridgetown -- in relation to water issues, particularly on the South Coast? Have problems in that area been resolved? If the Honourable Minister can say something about that, I would be very happy. The question of the Sargassum Seaweed was something that was plaguing our country from the point of view of tourism, and I believe that a lot has been done in that regard because there has been a significant improvement. Certainly, the request for additional funds we have no issue at all in supporting. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks, if there is one thing from my perspective coming out of this, it is the question of illegal dumping, as I said before. This is something that a lot of people in the country have been calling and complaining about; certainly people within the City of Bridgetown. Once again, we salute and compliment the workers of the Sanitation Service Authority in spite of the many challenges. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. DENIS ST.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on this Supplementary for \$6 million for the Sanitation Service Authority and to make the point that this administration has found itself in a situation where it has had to correct many problems. One of the problems we had to correct was this one related to the Sanitation Service Authority. There is no doubt that this administration has always led as it relates to the environment of Barbados, because as far back as the 1970s or even the 1960s when we had the Parks & Beaches Commission, people just saw them as dealing with debushing and so on.

This administration was smart enough to recognise that aspect of it was to protect the environment of Barbados and to clear the gullies and replant the gullies to ensure that there was a proper water flow. Sir, a lot of people did not understand that the importance of ensuring that storm water

was able to get to the sea and to protect our aquifers and to ensure that there was no intrusion of the salt water into our fresh waters. Sir, now that we are in the 21st century and the environment is a big thing, the Democratic Labour Party was able to put it on the map a long time ago when the world was not thinking of it and today we are taking it a step further as we celebrate 50 years of Independence by ensuring that we protect the environment by giving the Sanitation Service Authority some additional funds to ensure that they have enough trucks and they have the manpower to protect the environment of Barbados and to continue to lead in this way as it relates to environmental matter.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James North was not around when the Honourable Member for Christ Church East said that this \$6 million was for. Sir, I forgive the Honourable Member because when it comes to positive things he does not hear but if there is anything negative, you can be sure that the Honourable Member will be in the House.

Mr. Speaker, we are dealing today with this matter for the Sanitation Service Authority and we are demonstrating to Barbadians that it is important for them after 50 years of Independence for them to sure that they are a matured society and that they have a right to look after country Barbados that has looked after them for over 50 years of Independence and to ensure that instead of they continuing to depend on Barbados to look after them that they must now give back a contribution to Barbados. Sir, I am happy to see the type of maturity that this Government has shown when one considers the economic stress that we not only suffer in Barbados but that is being suffered across the world, that we are dealing with the importance things of Barbados. We are ensuring that we are protecting the water resources of Barbados by protecting our environment and ensuring that there is no intrusion of the salt water and so on, by ensuring that the gullies are clear and things like that.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that this country Barbados really can celebrate 50 years of Independence and has demonstrated to the world that it is now a mature country and is prepared to demonstrate and to continue to lead because, Sir, we have a way of believing that the only way we can do things is by copying. Sir, we are not copiers. This administration is an administration that has demonstrated that it has the capacity to do beyond the cause. I rise to support this supplementary for the Sanitation Service Authority and to demonstrate that wherever we see a problem that will not confront using old methods but we will be creative and find new ways of dealing with. Sir, people will criticise it but the end result is what we will be judged by. Sir, that is why today I am confidence that we are doing the right things in the interest of country Barbados and that the masses of people and all

others in the country even though they would have heard the criticisms on the Other Side will recognise that this country Barbados is well-managed and we are correcting the problem, that one by one, we are correcting the problems. I thank you very much, Sir.

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

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in this Resolution which was ably introduced by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East the Minister of the Environment. Sir, when he spoke to the fact that the monies being sought were divided essentially into two areas under his authority, one the Sanitation Service Authority and the National Conservation Commission. I appreciated very much in his introduction his reference to the responsibility of the Ministry of Health in respect of managing the entire environment of Barbados and that we are really partners in this very important exercise. Indeed, as nations of the Caribbean are today grappling with the threat of yet another vector borne virus, it further enhances the value of his contribution and is one of the reasons why I feel obliged to stand and speak in this debate this evening in support of what the Minister had to say about the scourge of illegal dumping and the need for us as a nation to turn away from this very misguided activity. It is an activity which he indicated has been part, regrettably of the Barbadian landscape for some time but it is a new experience for me to have an Opposition which actually promotes the idea of resistance to a policy of Government by encouraging Barbadians to do other than to seek the managed arrangements under which waste is managed in Barbados. Sir, on reflection, the Opposition will have

Asides.

Mr. E.D. HINKSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. If by Opposition he means the Barbados Labour Party, he might very well mean the Opposition, which is the people of Barbados, the people that are in Opposition to the Democratic Labour Party but if he means the Opposition Barbados Labour Party he is certainly misleading the House and, really and truly, this Opposition Barbados Labour Party has never, ever told people to dump in breach of the law, so that is an absolute falsehood.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, proceed.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I certainly want to continue to encourage Barbadians to resist any attempts at disposing of garbage other than at the managed outlets of the Sanitation Service Authority and at those dumps which have been legally established for the management of waste. Sir, waste management is a very important part of the health of our nation. I was getting to

the point where I wanted to say that regionally, we are island States under the threats of another virus in the name of the Zika fever and, indeed, although this has been around for a long while, it has not been part of the landscape of the Caribbean. Indeed, when chikungunya visited our shores last year, again, it was a disease which although it has been around for a while had only reached the shores of Barbados and other Caribbean States because of the movement of people. We are the ones who carry these diseases from country to country as travel becomes easier and we wake up this morning in Malaysia and go to bed tomorrow morning in our homes in Barbados, or in Jamaica, or in Trinidad so it is a matter which has to be managed very carefully.

That is why I said any attempt by an Opposition in whatever form to encourage members of the public to do others than engage in the legal disposal of waste is an exercise which must be totally frowned upon by the people of Barbados. Sir, the Ministry of Health through the Environmental Health Unit is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that there are no illegal dump sites in Barbados and where there is a collection of any kind of materials on a sight which would encourage the breeding of mosquitoes, in our homes, business places or wherever, those who manage these facilities are held responsible for cleaning up these facilities, that is why, even as I speak, a number of sites which have been drawn to the attention to the Ministry of Finance and which the Minister of Finance has fidgeted and have issued the requisite orders on the owners, these sites are being given a reasonable time in which to comply with law and to clean up the facility or else face the full weight of the laws of this country and I certainly want to stand here today in this Chamber in support of the work of the Environmental health unit in this regard and to encourage Barbadians to cooperate with this unit and to ensure that their homes and business places are kept in a manner to ensure that there is no breeding of mosquitoes in our country.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Health has also published paid advertisements in our media to encourage Barbadians to take certain basic steps to ensure that even if the zika bearing mosquito is present, then the probability of any kind of transmission of disease is significantly reduce and I want to repeat some of the suggestions that have been shared with the public at this time. We encourage the role of clothing with long sleeves and long legs especially in the morning and late afternoon. These are the cooler times of the day when the mosquito is most prominent and leaves its hiding places. We ask you to use mosquito repellents, apply according to the manufacturer's instructions and where possible sleep under insecticide treated bed nets. I know we have not been in the habit in Barbados of sleeping under bed nets for some time but this is encouraged especially in the high risk age groups. We consider the elderly, that is, over 65 to 70 years old to be vulnerable. If

you are a person who suffers from a chronic disease, we consider you to be vulnerable. Young babies under the age of five years, we also consider to be vulnerable and in the case of the Zika virus we also include in that group pregnant women for the reasons which have been shared with the public by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CPHA), the Ministry of Health here in Barbados and other health agencies.

Sir, the point is that we all have to play our part in keeping the country clean. It is a responsibility which we cannot let up on. I am observing more and more that even in the case of our friends, the coconut vendors, we would have to take steps to ensure that the shells from the coconut vending exercise are properly disposed of and it is not sufficient to in the dark of night or in the quiet of early morning the throw these shells out of sight but we must ensure that all these shells are properly disposed of in the manage waste areas of Barbados because, as we all know the coconut shell is a very, very easy place for water to collect and the breeding of mosquitoes to occur. Along with that too, the Ministry of Finance will be intensifying their fogging programme to make sure that wherever possible all the areas of Barbados, the low lying which are especially prone to the collection of waste water are fogged so as to kill the young mosquito and to prevent the breeding of the mosquito eggs.

Sir, the Minister of the Environment also spoke to the fact that part of the Supplementary is for the National Conservation Commission (NCC) and he spoke especially to the equipment which has been purchased for the cleaning of the beaches and in the event that they are needed to offer some assistance in the disposal of Sargassum or any other weed that we may see encroaching our shores over the next year or so, or over the seasons as we progress. This, I think, is a very strategic exercise and a very important one. We were caught to some extent, this year by the massive influx of Sargassum weed around the East Coast, South Coast and to some extent even tending toward the West Coast of Barbados. Indeed, it was through the efforts of the Sanitation Services Authority (SSA) along with the Ministry of Transport and Works and indeed volunteers. We have some very special volunteers, for instance, at Miami Beach in Oistins who made sure that some paths were cleared for those who wanted to enjoy sea baths but today, of course, that weed is gone and this is a pre-emptive move by the National Conservation Commission (NCC) to take care of any influx which may occur over the very immediate future. I have no doubt that they will probably need more equipment than this and that they should be an attempt to augment this equipment in the very near future so as to be able to put Barbados in a position where we can quickly return our beaches to the state which we are accustomed, after all, it is one of the assets of this island and the success of our nation, the ability of our people to enjoy our beaches, the ability of our

country to offer our beaches to visitors as a place of enjoyment, relaxation and exercise, it is therefore important that we make sure that we have resources to maintain these facilities in that condition.

The Honourable Member who spoke on That Side spoke to the question of the South Coast and the Bridgetown Sewerage Projects, he made a passing reference to them. I think it requires more than a passing reference. Indeed, I have certain had very in-depth discussions with the Minister of Agriculture who have responsibility for the sewerage projects and in respect to the South Coast Sewerage Project. Truth be told, that project was a poorly conceptualised and designed project. It was neither fish, fowl or as they say good red herring.

Soon after its construction, under the previous Administration it was rendered ineffective and as such there is need to go back to the drawing-board and really look to find significant funds to rebuild or to build a sewerage project on the South Coast which can handle the kind of septic that ends up in that Graeme Hall area. The threat to the Graeme Hall Swamp is significant and the threat to the beaches in that area is significant. I get a number of requests from residents around the Graeme Hall Swamp and the Worthing area about the kinds of threats which a poorly operating South Coast Plant brings and, therefore, I certainly would like to support these improvements and at the same time encourage my colleagues to let us work even harder to find the resources to repair what was really poor work on the part of the last Administration in respect to the development of the South Coast Sewerage Project.

Mr. Chairman, in the event that time permits, I will come back to elaborate a little more on the areas of waste. Thank you very much.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Mr. Chairman, I want to take a few moments to enter this debate, very critical, as it is on this Supplementary. First of all, the Minister of Finance would have approved the Supplementary or the request of the Ministry of the Environment, of course with the concurrence and the approval of the Cabinet, and therefore I support this 100 per cent. In fact, I think the Minister quite eloquently stated the particular purposes for which this money is being sought to augment the work of the Sanitation Services Authority and of course the ministry generally in dealing with some matters that would have arisen that were beyond their immediate control when they arose and then secondly for which immediate responses were required.

I must say to the tribute of the Minister and his staff that it has been a very challenging period. One of the things that I think the Minister and his people get a lot of licks for, particularly the Sanitation Services Authority, and I think quite regrettably and unfortunately and sometimes as we would say, unfairly in Barbadian words is on the issue of refuse collection and the efficiency of it in relation to what is happening within the country.

There is no doubt that we have had challenges. Some of those challenges can be firmly rooted in the lack of resources or the constraint that we have had with resources in relation to being able to provide the Sanitation Services Authority with everything that it requires to be able to service the country. In other parts, it relates to issues pertaining to equipment availability and issues pertaining to the organisation and routings and the fleet management within the Authority. These are all issues that did not arise under this particular Minister or even under this Government, these are issues that have been ongoing for a number of years.

There are quite systemic challenges with the way in which the whole waste management system is dealt with in Barbados from the very primary base of collecting waste but even before that in terms of how householders and businesses handle their waste, and issues of recycling and so forth and so on right down or upstream until you get to the more tertiary level treatment that we receive and that we try.

Mr. Speaker, we can point very accurately, I think, to the deepening of those systemic challenges, particularly some of the financial challenges, of the Sanitation Services Authority with the onset of the waste separation and treatment process with the creation of the centre at Vacluse that deals with that. I remember when I became Minister of Finance that it jumped out at me when we were doing the Estimates preparation, I believe for the year 2010, 2011 or 2012, that in the previous financial year the Sanitation Service Authority had received an amount of around \$32 million to deal with its regular activities, that is, collect their waste, take it to the land-filling sites and have it dealt with there. That budget then jumped to over \$60 million and the first question I asked, of course, as a new young Minister of Finance is why was there such a significant jump in the cost of dealing with the refuse and it was pointed out to me that this was the first full year that we would have been operating with the transfer station at Vacluse and that the additional cost had to go in there so it meant that where Government under difficult economic circumstances with constrained finances would have been able even in those conditions to eke out some smaller amounts of money, clusters of money, to make available to the Sanitation Service Authority to be able to do all of the things that people say that we should do, buy more trucks, get more staff and do all of those things, which now have

to be diverted away from the main Sanitation Service Authority operation into the secondary or post-secondary treatment facility for waste in Barbados.

We have gone through this many times. We know that for all intents and purposes the application is an application that frankly right now we cannot do without because it is helping us to reduce the volumes of waste going into the landfills. We know we do not have a whole lot of land-filling space left. In fact, very shortly after we became the Government Cell 3B at Mangrove exhausted its life and we then had to go and find \$30 million to do Cell 4 but people say that the Government is not doing anything with sanitation but these are the realities. Faced with the fact that Cell 4, if not married properly, if not having that transfer station process in front of it, would only last, at the volumes we are producing, half of the amount of time or probably even less than half of the amount of time, six to seven years of life, we have been able to extend that a little bit further because we have been able to reduce the volumes going to the landfills because we have the transfer station and the separation process but were we not to do that the landfill would max out and then we would have another discussion in Barbados as to where are you going to put a new land-filling site with everybody saying I do not want it in my backyard, I do not want it next to my house, I do not want it near my business, I do not want one at all, so you have nowhere to put it. You cannot go to Greenland because we spent \$100 million there and got nothing for it. We do not have any more space at Mangrove and we do not want waste-to-energy, so the question is: What are we going to do now?

I have heard the statement that we are going to recycle but right now there is no real genuine recycling of waste in Barbados. I am not a technician but I read enough to know that that process really does not exist in Barbados. We have sorting. We sort out things, we take out certain things and we may ship some of those things overseas and get some foreign exchange for it and stuff like that but there is no genuine recycling in the strictest interpretation of the technological application going on in Barbados and there is no zero waste either.

Therefore, this enterprise that we are talking about, short of those applications which themselves involve very heavy capital injections, are not inexpensive things to do, so that when people are talking about recycling and stuff like that, it is not an expensive thing, it will give you a benefit in the medium to longer term, but the upfront capital cost of investing in that type of activity is reasonably high, so therefore the issue is, in the absence of that happening at this moment, how is the Government to find the resources, where can the Government find the requisite resources to satisfy a Sanitation Service Authority whose budget is currently around on average of \$30 million to \$32 million every year, but whose genuine budget for

the activities it does for the entire country Barbados is more like \$40 million or \$45 million?

Mr. Chairman, I am not including the landfilling site, I am just talking about the basic operations. Sir, invariably, for treatment we are about \$20 million or \$30 million right now for the very basic things that we do, primary and secondary treatment for the waste that we do. We are about \$30 million short, because you are talking about at least \$100 million a year.

Now, you do not pick up \$100 million every day, it is not just lying around the place and I continue making this point, so we now have to cut the cloth to suit the size, because there are other things that have to get resources as well: the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation, the Barbados Water Authority and we have seen some of the challenges that we are having from the issues of drought and climate change. We have now to try to fashion the budget to be able to keep the Sanitation Service Authority delivering the common services that they have been delivering, at a level of efficiency and satisfaction to a growing and more demanding population and a population producing evermore increasing volumes of waste a day, week, month, quarter, year and so forth and so on.

Mr. Speaker, so that when people bear down on the Sanitation Service Authority... We all have our challenges and we cannot all follow people because if a fellow is accustomed to getting his waste collected twice a week and then the truck does not come for two or three weeks, it is fairly reasonable for him to complain, but when we try to turn it into a political football, then I have challenges with that because I know that the antecedents of the financial challenges which the Sanitation Service Authority is currently experiencing, if we want to go that route, has largely began many, many years ago and not under this Administration. We are now grappling with the problem.

I give the Minister, the Government gives the country the assurance that we will ensure that we put resources available to the Sanitation Service Authority and in that particular regard this Supplementary is just part of the process because we have agreed that we are going to buy additional equipment for the Sanitation Service Authority this year. In fact, we are in the process of trying to complete that and hopefully within the next months, however long it takes to get that process done, additional and new trucks will come into the service of the Sanitation Service Authority to assist them and to alleviate some of these challenges, but even that, there is no guarantee that we are going to have a super heaven type of service at all, because that is only beginning to scratch the surface of what needs to take place in relation to the Sanitation Service Authority.

Mr. Chairman, let us recall only three years ago, I believe it is, we bought whatever new trucks and a lot of those trucks suffered because of being overworked, because of the sheer volumes of waste that was produced, the trucks themselves were having challenges having to make so many trips with such heavy loads. They themselves started to be affected by it because a lot of them being modern-day or purpose-built trucks are not really constructed to carry that type of pressure in the way it was, particularly when they have to climb the hills in the countryside and so forth and so on.

Mr. Chairman, we have to get purpose-built vehicles, and we have learned our lessons from these things, but we give the assurance that the Sanitation Service Authority is going to get those resources and will be able to bring in new trucks but even then, if you were to give them 100 more trucks that is not going to solve the issue of how much waste we produce and how we deal with it, 100 more trucks is just going to collect more waste, but the trucks have to carry that waste somewhere and that waste has to be dealt with when it gets there and that is really when the money is spent.

Mr. Chairman, people say when you are building a house the fastest thing you can see going up is the block work, but when you have to put on the roof, the windows or start tiling, putting on the finishing or putting in the cupboards, then you will see how fast the money disappears. You went to the bank for a mortgage of

\$300 000 and you get up to ring beam and only would have spent \$100 000 you smile and feel that you can now bring in new furniture in the house but by the time you put on the windows, the roof, and the fellows start to plaster, when cupboards have to go in, then you would see how fast the other \$200 000 disappears and you wonder where all the money has gone.

Mr. Speaker, the first start is just really dealing with trucks and we are going to get the equipment that they require. We think they have an adequate enough level of staffing. If anything, they may need perhaps some more technical people at the staffing level so that we can have better arrangement in terms of supervisory management and fruit management and so forth and so on. They need to work on their procurement policies, so that as we move into a more modern procurement enterprise across the whole Government agencies would begin to make wiser decisions as to whom they buy from and in what volumes and combining the strengths of the entire Government to act as an agent in the marketplace to demand better products, better and faster service and at more reasonable cost. That is how the Government has to operate under a new procurement environment, so all these things will affect the agency Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say those words and I will come back again, if I am allowed to. I do not know if the Minister is closing now but there are one or two other things I wanted to say in that regard.

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

Mr. E. D. HINKSON: Mr. Chairman, I would first wish to intervene in the debate on this Resolution by congratulating one of the really and truly, in many instances, the herculean efforts by the workers of the Sanitation Service Authority in operating under harsh economic trying circumstances, with limited equipment and doing the best that they can, having been deprived of equipment whether by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs with his tight-fisted hands, even though the Honourable Member says the economy is turning around and we see no signs of that in real terms. Mr. Chairman, the workers have to be congratulated for still being able to manfully do a job and with the limited tools that they have.

Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member who introduced this Resolution said that we have 17 garbage trucks in operation to collect garbage in the whole 21-by-14, 280-odd thousand people of Barbados. We on this Side certainly do not believe that is adequate.

I think studies show that at least 25 odd trucks are needed on a daily basis to collect garbage with any form of adequacy throughout the country. Certainly, we on this side know that at one time within the last two months there were only seven operational garbage trucks in Barbados on a daily basis. There were not even double figures. Seven, at one time. An individual called me two days ago over the weekend and said that their household garbage had not been collected for a whole three weeks, and in a constituency which has a Democratic Labour Party Member of Parliament (MP). I told that individual they should call their MP on it. They were afraid of doing that, feeling that they could be victimised for so saying, since they are public servants. I said "that cannot be right. You cannot say that. If your garbage has not been collected for three weeks in any district, you have a right to call a Member of Parliament. Do not let them hide from you." That is the situation we are operating under in this Barbados after 50 years of political Independence, and after taxes have been increased and over 30 taxes have been levied by this Democratic Labour Party Government in exactly eight years now of office. Still, the citizens of this country cannot have implemented on a daily basis basic social services for which they pay taxes.

We can only wonder where all the money is going. I know as a fact that in my constituency of St. James North, there are Sanitation Service Authority workers who stay on

sometimes until late afternoons waiting for trucks to go and pick up garbage. That happens along the coast, for example. Waiting in vain. Ready, willing and able to collect garbage, but no garbage trucks there to collect. The Honourable Member who just spoke, the Honourable Minister of Finance, just said that nine new garbage trucks were purchased about three years ago. I am very glad to hear that nine were purchased, because I remember that scenario very well, where the Honourable Minister led this debate. He was also in a picture with some trucks, and they were said to be new but in the next couple of months you heard that they were not new trucks. I really do not know whether these trucks were purchased new or not, and I would really like the Minister in charge of Sanitation Service Authority to give this House the actual fact on how many new garbage trucks have been purchased by this Democratic Labour Party Government since coming into office eight years ago.

The issue, Mr. Chairman, is that this is a Supplementary Resolution. Looking at the core substance of the Head, it is a Supplementary to provide additional support to the Sanitation Service Authority to pay salaries and wages; nothing here about purchase of garbage trucks, as the Honourable Member for St. Lucy sought to sidetrack on. This is to pay salaries and wages, and certainly I am concerned. We heard in this Parliament, from the mouth of the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the days for Supplementary Resolutions were gone and he was hoping to reach a situation where the Government would not have to come later in a financial year and speak to Supplementary Resolutions. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Education wishes to speak. I can sit down.

Asides.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: Mr. Chairman, this is not the law courts where he was charged for failure to pay vehicle insurance and driving without due care and attention, and without having paid Road Tax. I think that this is very poor governance.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please. I cannot hear the Member. Thank you.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: This is very poor governance in our submission, Mr. Chairman, that you are coming for Supplementary Resolutions to pay salaries and wages. Certainly that should have been worked out. Even in this era of layoffs, where over 4 000 public servants have been laid off since last Election. This should have been worked out. I would, therefore, certainly want to know why this Parliament is being asked to approve a Supplementary for over \$6 million to pay salaries and wages. Is it that the Sanitation Service Authority has now employed more

people since the last Estimates when the Budget was voted on? If so, let us hear so. Is it that the people have come on from the Minister's constituency to work at this Authority even though there is a tight strain on Government expenditure and people were laid off from both kinds of authorities and statutory corporations? If that is so, let us hear. Let us hear. Let this Parliament hear. Let Barbadians know how their taxpayers' money is being spent. Do not let us come with subterfuge in here today to spend the people's money.

What I am also concerned about, Mr. Chairman, is that we have to deal with governance. These are issues that we must address in our 50th year of Independence that we are so proud about and on which we are spending millions of dollars to celebrate. Under the Sanitation Service Authority Act, "Minister" is defined as the Minister responsible for Health, but yet we have a situation where the Minister responsible for Health is not the Minister in charge of the Sanitation Service Authority. Please, let us correct these deficiencies in the law. Do not let us go on operating in breach of the law. Actually it is ironic, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Minister of Health, in fact, spoke about the Opposition -- I do not know what opposition he means -- condoning illegality in terms of dumping. Yet we have a Government, of which he is Leader of Government Business, with the Sanitation Service Authority which is the subject of the Resolution today being really and truly under the law of Barbados under his Ministry. However, there is another Honourable Minister who is in charge. Let us correct it. Do not let us go on in breach of the law, because we have to set the example to the rest of the society. Let us clean this up. If an amendment to the Act is to be brought, let it be brought before Parliament.

We also have the issue, Mr. Chairman, of last Annual Reports, since we are speaking about governance. My understanding is that this Democratic Labour Party Government, now in office for eight years to the month, has not laid an Annual Report on the Sanitation Service Authority since coming into office. The last Annual Report laid in this Parliament for the Sanitation Service Authority is for the year 2005-2006, laid in this Parliament on August 10, 2007. How do you mean "so what"?

Sir, in other words, the people's representative has not had the opportunity to see what the finances of the Sanitation Service Authority, what are they doing relative reports. Fiscal prudence, governance, transparency, all of this is what the Democratic Labour Party Government promised to do on election in 2008 but there was not report for the Sanitation Service Authority in the eight years that it has been the party in government in this country. Sir, certainly under the Act, such reports should be given to the Minister in charge, who should have a moral duty to bring them to Parliament. The issue arises about illegal dumping

which my colleague, the Honourable Member for the City spoke about. We certainly will not and cannot condone this because the country belongs to all of us and certainly seems to be the only thing in this country's economic indicators. We need a clean country for the tourists but also we need a clean country for the residents and citizens of Barbados and, Sir, we are not going to condone illegal dumping. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas two weeks ago spoke to the issue of illegal dumping near to Harrison Cave in her constituency.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you should wrap up.

Mr. E.D. HINKSON: Sir, let me finish this point and I will come back later on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You only have one minute.

Mr. E.D. HINKSON: Okay, Sir. The issue arises as to what has been the effect of the tipping fee which was implemented last year and which was so controversial. The Honourable Minister in charge that led the debate spoke about that tipping fee being reviewed within 90 days but we have heard nothing about that and certainly those stakeholders within the industry have heard nothing from the Minister or the Ministry on the issue since that time. Sir, looking at the whole issue it seems too bureaucratic, there is too much red tape to pay this tipping fee. We do not know if the tipping fee was brought down and fractured where it became a percentage, instead of the 25 and if we only have one load over the amount whether that was going to be personalised as was said or what is the position on the tipping fee.

Mr. Chairman, these are certainly concerns which this Opposition Barbados Labour Party has and which we hope would be addressed by the Honourable Minister in this debate. Sir, I thank you.

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

Hon. R. A. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I rise to give support to the supplementary for the Sanitation Service Authority. Sir, there are something that we take for granted in our country over time and the disposal of waste and other effluvia is something that we have taken for granted over time and that in that way we have somewhat fallen asleep relative to the disposal of our waste. What you see happening now with elements of our society dumping waste in parts of Barbados is simply as a result of one (1) greed and (2) indiscipline. Sir, when a society becomes indiscipline, then it seeks to do as it likes. Sir, in St. Thomas, near Dukes Plantation just about two weeks ago, as I was being driven along the area, I looked through what we used to call back in the days, cart roads. It was just a

passageway between two fields of cane and I had to look twice because I could not believe what I say, it was strewn with the discarded husks of coconut. I do not know if that is a new found material for the construction of the road ways of Barbados. I know those coconut husks did not suddenly gathered legs and rushed to that area and scatter themselves as they were scattered, that somebody somewhere who was disposing of that waste had to deliberately drive to that location. Sir, this is not about the tipping fee. We provide excuses in this society for people every time, so we are now a society of excuses, that is what we are. It is a deliberate focused attempt determined to find a spot, I am going to drive there and I am going to dump it there regardless. Mr. Chairman, those acts are criminal and we get in this House, including the Honourable Member for St. James North, a lawyer and provide excuses by talking about tipping fee ...

Asides.

Mr. E.D. HINKSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. I have not provided any excuse whatever for illegal dumping. I said that this Party does not condone it whatsoever, I spoke about the Honourable Member for St. Thomas and her position in her constituency but I also spoke about a promise made to review the tipping fee that I felt that it was too bureaucratic in terms of payment.

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

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I wish to continue. You cannot juxtapose the whole notion that is raised by the the Honourable Member for St. Thomas alongside the notion of the tipping fee as to suggest that it is the incidence of the tipping fee which has caused persons to go about the country simply disposing of coconut shells and other waste wherever they want. It is an excuse being given by the Honourable Member for St. James North to those person, that is what is doing. Sir, I think we have to take another posture.

Mr. E.D. HINKSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise again on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. Nothing that I said....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, are you rising on the same point. I have already ruled on that.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I wish to move on as well. I have gleaned that from his staggering presentation and maybe that is what has betrayed his acting, that he is supporting the callous, indiscipline behaviour of some persons who have no regard for the environment in this country. Sir, that is what he is doing and we cannot step back from that. If he felt hungry and

push his feet right down his own mouth, let him take them out, we are not going to do that for him.

We are supposed to be responsible leaders in the community and the society, and wherever we see wrong, even if it among ourselves, we have to speak to that. There is no excuse in relation to that matter. Discipline must be the order of the day in this society.

Persons selling right across Barbados and I support persons selling coconuts dunks whatever is in season, I support all of that because the private sector and the State sector cannot provide all of the employment in this country so when young, middle-aged or old entrepreneurs find an avenue to generate income particularly getting the produce of Barbados into the hands of the citizens, I support that. Mr. Chairman, anytime that I venture along Belleplaine I stop and buy fat porks, cashews, almonds that they crack and the set aside and sea grapes, I am supporting the young man or woman beside the road. I know that we are (inaudible) any place. Those who harvest coconuts and go and position themselves beside the streets without impeding the movement of traffic I have no quarrel with but I believe that they need, to clean the lot every day before they depart from where they are selling. They must find responsible persons to dispose of the remnants of the coconuts, the shells and whatever else they have, it must be done. Nobody wants to run in the country and harass anyone of these people, dispose of them properly. We cannot encourage persons to be doing that to our country. We are now in a period of time where all kinds of diseases are not coming to this part of the word, we are talking about Zika, a year or two ago it was Chikungunya, we have always had Dengue Fever, I do not know what else one mosquito is going to have. This is a small little fellow but he got all kinds of diseases in his body.

A lady met me a few days ago and said to me: "Listen, uh-uh, one mosquito cannot have these three things. This is American trying to kill off black people." It is amazing what people think. It is really amazing what she said to me and what I was saying to her, you have a point about the mosquito and all of these diseases but I cannot support you without knowledge that it is America trying to kill off black people, but there are persons who seem to think that. In our country, we have to protect all our livelihoods, health and the general environment. We are not hearing and being told that in Brazil persons who were infected or bitten by the mosquito their children's heads were smaller or deformed and in Barbados you would understand the fear that can envelop the body of pregnant women in our country. If we provide the environment for the mosquito to breed and spread, discarded coconut shells, tyres, pet bottles that are opened, all of these receptacles that can hold water and provide that breeding place. What are we doing when there is a prevalence, a proliferation of the Aedes Aegypti mosquito? We first have to protect

ourselves, our children and our environment. If the tipping fee severed which individuals need to have further discussion with, let them have further discussions but do not let those who are discarding of waste go and drop it wherever along water sources and gullies and do not let any Member of this Honourable House encourage them, either overtly or covertly, in that kind of behaviour. It is unbecoming and I will not step back from the position I have taken that the lone gentleman - I use the word lone advisably - from St. James North could be suggesting to the people of Barbados and to this Honourable House that people should litter Barbados because of some tipping fee. What kind of irresponsible and reckless behaviour that one saw being demonstrated and displayed by the Honourable Member for St. James North? I will not step back from that

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: A destroyer of the civilization.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, are you on the same issue?

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you on the same issue?

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Perhaps there has been an extensive....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I have already ruled on that question. Please sit down.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: I suppose if the Honourable Member does not comprehend simple English I cannot be expected to ...

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I would ask you to withdraw that remark.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Which remark?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, you just made a remark, withdraw that remark immediately.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: I withdraw, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$6 million is to pay persons who work within the Sanitation Service Authority. The statement made that we would not claim back from Estimates, that kind of thinking has disappeared. Providing Estimates in here is not an exact science. It can never be an exact science. We operate within a dynamic environment where sometimes there are many issues being called upon. We did not budget for the issues at Combermere but you have to find the resources and we came to Honourable House and asked for a supplementary to help deal with the realities, children must be schooled and we have to pay all kinds of attention to a country that is a small dot in the Atlantic where the Saharan dust defiles and often spread all over the place. It is not an exact science therefore when we get up and try to fool the populace that somehow it is an exact science so you can go to Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) and give them \$50 million but they should never come back for an extra million or five or six million, because of realities, that the Ministry of Education should not come back for \$30 or \$40 million because of the dynamic reality that is taking place within the environment. What foolishness are we hearing in this Honourable House? I could understand that the Honourable Member is young at this business and want to somehow get on as if he knows all but that is not the reality. The reality is that you need more trucks, you say you are going to buy eight and then this insidious notion that comes from the Honourable Member for St. James North that you said you bought nine buses but questioning the integrity of the people at the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) and the suppliers, that is nasty, you bought nine. The way they are used and with the traffic that they have and the loads that they have to carry is phenomenal and there must be a constant replenisher of those vehicles so I look forward to the eight. I do have difficulty therewith. If there is one or two, get two but if there is one, I am just as happy because you just do not go and throw the garbage inside the street. We move and we place it where small amounts for it to be removed by the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) and we need to pay more respect to the workers.

We do not pay enough respect to the workers who work behind those trucks moving away the stench that we provide in this country. People put all kinds of things in the waste and just expect them to move them because we want to treat them as the scruff of the earth. That is part of the indiscipline. It is like the indiscipline that I hear people talking about. I butt up by accident yesterday on a call-in programme on the radio and I heard people talking about a school and a child being asked to pick up a paper.

Look, I went to school in the 60s at primary school and one of the things we loved in those days was making sure that our desks were spick and span, better than our next door neighbours. I do not know if the Prime Minister, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South had those

days. We used to love the teacher to say to us sweep the room because we came up disciplined and wanted to clean our environment but today somebody can be telling a principal I am to taking up that, the indiscipline, the notion and the insubordination that is encouraged.

I do not believe that any principal is going to go and pick on a child but if you dirty you should clean. Teachers themselves do not go walking about throwing about paper or plastic pep bottles or paper bags or plastic bags around the place. Then people come up with the comment they are paying janitors and general workers to clean that. What kind of foolishness is taking place in Barbados as we approach 50 years? What kind of nonsense am I hearing? What kind of society are we engendering at this time in our history? Where are we going? What are we doing? What are we saying to our young people about the disrespect of the environment starting with the disrespect for law and order. We cannot get better when we educate our young people to do these kinds of negatives. We cannot get better when you tell me who should be disposing of the garbage, whether it is at SBRC, the landfill or wherever they are disposed of in the official locations, that because I have to pay a tipping fee that I should drop it anywhere across the country. We cannot encourage that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say those few words in my support for this Supplementary for the Sanitation Services Authority. We need to get some passion and clean up about here and get rid of the Honourable Member for St. James North.

Asides.

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Mr. Chairman, I too would like to add my voice to this debate in support of this Resolution before the House to assist the Sanitation Services Authority.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, please keep it down. Honourable Members, I cannot hear the Honourable Member, so please tone it down.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to enter this debate and to support the Supplementary before the House, which of course provides some much needed financial resources to the Sanitation Service Authority. I want to say at the onset that the workers of the Sanitation Service Authority have been working exceedingly hard to deliver on their obligations in servicing the needs of Barbados. I say that too particularly in relation to what I have seen to be a

tremendous improvement in relation to the Sanitation Services Authority particularly as it relates to the collection service within the City of Bridgetown and the environs. I want to compliment the Sanitation Service Authority particularly in relation to its response around the very busy Christmas holiday period where there was an obvious improvement and a good response from the employees of the Sanitation Service Authority to respond within the city and to ensure that our city at the very busy Christmas period was kept clean.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I think there are a number of principles that have to be underscored in Barbados when we are talking about our environment. The larger issue, which of course the Government would have to grapple with in relation to ensuring that there is a sustainable system which guarantees that not only is refuse collected on a timely basis but that we could have proper disposal of our refuse, this is an issue, Mr. Chairman, that ought not to be seen in the way that I observed the Honourable Member for St. James North wished to take this debate. It is really not a partisan issue. It is an issue that requires the utmost regard for ensuring that certainly once the Government has embarked upon a purposeful strategy relating to the environmental protection of Barbados that you would expect that the members of the Opposition would reach across the aisle and embrace that kind of approach.

Mr. Chairman, the issues relating to our environmental health are critical and important issues and should never be trivialised or transformed into a kind of a witch-hunt. I believe that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East and his ministry, particularly as I say, have been fervently looking at solutions and solutions that have got to be long-term solutions in relation to our environmental protection namely the issue of refuse and the bigger issue which I believe Barbados has got to grapple with, the question of the long-term viability of the strategies and techniques that are required to protect our environment. These issues, Mr. Chairman, ought not to be knee-jerk reactions to public health issues. I believe that what this Minister is seeking to do is to embark on strategies that are going to protect Barbados in the long term.

I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I have relentlessly been an advocate for it, that we have in Barbados notwithstanding the responsibility of the State to ensure that refuse is collected, that there is recycling arrangements and that the wider issue of environmental protection...

Asides.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: There is a wider responsibility on behalf of the country and I want to use this avenue and this channel to say that there is a bigger

issue of some Barbadians who are not conscious who have been engaging in the issue of illegal dumping, whether it is the callous dumping of materials on empty lots or in gullies or elsewhere. I conducted a tour only recently at some of the playing facilities across Barbados and I was particularly astounded to see on a playing field an old discarded refrigerator which was basically dumped there in a place where you would expect that you would have a consciousness that that is really not on. I am saying that I would hope that when these issues occurred that I would see my friend the Honourable Member for St. James North in the newspapers saying that this should not occur and that the Opposition itself must speak in one voice with the Government in relation to the practices of wanton illegal dumping.

I also believe, Mr. Chairman, that practices such as illegal dumping in whatever way and the important responsibility of protecting the environment have got to be very high on the national agenda. We have to get back to issues of discipline, we have to ensure that there are appropriate penalties for those who offend but most importantly, and I believe the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation alluded to it in his presentation, because I believe that when issues that are critical and germane to how we operate as a country where they are held, that we have to speak to them and to confront them. We have a current issue within our schools in relation to whether or not children who are within the responsibility of the school's environment should not be engaged in the discipline of protecting the environment. Mr. Chairman, I recall being at school and being asked -- not being asked, being told to pick up various items of refuse from around the school's premises and the classroom. I remember in primary school we had to use grass and so on to clean the desk. You have to protect and clean the environment, so want to end my 15 minutes to say that I believe that the questions in relation to environmental protection must be underpinned by discipline and, therefore, issues such as that which arise in our schools. We must not prevent our children from being disciplined by our teachers and our Head Teachers when it comes to protecting our environment. Sir, even if that means cleaning up the classrooms and picking up garbage. Mr. Chairman, with those few remarks, I am obliged to you, Sir. On the motion of Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, seconded by the Rt. Hon. F. J. STUART, Mr. Chairman reported progress to His Honour the Speaker and beg for leave to sit again.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended, to be resumed at 6.00 p.m.

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

The question was put to the Honourable the House and resolved in the affirmative, without division and Mr. Speaker suspended the Sitting accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Sitting is resumed. Honourable Member for St. Philip South.

Hon. ADRIEL D. BRATHWAITE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief intervention in support of this money Resolution. I do so against a background that quite often I try not to make contributions that duplicate what has been said by other Honourable Members. However, in this case, I feel very strongly about some of what I have been seeing when I traverse Barbados, particularly the issue of illegal dumping. It concerns me immensely. Sir, what we do see are not simply bottles and plastic bags and so on, but you see beds and stoves and washing machines, et cetera. These are not objects that a small man with a bicycle from Marchfield drops off, or even someone with a car. These are probably several instances where people have paid others to deliver garbage to legitimate sites, and it has not been done. It is all across Barbados, and I lamented this with the Minister responsible just a couple of weeks ago. We cannot have policemen all across Barbados. Certainly we cannot have persons responsible within the Ministry of Health or within the Sanitation Service Authority always there to see individuals dumping, so we need to find some mechanism where we can have the average citizen taking ownership, being bold enough and accepting responsibility to report when he or she sees persons carrying out these acts.

I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church South speaking about the challenges we have had not only in terms of Barbados, but as a region, in relation to mosquito-borne diseases. I also hear continuously, Sir, that the advertisements on the radio clearly state that mosquitoes do not go very far from home. If you and your neighbour take ownership, then, of course, you eliminate the threat, and then you get your neighbour's neighbour to take ownership. That is not what happens, however, because we have developed a culture in this country that everything must be about Government. You could therefore imagine that you can have a family with young children and with garbage next door, and instead of taking ownership to go next door and take it up and in particular get rid of the stagnant water, and so on, they decide "let us call the station and complain that there is garbage next door. Let us not take ownership for our own health."

Sir, I accept my responsibility very seriously for myself, my family and my neighbours, and certainly I encourage my constituents to do the same. Indeed, it is my intention to ensure with the St. Philip South Constituency Council that we carry out a very serious educational

programme all over again. I will say, though, Sir, based on past experience, that one of the challenges we have had with mosquito-borne diseases has been the fact that the underground conduits which are used by the utility companies -- the manholes -- in fact have been a significant cause of the water collection and the breeding sites. We simply need to go to Flow or whoever has responsibility for many of these underground conduits. If St. Philip South is an example, we need to ask that they themselves carry out a serious eradication exercise.

This is a very serious issue for not only us in Barbados but for us as a region. However, for us in Barbados it is such a serious issue that we need to tackle it from a national perspective. Therefore, for everyone within the sound of the voice, I want them to heed this call and take ownership immediately of your immediate environs. I agree with the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central that we cannot as a legislative body be sending mixed signals to persons out there in the community. We cannot even create the impression that we understand why people are dumping illegally because there is some tipping fee, et cetera. Even to create that impression is wrong. It is very, very wrong. Every time I have passed, for example, and bought coconuts, I always wonder where these shells are going. I am not targeting coconut vendors but, certainly, you pass from time to time and you see a day gone by and the shells are still there; two days go by and the shells are still there.

I remember distinctly when we went up to the Sam Lord's Castle site before it was cleaned, and I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Philip North would support me on this, there was no kind of garbage that we did not see up there. None. Old bicycles, old beds, old stoves, not left by the Castle. Lots and lots of coconut husks. Everything under the sun. I walked through it and lamented the fact that there is something that has gone wrong in this country. Something gone really, really wrong. Worst of all, Sir, is that there are many Barbadians, not just from St. Philip, and visitors who still used to make their way up to Sam Lord's Castle to go down to the beach and relax, because it is actually quite a beautiful area. I used to think to myself, "What do they think about us as a people and as a country?" I know what I think. I honestly think that we have become a very dirty country. I honestly think so. I honestly think that we indeed need to go back to fundamentals. The Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central made the point about us as youngsters at the end of every term scrubbing our desks, and that was fun for us. I said to him, "I remember those days". I remember not only did you try to ensure that your desk was the prettiest but you found time to wet up your neighbour. That would be laughter afterwards if you were a bit wet, but you walked from Four Roads down to Six Roads with pride, particularly if your desk looked nice and clean. In 2015, if you tell someone to clean their desk, they would tell you

that is not for them to do. They would tell you that is what the janitors are for, et cetera.

I have some friends and we were discussing this same issue in terms of how untidy certain areas are, and they have accepted the challenge. They enjoy travelling the bus system, including the minibuses, and one of the stories they have is about this chap, one of the drivers throwing a bottle outside, and when asked about it by one of the passengers, his response was "people does collect bottles". Therefore it was all right to throw it out the window. That is the kind of thing that is going on that we really need to address. If nothing else, I know the Sanitation Service Authority workers are doing a good job under very trying circumstances, but they need, along with the Member for Christ Church South, to ensure that we have a significant public service campaign. Not only that; we need to find a mechanism to catch a few people and put them before the courts. That is the thing that concerns me most; that I see the garbage but I do not see anyone on Page 3 of any newspapers going before the courts. We need to find a few people.

I drive around with my telephone hoping to catch somebody but I do not seem able to catch anyone but maybe it is that I drive about too early, maybe I need to leave home a bit later and see when the dumping goes on but seriously, I am very concerned.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to make the point that even though we do not have recycling in Barbados that again this is an area that we can encourage more of our people to get involved but my own experience is that when we are finish separating your plastics, your tots, your toothpaste, your toilet paper, there is actually not a lot left to put outside and, yes, I am a bit lazy, so I do not want to go down to B's Recycling and sit down and wait for persons to count the bottles, et cetera, but I make it a point of going down and dropping it off. Sir, in St. Philip South the community association is a good example of an association that should be emulated across Barbados. They have a significant recycling campaign every two weeks and they take all their bottle, et cetera, and they pay them a little bit of money and that money is then used to do projects within their communities. Sir, again that is an international best practice that I would like to encourage more communities to do not just St. Philip South but across Barbados and to get involved in.

Mr. Chairman, let me say something that I am sure that the Minister responsible for sanitation will not wish to say but somebody has to say it. Sir, part of the reason why we have the challenges in terms of the destruction of trucks is because of the lack of ownership, a lack of responsibility for the care of the trucks by some of the person employed by that establishment. Sir, that is a fact. Sir, I say it because from time to time we see them collecting things like big

television, that you know that they should not be placing in the compactors, that all they are doing is damaging the compactors and rather than leaving them there, they would take them up and throw them in the truck and in one or two cases, they are actually doing it because they are doing a favour but that is causing a problem because they take up stuff that they should. Sir, when the Honourable Member for St. James North wants to ask silly questions like whether or not the trucks are new trucks and who gives evidence that the trucks are new trucks et cetera, there are new trucks but it is doing the right thing in terms of the operation of the trucks that have led us to the problems we have had from time to time, so you then up with many of these same workers having to work to two, three and four o'clock in the morning and sometimes you hear them and, yes, I will say that I admire the dedication, especially over Christmas and under very trying times to ensure that there is as much garbage collected as possible but the other side of the equation is that we are paying for them to do their job because there are less trucks and the damage to the trucks are caused sometimes by the recklessness of the same individuals, so we then end up having to pay more and then worse of all have to find \$500 000 or so to purchase a new truck. Sir, when you are driving along and you see these guys beside you, you must remember that is \$500 000 in the taxpayers money that should be looked after and we need to find some mechanisms to ensure that those persons who are not willing to treat their offices because they are their offices, they are the things that allow them to work and earn an honest dollar and at the same time make a significant contribution to this country because a clean Barbados is a better Barbados and is a healthier Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the other side of the coin is that I do recognise the significant contribution that they make but like everything else, not all is well with everyone, and we need to call a spade a spade. Sir, like I said, the Minister may not be able to do it but I am willing to do, that there are one or two individuals within the department that has contributed significantly to the challenges that we have. If you cause significant to a \$500 000 truck, over collecting \$100 or \$25 in your pocket for doing somebody a favour the maths cannot up, the maths does not add up at all. Sir, I end by saying that I support this Money Resolution. I support the work of the Sanitation Service Authority. I have heard the Minister said on more than one occasion that they are doing some rationalisation, that much of what they have been doing in terms of their work, that they have doing it from time immemorial so you might a situation where somebody drives up in Marchfield Village and do not see a lot of garbage but he does not go into Six Cross Roads because Six Cross Roads is another route. When he comes down, he may have space in the truck but his route is to come through Marchfield Village Road, go up by the market and swing left, so he may see garbage on the right hand side of the road there and that is for truck, another

day, another time or maybe another two days or another three days. Sir, indeed, the Minister responsibility has said that one of the things they are looking is rationalisation to make sure that they have the most effective use of the personnel and of the resources and that cannot be and is not an easy matter given the myriad routes they have to go on a daily basis. Sir, given the fact that we do not have the level of resources in terms of truck that we would like to have but I venture to say that there probably has not been a time in Barbados when we have the number of trucks that we would like to have ideally. Sir, this is nothing new in terms of challenges but all you need to do is to look inside of the yard of the Sanitation Service Authority and maybe you would see the amount of old trucks there, so the challenges that they have are not new.

Mr. Chairman, one thing I am satisfied about from listening to the Minister responsible is that he and the management of the Sanitation Service Authority are quite willing to tackle these issues headon to ensure that we have a better Sanitation Service Authority and ensure that we have a cleaner Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Chairman, I enter this debate at a late stage because I had to go elsewhere but it is very interesting to note that this debate is taking place at this time on our 50th Anniversary year of Independence. I remember that if the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow was here 30 or 40 years ago, if he would not have asked us to really look forward as a country and ask if this is the kind of structure that we want to have next 50 years from now, where Government is the end and all of everything. Sir, I said it in 2007, and I remember that debate when the late Prime Minister was here from St. John, and the Government did not buy the suggestion then but I hope that we can have sensible debate this year, at this time. It is crucial that we have debates on water, on the environment, on education, on transport and all these things in order to set a stage to put this country into proper perspective. Sir, I am saying so because listening to my friend from St. Philip, I am of the view that we could give the SSA all the trucks it wants, we could give the Ministry of Health all the personnel, and give all the ministries all the personnel they want but at the end of the day, the only thing we will end up doing is breaking the Government. I am thankful to the former Prime Minister who in 2002 allowed me the privilege to go to the World Bank to look at structures for developing countries at this stage and I am convinced, (inaudible) then than now. I am convinced that we definitely need to private sector partnership within all development. I am not talking about the 3-S. The Minister needs to look at how we can get the private sector involved

in these things because we have trucks and it is a known fact that Government workers do not treat Government trucks and Government vehicles as best as they can. Whereas the same private sector can do a job and also do it competitively. The job of a Government is to supervise and manage the country. The aim of a modern Government in our democracy, Mr. Chairman, is to ensure that you have adequate supplies of trucks and facilities to ensure that the environment is clean but the Government cannot do it alone. There must be a mechanism, Mr. Chairman, for the Government to sit down and rationalise, not only the rules we are talking about, but to sort out how you can pull together a programme to involve public sector collecting some of our garbage and keeping the environment clean. I must applaud the Minister of Transport and Works. Recently I have seen that he has gone back to the days where he is now involving in the public sector into the public transportation system and that is where we should be. We should be involving the private haulers. If you look at a number of persons involved in garbage collections they have good trucks and their trucks are always on the road, maintained and they are doing a good job, whereas you have a number of trucks in the Sanitation Service Authority waiting for a fan belt, waiting for a generation, waiting for parts and they are waiting on the Minister of Finance for the money after money and he cannot give them. This is where we need to take those trucks and maybe discard them in terms of selling them to the private sector and let somebody make (inaudible) of them.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: You could do that too, but what I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we as a Government need to sit down and say, can the Government find \$10 million now to outfit the Sanitation Service Authority. Can we find \$10 million now to provide trucks for the Sanitation Service Authority? Alternatively, can you allow the private sector to say we will do the collection not only in the commercial sector because I am sure that there are a number of private individuals who are involved in collecting debris and various garbage out of commercial sites and they are doing a good job. I am saying that you can do this. Government needs, therefore, to set up a programme where you rationalise what the public sector will do and what Government will do but, of course, we have to supervise it. That is the aim of Government in a modern society. You cannot have too much Government. Government cannot be everything to everybody. Government must supervise.

I remember a time -- and the Attorney General was speaking about this -- we have a situation in this country before the Sanitation Service Authority the private sector used to collect the garbage. My cousin reminded me a couple of weeks ago that before the Sanitation Service Authority was set up there were private individuals who

had trucks in the various villages that were involved in moving garbage and doing a job and they were being paid by the Southern District of the northern District Council at the time, but at the time the environment was clean, persons were involved in helping to collect the garbage and today we have a situation where everybody is saying let the Sanitation Service Authority do it. I heard mentioned the fact that within the school system today, we have children are being told, let the janitor move the garbage that parents are saying to children do not take up paper or garbage underneath the bench. Do not take up paper that is on the floor in front of you. Let the janitor do it. The janitor is paid to do that job. What society are you selling to people? Parents out there are sending a signal that the Government pays the janitor so the janitor has to do it but you cannot pick up paper. We have to send a signal to the country that everybody must pull their weight. There was a time in this country when the poor old people used to get up and sweep around their homes every day and there used to be (inaudible). There was no Chikungunya, and the new disease now from the mosquito. Is it Zika?

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Whatever. I am saying to you this is because there is too much garbage all around and Government must send a signal to prosecute those persons who refuse to clean their environment. The Minister of Health, I have not heard him speaking in this debate, but I want to find out what is happening with the Environmental Protection Department? What are they doing in terms of all the old houses that people keep around them and old garbage that is causing mosquito infestation and so on? What is happening? How many people have we prosecuted last year? I saw in the paper sometime that one of two persons were going to court but I have not heard what happened in those cases. Those persons were breeding mosquitos. What is happening? I am saying that if you prosecute some of those people then you would send a signal to the rest of the society that you are serious and in this 50th year the Minister of Health must help to ensure that he has a healthy environment. If not, I am going to hear the Minister of Health coming out very soon telling women not to have babies. Do you know why? Because of the environment and that would be a bad thing for all of us. The Minister of Health will soon come out if he does not pull the environment together with the Minister of Environment and let us have a clean environment. Let us go back to the old days where the private sector was involved with Government. Mr. Chairman, we have to pull our weight.

I heard the Honourable Member for St. Philip South also speaking about an educational programme and the Government is doing a good job in the public relations of the 50th anniversary this year. I want to applaud them. They had Giggard and Boo, they have everybody involved

in this thing and I agree to what they are doing because I really believe in my heart that the activity at St. George was well done and I liked it.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: However, I believe the Honourable Member for St. George South should have spoken because he came there early and that is a fact. He should have said something as well. I think it was badly done from that point of view but the truth of the matter is that programme, Mr. Chairman, was well advertised. I hear it on the news about 1 000 times a day. We need to have Giggard and Boo to do a programme on the environment. This way I want to hear a clean environment. The Minister of Health needs to come out now and tell the country the environment must be clean because only this morning a student asked me what is the positive side of tourism. She said to me tourism helps the economy, which is true, but there is the negative side of tourism and this could be a negative side if we do not get it right. We must put the environment right because we believe that this country is moving forward and in order to generate the type of growth that we want for the economy we must use any sector to push our economy. I see this environment as one of the ways that could cause a negative effect on our country and we got to get it right. We have to involve the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, that is why I said that we need to have a strong educational programme not only about independence because that is a given, and we applaud you for doing that, but about keeping our environment clean. Those coconut husks that you see that the vendors left around all through Warrens days after must be collected by the private sector not by the Sanitation Services Authority. The people who put them there make a lot of money off of those coconuts and they must collect them one or two days after not after a whole week. We pass and see them but we do not say anything. The Minister of Health passes Oistins every day of his life but yet in Oistins Town you have a lot of coconut shells and all of these things. As one Honourable Member said we are becoming dirty people. We have to sensitise the public that this is causing us great worry.

Mr. Chairman, I, therefore, support this money for the Ministry of Health but I hope that during the year the Minister of Health would put a programme to involve the private sector as we go forward. I do not want him to come asking the Ministry of Finance the next two years for money that he knows that the Ministry of Finance cannot give. Let us involve the private sector in a programme to get our country doing well.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be very long since I spoke already and the time is running out but the point I wanted to make in relation to this matter, which has been raised at different points by various speakers in this debate, has to do with the whole issue of the dumping. I agree with Honourable Members who have, with the exception, of course, of the Honourable Member for St. James North who still prevaricated around the issue and did not want to come out clearly to state the position on dumping having, of course, himself with other Honourable Members from the Opposition who are not here, when this issue of the tipping fee first came up and there was this protest by the private haulers and were if not explicitly implicitly encouraging them to protest the Government when they made this threat that they will be illegal dumping... It is one of the few times in which people have actually plotted what they were going to do in advance by saying that if the Government persisted with the tipping fee that they would be dumping all around Barbados and some of them had proceeded to do so. It just goes to show how responsible or in some instances irresponsible behaviour can cause people to act in ways that are not exactly judicious and in the interest of Barbados. In fact, when they traced back where one of the alleged dumpers got the items that he dumped in some part of St. Thomas from and they went back to the businesses where he collected the waste from, the businesses indicated that they paid him the tipping fee. They collected the fee or are collecting the fee to pay to the transfer station and then they are still going and dumping illegally. Mr. Chairman, that is the height of irresponsibility that takes place in this country.

Mr. Chairman, never mind the fact that we did not say a lot about it, when the people checked a lot of the people who were parking trucks all over the place and pretending that they were doing some truck march, I do not know what they call that, some flotilla, against the Government's tipping fee, they found that some of them did not even pay the road tax on the same vehicles.

Mr. Chairman, you heard a lot of call-in programme moderators encouraging them in it too and they are now coming back with a lot of holier than thou attitudes about Barbadians dumping when they were getting on the radio stations and encouraging people and saying how we were trying to destroy poor people in paying haulers in Barbados. They were encouraging them in that lawlessness and are now coming back talking about how dirty the country is and what the Minister of the Environment should be doing. They do not even understand the law because the law as it is currently structured does not rest any power with the Minister of the Environment to have anybody charged for illegal dumping. I know that the Minister of

Health under whose watch some of this matter takes place has in fact spoken very clearly...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: No, no, I am defending the Minister of Health because whenever it reared its ugly head the Minister of Health has acted decisively and has got one of his staff, the Chief Environmental Health Officer, I think that is what it is called, and others to act.

I had a situation in my constituency. As you know, Mr. Chairman, Sir, our borders adjoin and we had that issue up there. I can say to the residents up there now from this position and I will say to them again because I went up there in normal clothes like anybody else, and looked at it - I did not have to put on a hard hat and tight jeans and a shirt that was too small because it is not a construction site marshalling around the place pretending that I am interested in Black Rock after I was in St. Joseph trying to on-seat the Honourable Member for St. Joseph but I will get to that later...

Asides.

Hon. C. P. SINCKLER: The fact of the matter is that the gentleman who is alleged to have caused that problem has been written, has been given a time frame... In fact, I can say with confidence that he has started the clean up of the site and it is being monitored by officers and officials from the Ministry of Health and will continue to do so until it is clean entirely. It is not just that area, it is the entire area as you know, Mr. Chairman, all in the back of the university where they were digging the track for the high-powered cable from the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited up to the pumping station in the Belle, I think it was, or wherever it is. They created a path so that the trucks can get in and put down the cable and since that was opened people have been going up in there dumping, and I have had one more than one occasion to pull my own pocket personally to get trucks and bobcats to go up in there and clean it up. The Ministry of Health has indicated to me they are going to go up in there and put back up the concrete barriers and block it to stop those trucks from going down in there dumping.

I know the Minister has to wrap up but I want to make the point that we have to take responsibility for our country. Barbados belongs to us, it does not belong to anybody else and if you encourage people in doing foolishness because we believe in 'spiting' a Government and in making the Democratic Labour Party looks bad and the next election is going to come around and we would have this to report and that to report, then we have another thing coming. We have lost the script if that is what we believe that we should be doing in this country in our 50th

year of Independence. It is irresponsible and it has to be tackled at the root.

I said in this debate previously that we have now increased by more than 100 per cent the cost in dealing with... In fact, if you get the true cost it is more than 150 per cent increase in the cost of dealing with waste management in Barbados in the last five years. If we as Barbadians who are generating that waste have to pay a little extra to deal with it, then we have a responsibility to do so. We have to do so through the taxes we pay, we have to do so through the fees we pay and we have to do so through our own efforts in our own houses to ensure that we keep around our places clean and that we also keep our surroundings clean and that we also keep our communities clean.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have lots around me; you have them around you too, sometimes I have to pay people to clean the lots next to me because the person who owns it would not come and clean them. I clean them because I do not want rats in at me. I am not waiting on the Ministry of Health to come and do it, if I have to pay somebody \$100 or \$150 to weedwacker it to keep it in a condition where it is not overgrown, I am going to do it. Everybody cannot do that because everybody may not have the resources to do it. Where the Ministry can do it, it will do so, but Government has constraints and people have to understand that we all have to chip in and ensure that our environment is protected, that it is cleaned and that it is habitable both for us and for visitors who come to Barbados. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I will give you five minutes, five minutes is all I will give you.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Nonetheless I will try to make my contribution to this Supplementary that seeks to approve just over \$6 million to the Sanitation Service Authority to pay salaries and wages. Mr. Chairman, in my five minutes, and I hope to be brisk, the World Health Organisation 10 facts on sanitation has reported on significant benefits, whether they are environmentally, economically or socially of improved sanitation. I will just list one or two of them:

1. improved sanitation reduces death rates by one-third;
2. improved school sanitation encourages children, particularly girls to stay in schools;
3. improved sanitation has significant economic benefits.

Mr. Chairman, it is said by the World Health Organisation that every dollar invested in improved sanitation translates into a return of \$9, so that when you invest \$1 on improved sanitation you get a return of \$9.

Mr. Chairman, it also said that in Africa 115 people die every hour from diseases linked to poor sanitation, poor hygiene and contaminated water.

Mr. Chairman, the implication of these findings are that investment in sanitation that provide a comprehensive service has significant benefits in terms of community well-being, reducing healthcare costs, and improving household productivity, along with improving our tourism product. Sir, that part I have added.

Sir, failing to deal with the ten items listed under the World Health Organisation Ten Facts on Sanitation has severe implications for countries and I want to look at the Barbadian context to examine these ten facts. Sir, according to the fact, failure to collect garbage, means that we are not adhering to the highest standard of service provision in this country and this can lead to sickness and in the worst case scenario, to death, so do not let us underplay this whole issue of not collecting garbage. Sir, I see the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central nodding his head because this is a fundamental issue, so when you get in here and speak to issues of poor sanitation/not collecting garbage, we have to look at the implications.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member has two minutes left in which to conclude.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: I am saying what we have at the Sanitation Service Authority, a fleet of 35 trucks and only 15 or 16 are working at any one point in time, then we are going to have challenges with garbage collection in our country. Sir, we are missing the real fundamental issues because we have to get these basic things right. We cannot go talking about building multi-storeyed building at Vaucluse and plasma gasification plants when we do not have these basic things right. The three R's: reduce, recycle, reduce, these are some of the things that the Sanitation Service Authority should be pushing.

When I saw the Supplementary, I thought that we were coming here for moneys to buy trucks, but we are coming for moneys to pay salaries and I am asking what is the issue because at the end of the day - someone said you are hiring more people, I do not want to go there - I am hoping that wisdom, prudence, good management and good governance would allow this Government who seem to be spending money in the wrong places all the time, to put some money into trucks to service this country and not to let us get into a situation where we have to increase the cost of healthcare, knowing very well that we are having challenges with healthcare and with education. Sir, the ten facts stated that we can have issues with our education, with girls not being in school. We do not have to get into the nitty-gritty of that statement, we understand the whole

fundamental issues because when you look at what is happening in the schools, the scarcity of water and poor hygiene, this affects the young women in these schools.

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

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I had only five minutes, I would have loved to elaborate on a number of facts but yes, I came in late due to circumstances that were beyond my control. Mr. Chairman, nonetheless, I would like this Government to focus its energy in the right place, to put the money in the right places like buying trucks, and ensure that we maintain good hygiene standards and that we provide good sanitation facilities for our citizens. Sir, these trucks are fundamental using the three R's: reduce, recycle and reuse. Mr. Chairman, I would like this Government to forget issues of building multi-storeyed building and plasma gasification until we get these basic things right. Mr. Chairman, with those few words, I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, let me thank all Honourable Members for their contributions to this debate. I want specially to thank the Honourable Members on this Side who I thought really added muscle to the case of the Government on this particular matter. Sir, a number of issues were raised. The truth is that I really sympathized with the Honourable Member for St. George South and St. George North too -- you have to wrap them together as one sometimes -- because the Honourable Member for St. George South came in late and clearly... You have to understand the disadvantage from which he operates, which was kind of magnified this evening because the Honourable Member was late.

Mr. Chairman, usually when the World Health Organisation speaks about sanitation, they are not talking about a Sanitation Service Authority, it is a wide context including sewerage, water and the whole length, that is why there is a sanitation upgrade programme in Barbados, managed by the Barbados Water Authority and the Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, but I understand his limitations, so let me move on.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: On a point of order. The Honourable Member, in his wrap up, is misleading this House. When I spoke to the World Health Organisation 10 Facts on sanitation, in no part of my presentation did I say that it relates only to the Sanitation Service Authority.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, that is the Honourable Member's interpretation. No point of order is found. Proceed, Honourable Member.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, let me answer a question that was raised by the Honourable Member for St. George South when the Honourable Member talked about the privatisation of the collection of waste.

When private trucks collected waste, it was back in 1945, and then the Vestry system took over the management of this which led us all the way into the introduction of the Sanitation Service Authority Act in 1975, CAP 382. There has been no privatisation of the collection of waste, because embedded in the Act itself are certain restrictions on how waste can be collected and who can collect it. What the Government is doing, therefore, is nothing contrary to the expectations of the law. As a matter of fact, there are private haulers now who collect waste from certain entities under specific conditionalities. If you want to say that those conditionalities should be extended, that is fine, but currently, the rein of the legislation does not permit any private entity to just go and collect waste. There are specific conditions under which waste is to be collected in the country, but we can deal with that on another occasion.

Let me also make the point, Mr. Chairman, that the woes of the Sanitation Service Authority did not begin in 2008. The very worst period of the Sanitation Service Authority as we know it today, Mr. Chairman, occurred in 2005 under the Barbados Labour Party administration at a time when there was plenty of money going around. The truck stock went down to below ten.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: That is the reality, and not since then. I heard the Honourable Member for St. James North, and he has a way of spewing poison all over the place, because there is no record anywhere that will show that the Sanitation Service Authority in any recent time had five trucks or seven trucks on the road. It is an absolute untruth. That is why I go back to those who know the rules of this House, because those who framed those rules specifically tried to bar us from calling people hypocrites and liars. Had those rules been written differently, I would call him one. You should not try to politicise issues that have no merit in that kind of politics, because you have workers up there at the Sanitation Service Authority. Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Member for St. James North got up and congratulated the members of the Sanitation Service Authority for the yeoman service they perform -- and they do - and then in the same breath quarrelled about \$6 million to pay them?

Asides.

Hon. D. S. LOWE: I do not know if to call him multi-headed Hydra, a two-headed snake, I do not know what to call the Honourable Member. You cannot call him that because the rules would not permit you to. You cannot do that, Mr. Chairman. You just simply cannot do that. It is unfair to the workers. It is unfair to the members who, under strenuous circumstances, seek to produce their due. In 2005, the Barbados Labour Party went and bought 20.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, Honourable Member. Just hold on.

Asides.

Hon. D.S. LOWE: In 2005, the Barbados Labour Party administration went and bought 20 freightliners, new only to Barbados. I heard the freightliners were not purpose-built garbage collection trucks because they had Allison engines and other parts put together for the purpose of collecting waste. In less than two years, most of those vehicles were giving problems in this country. Most of them, because they could not contend with the conditions in Barbados. We are still having problems with some of the same freightliners because of the extent to which the Government has to spend to keep them on the road.

However, I heard something else, and really I am embarrassed to sit in this House on this particular day and have the Honourable Member for St. James North suggest that the board of directors, the management of the Sanitation Service Authority, Courtesy Garage and Simpson Motors passed off used vehicles to the Government of Barbados. He said so.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D. S. LOWE: He cast an aspersion on decent people. I am saying that if you waste your political viability or sustainability on that kind of rubbish, perhaps you should be happy that the trucks are not working. They would have picked up you early.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: You cannot do that.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for St. James North.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: I am rising on a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is misleading the House. I gave him large leeway to go.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the Point of Order?

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: I asked the question. I said, Mr. Chairman, that there was the perception that the trucks were not new.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, that is not a Point of Order. Please sit down.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: But, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, I have ruled.

Asides.

Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, I am the Minister of the Environment. That is the responsibility that has been given to me by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of this country. The Barbados Labour Party cannot lecture this Government on matters related to the environment. They cannot, because after 15 years in office, they have no record of any substantive nature to suggest that they moved this country forward on the issue of the environment. This Right Honourable Prime Minister established as the platform for sustainable development four pillars, one of which is environmental sustainability, and we have set on a path to move this country forward relative to the environmental matters. I believe coming in a few days the Green Economy Scoping Study will be presented to the Cabinet. This is a seminal global document accepted by the United Nations Environment Programme, when Barbados was one of the first of seven countries, including developed countries, to produce that document in collaboration with tourism, agriculture, housing and the like. We cannot be lectured to. We will accept suggestions, we will accept criticism, but you cannot lecture the Government of the day on matters relating to the environment because of where we have journeyed this country to, so that Barbados has now become one of the flagship developing countries in the world. It is not only the work of the Ministry of the Environment on matters related to climate change and environmental stewardship; it is also the work of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Energy. You cannot lecture us on the viability of the environmental standards of this country. However, we are catching up, because we have to catch up.

When we took over office, Mr. Chairman, we had to go through a number of things. I heard the Honourable Member for St. James North talking about the fact that the Minister of the Environment should not be managing the Sanitation Service Authority. You are late.

Sir, right now on the Order Paper of this Parliament, there is an amendment ...

Asides.

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: What you are driving at, you missed today because, Mr. Chairman, the same Honourable Member tried to cast aspirations again on the Sanitation Service Authority by suggesting that the Board and management team had not submitted audited financial statements to this House since before we became the Government but, Sir, there is a reason. I knew that he was waiting in the dark to raise that issue of the audited statements, so I called a meeting both with Board and with management and I asked why have these statements not been presented to Parliament through the Ministry, the Cabinet and Parliament, so let me inform the Honourable Member that it is the Auditor-General who audits the books of the Sanitation Service Authority first of all. Secondly, I have in my hand a piece of correspondence dated December 28, 2015, directed to the Manager, Acting, the Sanitation Service Authority and it is captioned "Audited Financial Statements for", and it gives the years. It goes on to say:

"Reference is made to your letter dated November 17, 2015, in respect to the Audited Financial Statements of the financial years, and the years are listed again. The issuing of the Auditor-General opinion in respect of the above mentioned statements were delayed because of difficulties experienced by the auditor in submitting the supporting documentation. This occurred as a result of the malfunctioning of the storage device on which the information was stored. In this regard, the office is working with the auditor engaged to resolve this matter expeditiously and the delay in submitting the Audited Financial Statements is regretted. Signed by the Auditor-General represented." Sir, I do not want to mention the name because I did not ask you, sir.

Mr. Chairman, this notion that this Government does not embrace standards of governance, when governance is one of the central pillars of this Government's business to come in this House and to say to the public of Barbados that we have been negligent in doing our duties without querying perhaps as to why. Sir, I have given you the answer and the case is rested.

Mr. Chairman, let me make a final point in wrapping up this debate. We do not carelessly throw about money in this Government. Sir, he asked a question but the question to be answered is why the Government was coming for \$6 million for the Sanitation Service Authority. We said out front that the budget was in anticipation for the collection of the tipping fee which was supposed to yield \$8 million. The tipping fee was introduced in May and it was supposed to have been introduced at the beginning of the year but worse than that, those private haulers, who were collecting tipping fees from their vendors and not paying it into the transfer station and dumping the materials illegally is one

of the reason why we did not make the \$8 million, and that is the only reason why we have to come back to Parliament now.

Sir, in fact, I said that upfront in my presentation, Mr. Chairman, and you would have heard me. I said it upfront but you see when you are on a hunt for trash to dump at the doorstep of the innocent, you end up being dumped yourself because the simple equation puts trash and you together. Sir, that is what happens. You just cannot wander around and seek to cast aspirations on people who are trying their best to manage an economy, to manage a society and to manage an environment under the most strenuous of circumstances and to come in here...

Asides.

Hon. Dr. D. LOWE: Mr. Chairman, this is my final note. I noticed that the same member who had so much to say at the end of the day did not have much to say in the domestic violence debate. Sir, it is coming again next week and many others over there who took refuge and comfort in a building without a top because next Tuesday, God spare lives, that debate will rage on. I hope the Honourable Member in his presentation and others because at the end of the day, it is not about fixing legislation alone, it is about fixing the society and in order to fix a society, you start with the leadership, you start from a position that leadership must be moral, that leadership must be based on a transformational vision, that leadership must be in the forefront, must lead from in front and not from behind or any other place else.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you. I move that Head 73 stand part.

The question that Head 73 stand part was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ORDER NO. 23

RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$600 000 FROM THE CONSIDER

HEAD 72

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FOOD
FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT - \$600 000

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

Dr. the Hon. D.C. ESTWICK: Mr. Chairman, the matter before the House is one which is usually dealt with every year given that we have always had to provide a supplementary to Southern Meats to keep its ongoing

current operations active. Sir, as you know that is the single tertiary established slaughtering facility in Barbados that meets international standards and the current issue is one of training facilities that allows the facility to generate the type of revenues required to be able to cover its recurrent expenditure as a result of that, on annual basis, we would have to top up that expenditure post the Estimates, so this Resolution before the House is essentially to get the approval of the House of Assembly for granting a supplementary to the tune of \$600 000, Sir, to cover recurring expenditure these being wages and salaries as well as pension capabilities and some of the utility requirements and to put that, Sir, at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates for 2015/2016.

Mr. Chairman, I beg that Head 72 Stand Part.

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

The question that Head 72 Stand Part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE, Mr. Chairman, reported to Mr. SPEAKER, the passing of two Money Resolutions in Committee of Supply and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE the Money Resolutions were read a first, second and third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, February 02, 2016 at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

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

The question that the House be adjourned until Tuesday, February 02, 2016 at 10 o'clock 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)
CLARKE, Mr. G. A. (St. George North)
ESTWICK, Dr. the Hon. D.C. (St. Philip West)
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INNISS, Hon. D.O'N. (St. James South)
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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. First Readings. The Speaker's call of the Member for St. Michael North-West and that Member's motion ('Hon. C. P. SINKLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the First Reading...') are run together under the Speaker's label in the source, and the name is spelt 'SINKLER' there but 'SINCKLER' elsewhere. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Suspension of Standing Orders. The source records the motion to suspend Standing Orders and its seconding but no sentence that the question was put and resolved. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 23, Head 72. The title of the Resolution is cut short in the source: 'RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE SUM OF \$600 000 FROM THE CONSIDER'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 24, point of order. The point of order during Mr. D. D. Marshall's speech is labelled 'Hon. M. A. LASHLEY'; the Member for Christ Church West Central is elsewhere 'Hon. S. A. LASHLEY'. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Committee of Supply, speech labels. The Member for St. James North is labelled both 'Mr. E. D. HINKSON' and 'Mr. E. G. HINKSON'; the Minister of the Environment appears as 'Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE', 'Dr. Hon. D.S. LOWE', 'Hon. D.S. LOWE' and 'Hon. Dr. D. LOWE'; and one speech is labelled 'Hon. R. A JONES' against 'Hon. R. D. JONES' elsewhere. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Order No. 24. The Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2016 were not concluded: on the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce their further consideration was postponed. Noted for the record; no text is missing.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 26th January, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., with Mr. Speaker, His Honour

M. A. Carrington, in the Chair; prayers were taken by Rev. Father Mark Harewood. The Minutes of 15th December, 2015 were confirmed, and on the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce the Member for Christ Church West was granted leave of absence from 26th January to 1st March, 2016 to convalesce.

The Prime Minister, Hon. F. J. Stuart, and Hon. C. P. Sinckler laid Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Orders, among them those for the University of the West Indies and Cost-U-Less Barbados Inc. Bills read a first time included the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Bill, 2016, the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2016, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and the British American Insurance Company (Barbados Limited) (Preservation of Investments) Bill, 2016.

Under Order No. 24, Hon. S. D. Blackett, Member for St. Michael Central, obtained leave to debate the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Bill, 2016 with the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2016. He said the 1992 Act was outdated and explained that the amendments defined emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse, required the police to respond to every complaint and keep a Domestic Violence Register, allowed police officers to issue emergency protection orders, with a fine of \$2 500 or six months' imprisonment for breach, and created a duty to report suspected abuse of children.

Mr. D. D. Marshall, Member for St. Joseph, said the Barbados Labour Party supported the amendments but questioned the arrest powers given to the police and orders made on a single affidavit; a point of order from Hon. M. A. Lashley was not upheld. After lunch Hon. D. St. E. Kellman, Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw, Mr. J. D. Paul and Hon. D. O'N. Inniss spoke, and on Mr. Boyce's motion further consideration of both Bills was postponed.

In Committee of Supply, Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair, Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe moved a Resolution for \$7 005 827 under Head 73, Ministry of the Environment and Drainage: \$6 088 284 to meet the Sanitation Service Authority's shortfall from budget cuts and uncollected tipping fees, and \$300 000 and \$617 543 for the National Conservation Commission, partly for the sargassum clean-up. Lt. Col. Jeffrey D. Bostic, Hon. Denis St. E. Kellman, Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, Hon. C. P. Sinckler, Mr. E. D. Hinkson, Hon. R. D. Jones, Hon. S. A. Lashley, Hon. Adriel D. Brathwaite, Mr. G. A. Clarke and Mr. D. G. Sutherland followed. Mr. Hinkson asked why a Supplementary was needed to pay wages after over 4 000 public servants had been laid off, and withdrew a remark at the Chairman's direction; Mr. Sutherland said only 15 or

16 of 35 trucks were working. After a suspension the Committee resumed at 6.00 p.m. and Head 73 was agreed to.

Under Order No. 23, Dr. the Hon. D. C. Estwick moved a Resolution for \$600 000 under Head 72, Ministry

of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resources Management, the annual supplementary for Southern Meats, and it was agreed to. The two Money Resolutions were reported and passed all stages, and on the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce the House was adjourned until Tuesday, 2nd February, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.