
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 03, 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, LL.M.

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 Reverend Mark Harewood.

Mr. SPEAKER: Good morning Honourable Members, this Sitting of the House is now in session.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have with me the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

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, April 19, 2016, be confirmed subject to any omissions, corrections and/or observations.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: 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 am in receipt of the Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the Government of Barbados for the year 2014 and 2015. I am also in receipt of the Report of the Auditor General for the year 2015.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS the Government of Barbados in a Budget of August 2013, delivered by the Minister of Finance, announced a 19-month home-grown fiscal adjustment strategy which was further revised by the Minister of Finance in his Ministerial Statements to Parliament in December 2013 and March 2014 after failed attempts from 2010 and 2011 with a Medium Term Fiscal Strategy and a Revised Medium Term Fiscal Strategy respectively;

AND WHEREAS some of the taxation measures were extended beyond March 31, 2015 in order to meet the targets for the stabilisation of the Government of Barbados' fiscal affairs;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Finance in his 2015 Budget reflected that the objectives of the said home-grown fiscal adjustment strategy were to:

1. Restore and stabilise the foreign exchange reserves so as to be able to protect our fixed exchange rate;
2. Reduce the fiscal deficit to sustainable levels; and
3. Lay the foundation for returning the Barbados economy to sustainable path.

AND WHEREAS according to the information provided in the December 2015 Press Release of the Central Bank of Barbados, the foreign exchange reserves had fallen from \$1.458 billion at the end of 2012 to \$927 million at the end of 2015 in spite of a reduction in payments for oil imports of \$380 million and an increase in tourism arrivals in 2015;

AND WHEREAS despite the Minister of Finance in August 2013 setting a fiscal target of 2.8 per cent of GDP to be attained at March 2015, some 31 months later at March 2016 the overall fiscal deficit was stated in the annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 2016/17 at an estimated 6.3 per cent of GDP on the basis used by the international financial institutions and it is projected to increase to 7.8 per cent by the end of March 2017;

AND WHEREAS at the end of 2007 Government's gross public sector debt stood at 62 per cent of GDP and at the end of 2015, it had escalated by \$3.996 billion to 110.3 per cent of GDP excluding in both instances debt owed to the National Insurance Scheme and debt owed to the Central Bank of Barbados which, if added, as it must be paid, would bring Barbados' gross public sector debt to the outrageous level of 159.3 per cent of GDP or in absolute terms, a gross public sector debt of \$13 883 000 000 up from \$7 000 000 000 017 in 2007 the highest debt to GDP ratio in the Caribbean;

AND WHEREAS to service this debt the Government of Barbados must provide 64 cents in each dollar of revenue earned by the Government;

AND WHEREAS the Barbados economy is now nominally smaller than it was in 2007, a phenomenon which is characterised by the following features:

A significant deterioration in the level of investment being undertaken in Barbados by Barbadian households and businesses; A fall in the value of their properties and other assets; The said households and businesses subsisting on their savings and a virtual doubling of unemployment since 2007.

AND WHEREAS the foregoing has reflected a dramatic deterioration in the disposable incomes and a decline in the quality of life of Barbadians across all income levels;

10.27 a.m.

AND WHEREAS the Central Bank of Barbados has, in spite of multiple and diverse warnings, persisted in the printing of money to support the Government's unsustainable deficit and the Government's desire not to default on local debt, such that it now holds almost \$1.1 billion in exposure to Government Paper, up from \$20.5 million in 2007, thereby putting at risk the exchange rate peg.

AND WHEREAS the National Insurance Scheme continues to be also used as a means of financing Government's mounting and unsustainable deficit such that at December 21, 2015, the National Insurance Scheme held over \$3.2 billion in Government Paper, while at the same

time being owed about \$240 million in arrears by the said Government of Barbados.

AND WHEREAS Barbadians have suffered a severe reduction in disposable income resulting from:

1. A wage freeze in the public sector and parts of the private sector;
2. The imposition of over 33 increases in taxes and fees over the course of the last eight years;
3. The removal of allowances and deductions for income tax purposes;
4. Persistent increases in cost of living.

AND WHEREAS the Government severe cash flow difficulties are reflected in the inability to pay:

1. Substantial arrears in income corporation and Value-Added Tax refunds; and
2. Agencies and individuals, locally and internationally, for goods and services provided to Central Government and statutory corporations.

AND WHEREAS the Government in its choice of capital projects and in its pattern of payment of Bills and Invoices from its creditors has contributed to an unacceptable concentration and consolidation of wealth, such that:

1. Some entities have easier access to business opportunities and funding;
2. Job losses are evident in particular households and communities;
3. There has been marginalisation of certain categories of workers; and
4. There has been an escalating rate of failure among Barbadian businesses.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has presided over a series of six downgrades of Barbados' Bond Ratings since 2009, the most recent of which was issued by Moody's International Credit Rating Service on April 1, 2016, and which have had the collective effect of making it more difficult and more expensive for the Government of Barbados and Barbadian companies to raise capital outside of Barbados.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has failed to either address fully and comprehensively the true state of the Barbadian economy, or to produce documents pertaining to independent assessments of the Barbadian economy such as the International Monetary Fund, 2015,

Article IV Report in the country's national interest to the conventional practice.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has stated a policy intention of presiding over the construction of a US\$500 million sugar factory in the context of a steep annual decline in the island's sugar production, with an estimated paltry 7 000 tons in 2016, while at the same time failing to meet the obligation to adequately incentivise the sugar cane producers in their efforts to prepare for the upcoming crop season.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has persistently refused to take the citizens of Barbados into its confidence in relation to new and/or revised policy pronouncements which threaten to have a negative impact on the well-being and fundamental rights of the populace. For example, the proposed dismantling of the Catastrophe Fund managed by the National Insurance Scheme and established to mitigate the losses of Barbadians from natural disasters, and separately, the subjecting of Barbadian citizens to compulsory fingerprinting at the ports of entry;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados contrary to their stated commitment to provide freedom of information and to be transparent and accountable has acted in a high-handed and contemptuous manner by refusing to disclose the particulars of several Memoranda of Understanding or Agreements, including but not limited to the Sandals Memorandum of Understanding and the diverse Cahill Agreements into which they have entered in the name of the people of Barbados and which have an impact on the well-being of the population, environment and economy of the country;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister and various Ministers of Government have failed to address appropriately or at all and/or to update the people of Barbados on matters of critical concern, including but not limited to levels of crime, industrial unrest, the stability of the National Insurance Scheme and the condition of the healthcare system while at the same time presiding over an imbalance of fair reporting on stories or events at the country's only free to air television station;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has presided over a severe deterioration in the industrial relation's climate of Barbados, characterised by labour unrest at various statutory and state-owned corporations including but not limited to the Barbados Water Authority, the Sanitation Service Authority, the Customs Department, the Grantley Adams International Airport, the Bridgetown Port, the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation and in the teaching profession.

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to adequately or at all addressed in the short or medium term the existing crisis which is plaguing one in every four Barbadian across at least eight parishes in the island with respect to their access to potable water in their homes, their businesses and all public facilities, especially schools, thereby placing at risk the public health of the citizens and visitors to the island;

AND WHEREAS statutory corporations and Government departments have been systematically deprived of the necessary financial and human resources to execute their mandate, resulting in an inadequacy of equipment and essential supplies for the provision of necessary services to citizens and residents, including garbage collection, healthcare, public transportation, education, sporting, welfare and child support services, causing a deterioration and/or deprivation of critical social services to Barbadian households and communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House has no confidence in the Government of Barbados to properly and effectively manage the affairs of State over the next 22 months of its constitutional term of office, in the best interest of the country and its people.”

I am obliged to you, Sir.

FIRST READING OF BILLS.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable for Christ Church East Central.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the First Reading of the following Bill:

1. The Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions) (Incorporation) Bill, 2016.

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

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

ORDER 21

SECOND READING OF THE Caribbean Accreditation

Authority Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions) (Incorporation) Bill, 2016.

Mr. SPEAKER: the Honourable Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation.

10.48 p.m.

BILLS

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) Incorporation Bill, 2016.

SECOND READING

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister of Education.

Hon. RONALD D. JONES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Bill before the House, the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions Incorporation Bill, 2016, seeks to put into the Laws of Barbados the establishment of what is referred to as CAAM-HP (Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions). Therefore, we do that this morning in order to make right or straighten out some issues which confront tertiary education, particularly for medical practitioners and other health professionals. In October 2003, CAAM-HP came into being in the island of St. Lucia. At that time, five nations of CARICOM signed the Bill. Unfortunately Barbados was not one of those. Barbados signed two years later under the signature of the Prime Minister of the day, the Right Honourable Owen Arthur. There was then a period through which the various medical schools and other medical health-related bodies went through several iterations of being accredited by CAAM-HP. In fact, our Medical Faculty here in Barbados is accredited by CAAM-HP. There is a further step which had to be taken, and that was the preparation of legislation to make CAAM-HP part and parcel of the Laws of Barbados. This Bill, which is not a very long Bill, seeks to do that, recognising, of course, decisions taken, the signature to CAAM-HP in 2005, and the exact date being the 15th day of December, 2005, at Bridgetown and signed by the Right Honourable Owen Seymour Arthur, the Prime Minister of the day.

We have before the House the Bill to deal with the establishment and the placing of this in domestic law. I think a bit of history would suffice on this matter. The treaty establishing CAAM-HP was initially signed by five Heads of Government - Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago - at the Ninth Special Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Governments of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held in St. Lucia on November 13, 2003. Barbados signed two years after that initial signature by those five Heads of Government. The origins of CAAM-HP, of course, would go back to 2001, I believe, when it was recognised that there was a burgeoning and massive increase in the established medical schools at the University of the West Indies (UWI); Mona in particular. Up to that period of time, you had the Faculty of Education at Mona and the dentistry school in Trinidad and Tobago, and they would have previously been accredited by the General Medical Council which, I believe, is the medical council out of Britain. It reflected the historical ties between the UWI and England. However, with the withdrawal of accreditation by the General Medical Council, the Caribbean, particularly the English-speaking Caribbean, needed an accrediting body to ensure that the standards of medical schools in the CARICOM area could stand up to sustained scrutiny, and that the quality of teaching, resources and facilities could be scrutinised by anybody in any part of the world, and be successful in that scrutiny.

There are currently, I believe, about 31 - and growing - medical schools or offshore medical schools, as we refer to them, in the Caribbean. Barbados to date has one offshore medical school, the American University of Barbados, which operates from Landsdown in the parish of Christ Church, but in many of the other Caribbean countries, in places like Antigua, there are two offshore medical schools. Anguilla has one, Aruba has one, Belize has two, Bonaire one, Curacao two, Dominica two, the Cayman Islands one, Guyana three, Jamaica one, Saba one, St. Kitts and Nevis six, St. Eustatius one, St. Maarten one, St. Lucia four, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines one. Mr. Speaker, I wish to state that there is expected to be, and we have granted charter to, two other medical schools to be located in Barbados; one most likely commencing in September of this year, the Queen's University Medical School of Barbados, to be followed by the International School of Medicine of Barbados. There is one other application now under consideration, and that is the Washington School of Medicine of Barbados, which will bring the total to four offshore medical schools in Barbados. One might ask why Barbados or why the Caribbean, which would move the current number from 31 to about 34. As business people, offshore medical schools tend to have a for-profit motive attached to them, and there is no problem or difficulty that I have with medical schools in the Caribbean having a for-profit motive.

Barbados took a very long time to establish any offshore medical schools in the country. In fact, Barbadian medical students would go to either Mona Campus in Jamaica, St. Augustine's in Trinidad, England, the United States or Canada, particularly those persons who were either National Development Scholarship winners or persons who got the Barbados Scholarship, because there are no restrictions on where those individuals can go. This is as a recognition of their scholarship, and the scholarship recognises that they can straddle the world as long as the medical school or the school of dentistry is fully accredited, both at the institutional level and at the programme level. Barbados offers a unique location for offshore medical schools.

10.47 a.m.

Sir, that is why I believe in 2010, Barbados gave permission for, the American University of Barbados (AUB) to come here. The AUB started out with just over 25 students at Wildey and as a result of its successful integration into the Barbados tertiary education landscape moved to Landsdown in Christ Church in order to deal with numbers which grew to just over 150 medical students. I am currently informed, just about a month ago, that number by September of this year should rise to some 200 medical students. You would realise that commencing 2010/2011 that the first set of medical students from that school would be graduating very shortly in 2016. It is a five-year programme just like you have a five-year programme here in Barbados at the Faculty of Medicine at Cave Hill and just like there is five-year programme at Mona and just like there is a five-year programme at St. Augustine.

Mr. Speaker, the quality of medical programme in the Caribbean particularly at the offshore school has been questioned over time but one has seen a dramatic improvement in the quality of tuition and the quality of students coming to offshore medical schools in the Caribbean. In fact, St. George's University in Grenada is but an outstanding example of what started out as a medical school growing into a significant university in the Caribbean. Sir, as have said, it is a profit institution and it provides about 30 per cent to 33 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product of Grenada. One could argue that in itself might be a bit dangerous that one institution in a small developing country could have a subsl and significant impact on the livelihood of citizens but also on the operation of the various State apparatus. It has been a successful university fully integrated into Grenada. We have Ross in Dominica, which is another reasonably successful medical school as well and there are several others I have mentioned across the entire Caribbean. I was making the point that Barbados has now attracted four who have applied and three have been granted charter to operate and regisn with the Barbados Accreditation Council, the

American University of Barbados and the other two who have been granted charter will gradually apply for regin and ultimately accreditation. Sir, accreditation takes place after the first cohort has in fact graduated, then you can go into the accreditation process through CAAM-HP, working along with the Barbados Accreditation Council and, of course, the Barbados Medical Association to ensure that what is said to be offered is in fact offered to those who come into the medical programme of these various institutions.

Mr. Speaker, where do you get the clients from, obviously some would come from Barbados but a lot of the clients come from parts of Africa, Nigeria, India, the United States of America, Canada and one or two other countries in the Caribbean and across the world to bring those numbers up. It is argued that in the United States of America alone that in the next 20 years, you would need over 500 000 or 600 000 medical doctors and the medical school in the United States of America do not carry the capacity to train that number of doctors over time to satisfy the market of the United States of America and that is why the interest and the establishment in relation to these medical school. We go back to 1977 with the St. George's University. This was evaluated by United States of America agencies and CAAM-HP, after it was established in 2003. The establishment of Ross University in 1978 by the Dominica Medical Board and then CAAM-HP but by then the Dominica Medical Board in the first instance. We would be quite fortunate is that we have the Barbados Accreditation Council to do the registration for tertiary education providers but more importantly that CAAM-HP would have been established before the coming into being of the American University of Barbados and the three others that I have mentioned which will come into being this year and most likely next year in facilities which they would have found across Barbados. Sir, CAAM-HP would do the accreditation of undergraduate medical education in the Caribbean and, of course, in medicine and other health profession, nursing would be an example. Sir, there would be many factors influencing this whole thing outside of the Barbados' attraction. It is a relatively political climate and it is communication facilities atg. Barbados has a very deep penetration of telecommunications facilities where students and their parents can reach other. The internet works 99 per cent of the times and that is excellent. You do get from time to time some buffering that can create frustration in those who like 24/7 attachment to the technology but I think we can be relatively proud of our telecommunications our world wide web, our internet relative facilities, the use of social media across Barbados and we have placed no restrictions on the use of use of social media in Barbados. Sir, in other countries, there are blockage place on some of the use social media, so that the influence on citizens of that country can be negated. We do not have this in Barbados and I hope we never do but what we have to encourage is the sensible and wise use of all information

and telecommunications technology knowing that the heart of man can sometimes wander into dark spaces and create all kinds of evil. We have to constantly remind persons that there is a purpose why man has become engaged with the technology. There has to be a purpose and that purpose is not at all negative.

10.56 a.m.

Barbados also has, and I hope would continue to have, citizens who care and who show regard for visitors to this country, that they are not treated with hostility, that they are not abused and that they are made to feel comfortable within the Barbadian space.

There have been complaints in other jurisdictions of quality of programme and sometimes hostility from the indigenous population. We have heard that complaint. In fact, the American University of Barbados has benefitted from the movement, not of a large number, I want to undergird or underscore that point, but some previous students of one or two of these universities in the Caribbean who have, in fact, migrated to Barbados to attend the American University of Barbados. These pull factors are important to the internationalisation of education in Barbados.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, not reflecting, that I mentioned that there is a push by the Ministry of Education with the support of the Cabinet to go into major internationalisation particularly of tertiary education in Barbados, not only at the level of medical schools, not necessarily going with the liberalisation of services, but also selectively opening the space for other tertiary institutions from other places to come to Barbados. Why would you come beyond those pull factors? You would come because personnel; educators; teachers; tutors; lecturers; instructors and other support staff in Barbados bring to the table a specific quality that is needed; commitment to work, commitment to service, quality of intellect and not function in an environment which is set up to provide sloppy and poor service. This has been recognised by those who have already come to Barbados and those who wanted to come because I mentioned those who are here but we have had interests from at least three other institutions.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine some 2 500 or 3 000 medical students, not counting the Medical Faculty at Cave Hill, being part of the landscape of Barbados? What can this do: (1) for the gross domestic product (GDP), and (2) the employment opportunities in Barbados from professors of medicine right down to someone who could clean dorms, house or apartment rentals or things of that ilk? They have to eat and they have to drink. All work and no play makes Jack and Jill a dull boy and a dull girl, so they will go to Oistins, to Moon Town, to Bathsheba, to Martins

Bay, they will shop in Bridgetown, Speightstown and Hometown, and do not let us forget that they would find a nice quaint town in the parish of Christ Church and they could shop there as well, provided they have the opportunity. We are determined to build out tertiary level education with an international face to bring citizens of other countries into Barbados.

We have heard the University of the West Indies (UWI) speak to the Ecuadorian students who are in here learning English as a foreign language. They have also been joined, I believe, by about 50 medical students at this stage from Panama. I believe that there would currently be 130 of those students in Barbados. The Ecuadorian initiative, particularly spearheaded by the Honourable Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados, St. Vincent and I believe one other country, are benefiting from that exercise.

The Panamanian outreach and soon to be signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Education of Panama and obviously the Government and people of Barbados for more and more of those students who want to learn English as a foreign language. It is an important initiative where people who, as their native tongue would speak Spanish, are coming to Barbados and giving to Barbadian students that opportunity. It might not be full immersion because full immersion means that you up and go and live, enjoy the culture have your being within those countries and there is a rapid assimilation of language which is a major part of culture taking place, but now coming to Barbados, mixing and interfacing with Barbadian students, the facility to develop Spanish now among Barbadian students would be further or better enhanced as a result of that interaction, that interface and that sharing in the various cultural exploits.

We would find as well as part of that MOU that students, particularly those students of Afro-Barbadian/Afro-West Indian extraction, those grandparents or great grandparents who journeyed to Panama in tens of thousands to develop that significant marvel of the world, the Panama Canal, are now coming back as young trainee teachers to go to Erdiston Teachers' College to further inculcate the pedagogy while developing their English language facility. We would argue that it has taken a very long time. I believe the Canal was completed in 1913/14 or thereabout so it is a long time, over 100 years. Of course, the French had tried something previously in the very early 1900s but they abandoned it as being too difficult. Anything that you would know that daunts the French ...

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: Of course, the climatic conditions, the isthmus of Panama was not a friendly place. Yellow fever and the mosquitoes devastated those persons who were part of that landscape and Barbadians made significant sacrifice both in the composition of our families here in Barbados, but the ultimate sacrifice was paid by many Barbadians who worked on the Panama Canal. In fact, I was fortunate about three years ago to go there and coming across Joneses, Morrisons, Bests - that is a slight divergence, Mr. Speaker, but these things are important - and there I am and as I am looking at a name I said I have heard this name called by my grandmother. She would have long departed 1995 and buried at St. Bartholomew, but I up the telephone and called an aunt - they keep in contact with that history and legacy of family - and said I am looking at a name, who is this person? My aunt said to me that is your grandmother's brother. He had passed on therefore there would be no traces because he did not have any children so lineage moved out of Panama, but there are others there. It is so significant that at this time we can open our doors to Panamanians of Caribbean extraction particularly ...

11.06 a.m.

... where there was a concentration... I cannot remember the name of the place now, but Members might know it...

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Cologne. That is correct. That is on the Caribbean coast of Panama. There was this movement, an area still to receive more development, but in Cologne I believe there is a free trade zone in Cologne. Many Barbadians, persons who are involved in the itinerant trade or have businesses in Barbados would go to the free trade zone to purchase goods to be resold as goods here in Barbados. So there are these connections. More important, the training, internationalisation of education reached out. I believe we have a responsibility as a country that has benefited substantially from education, and would have developed a human resource capacity that is second to none in the world, we do not give ourselves enough credit, and we really do not. We criticise ourselves. We quarrel among ourselves. We lambast ourselves. We believe what we have is not worthy, but in fact if you had to look at the literature, pay review articles, look at writings, all of these very good comments being made about this country relative to education and many other things, but this morning I speak to education. We would owe a lot of that to the commitment of the Government, and I use the Government within its plurality. Its generic meaning of Government, not political Parties, Government, to the development of what we call our only natural resource that is our people. Equip our people with the capacity and the ability to achieve, to work for themselves, their families, but more important to

work for this country of Barbados to enhance its development. That is why sometimes, Mr. Speaker, I retreat and in the absence in the prying eyes of man but in the presence of God sometimes I shed a tear. That is what I do. I shed a tear because the agony that I feel relative to the destructive capacity of some of our people is astounding, the destructive capacity. This rock of 166 square miles has been the benefactor of nearly every single citizen. I said nearly every single citizen because there were one or two, who for some reason dropped off the table and they were not noticed. Not because persons were not willing to notice, but they dropped off the table.

We have provided substantial resources to enhance the human resource capacity, and I cannot speak to human resource strategy, because there have been other strategies before. There has been Each One Matter. There have been other sustainable agenda that this country has put in place to carry forward its people. There must come a time when in those quiet sombre moments of reflection, the citizens must say I thank God for the leaders, for those who tolled in the vineyards, from church and chapel, from school to community groups, to whatever that build the capacity of Barbados to make our citizens proud wherever they go. I can wax strong, the migration of Barbadians to England. I can do all of that and the horrendous circumstances that they felt, but Bajans remained proud and survived.

Our teaching profession in the past, particularly at the level of tertiary education had persons who worked on the London Transport studying in the dark of night to better themselves, living in the basement of people's houses where the heating units were located. That is why I urge Barbadians to be proud of who they are. Do not succumb to all kinds of negativities, but to lift ourselves up so that institutions that I am speaking about can benefit even more from that collective capacity that we can reach out into areas where persons are now having difficulty in improving the human resource capacity or human resource capability.

So we can reach into Latin America, particularly Central America, because Panama is not the only one. You can find Barbadians in Costa Rico, Cuba, and I encountered some on my visit about two months ago. I met with them and had beautiful conversation. Barbadians and other West Indians, Honduras, Nicaragua, you can name them, Caribbean people and Barbadians, the 19th century, early part of the 20th century migrated to these places and now with our reaching the kind of capacity we have reached, we can reach out to them and say we have something to offer. We are not going to exploit you. We are not going to put in your path any areas of difficulty that you now cannot reach the highest level of your own potential or your own capacity.

Sir, to reach out to Africa in its entirety but more particularly West Africa where the bloodlines are thick,

even though sometimes not celebrated, to work with students coming from those countries in our international pursuit. We are kindred spirits. We are brothers, and if you be recruited for England, the United States of America, Canada, how about the Caribbean, when you walk you say, "You look like a fellow from St. Lucy." Or "Wait, Honourable Member for

St. Philip South I saw somebody looking exactly like you, grey beard and all in Kenya." It is amazing, but that is East Africa. I do not know how I got across there, even though there was a movement to Eastern Africa. Most likely in Ghana, I saw that face in Ghana. It was remarkable.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Jungle face, in Ghana.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted that diversion. I saw your face too Mr. Speaker. One of your kindred, grey beard and all, a lot longer than the Honourable Member for St. Philip South. Thanks for letting me get a chance to smile. The pressure has been great.

Sir, this time important. In 2009 the University of the West Indies in its own expansion initiatives in the Faculty of Medicine reached out to many countries. Students coming from the United States, in order to get federal grants and federal loans, I am trying to search for the name the FCCLA. Let me see what that is called. Their grant loans to students from the United States so that they can benefit from offshore studies. Jamaica, Antigua and some other countries brought into domestic law CAMHP. Barbados did not do it, therefore our Faculty of Medicine at the University of the West Indies, would not have benefited from the kind of ...

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: It is called the National Committee on Foreign and Medical Education and Accreditation, which is a Federal body of the United States Government.

This looked at Barbados through CAMHP and see if our standards not only at Cave Hill, but in other medical institutions could stand up to significant scrutiny, so that they would grant the specific recognition and status to the medical institutions here in Barbados.

Cave Hill in its desire to reach out to the United States citizens with a quality product, want to underscore that, in about 8 or 9 years. I believe we would be going into the fourth cohort, people who would have completed the programme at Cave Hill, and the numbers continue to grow. The institution which was only established outside of

the graduating school, which was there before what we would have now in 2015/2016 in the undergraduate programme over the five-year period 341 medical students. So persons in the first, second and third year, and the two years in their clinical studies, this is accumulative, the full period. When it started out it would have started with about 35 students in 2008/2009. I believe September 2008/2009 when the Government came to office. That number would have risen in the undergraduate programme to 341, up from 324 the year before, up from 311 in 2013/2014, up from 285 in 2012/2013. The second largest cohort of students, Barbados has about 47.5 % of the students at the Medical Faculty over the period. It is followed by Trinidad and Tobago, even though Trinidad and Tobago has a good Medical School, St. Augustine. It would say something for Barbados. Trinidad and Tobago has 43.4 %, Barbados 47.8%, Belize 5.8 %, Guyana 0.8%, Grenada 0.3%, Bahamas 8.2%, St. Vincent and the Grenadines 0.3%, which gives you 100% in the undergraduate programme.

One of the things which has happened, people who get Barbados Scholarships most of them stay in Barbados. Even though the Government has given commitment for 25 students outside of those with national scholarship -- I said earlier that those with National Development Scholarships and Barbados Scholarships can go where they want, a lot of our medical students stay in Barbados. That in itself created some problems. I remember going back for the tenure of the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, when there was not a medical faculty here in Barbados and there were students only at St. Augustine and Mona...

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: St. Michael North East. I said South East? I am sorry my apologies. You were not the Honourable Minister of Education. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East had some issues. These things do arise as you look at what is happening in the total environment, there was a some reduction in the number of students going to St. Augustine and Mona, because that is where historically we sent our students with governmental support. I believe when we came to office there were 15 students at St. Augustine and 10 students at Mona, or the flip, it could be 15/10 or 10/15. I do not remember the exact statistic. With the coming into being of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, through the Faculty coming to us and said, we want to Government to make a commitment for 25 students. We adjusted the number to 35, 25 in Barbados, 5 at St. Augustine and 5 at Mona. So the numbers actually went up for those who were given full sponsorship by the Government of Barbados, and sponsorship was not cheap, regardless to what you say, Cave Hill was really a commercial faculty, just like most of them are now, commercial faculty. The Faculty of Law at Mona is a commercial faculty. We are making money, so we are trying to keep in the region those who would have

gone to Holborn, the University of London, you name it. These various universities through the offshore or the distance method, there is nothing wrong with that, offshore education, distance education, all of that is part of the hybrid solutions which are being brought to education in the world. You do not have to disrupt your life. You only have to be disciplined. You have to be disciplined in order to study.

We have some challenges now because the Ministry of Health, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is the only teaching hospital in Barbados. I believe the Ministry of Health -- the Honourable Member could speak to that if he so speaks, is looking to bring into operation our very well-equipped Polyclinics and other institutions in the Private Sector to help deal with the whole question of teaching, supervision and training of those medical personnel. Where you had before, I believe 36 posts at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital you could not put forty-something students into 36 posts at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I believe those numbers have now been adjusted a bit or still to be adjusted.

I remember the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health being sued by students who need internships. Thankfully that was resolved in the best interest of all concerned.

The other problem we face is, Mr. Speaker, for some reason Barbadian students, Barbadian workers do not like to go to other countries in the Caribbean. There are countries in the Caribbean that are screaming out for good doctors, well-trained doctors to come to their space, but Barbadians unlike the past when we migrated to Africa, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, BVI, USVI, we migrated in the past, but today "I want to stay home." I want to stay at home.

We had some difficulties with the medical students. At one time there were some sixty-odd medical students in Cuba as a result of the kindness of the Cuban Government where between 6 and 10 scholarships, sometimes a little more, were offered to Barbadian students starting out before the direct approach to Government through the work of NGO bodies in Barbados, and where the criteria is just some academic strength but also of vulnerability in relation to their economic circumstances. Those organisations should be congratulated for that level of outreach they had. Eventually scholarships through government to government were offered in medicine to Barbadian students and that pushed the numbers up.

Sir, when we came to office, as Minister I took before Cabinet because Cuba is still emerging as an economy, a very strong society but still emerging as an economy out of the issues that it confronted after the revolution in Cuba.

Sequence 7

As Minister when I examined and heard from several of the students, I said to the Cabinet of Barbados that we have to offer financial assistance to those students and the Cabinet of Barbados at the time did not hesitate. We gave them on their going off some US\$800, I believe, to help them but then during the course annually of their studies we provided them with an additional BDS\$4 000. That is what this Government did for those students. We did not hesitate, we did not say well they gone on scholarships so not a penny not a yen. The Government stood up to the plate and said we will help those students to make it through the stringencies of living in Cuba.

Again, I was able to tour the Latin American School for Medicine, an outstandingly large complex located by what, maybe in Barbados would not have a school perched on it, but would have massive amounts of hotel space, large hectares, well-appointed buildings.

Yes, there are still some challenges for Barbadians who are locked into the Internet and things like that because of what I call the -- it is not scheduling, the word does not come to mind -- but where you do not get it 24/7, every day. You have a quota, so if your quota is 10 megabytes of data a month and in one day you use up those 10 megabytes, that is the end of you, you do not get anymore until the next month. In Barbados we use the Internet as though it is going out of fashion. We just simply use it. There have been these challenges but yet these important opportunities for Barbadian students.

We had difficulties in the support mechanisms for Barbadian medical students coming out of Cuba. Yes, they are fluent in Spanish, which is good because they immersed. Those who have gone down less than a year when I was speaking to these lovely young people, lovely young Barbadian students, were already speaking not the total Spanish but conversing in Spanish, and with still a little ability to speak a few words I was able to communicate in both English and Spanish with these very, very lovely young Barbados. Of course, the majority of them being females. This too is testimony to even what is happening here at Cave Hill where young medical doctors, intern students, outstripped males in substantial numbers. I will not speak to that at this time. The undergraduates in medicine over the period were 81 males and 181 females that is 2.5:1, a significant number of females to males at that level. We have, of course, to encourage all of our citizens, male and female, to study. There is no problem in males becoming part of the agenda of studying within the country.

I outlined the programmes of CAAEM HP. The aim of the process, I said, is to certify the quality of the programme, to promote institutional self-evaluation and

improvement - that is really what accreditation is all about, institutional self-evaluation, so the self-valuation study is very important -- and to assure society and the medical profession of the qualification of graduates of accredited schools. You should look at the institutional setting; the academic performance of students; the educational programme or the programme; the quality of the faculty; the educational resources that are brought to bear; internships, where they go to do their internship; continuing professional education of the particular faculty that expose themselves to the students; and site visits, to see what is being offered; just the normal accreditation process that is so necessary across the board for any tertiary level institution, so CAAM-HP does that.

Barbados has been given a date to meet with NCFMEA, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation in spring of 2016. We made an application through CAAM-HP, which has already been done, but the Subcommittee of the NCFMEA will study our application made through CAAM-HP. CAAM-HP has to stand on our behalf. We do not do it on ourselves because that is the accrediting body for medical institutions in the Caribbean. Barbados, by its signatory of December 2005, has given CAAM-HP the right and authority to deal with that on our behalf.

There has been some delay. Unfortunately, that was delayed. I believe there were one or two missteps going back then. If our papers were not submitted, and I believe they were in 2015, we might not - and this piece of legislation is important to that -- and we are unable to meet it in spring, we have to meet it in October of this year.

I suspect most likely that the process through this federal body - and I want to repeat the name again, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation - to review - this is what they are going to do - and render a comparability determination, so comparing of standards, on the quality assurance system for medical education programmes and facilities located in Barbados. The Subcommittee of the NCFMEA only meets twice a year, so if we miss the spring we would get it in October of hopefully 2016, because I suspect that we might miss the spring so we would have to do it in October.

We have been in communication with those all of those entities. Up to June 2013, the United States Department of Education... In fact, they have said, in responding to the Ministry, because the correspondence has to be done by the Minister to the United States Department of Education under which that body is founded, that your application for re-determination of the comparability of your country's accreditation of medical... programmes to that of the United States by the NCFMEA is on the agenda to be reviewed in the Fall of 2016, which is October. We missed that fall period and that is why the spring or fall of

this year. The deadline had passed, which is August 2015, that is why this legislation is now before us. I believe that we had just simply thought that by basic simple signatory to CAAM-HP that this would have facilitated the exercise but we had not brought CAAM-HP into domestic law and therefore the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions Incorporation Bill, 2016.

Just a brief on this. I believe I have waxed long enough on certain issues in tertiary education. It says that the Act may be cited or so called as the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professionals Incorporation Bill, 2016. It says that the Authority is a body corporate to which, subject to the Agreement Section of the interpretation Act applies, and subject to this Act, Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Agreement shall have the force of law in Barbados.

11.35 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, at page 4 of the Bill, Incorporation, it says:

“The Authority is a body corporate to which, subject to the Agreement, Section 21 of the Interpretation Act, Cap.1 applies.”

Provisions of the Agreement having force of law.

“Subject to this Act, Article 14, 15 and 16 of the Agreement shall have the force of law in Barbados.”

Mr. Speaker, Article 14, 15 and 16 go on to say:

ARTICLE 14

EXEMPT FROM TAXATION

1. “The income of the Authority shall be exempt from income tax.
2. The Authority shall be exempt from property tax and stamp duty in respect of instruments executed by or on its behalf.
3. The Authority shall be exempted from Customs’ duty and taxes on goods imported, purchased or taken out on bond and used for the execution of its functions.”

ARTICLE 15

LEGAL STATUS OF THE AUTHORITY

1. The Authority shall possess full legal capacity and in particular full capacity:

(a) to contract;

(b) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable

property; and

(c) to institute and defend legal proceedings

2. The Authority may enter into agreement with any entity for the achievements of its objectives.

3. The Authority shall conclude with the Contracting Party in which the Headquarter is to be located, an agreement relating to the privileges and immunities to be granted or accorded to the Authority.

4. In any legal proceedings the Authority shall be represented by the Executive Director.

ARTICLE 16 PROTECTION FROM LEGAL PROCESS “No action, suit or other proceedings shall be instituted against any member of the Authority or any member of the staff at the Secretariat for any acts done bona fide in the execution of their functions under this Agreement.” Mr. Speaker, it is really standard, what all the territories have done essentially is to end up with a standard piece of legislation which is brought before the House and becomes part of the Statutes of the country. Mr. Speaker, today is 3rd May, an important day in Barbados, a day or two after the Labour Industrial Unions walked the streets of Barbados in celebration of themselves and the rights of workers. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring this legislation to the Honourable House as a means of advancing the work, not of the House which is important, but the work of medical bodies, schools and colleges in Barbados, giving in the first instance the Faculty of Medicine at Cave Hill to be able to recruit persons coming out of the United States of America an opportunity to borrow money to come here and study, knowing that they are dealing with accredited bodies and that the NCFMEA recognised the standards of the medical schools here in Barbados, an important step. Mr. Speaker, I hope that as this is considered by

the United States Department of Education and its Sub-Committee, the NCFMEA, that Barbados would be given high grades for the quality of its offerings. Mr. Speaker, I am already hearing extremely good commentaries on these young doctors who are coming out of the Cave Hill Campus; who are coming out of Mona Campus, which is historical; who are coming out of St. Augustine, again historical; who are coming out of Cuba.

Unfortunately, we might only have two or three of the Cuban-trained doctors in Barbados, the bulk of them are in Jamaica because they had to pass the medical qualification for the region that we did not in Barbados, even though we tried, I believe that both parties in Government tried to straighten this out, there was resistance by some.

Mr. Speaker, I want of the Floor of this Honourable

House to thank the Government of Jamaica through its local system. When the Barbados Government said they were not getting any assistance to deal with any struggles they were having in Barbados, the Jamaica Government said to let them come. Mr. Speaker, in the majority of cases, in six months after they had their medical degree, the Cuban medical degree is seen as a foreign medical degree so in coming to the English speaking Caribbean you had to then do C.A.M.C., the qualification to practice in the Caribbean, but you needed that holding hand to get over any challenges that you might have had, bearing in mind that you are taught in Spanish, that you are into an English environment and you would have had a little gap in moving the knowledge into what I would call that how you think in English as opposed to how you think in Spanish.

Mr. Speaker, that was a complaint, and issues of pharmacology. Again, Cuba has developed an extremely medical system and that is why I was aghast at some of this treatment, but in Jamaica they say to come and 99 per cent of our students in the first six months passed CAMSE, one or two drifted to the year because we are different in how we learn and how we assimilate information. We have one or two persons in St. Lucia, they have to honour obviously contracts and agreement with the Government of Jamaica because they were paid as they were trying to do CAMSE. I believe we have now about 20 medical students at the various levels, the First Year is spent at the Latin America School where they learn Spanish, they do some work, they get into the culture, and then they are sent to the various universities across Cuba. In fact, one young man came over to see us when we were there. He was in Guantanamo Bay and it took him eight hours to move from Guantanamo Bay through the capital Havana, just to have a conversation with us. Sir, we go around Barbados 15 times in eight hours while stopping and have a bread-and-two or some fish in Oistins.

I wish to commend the Government of Cuba, they have offered some scholarships this year and I have said to staff, do not let us restrict our students if they want to benefit from those scholarships. They have also offered some post-graduate scholarships in medicine, which are all important areas of need in Barbados. I have said to my staff do not restrict our students, let them benefit, that we will continue that outreach with our students even as we develop other medical facilities in Barbados from which some of our young people can benefit, but more

importantly where people from different climes can come here in Barbados and can enjoy our hospitality and the quality of our offerings in relation to tuition by our professors.

Mr. Speaker, there are Barbadian doctors who now work at the American University of Barbados who do their practice in the afternoon, or vice-versa. Sir, as more and more of these persons and institutions are brought to bear, more and more will benefit from this. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Caribbean Educational Authority (Education in Medicine and Other Health Professionals) (Incorporation) Bill, 2016, be read a second time.

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

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

11.59 a.m.

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

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. Ma'am, I rise to generally support this Bill that is before the Honourable Chamber. It is actually a very simple Bill, two pages, that seeks to incorporate the treaty which was signed by the Heads of Government into our Laws. I was a little bemused by the fact that the Honourable Minister spent almost two hours speaking, but I believe that he is seeking refuge from other aspects of his portfolio. If that were the case, then I do not begrudge him that this morning. Suffice it to say though, Ma'am, that this is a very simple Bill and this seeks to bring to life a matter which actually had its genesis almost 20 years ago. Indeed, the last Standing Ministers of Education Meeting of CARICOM, before the Council for Human and Social Development was established, spent its time seeking to have these arrangements put in place. We recognise that without accreditation the value of degrees obtained within our individual territories would be of limited currency, and therefore institutions would not be able to attract students if we did not have a mechanism where people said this degree or this diploma has X value and is therefore accredited, and a person can move from one jurisdiction to another in order to be able to practise. This is all this is really about.

In this particular instance, this is limited to health education and training, and is of concern to us. I will come to that very shortly, but on the straight issue of accreditation, articulation and equivalency, this used to be called the "un-sexy area" of the Ministry of Education's work. While I was there for the seven years, we took this up, as I said, concomitant with what we were doing with

CARICOM. It is perhaps regrettable that one of the persons who did the most legwork and carried some of the greatest weight in this area is no longer with us, having passed less than three months ago. I speak to the late Norma Holder, who was President of the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions and who really, I believe with Mr. Bernard Frost and others who sat on the committee in the Ministry of Education, did a considerable amount of work to allow us to be able to reduce the cost to the Government of Barbados in many instances through articulation, accreditation and equivalency.

Very briefly, let me say that articulation allows us to ensure that our students can benefit from the provision of an exemption for a year or from certain courses, as the situation requires. Therefore, there are many parents in Barbados who ought today to reflect on the fact that were it not for the work done to provide articulation with the Barbados Community College's Associate Degree and the degrees of many universities in the United States of America, Canada and the University of the West Indies, in sending their children to North America they would have had to pay an extra year's fees for those children to finish their degrees. Articulation ensured that there were exemptions as a result of a seamless transition from the Community College to the degree-conferring institution. In the case of Barbados and the Caribbean, it is the Government of Barbados that has benefited, because it is the Government of Barbados that would have paid the fees. Therefore, it is arguable that almost millions of dollars have been saved annually by being able to move from that two-year programme into a three-year programme instead of a four-year one. In some instances in some schools, it has been two plus two instead of two plus three, and therefore that is why this "un-sexy" thing called articulation is important for the Government, and indeed the governments of the region, to have resolved, so that parents and students do not have to carry additional costs because of duplication of learning in the tertiary area.

Accreditation is slightly different, as the Minister said. Accreditation treats to the recognition. For instance, how do I value? Do I accept that this is a valid degree? Can the person then move on and practise A, there or whatever? It reflects the standards in respect of teaching as well as the standards in respect of what the national jurisdiction requires, so that we know that there is not a major gap when the person presents himself or herself as a doctor or as a nurse or as an allied health professional. If we were talking about engineers, for instance, I know I have asked the Honourable Member for St. James North to speak to the issue of other accreditation issues in the region, which are appropriately before us. Even though they are not health-related in respect of the engineering degree, there are serious issues that must be confronted with St. Augustine's, and if we do not get it right we are going to end up.... The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central should

be familiar with them since he, himself, is an engineer. I start from that premise.

There are a number of things that I want to raise as well. I believe that the Minister needs, with more clarity, to speak to the issue of the Cuban doctors. We cannot continue to send Barbadians to Cuba to receive medical training, excellent medical training, to come out with a competitive advantage of English and Spanish which would allow them to practise anywhere in the hemisphere, and still parents or these students have no clarity as to why they cannot practise in the land of their birth, and why we as lawmakers -- that is who we are -- cannot make it possible for them to practise in the land of their birth. My chief canvasser, God bless her soul, who is no longer with me; my chief canvasser for over 20 years, Vivian Goodman, her niece went to Cuba and did medicine. She did extremely well, went to Jamaica, practised in Clarendon and Spanish Town, but still could not come home to Barbados to practise. Even when her aunt was not well and declining, she could not come back to Barbados to practise. Bless her soul, she met and married a Mexican doctor in Cuba, and she is practising in Mexico. This is a girl who was born here, reared here, everything, but cannot practise in Barbados. She practised in Jamaica. She went to school at Combermere. Madam Deputy Speaker, I am sure you may well know her. She is practising in Mexico now. I am saying that it cannot be beyond the capacity of this legislature, for we are lawmakers. We have to get it right, and this is not about blame now; this is about getting it right because they do truly have a competitive advantage over those who only know medicine in English.

Similarly, it is also actually cheaper for the Government of Barbados to have doctors educated in Cuba than here, because we pay neither the economic costs nor the tuition costs. Therefore, I would have thought that this would be an area which would benefit from the deepening of cooperation between the two countries. The Cubans have said, "This is an area in which we believe we can help you as Barbadians." In just the same way, Barbados can help Cubans in other areas of endeavour. I therefore call on all of us in this Parliament. We are lawmakers.

11.55 a.m.

Sir, if it is necessary to set up a small Committee of parliamentarians, if it is necessary for us draft a Private Member's Bill, if that is easier for the Government and for us to do it, let us do it but you cannot have 20 more who are now there, who anticipate that they will be able to practise.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue that I would like both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health to address for the benefit of the Parliament and for the country. There are very real constraints to the training of

doctors. Sir, doctors require internship before they can qualify. You are limited by the number of interns that any single hospital can carry. The Minister referred to the fact that as a young Minister of Education, I had to confront this with the then Minister of Health and that we had to place a cap because the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a 600-bed hospital could only accommodate a certain number of doctors. Sir, I would like to believe that in recent times, in the last decade or 15 years, that we can move forward to have hospitals in the Eastern Caribbean who, for the most part, have not been accredited as teaching hospitals and not to my knowledge capable, many of them of offering the internship, that those hospitals be brought up to the point where we can ensure that we are not capping the number of persons in the medium term because we are equally raising the number of hospital that can accommodate internships in the region.

Mr. Speaker, 30 or 40 years ago, doctors could easily go and do internships in North America and the United Kingdom but you cannot do that anymore and, therefore, it is left to us to be able to provide the opportunities with respect to that. I, therefore, would like to hear both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health and if it is not yet being addressed to give us the commitment that this is an area of priority that the Government of Barbados would have to treat to because it makes no sense telling us that 48 per cent of the students at University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, doing medicine are Barbadians... I think the Minister said there are 341 people across all the years there, so where are we going. I am sure the Prime Minister would agree that they have a legitimate expectation upon starting the course that they would be able to complete the course. The only problem is that in completing the course, they have to do internships, and because of the nature of the training, it is something that is required. Sir, nobody wants anybody to become a doctor without the benefit of practical training, it is just absolutely necessary but Barbados only has 270 000 people, and we only have a 600-bed hospital and, therefore there are constraints but as a collective within the Caribbean region, there are ways in which we can perhaps better resolve these issues because Jamaica may have a shortfall or the Eastern Caribbean may have a shortfall. Sir, even the Dominican Republic and Haiti may have a shortfall. The point is, this is a matter that must be treated with priority particularly given the stance of the outside world towards the provision of health training.

Mr. Speaker, the next point I would like to make relates to nurses. I hope that the Minister of Health in particular will take it in the spirit in which it is given. I have always felt that Barbados must continue to export skills even if temporarily globally. Sir, that is what we have always done. There was a debate in this House in 1850, when we were exporting pan boilers and other artisans within the sugar industry to Guyana, that has been our

strength but we have get the programme of training and not just training but we have to get the attraction of the students and the talent to be interested in the training in respect to an area, for example, such as nursing. Sir, nursing is a dignified profession. This country lone female Governor-General was one of the most distinguished nurses, not just in this region but recognised globally. There are others in Trinidad whose names I can call, who are known globally as some of the best nurses that the world has seen in the 20th Century and for some reason, in today's world of glamour and glitz, those noble profession that require people to give of themselves and to treat what they are doing as a high vocation do not seem to attract young people in terms of wanting to go into it. I am not sure that our young people are being appropriately sensitised as the fact that a highly trained registered nurse earns well and that more than anything else is highly respected and valued and perhaps has more freedom of mobility than a lawyer or an engineer in the context of the Caribbean in which we live. Sir, not just freedom of mobility within the Caribbean but freedom of mobility across the world because those skills are so acutely needed in other parts of the world that if you can become and appropriately trained registered nurse and if you have developed a reputation for caring and for diligence in your profession, you will go further than those who want to practise law, who are constrained by legal systems that are unique to a particular jurisdiction or to a particular region. I think we have to have this conversation with our young people and not so young people because a number of things have happened even here at the hospital. We do not have enough nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and regrettably since the nurses who were here from overseas did not have their contracts renewed, I can tell you first hand that we still have a shortage of nurses at the hospital, genuinely so but what we need to do is that a lot of people who are just studying generically management or studying other things for which they are not immediate opportunities for employment need to be guided into these areas for which there is not only a local deficiency but a regional and international deficit in respect fo the numbers of trained persons. It is an area in which there is high demand for appropriately trained nurses and Caribbean nurses have some of the best reputation you can find in North America and Europe because of that history starting way back from as far back as a century ago. I think that nursing and allied health skills is an area that we need to excel in.

Mr. Speaker, I have said to the Barbados Labour Party and you would hear it again over and over that Barbados must become an educational and health hub, a hub for educational and health services in this hemisphere and that if we set ourselves the simple target, in addition to those things, that every children under the age of 18 by the year 2030 should have been given the opportunity to be bilingual, we begin to expand the horizons. Sir, there is no

partisanship in this, it is just the right thing to do for our children and for our opportunities.

Sequence 11

12.04 p.m.

Why education and healthcare, the areas in which we have the greatest global competitiveness? In education, last year there was not, regrettably, a global competitiveness ranking for Barbados in 2015 and I imagine the Government would explain why, but in 2014 we were number 20 in the world out of 160 to 180 countries. In healthcare, we ranked among the top one-third of the countries in the world, now we are getting some things wrong because our public finances has not allowed us to do what we should do to maintain stability and to jump, but that does not mean that all is lost. Certainly in the areas of education and training which, in any event, has a medium term outlook we need to get it right because to get X amount more in five years we need to be making decisions today, next year and the year after. I therefore urge this Government that just as we want to give the university the right to be able to have its medical institution accredited here that we address the issue of the training of nurses. It may well mean that they may have to be a strategic partnership between the Barbados Community College. Whether it is a regional or international institution matters not what matters is that we shoot for the stars in terms of high level training and that we then go into the schools and all these job fairs that we are talking about, that we start to expose our young people (1) that there is a noble profession and (2) that these are the real, real opportunities. The only people who have, perhaps, the greater freedom of mobility than nurses are artists and sportsmen, but nurses and allied health professionals have some of the greatest freedom of the mobility across the world and we need to get that message out to our young people in a serious way.

I would only want to say, Mr. Speaker, I smiled when I heard the Minister of Education on a slightly different topic talk about the importance of the St. George Medical School to the St. George's University, as it has now become, to the economy of Grenada. I looked at the Honourable Prime Minister because he has been around longer than most and he would therefore appreciate that sometimes debates get hijacked in small societies that do not inure to the benefit of the population. If ever there was an example of this it would have been with the St. George's University when the late Tom Adams wanted to usher in the period of educational services and outside universities, and indeed long before there was a Ross University and all of these other universities in, not just Grenada, in Dominica and St. Kitts, the late Prime Minister of this country wanted to have the St. George's University here, started the conversation and it led to, perhaps, one of the most popular calypsoes of the 70s and the early 80s by the Mighty

Gabby entitled "Cadavers" and the public today would more remember the calypso than the effort to establish the university.

I say this because it happens and has happened in each decade since we have had responsibility for our affairs but what it tells us is that sometimes we need to stand above the fray and lead because we know it is the right thing to do and not be subject simply to the political dictates of the day. It is an interesting lesson as we reflect today.

With those few words, Madam Deputy Speaker, we will support this Bill but I felt that it is important to make those few points and for the Minister as I said to address, in particular, the issue of the Cuban trained doctors and, in particular, the issue, along with the Minister of Health, the need for a national emphasis and strategic programme towards the training of nurses and allied health professionals and for the Ministry of Health to indicate that in the interim what he would do to bridge the gap given the deficit and the tremendous pressure being placed on nurses at the hospital in the absence of the numbers that we truly need. We had some issues with foreigners coming but that cannot be the reason to stop, it is simply the reason to make the system better not to stop bringing in until we have the numbers that we need.

I am obliged to you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

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

Madam Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to join this debate and the discussion on the establishment of the legal consideration of the Bill to give effect to the Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medical and Other Health Professions Incorporation Bill. I want to certainly thank the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, the Minister of Education, who I think treated this Chamber to a very fulsome discussion on the education and training background to the whole question of the development of health professionals in Barbados and he certainly treated us to the history and some of the challenges which we face as a young independent nation, 50 years old, as we try to maintain that absolute standard. It has been said by the Minister of Education - and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East supported this - the process of accreditation is very important because it sets up the standards and what we stand for and what we will maintain and ensure that the monitoring processes are in place so that internationally, and this is important, our

training and the opportunities we offer be it in medicine or any of the other fields of study that this training is internationally recognise.

The Honourable Member who just sat indicated that the profession of nursing is a very mobile profession and indeed many Barbadian nurses, sometimes to the severe detriment of our own facilities here, migrate to other areas as work and they can be absolutely nothing wrong with that but certainly we must endeavour, as a nation, as we continue to develop our education and, in particular, our health portfolio ensure that sufficient training is made available. The Honourable Members who just sat referred in particular to the situation with the Cuban doctors and again the Minister of Education was clear to point out that the Barbados Government, yes, does not itself do the accreditations and we need to be sure that all of our standards and the systems that are being taught or that we are being trained under are in fact acceptable.

12.14 p.m.

And we need to be sure that all of our standards and the systems that are being taught or that we are being trained under are in fact acceptable. Certainly we would like as a Government to commit to ensuring that very urgently we can meet some of these demands and benefit from the opportunity of our doctors who train in Cuba coming back to Barbados and practising. I know many doctors who were trained in Cuba who have met with me either as a group or individually to discuss this matter, and it is a matter which is under urgent consideration. There may be required legislation to allow this to happen, but in fairness to the professionals in Barbados there are counter-arguments to this whole situation, and some members of our intellectual community will raise questions in this regard. Suffice to say that we as an Administration believe, as part of our responsibility to the people of Barbados, that this matter be dealt with as they say post-haste.

The Honourable Members also raised the question of interns in Barbados. Yes, it is of course a very vexing situation when we are faced almost every year with between five and six graduates of the MBBS Programme who are unable to find places in our Queen Elizabeth Hospital to do their internship. As the Minister of Education pointed out, there are presently practising some 36 interns who would have found places in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The areas of internship are restricted to obstetrics and gynaecology, general surgery, internal medicine and paediatrics. Those are the areas that we have covered so far. The position of the hospital and the doctors who have to carry out the training, because these interns cannot be left on their own obviously, and I am sure Honourable Members are fully aware, is that they have to be seriously supervised so that the standards of same accreditation councils, whether it be the local Barbados

Council or the one to which we speak today, the CAAM-HP, which is the regional accreditation body, can be satisfied.

A solution must be found. We have looked at the possibility of spreading our internship opportunities into our polyclinics in some way so as to accommodate more of these interns. It will, of course, require the provision of our consultants in the polyclinic that we have identified so that the training of our interns can be satisfied. Mr. Speaker, I as a Minister am comfortable in my mind, and in discussions with professionals, that this arrangement can be rolled out.

As a matter of fact, while the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East was speaking I also thought and whispered to those within my quiet earshot that we may also be able to create opportunities in our private hospitals because we are seeing an increase in the number of facilities which offered bedded services in our healthcare industry so to speak so that our private hospitals may be an area for a serious consideration as an interim solution.

We already in this Chamber this morning have added to the polyclinic solution that is being contemplated and now the private hospital solution. Of course, the immediate question with the private hospital solution will be of course the payments to the interns. The Barbados Government, as part of the training offered to the students, pay their salaries as interns at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and we benefit from their service obviously. Similarly, they would have to be some arrangements where the private institutions may be prepared to look at a partnership arrangement with the Government of Barbados, the Ministry of Health, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the University of the West Indies, to roll out a satisfactory solution.

It obviously pains, Sir, as I said, to have to sit and speak with graduates of this M.B.B.S. Programme who are unable to find places. We have worked both internationally and regionally to try to find other spaces and we have been successful in a couple of our efforts but sadly they are still M.B.B.S. graduates who have not yet found places for their internship, and it is the charge of this administration that a solution be put in place as soon as possible.

Sir, the question of nursing is also an interesting one. The Honourable Member spoke to the issues facing our nurses. Again, I whispered to those in earshot that the other issue with our nurses, just like our doctors and like so many other professions, is the need now for that extra amount of specialisation in the practice of our general nurses. Yes, nurses are our treasured profession in Barbados, a tradition which has been honoured and revered in its different degrees by all of our community. As a matter of fact, Nurses Week, I believe, will be celebrated next week. Only last week we at the Ministry of Health had

a very healthy meeting with the Barbados Registered Nurses Association. We have those meetings regularly. Certainly in terms of looking at the curriculum, looking at the issues which face our nurses like any other profession, there are issues. There are issues of placements and there are issues of the creation of posts within our health institutions, but I do believe the solution lies in the strengthening of that public/private partnership in helping to create new spaces for Barbadians.

We are limited, and we must not lose sight of the fact, by the financial realities attending to our economy, we cannot lose sight of that reality. Yes, we must maintain our standards. Thank God, as I am aware and as I am assured in my regular sessions with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we have been able to continue to roll out a developmental model at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which is really second to none in this region and is the envy of many, many, many countries and visitors. As a matter of fact on my way to my vehicle this morning from the ministry I met a young doctor from Guyana who is here with our senior nursing Officer spending the week looking at the systems as they applied in Barbados so that he and his team can learn some of our strengths and I trust that he would also be able to share with Ms. Murrell, our Senior Nursing Officer, and her team some of the developments and benefits which may be obtainable through a strong relationship with Guyana and other countries.

Sequence 13

This training and this opportunity is being created through our P.A.H.O. arrangements. Sir, we need to reflect a little bit on entities like P.A.H.O. and C.A.F.O., those institutions that make sure that we are in a position to respond to the many challenges that healthcare can face from time to time. Sir, the P.A.H.O. provides significant funding annually for developmental programmes within our healthcare training spectrum and we are appreciative of this arrangement through P.A.H.O. and the W.H.O. Mr. Speaker, we have annual consultations with P.A.H.O. and the W.H.O. in respect of strengthening our ability to respond.

Mr. Speaker, even now another partnership which is of significant importance is our laboratory facilities that are associated with healthcare delivery and our ability to identify causes and to ensure that the correct solutions are put in place. Again, the partnership with the Centre for Disease Control and the Government of the United States of America we are completing a new laboratory which will see an amalgamated laboratory services in that facility at Enmore. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the American Government and our partners, the Centre for Disease Control and others for this wonderful opportunity. The Barbados Government is putting \$6 million into this project or has put \$6 million into this project, it is our

deposit for the construction of the laboratories and the American Government, I believe is putting BDS\$12 million into that project. When that project is done we will be able to more centralise our laboratories services but more importantly to build capacities within our teams in Barbados to allow us to go even as far as offering services to our region to assist institutions like C.A.F.A. and P.A.H.O. in the identification and putting in place measures to combat the constant scourge of disease.

Mr. Speaker, we take, for example, the situation with regards to the Zika virus that is all over the world today, it is no longer about Barbados and the Caribbean or Central America anymore, it has now become a worldwide debate, the World Health Organisation has declared it a disease of international significance and there are many consultations at the level not only of W.H.O. but regionally, at the University of the West Indies have consultations as to how we combat this disease in Barbados. As I have said so many times since, we have certainly stepped up our programme of vector control to the extent that we have actually declared that we are seeking to eliminate the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito, which is responsible for carrying this disease, along with other familiar diseases such as chikungunya and dengue. Sir, we are working on these things and we continue to assure Barbadians of the quality of our healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, of course, we have instances where there is some dissatisfaction and I want to take this opportunities, as I thank the providers of our services in healthcare to share with the public that, yes, sometimes we may get it wrong but we hope that any mistakes that are made can be quickly and effectively corrected and certainly any complaints that we receive at the Ministry of Health, we ensure that the team at the Ministry of Health make sure that these matters are dealt with.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at the question of the offshore universities, because the accreditation will allow them also to meet these standards in terms of their programmes and their facilities... The Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation made the point of the American University of Barbados which is located at Landsdown, Christ Church. I can certainly speak to the fact that this university has now created around it an economy where there are, as was mentioned, officers along with doctors...

Mr. Speaker, in passing I must say, first of all, that there are some Barbadian lecturers who are involved in the programme so that it is not exclusive to foreign lecturers and doctors teaching; there are some Barbadian students enrolled in the American University of Barbados programme and they are doing very well. Mr. Speaker, so that the entire economy has created the provision of lunches and the obvious needs of the students who study

there, away from the normal hub of the city or a Cave Hill or even a St. Lawrence Gap, it has created new opportunities for people in that area to make profits out of providing services to this university.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to the fact that the creation of these universities is an economy waiting to happen and we need to take advantage of the interest which the world has in Barbados. Sir, the Honourable Member again made the point as to why people from all over the world would flock to Barbados to invest, to want to set up businesses and partnerships. Of course, you do not always get that impression when you listen, especially to some of the comments, we are not supposed to be affected in anyway by the world's economic realities, the fact that even the mighty China is struggling with its own economy today and it is facing serious challenges and that one of the only growth nations in the world today is India, that is of no relevance to Barbados, Sir, that is to be ignored. There is something about Barbados that is so wrong, so this and so that, we heard it even this morning. Mr. Speaker, the truth is, Barbados is still a very attractive destination for investors and it will remain so, and we are going to continue to strengthen the framework to allow institutions like this that want to invest in the health industry to come to Barbados and share in this wonderful climate, the fact that we are largely disease-free, the opportunities for beautiful weather and we have often courted the idea of health tourism, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that none of these health tourism opportunities has been fully manifested except, of course, the work of Doctor Skinner at the Fertility Unit, Hastings. This is an important development but it takes time and it takes the commitment of investors to see these programmes through. The point is that we would need to set up Joint Committees with related Ministries, for example, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation and with our legal people to get to the bottom of taking greatest advantage of these facilities.

12.42 p.m.

We will certainly continue to make sure that this is put in place. We have a long way to go, but indeed, Sir, we have come so tremendously far already. I mentioned the fact that the services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) have been maintained and have been expanded. There were some six specialties added to the QEH in 2008-2009 when the Democratic Labour Party came to office. That can only be done by a Government which is enlightened and which recognises the urgent need to keep expanding our offerings to the people of Barbados. Today, there are very few cases that have to be referred overseas for treatment by the QEH, except in paediatric cardiology. Sir, there are inevitably special cases that are referred, but

in general terms, I have been assured that except for paediatric cardiology, we can perform almost every other service in our country. I am glad to be able to share that with the public of Barbados.

Sir, it is something which we are committed to maintaining and something which I believe that all Barbadians want to see maintained. We must not lose sight of the fact that our institution at Martindales Road is now 51 years old, and as I mentioned only last week, as such has now really reached the point where it is beginning to be challenging to retrofit and be able to offer the many services. Let me in the meantime take the opportunity to extend a warm "thank you" to the many donors who have been going into that hospital, working with the administrative, technical and medical teams, and developing our wards in a very deliberate way. This has brought tremendously more comfort to our patients. Our private wards need additional attention, and they will get it. The point of distinction must be made that we have recognised that even as we contemplate a new hospital, we have to maintain the services at the QEH. We came, and in 2008 we clearly identified that this hospital needed urgent surgery, so we put in place a power system that allowed us to attach all the equipment that was lying around in the yard. I know what I am talking about. We put in place something like \$40 million-\$50 million in investment into engineering alone, and in the buildout of the Eye Ward, which is now almost ready for executing and strengthening our offerings in ophthalmology and cardiology.

The cardiology suite is already doing some work, but one of the challenges we are facing in this regard, and I alluded to it earlier, is the question of specialisation. This is not only about our doctors, but even more importantly it refers to specialisation by our nurses; and this is something that was addressed as recently as the latter half of 2015 when we contracted the services of a specialist care nurse to help train some 20 Barbadian registered nurses in our programmes at the QEH. I was in the QEH only yesterday visiting a couple of friends and had a chat with some of our nurses on our wards. I was certainly happy to see that generally there is a level of comfort. Yes, we can always do with a few more hands, especially when things get crowded, but the point is, again, I came upon committed Barbadian workers in that hospital who continued to give of their service to the people who are warded, our patients. Of course, these workers are committed to service to our country as a whole. I want to thank them personally again for their very hard work, as well as our doctors who work so well with the nurses.

Sir, as I said, this accreditation is about putting legal emphasis to something which has generally been in practice since, as the Minister said, 2005, really. This accreditation is also about making sure it is part of the law of Barbados. In this way, I think we will be able to get

down quickly or in short order to the entire question of people coming to Barbados or the region to practise, and who may have benefited from training which is not particularly Caribbean or particularly University of the West Indies-related. As the Honourable Leader of the Opposition indicated, we need to broaden our sights in this regard, and it is a call which can go out in many areas in Barbados, as I said. Over my 63 years, I have come to the conclusion that we were not called Little England for sport. We were called Little England for purpose, but I think that even Britain sometimes has been more progressive in some of its legislation and its actions than this little Barbados. We need to open our eyes in this regard, therefore, and certainly I would be happy to entertain any views that the Honourable Member or any of the other three Members over the other side would want to share with us, and make sure that they can be put in place.

Mr. Speaker, it is really good that we can come together this morning and put this Bill before the House for consideration and hopefully pass this Bill, so that what is now the Caribbean Accreditation Authority Bill 2016 can at the end of our deliberations be called the Caribbean Accreditation Authority Act. With those few words, I wish to express my appreciation to you and thank you for the opportunity, and I want to support this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for lunch until 2:15 this afternoon.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 2.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting.

12.44 p.m.

RESUMPTION

This Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken on lunch, we were on Government Business, Order No. 21, and with that we shall continue. The Honourable Member for St. James North.

MR. E.D. HINKSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to contribute to this debate on the Bill for the implementation by our country of the agreement at CARICOM level to establish the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and in other Health Profession. Sir, before I get into the actual substance and content of the Bill and the attached treaty, I just want to

raise a couple of point. The agreement, from what I see, was signed on behalf of Barbados by the then Prime Minister Right Honourable Owen S. Arthur on December 15, 2005, which is over 10 years ago. We speak about implementation deficit and this is over a decade that this Bill has now taken to bring into law internally, an agreement that has been signed at the level of CARICOM internationally by Barbados. Sir, as you know, being a renowned lawyer, once Barbados signs an agreement at the international level, it has the force of law in terms of Barbados' external obligations. The treaty that is attached, really and truly just has typed signatures and from my knowledge, it is always better to have the photocopies of actual signed signature attached and I would have thought that normal practice would have been done and that is what would have been before us rather than the typed.

Mr. Speaker, what I would be interested to know is if all the member States have actually signed because the agreement says it shall enter into force on the signatures of all member States of the Community and what we have here before us is missing the signatures on behalf of the Government of Dominica, for instance, the Government of Montserrat, Haiti, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. I would hope that the Honourable Minister of Education in his wrap-up clarifies that issues as to whether all articles, all signatories that are attached to this issue... Mr. Speaker, I continue to hear voices on the other side, led by the Honourable Attorney-General, who knows that he should not be making those kinds of asides, an Attorney-General, the first time in our history, who has no presence whatsoever either at the criminal bar or the civil bar, in any country on the face of God's earth. Sir, really and truly, he should be setting an example to the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Member of the Opposition said, we have to give credit to the role of the recently departed Norma Holder in this whole exercise of accreditation when the Barbados Labour Party was last in office, she did a tremendous job in setting up our accreditation facilities. I believe she was the Chairman of the Accreditation Council at one point in time, a lady, who although not born in Barbados made a tremendous contribution to this country and her role has to be correctly recognise. This Bill and the ensuing debate allows us to speak about the internationalization of our tertiary education, an area where we have for decade, as has been said on both sides of this Parliament, had a competitive edge among other CARICOM countries and other small developing countries recently having emerged into political Independence from colonialism and we have to be very careful that we do not lose, if we have not lost it yet, the competitive edge that both Parties traditionally spent tremendous amount of expertise, human and financial in obtaining for us. We have spoken to the fact on both sides about the American university that is here in Christ Church but I believe that is the sole medical university here. Sir, in

other Caribbean countries, there are three and four. We have spoken about St. Kitts, the Ross University in Dominica, in Grenada, the St. George's University that consists and comprises essentially about 30 per cent of the GDP of Grenada and that is correct, as the Honourable Minister of Education says. You only have to visit Grenada and you would see how entrenched that university is in the economy of that country. This begs the question why we have not been able to develop and bring to our shores more of these types of universities. The Honourable Minister spoke about three setting up interest in establishing here but we should be further in our submission in this area. It is a case where, yes, people from Spanish-speaking countries, and we are of course part of the Caribbean/Latin America region, can come here and gain knowledge in English and tutorship in English. We have the infrastructure, the telecommunications, traditionally. We are a tourist country and certainly, we can offer services in this area. Sir, in our submission, a greater effort should be made by the Honourable Minister of Education to attract more of these international schools to our shores.

Mr. Speaker, when we have people from Spanish-speaking countries here as well, we ourselves as Barbadians citizens living here would improve as well in terms of our ability to converse in Spanish, to be bi-lingual and this is an essential element of human development of our young people that we should be focusing on, the ability to be able to speak more than one language will make us better citizens, improve the quality of our lives, give us wider scope in terms of the employment market, the job market, our ability to seek jobs, not only in Barbados but outside of Barbados too and in the wider Latin American region. Sir, this is something that in our submission, the Ministry of Education has dropped the ball in over the last eight years. Sir, it is an area that needs to be focused on. Sir, I have visited the American university for medicine in Christ Church. I had a tour there about a year and a half ago and I was impressed with what they are doing.

Sequence 17

Tuesday, May 03, 2016

House C 29 Seq 18 2.46 p.m.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: ... the American University for Medicine in Christ Church. I had a tour there about a year and a half or so ago and was impressed with what they are doing. Yes, they do have Barbadians working there as well, lecturers there. They offer Barbadians students spaces there and again this is something that we need to encourage because the more of these kinds of international universities that we have in Barbados the greater opportunity we would have for our young citizens to be educated at tertiary level since a lot of them are now being denied the opportunity by this Democratic Labour Party

Government of going to the University of the West Indies with the harsh imposition of tuition fees within the last two years. I know that the American University for Medicine offers some scholarships to Barbados and all of these connected to our growth and development both short term and long term. I know that the Seventh Day Adventist Church has set up an international school at tertiary level within the last two years that needs to be encouraged as well.

I am aware, Mr. Speaker, for instance that there is a foreign Government that has diplomatic relations in Barbados that feels that its approach to the Ministry of Education through the Honourable Member and, by extension, to the Government of Barbados to set up a partnership between a major university in that country and educational facilities here in Barbados are being frustrated by bureaucracy. The Honourable Minister, as the person with the political mandate and as the person in Government who has Cabinet responsibility to advance the education of our people especially our young people, needs really to look into this aspect. You cannot allow bureaucracy to hinder the development of our young people and of our continued advancement in education.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition raised the issue of the ability of Barbadians who studied in Cuba and in other countries even as far as Russia to be able on passing, qualifying and obtaining their degrees from those countries to be able to come and practice their chosen fields in Barbados this is a vexing question that has been going on too long. The Honourable Minister of Health in his contribution spoke about the Barbados Government does not do the accreditation and we have to be sure of the standards of certain quality, but this has been a vexing question too long and the issue about a Parliament that is the legislative body of a country the highest forum of any country is that political will must be found and political will can be found if it is seen as something that could be beneficial to its people. If the Government of Barbados had the political will this issue of Cuban trained medical students, Cuban trained doctors who are Barbadians being able to come here and practice their field would not be outstanding. It has been going on too long and it cannot be a matter under urgent consideration when this Democratic Labour Party Government was in office now for over eight years and should have addressed the issue. This should not be something that is still outstanding. From all reports these Barbadians who are trained in Cuba are well-trained. Since they cannot practice their fields here, they go to other countries and practice and there is no problem with them. The same issue occurs with dentist, for example, and, Sir, we need to be frank sometimes in here. There is a feeling that there is a body of professionals in Barbados who maybe well established in these science fields whether it is medicine, dentistry or whatever, who want to keep a closed shop in their profession and prevent others from coming in

because they may fear competition, job security, whatever and this cannot be allowed to continue to the detriment of the advancement of our young people and of our country and it is something that we, on This Side, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said, urge the Government to solve and come up with a resolution to this problem.

We also have the issue, Mr. Speaker, of accreditation of other students of sciences which, we have been informed on This Side, is a vexing problem in terms of engineers. Students who qualifies as engineer from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, have difficulty in getting accreditation here therefore, there are hindrances put in place in terms of the practice of their profession. This is our understanding. If the Honourable Minister of Health knows otherwise let him say that but this problem of accreditation is one that needs to be addressed because it has financial implications. We are paying for our students to go overseas to study and this is human capital that is being wasted if we cannot utilise it or if it cannot be use in any way for the development of Barbados. There is nothing wrong, Mr. Speaker, if these graduates have to go overseas to seek jobs but it should be at their choice and not because they are forced to because their own country of birth does not accept them as professionals after they have studied four or five years in countries just because these are not traditional countries that we have dealt with. That is a colonial mentality that in the year 2016 ought no longer to be addressing certainly the minds of the 30 of us in here who are duly elected for the time being to be representatives of the people and to look after their interests.

Mr. Speaker, connected with this as well is the issue of ability of people from other countries, Cubans, for example, to come here and carry out medical procedures. We all know that in times past they had Cuban doctors here, for instance, who were carrying out eye surgeries because before that many Barbadians were travelling overseas, whether to America or the same Cuba for eye surgery and other procedures to be undertaken. I do not believe that we have any Cuban doctors here now carrying out these procedures such that in fact an individual who I met last week said that he has to go to Guyana this month for an eye procedure which used to be able to be done here. All of these are issues that a caring, thoughtful Government with vision and with competence will be addressing rather than ignoring and being occupied by side issues.

This Agreement as well, Mr. Speaker, lends itself to debate on what at this particular juncture of our political history is the commitment of the Government of Barbados ...

2.46 p.m.

...and by extension the people of Barbados to CARICOM and to our Single Market and Economy. The Revised Treaty of Chaguaranmas speaks towards the freedom of movement of professionals and the wider freedom of movement of the people of Barbados, something that used to happen before we became independent and before we then sought to protect our little territory. What is the commitment of the Government of Barbados to the ability for professionals from other countries in the Caribbean to come here and work and develop Barbados in all aspects, economically, culturally and in terms of human development? What is our commitment in terms of our support for our nationals to move and work freely in other parts of the Caribbean?

The Democratic Labour Party, as been said on this side before and many times in our opinion, made a tremendous error in saying to people from other CARICOM countries to wait on us for an invitation for us to come, ever so welcome wait for a call. That myopic step set Barbados back tremendously in terms of our economic and cultural development and our human resource development on the whole. We need more people in Barbados. We need a bigger population, and that was the way to do it whereby people who are over 18 and with some expertise from CARICOM countries ultimately having come from the same part of Africa or England wherever as we came from could come here and integrate in our society and develop it. That was the way to enhance our population growth not by the method of the Honourable Minister of Education by urging women to get more babies like that because those babies would not become adults and be productive in terms of the job market until at least 18 years after. That was political foolishness which the Honourable Minister of Education enunciated in here during this session of Parliament. Where is our commitment to CARICOM in terms of education and the freedom of movement, all of which have repercussions, in fact, for this Bill which is before our Parliament today?

The issue, Mr. Speaker, of accreditation in other areas not only as we said in terms of medicine and other health professions begs a question of itself as well. We know that the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic that we have invested so much in and from which many of our people, constituents of every Member of Parliament in here, have at some stage graduated, has a problem in terms of accreditation as well. We have heard year after year within recent times about failure and inability to gain accreditation by students who are doing trades whether it is electrical trade or mechanics or whatever because there seems to be some problem with the City and Guilds which is the major accreditation body in the United Kingdom from which we traditionally look towards. What is the position in terms of our constituents, young Barbadians who are graduating from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic but who afterwards from our information are

not able to obtain the relevant certification which is recognised internationally because of some failure by the Ministry of Education of which the Honourable Member who led this debate has the responsibility? All of these factors that have been unfortunately put in the way of our young people and are frustrating our young people rather than us giving our young people hope that they can have a bright future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to raise an issue. We are here, Mr. Speaker, as part of the parliamentary democracy of Barbados. All of us on this side came in here by the same method as those on the other side. Certainly, I came in here by a tonne of votes from the people of St. James North not by a minibus load like the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central. Sir, Members on that side, especially those who are of Cabinet rank, need to treat this Parliament with the dignity that it deserves. Even if they hold the trade union movement in contempt and refuse to meet with them and their membership, they should at least treat this Parliament with dignity. We are all here together.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I do not want to break your stride, but you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Yes, Sir, I am going to wrap up before that. Sir, we are all here with the aim of improving the quality of life of the people of Barbados and we are all here to serve our people, at least that is what I would hope so that when the Honourable Minister of Education since the 18th day of March, 2015 during the Estimates debate got up in Parliament and said that he would be sending to the Parliamentary Opposition documents, papers, relating to the policy, programmes and strategies of the Ministry of Education which would help us in debate such as this and in other debates relating not only to education but human resource development, et cetera, so that we, particularly the Honourable Member speaking, would not have to search in the garbage for them. Mr. Speaker, he then repeated that statement during the Estimates debate this year as well on the 15th of March, 2016 that he would be sending policy documents, statements, strategies and programmes to the Opposition relating to education development, and he specifically named one paper which he spoke to, a 2014-2015 Strategy Education Paper which the Ministry has prepared which he said he would be sending us. Sir, for the last 14 months an Honourable Member, because we have to say that he is honourable Sir, a Member of Cabinet, a person mandated to lead the educational development of Barbadians, especially of young people, made these pledges to this Honourable Parliament and by extension to all Barbadians both at home and abroad and in fact to the whole world but fails to do so even after I have written him a letter dated March 21, this year reminding him of his pledge

2.56 p.m.

...and commitment and copying that letter to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the Right Honourable Prime Minister who is his boss, so that both you and the Right Honourable Prime Minister would ensure that he does it, yet not one word has been heard from him, neither has there been any document sent, not even a response or an acknowledgement.

Mr. Speaker, I will make the letter a document of this Honourable House, copied to you, Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ronald Jones, J.P., M.P., signed by me. Sir, I regard that as total disrespect and contempt because on two occasions at least the Honourable Member has made that promise on the Floor of this Parliament and the Honourable Member needs to honour his pledges. In the early 1960s a British Minister, John Perfumo, I think a Minister of Defence, had to resign his Cabinet position from the Government not because of the infelicities that he did but because he had lied to Parliament and ultimately it brought down a whole Government. If Honourable Members of this Parliament, particularly those in Cabinet, feel that they could disrespect this Parliament, that they can say anything on the Floor of this Parliament but that they have no obligation or commitment to carry out what they had said, then we have reached a sad day in this 50th Anniversary of political Independence. In fact, the 50th Anniversary of political Independence will be a sham if you have conduct by Honourable Members of Cabinet that is ranked at that level. That kind of behaviour is not fit for here. If that Honourable Member and other Honourable Members feel that he or they can treat the Trade Union Movement with disdain and can support him, you cannot come in here, we on this side will not allow you to treat this Parliament, which is of noble and ancient vintage, with disdain. I would hope that the Right Honourable Prime Minister would condemn his Minister for that.

Mr. Speaker, as the Trade Union Movement has said, if the Honourable Member is tired, then let the Honourable Member write a letter to the Right Honourable Prime Minister saying that he has had this post for 8½ years, that he is the longest-serving Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation in this country, that the Media has said that he is the worst Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation in the history of this country and that he tenders my resignation from the position of Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation. Mr. Speaker, in fact, if the Honourable Member does not do that, then the Right Honourable Prime Minister should see it fit to remove him for the sake of the people of Barbados and to save the people of Barbados from this kind of behaviour. I am obliged to you, Sir.

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

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I too rise to speak on this Bill and to say from the outset that it has my total support. Mr. Speaker, before I get to the meat of the matter, I want to confirm that the Honourable Member for St. James North was correct when the Honourable Member said that we should open the floodgates to persons over 18 who should be allowed to enhance the population of Barbados before the women of Barbados get children in the name of the freedom of movement. It is rather regrettable, Sir, that at this day of our development the Honourable Member for St. James North could come to this Honourable House and could give the impression that outside people are more suitable to populate Barbados than our local women. Mr. Speaker, it is alright to speak about freedom of movement but what we really need is not freedom of movement but freedom of capital.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. James North were ordered to be expunged from the Record by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, no point of order is found. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am happy that the Honourable Member has confirmed that Bajan women can only produce unskilled children and that they are not capable of maturing to reach the age of 18 years.

Mr. E. D. HINKSON: On a point of order. The Honourable Member is again continuing in a similar train, misleading this Parliament. Mr. Speaker, I never said anything about Barbadian women only being able to raise unskilled children.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, basically you are repeating the same point which you made earlier. The Honourable Member is interpreting what you have said and that is his right so to do. I cannot rule him to be out of order for that. Please continue, Honourable Member.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I would like to raise the level of the debate now, because after following the Honourable Member sometimes it is difficult to raise it but I will try and do it this evening. Mr. Speaker, what we need within CARICOM is not the freedom of movement of people, because surely we do not have deficits in Barbados, we have pluses. What I want to say on behalf of Barbadian women is that because of our standard of education over the last 50 years of free secondary education, we have been able to educate the public of Barbados, we are so diverse in our education that we are capable of fulfilling all the jobs that have been placed in Barbados. Sir, if the Honourable Member for St. James North thinks that we have a deficit

when it comes to the capacity for skilled labour, I want to beg to differ on that particular point.

What I would say is what we need in CARICOM is not a movement of people but the movement of capital where there are productive projects so that we could help those countries and can have a buy-in into them. Sir, it is one thing to say that in 2008 the Democratic Labour Party did an injustice, something that comes from the mouth of the Honourable Member for St. James North, but not even the Guyanese now believe him because they have now recognised that instead of us depriving Guyana, we were able to put back talented people there to help to build out Guyana.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member for St. James North arguing about how fast the economy of Guyana is growing, which is what we sought to do. We ensured that instead of trying to deprive Guyana of its talented workers, according to him, we were able to put them back there so they having all the resources within CARICOM were then able to build out their economy, as exactly what is happening now.

3.20 p.m.

That is what we sought to do. We ensured that instead of trying to deprive Guyana of its talented workers, according to him, we were able to put them back there so that they, having all the resources within CARICOM, could build out their economy, which is exactly what is happening. When one looks at the record of Guyana, one would have recognised that the decision made by Barbados in 2008 was not a backward decision but it was a forward-thinking one, because we were not only thinking about ourselves but we were looking at harmonising CARICOM and putting it on a different level.

One would not expect the Honourable Member for St. James North to understand that. That is why he comes in here and belly-aches. I have never met a Member of Parliament who has been so negative. Not even Lionel Craig had been so negative in this House. The Honourable Member cannot see anything positive even if you bring the Bible in front of him. I cannot understand why he cannot lift himself and recognise that in order to win a debate, it is the strength of the debate that matters and not the weakness of the debate. Every Tuesday he comes to this House and he must put himself down in the gutter, and he would not lift himself up and bring the debate to a level where people can debate with him at a higher level. The more you try to educate the Honourable Member for St. James... He must recognise that he is from the north of the country, where the foundation is very strong. He comes in here every Tuesday lamenting and with all negatives. Mr. Speaker, what I am saying today, Sir, is that this is a positive Bill, and if the Honourable Member does not know how to deal

with anything positive, the best thing for him to do is to sit down on Tuesdays, listen, learn and come back and deal with something that can help the debate.

I also want to make the point and agree with those who have acknowledged that the Democratic Labour Party did something good. They did not allow the naysayers to stop them from allowing these schools to come to Barbados. I also want to say that I am happy with a decision of which I was a part, along with the Minister of Education, when the American University of Barbados came. They had difficulties finding somewhere, and people argued that they should not be in Wildey when the Ministry for which I was responsible was able to make the decision and acknowledge that it was providing a service, and that if services were where we were going, then we had to accommodate it. That is why when it was open, the Honourable Member for Christ Church Central and myself were able to go up there for the opening, and we were lauded for the contribution that we had made in allowing this school to set up in Barbados.

Sir, what we see now is that this school has not only expanded, but it has expanded in such a way that it is now in Christ Church. I am aware that this particular school is also looking to buy land so that it can expand its services because it has great potential. I am also saying, in regard to this particular school, that we were unlike the Honourable Member for St. James North who felt that the best thing to do was to close down the St. Joseph Hospital, which could have been a teaching hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: It pains me sometimes. On a Point of Order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just a minute. He said that you felt that the best thing to do was to close it down.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know how I can rule on a point as to whether you felt it or did not feel it, so I do not understand what your point is.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, no Point of Order can be followed.

Asides.

Hon. D.St.E. KELLMAN: I am glad that he has dissociated himself from the decision of the Barbados Labour Party and that he is saying he did not disagree with

the St. Joseph Hospital. I am very glad. If that is what he wants to say, I support him on that. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that they were able to close it down, but as the Government's landlord I am now looking to see how I can correct that. Not only can it be a good private hospital again, but it can also be a good teaching private hospital. I am hoping that the Honourable Member for St. James North, seeing that it is pretty close to his constituency, will help me in finding a good person or a good entity to open that institution that his party would have closed in the north of Barbados. It has deprived many persons not only of the educational and economic opportunities, but also of the possibilities of getting work in the north of the island. An institution like a hospital in a green area can create real economic growth in a country, and that is why I have always argued that rural development in Barbados offers the greatest opportunity for development in this country. The Honourable Member for St. James North would do good to listen, and to chastise his comrades for closing a hospital next to his constituency, because that would have deprived him and his constituents of a wonderful opportunity to find work and create economic activity in that area.

When one looks at the development of the north, and the potential development of the north, no-one can tell me that a hospital in that particular area would not have created real economic activity, especially when one looks at what is happening not only on the highway in Speightstown now under the Democratic Labour Party but also what is happening by the junction next to All Saints' Church. When one sees the amount of economic activity occurring in that particular area, and the demand by the small businesspersons to have accessibility to land in that area, one can well understand what I have been speaking about over the years in this House. I am saying that I am going to be begging the Honourable Member for St. James North, instead of criticising Government, to come in here and support the innovative and productive ideas and stop trying to criticise everything. All of a sudden, he stopped being a front seat man to be a back seat boy, and believes that now he has moved away from the gospel according to St. Lucy and gone to the back seat like a back seat boy that he cannot lift his debates in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I support this Bill. I think it is in the interest not only of education but also of development in this country. I thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I am obliged. Yes, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West.

Dr. M.M. AGARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to join this debate to lend my unreserved support to this very important Bill, the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions Incorporation Bill. Sir, before I begin, I ask

your apology if in any way I am not being heard well today. I do apologise. I am contending with some respiratory distress so I apologise for any breathlessness that may manifest itself. Certainly, Sir, this Bill was far too important a Bill for the development of this country for me not to lend my support to it. I want to do so first by going back to the history of the development of this particular Authority. I know that the Minister of Education has already stated that it was established in 2003 under the aegis of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to ensure that the education programmes of medicine and other health professions offered by institutions in participating countries of CARICOM were recognised nationally and regionally to be of international standard. Now, Sir, this is extremely important, and to truly appreciate the importance of this development.

3.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go further back into history and I want to go back to the medical education of CARICOM as it started in 1948 because the foundation of the University College of the West Indies at the Mona Campus in Jamaica started as a constituent part of the university of London. Sir, in 1966, the University College of the University of the West Indies sought its Independence from the University of London and became the University of the West Indies otherwise known as UWI. Sir, from then until 2001, when the practice of accrediting institutions was discontinued in accordance with the EU regulations, regarding academic and professional training in overseas institutions, the medical education programme of UWI was accredited by the General Medical Council of the U.K.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that because this accreditation gave national, regional and international recognition to UWI graduates, who were able to register, not just in the U.K. but in any of the Commonwealth countries.

Mr. Speaker, what we need to focus on minds on was what actually happened post 2001 and how it affected medical education in Barbados. Sir, subsequent to the formation of Faculty of Medical Sciences at Mona, there have been a number of establishment of medical university not just at the university so to speak but through the Caribbean and the Minister of Education made reference to a number of them. Sir, what happened was that in response to the establishment of these medical facilities there was an effort to ensure quality education and training in the context of the CSME, so a regional accreditation system as established as a means of providing assurance of quality that generates confidence in stakeholders and the society alike hence CAMHP was launched in 2004 to accredit the education programmes of medicine, dentistry, vet medicine, nursing and other health professionals in

CARICOM member States to ensure that health profession meet appropriate and international standards for educational quality and that the graduates have a sufficiently complete and valid clinical as well as pre-clinical educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, what does all of that means? Sir, accreditation serves the purpose of improving the quality of education and of health care. Sir, accreditation serves the interest of the public. Sir, accreditation ensure general competencies in preparation for graduate medical education. Sir, accreditation established a foundation of life-long learning and indirectly, accreditation limits the number and size of medical schools.

Mr. Speaker, I gave you that history because I felt it was important to make a couple of statement. Sir, let me say from the outset that I am a graduate of the University of the West Indies. I studied at the St. Augustine Campus, I was a study of the Faculty of Medical Science, the School of Dentistry and I was part of the pioneering groups of students who inadvertently became caught up in the politics relating to this whole issue of accreditation and why, Sir?

I made a point of giving you the history of how accreditation occurred through the U.K., and after the establishment of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at St. Augustine, the School of Medicine there was able to piggy-back on the accreditation gained by Mona, and there was no contention with respect to the accreditation of the School of Medicine and that continued. However, Sir, for the School of Dentistry, for example, and let me speak to what I know. Sir, for the School of Dentistry, it was unable to piggy-back on any establishment. It was a pioneering institution at the University of the West Indies for dentistry and, therefore, dental students became caught up and many suffered prejudice and discrimination by being labelled a graduate of a school that was not accredited. Sir, that was a damming profile for students, who had gone through the same educational preparation as any medical student because we were, and I will get personal because we were responsible for doing the same pre-med programme as any medical student and the continuing medical prep but because of the label of being non-accredited, and the Minister of Education did explain why for a period of time there was no accreditation for the School of Dentistry. Sir, the Minister said earlier today that accreditation was sought after the completion of the first cohort and it only after the completion of that cohort that you can apply for accreditation and accreditation is not even immediate or is it automatic, there must be an assessment of it and, therefore, Sir, once the U.K. Accreditation Board cease to provide accreditation to overseas universities, the School of Dentistry found itself in limbo. It could not become accredited but it was still turning out graduate, who have to work. Mr. Speaker, I daresay and I stand here to say, and I want to put my voice on record as saying that the education

offered by that school was second to none. It was, in spite of its lack of accreditation as diligent, as complete and as dedicated to the provision of and advancement of health care as any other accredited university in any part of the region or even internationally. In fact, I would go as far as to say that one of the reason the school suffered and may have been subject to a less than satisfactory assessment was because the school was ahead of its time. Sir, it promoted the concept of the constructivist theory of learning, an active, progressive and constructive way of teaching that brought people into a case study dissertation of the theory in comparison to what I call the passive regurgitative, didactic form of teaching that most conservatives know about. Mr. Speaker, I make no apology in rejecting that form of teaching.

3.25 p.m.

Dr. M. M. AGARD: I wish that we would be bold enough to reject the didactic form of teaching almost outright and to embrace the constructivist theory because most of the problem that we face with our children today being bore in school is because of that, too much regurgitation and not enough comprehensive. With the constructivist theory that was the focus but yet the school had to be assessed by people who were themselves proponents of the didactic system and could not fully appreciate what the school was trying to do, so I believe that it would be remiss of me if I did not make the point that for whatever reason the school was subject to negative assessment in the past. I make the point that it was without foundation and that indeed the graduates were certainly fitting as any to practice in this country and I am glad that the point has come where a graduate of the school of Dentistry can now practice in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I go further to make a clarification because I know that there are certain issues that have come to this House before of students having been denied the right to practice in this country. There are some people mischievous enough to want to suggest that it is by some deliberate agreement that people are trying to stop the students from practising in Barbados and I want to say that really and truly that is far from the truth, it really is. In any part of the world having graduated from a medical facility you are expected to do a course of post academic practice or study. It is known as an internship in most places and then you do what is known as a board exam, so if you studied in the United States and you studied in New York you do the New York board exam. If you studied in California you do the California board exam, if you studied in Florida you do the Florida board exam, but, Sir, each jurisdiction, through its council, has the right to determine the fitness of that applicant to practice. In the same way that if you studied in New York and did the New York board exam that you really could not fly to Florida or California and take up practice there more or less without

having to do their board exam, when you come to Barbados, you will be expected either to do the registering exam here - well technically you need to do the registering exam here in Barbados or demonstrate your competency by whatever Board may have accredited you in the past so I do not believe that there is any deliberate conspiracy to stop students from practicing here and I think it is a myth that needs to be debunked. If you are registerable in the country in which you practise and you have satisfied the exams as required, you can practice here but this particular Bill is important for a number of reasons. I look forward to seeing medical institutions in the Caribbean and certainly here in Barbados being afforded international standard because it would allow us to afford our graduates an opportunity to practice anywhere in the world. Sir, I am a supporter of educating all and sundry and then exporting them to all and sundry. I believe that Barbados could have a very fruitful trade in educating students because we have an enviable educational programme whether it is in medicine, nursing, or any other health capacity and then exporting those students to international regions so that, (1) they can gain further experience and exposure in healthcare, (2) they can build their own prosperity, (3) they can relieve the constriction and the glut if we are unable to fill these posts ourselves so I support it because it would give us promise, it would give us wings, and an opportunity to work any part of the world.

Equally significant, Sir, an accreditation that allows Barbados and the region to gain international standards mean that we can market our education programme and we can attract students from all the world to come to Barbados and to come to the region and be educated here so as a visionary what I see is the merging of education with healthcare with tourism and with business. We can bring those international students here to enjoy the sea and the sun and all of the other favourable conditions offered by islands in the region. We can offer them our excellent education and the provision of the qualification in medicine that they seek.

Sir, this is my vision for Barbados, that even as we pursue this accreditation that we build out a university town. I would admit that when I bought my property I Warrens I did so because I could see the expansion of the University of the West Indies into a very functional town and I feel that if we build out the university town of that region it will impact favourably not only on the very strident sectors and education and health but tourism as well. I know that there are a number of civil servants living in the region who are now empty nesters they have homes that are empty and I believe that with the attraction of students to the Caribbean to study medicine in all its varied forms that we can actually strengthen the economy in innovative and myriad ways so this is my support for this Bill that we build out the entire potential as it represents itself to be through the accreditation to national standards.

Sir, there is one thing, however, that concerns me and that is our treatment of students who studied in Cuba. When I looked at Cuba's contribution to local and global public health I see that it has been phenomenal. Cuba has a high expectancy rate of 78 years. The public health of Cuba is socialised and universal. Cuba's physicians to patient ratio is one of the highest in the world and Cuba routinely draws people from Latin America, Africa, Europe and even here in the Caribbean to visit Cuba for routine procedures. In fact, they have distinguished themselves in ophthalmology and we know that we have a number of Barbadian who go to Cuba for eye care, but not just eye care, they have also distinguished themselves in heart surgery, heart transplant surgery and a number of other interventions such as cosmetic procedures.

3.35 p.m.

The medical profession in Cuba has also created a number of pharmaceutical advancement as a result of the Cuban Government significant investment in research and development. Finally, Cuba has been a major support of medical diplomacy. I am sure that we remember that when the Ebola Virus was a threat that Cuba dispatched 256 doctors and nurses to Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia to fight that disease when we were all running scared. I simply say this to say that I consider it to be unconscionable for a country like Cuba to have demonstrated such ability in the field of medicine and yet when our students study in Cuba that there is some question to their ability to return and practice in Barbados. I cannot comprehend how the question of their ability could even arise when Cuba has distinguished itself in healthcare so admirably.

I want to give a message to the Government of Barbados. It is you who have established the governing bodies of this country. It is you who have given them the articles to manage their affairs as you have dictated. I believe that if there is a conflict in terms of how medical students returning from Cuba are to be treated, it behoves this Government to make the necessary and timely interventions to ensure that the disgrace of a Barbadian student having studied in Cuba does not have to seek refuge in Jamaica or St. Lucia or Trinidad in order to practice the trade that they have studied so diligently to practice.

I believe that this particular situation has been longstanding. It really has gone on for far too long. When we come to these Chambers we cannot speak as though we are separate and distinct from the law-making process. We are the law-making process and so where there is a deficiency to bring into effect that which is social and just in the best interest of Barbadians, I believe that we need to move with haste to do so, so I would hope that we would no longer speak of what we have to do to harmonise the

relations that would allow these Cuban students to practice but that we would move with haste to ensure that it is done.

I want to close, Sir, by just making a point with respect to the St. Joseph Hospital. Its closure I consider to be a travesty. I do not even know who to blame for that but let me just say that I feel that we have dropped the ball in allowing the St. Joseph Hospital not only to be closed but to run into ruin. If you have had the opportunity to drive to Mile & A Quarter in St. Peter and to traverse that property it was one of the most aesthetic and a serene properties in this country. We could have used the St. Joseph Hospital to advance our interest in medical tourism and we failed to do it. We speak very glibly about medical tourism and how we want to introduce it to this country and how it could do so much for Barbados and we had it in our hands, on our fingertips and we dropped the ball.

There was as recent as five years ago an interest in the re-emergence or the re-establishment of medical tourism in this country, and failing to meet any of the requirements laid out by the investors they decided that the bureaucracy was just too much to bear and their took their interest elsewhere.

I just want to say, Sir, that it is not enough for us to come here and to struggle over why we have an economy that is comatose. It is not enough for any of us to condemn these things. We need as a people to recognise that the potential exists, the promise exists, that it is our duty to realise these promises. It is my hope and it is my belief that this particular Bill will facilitate and certainly advance our plans to do just that, and I am hoping that we do it with haste.

Sir, this Bill has my unreserved support. I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to associate myself with this Bill and to also say that it certainly gets my support in relation to what we are seeking to do as it relate to the accreditation of medical and other health related matters.

I do note, Mr. Speaker, that this particular Bill, had its origins many years ago but its importance in relation to the move to ensure that our medical related programme, certainly graduates in the medical profession, healthcare institutions, are positioned to be able to certainly not only provide services of a particular standard in Barbados but certainly across the globe. I certainly believe that the move by CARICOM to have these institutions regularised and established by statute are part of a bigger picture of course which speaks to the readiness of Barbados to be able to take its educational product even beyond the confines of

Barbados. To a great extent I want to share some of the sentiments of the last speaker who spoke in relation to the wider visioning as it relate to where Barbados needs to position itself in critical areas. Oftentimes we sometimes construed how we are going to develop our country only in terms of strict dollars and cents and economic jargon without recognising that in order to position Barbados, particularly its relation to enhancing our human resources capacity and how we are going to translate the investment that we have made over the years into purposeful engagement particularly for our young people, that matters such as this in relation to the broad issue of accreditation is really very important.

3.45 p.m.

I think that in establishing a regional mechanism for accreditation of training programmes in very critical areas, particularly in relation to medicine and other health professions, really, is a step in the right direction.

I know that at the level of CARICOM there has been ongoing preparations and certainly they have been putting mechanisms in place to ensure that not only at this level but at the level of Caribbean Examination Council and also most importantly at the level of technical and vocational studies, that not only are we going to ensure that our people and in particular our young people are sufficiently trained and equipped with various skill sets but certainly it has been one of the broad agreements within CARICOM that we have to match our training with accreditation. That thinking, Mr. Speaker, certainly gets my support because what it does is that it solidifies the recognition that we need to be able to produce persons of skill but to do so in a way that their skills are exportable.

I believe one of the things that has certainly come to mind is that we talk quite a bit in this Honourable Chamber about how we are going to position our young people and so I would want to posit the position that this particular Bill which affords a particular approach to accreditation is really very much important in relation to how we approach the whole question of developing our human resource potential in the area of medical and other related facilities. Mr. Speaker, not only are we going to be able to do so within the context of what is happening in Barbados but if we are going to be very strategic, and I think this is where we are heading in relation to where this Government sees it, we have adopted a very strategic positioning in relation to our educational system in relation to the very significant investment that we make in terms of education. That position, of course, holds true in relation to the medical services that we provide. Certainly, in relation to how we take maximum advantage of the investment in these critical fields has got to be matched by a global perspective. Certainly, when we produce graduates in these important areas of medicine, whether in relation to medical practice,

nursing care, dental care, et cetera, we are in effect positioning our young people to take their places not only in Barbados but greater afield.

Mr. Speaker, I think the time has come when in relation to even addressing issues of youth unemployment that we have to be able to do more than just use words, and I did hear a passing reference to it from the Leader of the Opposition in relation to how we are going to position our young people to take up positions, for example, in nursing. I believe that was one of the submissions that I heard, that there is a shortage of nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and that the Opposition welcomes this particular Bill because this Bill ensures that there is an accreditation system that can certainly verify the true quality of nursing training and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is all a continuum and I recall, certainly because of apparent economic challenges the last Government would have put some restrictions on the number of nurses who were being trained in Barbados, which was a blatant mistake because what that did do was that it created the making of what became the nursing shortage in Barbados. Sir, we have to be careful in tinkering with the various areas of skills training, whether in relation to medical related fields or in relation to technical and vocational training. I believe what we have to do is to embrace a wider philosophy which says that within the context of our experience in Barbados, a country that has produced persons of the highest repute, persons who have done exceedingly well... We boast and I believe rightfully so that our educational product is among the best in the world, but to get to the next level where we are going to be producing graduates not only for our own market because I think the time has come when we have got to recognise that particularly in areas of very specific and technical training, we have got to be able also to produce graduates and persons who are highly skilled for the global market as well. Sir, we have seen that repeatedly where many of our graduates are moving across the globe and are asserting themselves as being highly professional and highly skilled.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the enactment of this particular legislation, the establishment of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority we know has been in place I believe since 2003. Barbados is now putting in place the legislation that gives legal effect to the Agreement which would have established the Authority back in 2003. I believe that most of the countries of CARICOM have moved towards recognising the Authority and most of them have put in place the legislation. Barbados is following in that lead in terms of a regional focus. The reason for that is simply, as the Minister would have explained, it is increasingly important for Barbados to be able not only to benchmark itself based on highly acclaimed local standards but that across the region it has now become mandatory

and necessary to adopt international standards when it comes to the graduates and the systems upon which we rely to train our skilled professionals in the various areas. Mr. Speaker, accreditation has now become one of the key benchmarks for achieving this.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make this contribution within the context of the wider economic impact that I think is critical because one of the things I think we have allowed to go without notice, as we seek to deal with some very pressing economic challenges in Barbados, is that bit by bit this Government has had to reconstruct the pillars upon which our economy has rested. Mr. Speaker, oftentimes, of course, we speak of challenges within a vacuum without recognising that in order to purposefully approach the whole redevelopment of our economic reality or our social fabric, that it requires a very focussed approach in relation to each component of the chain upon which our wider economy rests.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this particular Bill within the context of accreditation, in this case, of course, looking at the medical and health related fields, has to be construed within that regard, in that we are seeking to ensure that key components of our training systems in relation to medical and health related fields are sufficiently attuned to be able to withstand international scrutiny. That is, Mr. Speaker, because I believe we certainly have scarce dollars within our tertiary systems to be used and certainly wider than that, each dollar that we spend in training persons, whether in the medical field or otherwise, that dollar has to be very carefully positioned and guarded.

4.00 p.m.

Therefore, what we are seeking to do is to ensure that once we are training persons, we are doing so within the context of tried and tested accreditation systems. I believe this will assist in providing more certainty in terms of economic planning, Mr. Speaker. I think what it will do as well is help to provide answers and practical solutions to important areas that our young people are going after in relation to seeking employment. The point must be made, too, that attacking the issue of unemployment, particularly among our young people, cannot be seen within a vacuum. Mr. Speaker, it has to be seen from how we are going to create systems that are meaningful for them, how we are going to be able to ensure that once they are pursuing areas of training that the systems are such that they can transport themselves, and move not only across the region but across the world in pursuit of jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the global economy mandates that each country has got to be bolder, and Barbados is no different in that regard. Certainly when we are training persons, we are showing that we are providing the necessary overall environment upon which they can move their services

across the globe. We have seen that the practice, particularly in the medical field, has shown the need for many of our very highly skilled young doctors to operate not only within the context of Barbados but in other jurisdictions as well. The technology itself, which they are going to have to grapple with, requires that they are not only skilled in these very high-tech areas, but certainly nowadays when we are talking about carrying out various procedures of a medical nature, the technology allows for many of the procedures to be done seamlessly across wireless interfaces and networks. This means that traditional means of practising medicine or dentistry or other technical skills are really now being replaced by very high-tech, innovative practices that are now cross-border in their effect. Therefore, it is going to be very important for the jurisdictions such as Barbados, and certainly those across the Caribbean, to be able to fit within that international mesh.

Mr. Speaker, when I connect this with the whole question of how we are going to provide practical solutions to providing avenues for employment, I think that the role of Government must be seen within the context of providing the overall environment for the private and public sectors to work more easily within that dynamic. I think that this particular Bill paves that way to allow for our medical and health-related professionals to be able to operate within an accredited environment. I think that is going to provide the bedrock and foundation upon which we can achieve what we have talked about for many years.

We have talked about Barbados being seen as a country where our educational product has now grown to maturity. We have asked ourselves, across many governments, how are we going to be able to now translate this matured educational system into economic dividends in a way that has never been done in the past. How are we going to move beyond the narrow confines of allowing our young people to dream of operating not only within the Caribbean but being seen as international workers? That is the environment in which we are operating, in that for persons who are going to be trained, whether it is at the University of the West Indies here at Cave Hill or across at Mona in Jamaica, or in Trinidad and Tobago where our facilities are, the investment in their education and their training has got to be seen in a much wider context. I think that is what purposeful re-engineering is all about. I believe that is what Government in the 21st Century is all about; becoming a facilitator. Mr. Speaker, I think there will be need for more of this kind of action which is regional in nature and supported by a broader CARICOM framework that speaks to how the region as a whole, through a system in which regional governments are going to agree on the frameworks, can allow for the region to move into the international arena in a much more united and stronger position.

Mr. Speaker, what certainly pleased me during a recent COHSOD (Council for Human and Social Development) meeting in Guyana, in which we discussed the creative and cultural industries sectors, is that at the level of CARICOM we have already started the work of ensuring that we could have accreditation that will also support the emerging cultural industries and creative sectors. We know that as our cultural workers and our creative talent move across the Caribbean and the rest of the world, we will have to agree on certain standards in terms of the kind of training that we have. Within the context of that, Mr. Speaker, and within the context of the need to be able to have a broad standard which is agreed and which is pinned to other international institutions, I do note certainly that accreditation is really a very specific task. Peer reviews are the order of the day, and we are not only talking about linking systems across the Caribbean; we are talking about linking our systems to international institutions. Of course, other international institutions of learning of different levels are then to be able to seek accreditation through agencies that are designed and set up for that. I think, among the objectives, of course, of this particular Authority is to secure international recognition of programmes of study in medicine and other health-related fields.

That international recognition certainly bodes well for our young professionals who will need that accreditation in order to gain entry to other levels of training. Certainly, persons who are pursuing those areas, particularly at the undergraduate level within the Caribbean, will have an easier task seeking to move into areas of specialty when they move to other institutions across the globe. I think that is probably one of the most critical aspects of what the benefits of accreditation are.

A critical aspect of the establishment of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority is the funding of this facility. I have not heard of any challenges that the Authority faces. However, I do hope that regional governments take their responsibilities seriously in terms of the financing of the Authority, because that is one of the key areas upon which it will be financed, in addition to grants which it can obtain from various sources. A key component, however, is a commitment on the part of regional governments to finance the Authority and ensure that it can continue. Mr. Speaker, with those very brief remarks, I would like again to restate my support for this Bill.

4.04 p.m.

I think it will occupy a very critical roles as we continue to see education as a product that we can export across the globe. I think it certainly offers hope for our young people, who are now positioning themselves to not

only obtain international occupation but certainly obtain the highest training levels in the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. The Honourable Attorney-General.

Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Just a short intervention in support of this Barbados. Let me begin to comment on the importance of continuity in Government and in particular, as have said in the past, having some system that allows important area whenever there is a change in Government or there is a change in Minister that these are addressed. Sir, this is an example. I heard this morning in a presentation by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East about how long this matter was under consideration, that it goes back over a decade et cetera. Sir, the reality is that we executed the agreement in 2005 by the then Prime Minister but between 2005 and 2009, little or nothing was done because it was just not on the radar of the Ministry of Education. The catalyst seems to have been when we establish our own medical faculty here in Barbados and the question of its accreditation then arose and yes, immediately, we said that we were a signatory to the agreement but our policy has always been when we sign agreements such as those that, indeed, we try to incorporated them into law as soon thereafter as is possible and, unfortunately that is what we are doing today. Sir, I say unfortunate only against the background that it has taken a significant period of time for us to address it but for someone on the Opposition's bench to suggest that this was negligence on the part of the Government and that the Government should have done better, they are playing around loosely with the facts.

Mr. Speaker, let me give an illustration. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East again using that famous calypso by my friend Gabby about cadavers and how sometimes in politics that, in fact, good initiatives are sometimes lost. Sir, what the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East did not say and could very easily have said is that during the 14 years of the Barbados Labour Party administration how many applications were received and how many were processed. The answer is that several applications were received -- the Minister is properly better able to give us the number - but none were processed. Indeed, Sir, in 2008/2009, when the American/Barbados university was at its genesis, I remember then being approached by one of the principals at that time who came here because Barbados has, in his words, everything that would enable the successful establishment of an offshore medical university and they were very keen on utilising what we had in Barbados. The first stop was at the Accreditation Council here, who could not offer any guidance in terms of what is required. We then went to the Ministry of Health who said it was really

the Ministry of Education. We then went to the Ministry of Education, who said that we actually needed to go to the Ministry of Health and eventually, the poor chap was sent off to CAMC in Jamaica. They told him that he needed to go to Jamaica and let them accredit you at which time, as the Honourable Member Christ Church West correctly said, how can you accredit something that is not establish or does not have processes et cetera, so you need to go back to Barbados and persuade the relevant Ministry that they need to give you a charter and that until you are establish, then we really cannot accredit you because we have nothing on which to base your accreditation. Sir, these are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, my point is to suggest that we miss opportunities in Barbados, maybe we did but certainly not under this administration because, as you have heard, we have one successful school for sure and another three on the horizon because of the hard work of various Ministers on this side, in trying to ensure that we can go through the significant stumbling blocks that were posed by the first university. Sir, the Minister knows what I am saying is correct, that there are significant stumbling block. Sir, we intervene directly in trying to hold the principal's hand in terms of the processes. Sir, what I have described just now is in fact true based on my interaction with this university from its infancy.

Mr. Speaker, my other concern is as follows: I have heard the Minister correctly said that it is estimated that they require between 500 000 and 600 000 medical practitioners in the United States of America in the foreseeable future and we are probably positioned to ensure that many of our young people from Barbados and from the region that they can export their skills into the United States of America. Sir, of course, like most things that we are faced with, we very well know that it all sounds good on paper but we need to ensure that that the accreditation process that we have here in the region that it is compatible with the accreditation process in the United States of America and not only in the United States of America itself but certainly then we would probably have some State to State issue in terms of compatibility. Sir, that is what we need to ensure because I am very confidence that the more successful Caribbean medical schools become, the more under attack they will be based on how the United States of America behaves towards us in terms of the services that we export. Sir, this should be seen as yet another service that we can export, just like financial services. Sir, that is why I have flag that CAAM-HP has to work assiduously with whichever agency in the United States of America whether it be the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education Accreditation or whichever body and that, in fact, we need to ensure that similarity of accreditation or that sign off on our accreditation processes in the Caribbean is done with haste. Sir, what we cannot have is a plethora of universities across the region of varying standards because we very well know that if one weakness

is identified in any part of the region, then we are all going to be labelled alike. I say to my colleague Minister that this Bill has my unreserved support as it should all right-thinking members of this Parliament today but what we need to do as a country and what you need to do as a Ministry is to see how we can take the process forward towards a universal accreditation.

Mr. Speaker, if I look at the statistics given to me by the Honourable Member for Christ Church South a bit earlier this morning, yes, we have lots of universities across the region and yes, we have several of them who have approach CAAM-HP about accreditation but I noted that it does not give us a pretty picture that the majority of the schools have, in fact, been properly accredited by CAAM-HP therefore, that is why I raise that point in terms of the importance of ensuring that is done.

We should see this vehicle as another means of earning foreign exchange in Barbados. When I heard the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central earlier this morning I was reminded that in fact that Barbados being utilised for educational services is not new. I met a couple of years ago, by way of an example, a senior Government Minister from Costa Rico, I think it was, who said to me that they went to school in Barbados and could list a number of individuals whom he went to school with in Barbados. For generations persons from Venezuela and other parts came here to Barbados to go to school. There was a time when boarding schools were at The Lodge School and at Mapp's College, et cetera. When I went to the British Virgin Islands the majority of the guys that I met there had been to school here either at the Barbados Community College or at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, so my point here is that we have always had that ability to offer educational services. What we are trying to do now is to move it to a different level where. In fact, that in maths that we could have associations with the universities whether it be in Colombia, Costa Rico, Peru, Venezuela or wherever, so that not only will their students move to Barbados for courses but that they would receive appropriate credits because there is a similarity in terms of the twining of our accreditation and stuff. That is what is important and that vision is a vision that we have on This Side what my colleague Minister presently calls the internationalisation of education in Barbados and it is one and this is but one step along that way. Yes, we are moving in the direction of medical schools because they have come to us. We really have not gone into the marketplace advertising Barbados as a hub or as a country open for this type of schooling, we have not done it as yet and yet, based on the information I have received, we have been receiving inquiries consistently and the success of the American University of Barbados I think even with the trials that I described initially augurs well for the future. We can see the importance of these types of schools and with them will come additional teaching resources, utilisation of housing,

transportation, et cetera, so wherever they are located we believe that they would bring significant economic benefits to the community but to Barbados as a whole. If they follow the American University model which is promised that they will ensure that they would utilise some of those resources within the community for clinics, et cetera, then, in fact, you could see the direct spinoff to all Barbadians.

I, like those who have spoken, have concerns about Barbadian students who whatever discipline that they have engaged in university education for four to five years whether it be Trinidad or Cuba or elsewhere that in fact that we have a responsibility to clear whatever blockages that there are and we have been speaking about this for too long and it is not a new issue. It is unfortunate that some of us have convenient memories but what is most important is that we have a responsibility on Both Sides to find a solution not to cast blame one way or the other. I, like several others in this Parliament, can think of one or two individuals who went off to Cuba to study and who returned and whose parents contacted you with dismay because their daughter or their son was having problems getting back into school in Barbados and getting back into practice in Barbados. We need to find a solution. In fact, I am charging my colleagues, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, to let us work on a solution because it is not beyond us, let us show the Other Side how things are done because they had it for at least 15 years and never solved it.

Asides.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I am going to get your son's record expunged, do not bother.

We are going to have a find a solution. Sir, just one comment for the Honourable Member for St. James North. The Honourable Member for St. James North really must stop taking notes from the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East. Either he is having difficulty understanding the notes or the handwriting is difficult or something.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute. You are telling me Sir.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Philip South is misleading the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: In what way?

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: I take no notes from no one, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Anything I say in this House is of my own volition ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, that is not no point of order. Honourable Member, please take your seat.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: I told you I am going to get your son sorted out, that is my word to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please address the Chair or take your seat.

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE: The issue, Mr. Speaker, is about having the agreement incorporated into the legislation is a non-issue. The Act clearly states that the text of the agreement will be incorporated into the Bill. That is what it does. In fact, it is to my knowledge that across the region that is exactly what has been followed in several jurisdictions and the reason why that has been followed in several jurisdictions in because the agreement was deposited at CARICOM and if you have to wait until everyone have signed then, of course, you would not have been able to bring it into your national law as such so draughtsmen correctly found a solution which is, and there is nothing wrong with it, incorporating the text of the agreement into the Bill. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Several jurisdictions have done it and there is actually nothing wrong with that so if the issue is, as I am hearing, that the legislation was brought only today and he did not have time to review it then get up and say that but do not ask questions that make no sense, ask for time to consider the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward with great optimism of the solutions that we can bring to this country, the possibilities that this Bill will bring in terms of attracting more schools to Barbados and more quality schools because I think it is important to make this point. It is important to make the point that individuals are not coming to the Caribbean because the quality of the education is unacceptable, they are not coming because they have nowhere else to go, it has a lot to do with the quality of life, it has a lot to do, in some cases, with cost and accessibility but what we owe, not only to our nationals, but to these individuals is to ensure that wherever they go in the world that the education and training that they received is readily accepted.

Mr. Speaker, I will end by saying that I have the pleasure of knowing that one of my constituents who graduated from the American University is doing her internship in a hospital in Chicago and, based on the information that I have received, is doing really well because the quality of the training is of such that she was able to fit in very well to the hospital in Chicago and that is exactly what we need to do. What we need to do is to ensure that when our young people leave Barbados from

wherever they are trained once it is a university that has a presence in Barbados that, in fact, the quality is such that they will be welcomed wherever they are trained, once it is a university that has a presence in Barbados, that in fact the quality is of such that they would be welcome wherever they go.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I beg again to support this Bill.

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

Hon. R. D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank those Honourable Members who spoke on this Bill. I want to particularly thank the Honourable Member for Christ Church West because she brought to the House a level of knowledge and a level of understanding not only of the process but of the history to much of what we are talking about, so I was quite pleased with her presentation. Once more I want to thank all of the other colleagues on this side who have made contributions on this very important, as was noted by those who spoke from this side, piece of legislation at this time. It is unfortunate that it took a bit of time, not necessarily the signing of the Agreement establishing CAAM-HP because that was signed two years after the others did by the last Government. I am not making heavy weather of that particular point, it is just a historical point within the context of the debate.

I think the ball was dropped a bit in turning the Agreement into domestic law. This became apparent when the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill and the then Vice Chancellor issued a directive to all of the faculties of medicine at the three campuses to move with some speed to get more foreign students, particularly students from the United States of America, into the medical faculties of the University of the West Indies, and therefore there was accelerated progress in this matter.

It is good to note, of course, that there were one or two Barbadians who served on the Board when it was established in 2004. Professor Errol Walrond - I believe we refer to him as Professor Mickey Walrond but now he is Sir Errol - was the Chairman, and he was representing civil society. Dr. Carl Hannamon of the University of Guyana was Deputy Chairman. We also had Professor Phyllis Pitt-Miller of the University of the West Indies and Mr. Patty Ross from St. George's University in Grenada. If you look at the composition of CAAM-HP, you would see what is happening. Then there was Dr. Wintrod Harewood of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of the West Indies at Mount Hope; Dr. Pullari Multi, School of ...Medicine; Mr. Leroy Gibbs, civil society; Mr. Ramon Arscott, medical student; Mr. Astor Robinson, medical student, the University of Guyana; Dr. George Mayhew - I believe that is a another name familiar to us here -

representing the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils, (CAMC); and Sir. George Cato, President of the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Even though there was that break in, I believe, 2001 in consort with what was happening in the European Union, we still relied on their expertise which a lot longer than that at CAAM-HP to bring them on board. We had Mr. David Hawkins, President of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges of Canada, Dr. Rohit Doon, Chief Medical Officer of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Barry Lynch, the Chief Medical Officer of Jamaica and Dr. Linda Lovell-Roberts, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Antigua and Barbuda and a Mrs. Lorna Parkins, who I believe is still the Executive Director who was appointed with effect from August 01, 2004. There has been a bit of history to this particular legislation to the establishment of CAAM-HP.

I am not going to spend much time on that because I believe that we are satisfied that CAAM-HP and the movement towards getting the body under the Department of Education of the Federal Government to give us the opportunity through the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) to recognise CAAM-HP on behalf of Barbados in order to ensure that Barbados is fully qualified and that the standards are strong enough that they can sign off on Barbados' application through CAAM-HP to give our Faculty of Medicine at Cave Hill and the offshore medical schools the opportunity for students who want to come to Barbados, who want to come to the Caribbean, to benefit from federal loans, federal grants, et cetera to do their medical training. I think that is important. We could now, as soon as this passes the Senate, move ahead so that we can have this work finalised through CAAM-HP and through the NCFMEA to place Barbados in that position. Particularly, the Cave Hill Medical Faculty can move ahead with haste to ensure that they could have greater numbers flowing into Barbados. I know that within the shortest possible while with this having been gazetted that Barbados would benefit substantially from this piece of legislation bringing the establishment of CAAM-HP into domestic law.

There was some discussion, and I do not want to be caught up with saying you did or you did not et cetera. Sometimes there are things that slip us because of the enormity of the work, not tiredness of anybody, the complexity of the work, the multifocal business that we all have to do in all of the relevant ministries. It is not a singular approach to what we do, it is multi-focus and sometimes these things dropped.

In fact, looking back at the file, in 2014 the Minister with responsibility for education was a gentleman, a friend of mine as a former teacher, Mr. Reginal Farley. It goes back to that period but as I said even in our tenure as a Government, in 2009 when this was drawn to my attention

and we moved to the Cabinet to fully put in that CAAM-HP is the Barbadian accrediting body for health professionals and medical schools, we thought that was all but it was only in October of 2014 that we recognised that was not all even though we had communicated to the US NCDMEA that this was in fact the case. It was only when we were inputting the information that it was drawn to our attention that you had to show the legislation which placed CAAM-HP as the legitimate accrediting body for Barbados medical schools that you recognise that you know something we did not go the full muntty. In this instance we have now gone the full muntty, we took it up and we ran with it and therefore the Government should be complimented that it has reached this stage today. I do not want to get into you did not do and I do, it is done and once passed this Chamber and the Other House it will move ahead. This is the reality. It is good to put water in your mouth and try to speak to try to make these points that do not make sense in the kind of reality in which we find ourselves.

In relation to the matter of the Cuban doctors, I made the point, and I want to emphasize it again, that these young people particularly in the last eight to ten years who have gone to Cuba would have been accepted to any medical school in the western hemisphere. I do not know of the standards in the East, I know of the western hemisphere, they could have gone to any medical school and would have done well, as they did in Cuba. In fact, I know there are several persons who when you examine their initial qualifications for entrance they would have been in the top pile of getting into medical schools in this part of the world. Therefore they have done exceptionally well against a background of learning first the foreign language.

Mr. Speaker, I want to underscore that point, they spend a year immersed in the language of instruction, just like Barbadian students going off to China who spend their first year or year and a half immersed in Mandarin, they are doing well and are lending another arm to what we intend to do in Latin America and in China. We have people speaking Mandarin in Barbados today and we have people speaking Spanish. Yes, they have been speaking Spanish before, particularly within the Castilian norm but within the context of Latin America when you are immersed you have a slightly different sound to your ear. I am sure that the Honourable Member for St. Michael South, I believe used to speak Spanish at one time at one of our secondary schools and would understand the point I am making.

Asides.

Hon. R. D. JONES: These young people deserve the opportunity to be given a chance to reach the highest heights that they possibly can and therefore we will look again. I remember when the then Minister of Health, the

Honourable Member for St. Philip West looked at this matter because of our concern, it was then done again under the Honourable Member for St. James South when the Honourable Member was Minister of Health, but there were rigidities within the system that did not allow for the flow to happen with those young people, the system was very difficult with so many hoops to go through.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that across the region there were Governments who are in need of trained medical personnel who opened their doors and said to come in. As it is called, the Caribbean Association of Medical Councils (CAMC) their examination was successfully passed by the majority of Barbadian students in the first try, within six months, after working along with the local system in Jamaica and can therefore practice in Barbados because they have successfully passed that accreditation council.

I am not a medical person but I am told that foreign doctors have to do CAMC in order to practice in the jurisdiction, so we are not saying that you want to go pass CAMC where they will have to practice within this jurisdiction. Cuba, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and all other Spanish-speaking countries are seen as part of the medical training jurisdiction because of their one language, et cetera. We were sending English speakers into a Spanish country to learn the language and to practice the system. I am assured and I know that there are very well-trained doctors coming out of Cuba and working across the Caribbean, just like any of the other doctors trained in other parts of the world or trained within the Caribbean space, but it is something that I think we have to get our own practitioners firmly on board to assist with that initial period so that they can satisfy CAMC requirements. We cannot bypass that particular process, we have to do it.

Mr. Speaker, the issue raised by the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East of the deficit of nurses, I am a bit concerned that this has come to us because every year in Barbados we have still been training between 60 and 80 nurses, but problems have developed over time. There was a time through the Barbados Community College when they did the Associate Degree, they then went on and did another examination to qualify them to move on to do the Regional Nurses Examination. Mr. Speaker, a noise developed with the student nurses, the Barbados Community College and the National Union of Public Workers which were, in fact, saying that they should not be given this other test in order for them to go on to do the regional examination. Sir, by the withdrawal of that particular test which gave them a lot of understanding for the regional examination, it created a deficit. Sir, let us bear in mind that while many were doing the nurses course at the Barbados Community College, there were other components but the Associates Degree is that as it is, but the strict provision for nursing is the satisfying of the

Regional Nursing Qualification. Mr. Speaker, that involvement of the union, the nurses and the Barbados Community College caused a gap in the specific knowledge that was necessary for passing the regional examination.

Mr. Speaker, all examinations need that deep immersion of preparation for any licence, so by withdrawing it you actually created a lacunae in the system for these nurses, so that people in St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia, et cetera, were passing at 80 per cent when they were doing the regional examinations, while ours were passing at 30 per cent the first time around. When they then did it the second time it said to me - and I am sure the Honourable Member for St. Thomas would recognised this - that where you had that preparation, the pass rate moved to 75 per cent and 80 per cent, thus equaling that of what is in the region.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbados Community College has now gone onto an additional year so that you now move from the Associate Degree to the Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, which is now the recognised global standard and 2015 was the first year for that programme; persons continue from the three year into the fourth year and then the new ones started from the first year and continued for three additional years. In fact, it was 2015-2016 and then the second year into 2016-2017.

Mr. Speaker, I do not expect that this deficit of nurses would continue. I was speaking to the Minister of Health, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South and the Honourable Member has assured me that it is really not a shortage of nurses but necessarily might be a shortage of posts within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Sir, one has to look at the fact that every post that is developed is a cost, that the common problem is not a shortage of nurses but a shortage of specific posts at that level, particularly in the specialist areas of training.

Mr. Speaker, therefore the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation and the Ministry of Health will work together to see how we can do some of those things, as we have worked in giving doctors through the National Development Scholarship particular training in areas of specialisation. We will continue to do that. We will also look at post-graduate studies in medicine at Cave Hill.

4.44 p.m.

All of this will help. There was a question on Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP) in relation to City & Guilds qualification. The SJPP issues its certificate and has been doing that. The issue with City & Guilds, which Government inherited, was that there was a time when SJPP's status as a City & Guilds centre was withdrawn.

There must be certain standards maintained throughout the institution to be considered a testing centre for City & Guilds. Previous to 2008 and 2008-2010, there were issues relative to SJPP being considered a testing centre. I remember the SJPP chairman at the time, now Senator Husbands from the Other Place, went to England along with the principal and one other member of staff to have a conversation with City & Guilds to see what the issue was. They were able to resolve many of the issues with City & Guilds, and certificates which were previously denied were in fact then issued to those who had reached the particular standards going back to the time when they sat the City & Guilds examination. It is a good standard, but we also now have standards developed within the region which would allow for the free movement of citizens across the region within the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ). We know that City & Guilds is a globally recognised standard, but the CVQ is a very well respected, recognised standard within the Caribbean; and our children at secondary schools, thanks to those teachers who worked with them in CVQ across the various standards and at the SJPP, would have a qualification that we can show and share with the world.

The issue of registration is one which, under the Skills for the Future programme, should be dealt with quite shortly. Mr. Speaker, I think an error was made when institutions such as the Barbados Community College and the SJPP along with Erdiston College were not brought into the accreditation process by law when the Accreditation Act was passed in, I believe, 2005. They should have been grandfathered because they had already been part of the recognition system of the Ministry of Education. They should have been grandfathered, but now they are working under the Skills for the Future programme to ensure that they reach registration status and, ultimately, accreditation status.

We moved on and we are preparing our places like Erdiston for the Bachelor of Education in primary education, with new people coming into the system. Obviously the first cohort would graduate in 2020, but those who already have the Associate Degree in Education will do two more years in an evening programme which will make sure that their Bachelor of Education will be received in 2018. Hopefully, Erdiston will follow in subsequent years with a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Care and Education, which will give persons from the Child Care Board, private caregivers, private nursery school teachers, and persons within public education the opportunity to be trained to the Bachelor's level in early Childhood Care and Education. I am hoping, because you have to obviously sit down in all of these things and write the curriculum, but it is an important qualification for all of the caregivers, all of the educators, and all of those persons who are seeking either to continue with the schools where they are or to continue at the Child Care Board across the

many child care centres and daycare facilities that we have in Barbados. This would make this particular activity important to them. There will be as well a Bachelor's in Special Needs Education. We have been paying significant attention to that but we need to take the standard up a lot so that there would be a greater and deeper understanding of as much of the nuances as possible that would rotate around students who have special needs, and so that we would not have some of what we currently have in the wider education system. What we have is a total lack of understanding of those students in our classrooms.

I wish to applaud the Honourable Member for Christ Church West for her very deep and profound understanding of the constructivist model. I would welcome you into our highest levels of education in Barbados.

Asides.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Constructivism, as a concept which places the learner at the centre of learning, is a particular methodology that recognises the importance of the learner to his or her own learning. The teacher becomes a major facilitator and provider of the structures and schema that would urge and push that person toward the higher levels of achievement. It is almost like a self-learning model but highly supported by all the resources, and the teacher would be a major resource in that learning. I applaud your understanding of the concept relative to classroom behaviour, classroom activity, et cetera.

One final point before I close, Mr. Speaker. This has to do with a letter received from the Honourable Member for St. James North. It did fill me with a laugh because the Member did not recognise the initial comments that were in fact made. The initial comments were, "Stop trying to surreptitiously get information from public servants in the Ministry of Education." That is what I said in my initial comments. That is what I said. Stop trying to get information from officers. Stop trying to compromise them. Come to me as Minister and I will give them to you. I have not yet reached that stage, so when you wrote to the Right Honourable Prime Minister and copied to the Accountant General and the Auditor General and the Solicitor General and the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Governor General and all of that, it was amazing to me. You need as an Honourable Member of the House to ensure....

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. E.G. HINKSON: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. On a Point of Order. I wrote the Honourable Member. I certainly did not write the Solicitor General. I did not write the Governor General, I did not write the Auditor General, I did not write the Accountant General. Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of behaviour that we are talking about. Sir, the fact is that the Honourable

Member in this Parliament said that he would send documents. He has not done so.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Honourable Member, I am tired of having to ask you to take your seat and speaking over me while I am trying to respond. Okay? I am tired of it. I am not going to tolerate it further. The Point of Order is not to make a second speech. You have said enough to indicate to me that there is no Point of Order, and that is that. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. R.D. JONES: All I was doing, Mr. Speaker, was inviting the Honourable Member to recognise that it is not fair to public servants to be going around street corners or peeping through something asking them for any documents in the Ministry of Education. I wanted to take him out of that particular difficulty, and I simply invited him to ask the Minister. That is all I did, and you sat and you accepted that all of this would be brought and handed to you. Do your work. Do your research. Stop waiting on handouts. That is the reality.

4.53 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I beg to move that...

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a point of order, the Honourable Member does not want you to close as yet. Let us hear you, Honourable Member for St. James North.

MR. E.D. HINKSON: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. If the Cabinet of which he is a member had brought the Freedom of Information Act that he promised would have been brought in 2012, there would be no need for either Party when they are in Opposition to be looking for documents. It would be the law of Barbados. Sir, that is what the Democratic Labour Party promised the people of Barbados in 2008, and that is what the Honourable Member, who is speaking said would have been done in 2012 and it has not been done. It is a breach of promise to the people of Barbados, another failure by the Democratic Labour Party and by the Minister of Education.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order found.

Hon. R.D. JONES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. R.D. JONES, seconded by Mr. J.D. PAUL, the House resolved into Committee Mr. J. D. PAUL, Chairman of Committee, in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This Honourable House is in Committee.

Clause 1 -- 7, inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule became the Schedule to the Bill.

On the motion of Hon. R.D. JONES, seconded by Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE, Mr. Chairman reported to His Honour the SPEAKER the passing of one Bill in Committee, with amendments, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. R.D. JONES, seconded by Hon. A.D. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Caribbean Accreditation Authority (Educational in Medicine and Other Health Profession Incorporation) Act, 2016.

ORDER NO. 20 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS VESTING AND DISPOSAL ACT, CAP 225, THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY OF THE PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN SITUATE AT LOT 60, THE GARDEN ROAD AND SKEETE’S ROAD, BANK HALL RESPECTIVELY BOTH IN THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMP STATION AND SEPTIC TANK AS PART OF THE HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD UPGRADING PROGRAMME (HNUP).

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

Hon. D. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution before this House seeks the permission to vest in the Barbados Water Authority two parcels of land belonging to the Crown containing 210.5 square metres and 89.9 square metres situated at the Garden Land, St. Michael and Skeete’s Road, Bank Hall, St. Michael respectively. Sir, these lands, to the value of \$2 538 781.87 to the Barbados Water Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Fisheries and Water Resources Management.

Mr. Speaker, these are part of the Garden Land development done under the Minister of Housing and Lands and, as you know, all lands pertaining to any

sewerage plant must be under the responsibility of the Barbados Water Authority and it is with that we are seeking to transfer the authority into the Barbados Water Authority and that is why we are today seeking to vest these lands in the Barbados Water Authority.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that this Government has made a commitment not only to the people of Barbados but to the world that we would be the most environmentally-friendly in the Caribbean and Latin America and that is why we have sought in this project to ensure that environment of Barbados is kept in a proper way. Sir, that is why we would have carried out this project and will continue to ensure that wherever possible we will protect the environment of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, that we would have enter into discussion with the EPD even as far as Parish Land in St. Philip where we sought to ensure that we had the best possible solution to protect our water supply in this country. Sir, even though that particular piece of land was not a Zone One area, we sought to put Zone One conditions in that particular location so as to ensure that we protected the environment of Barbados and that is why we also did it at Lancaster.

5.07 p.m.

There is no doubt that this Government has not only protected the environment but it has also raised the standard of the Environmental Protection Act in Barbados to ensure that our water supply is protected and that we do the necessary to ensure that we follow the international standards.

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

Hon. S. A. LASHLEY: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The City of Bridgetown.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to make a very short intervention basically to say that the Opposition does not find anything wrong with this Resolution and that we support it because we believe that it is for the benefit of the people of Barbados.

With that I thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

PAPERS (RECOMMITTAL)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded first to withdraw Papers laid on the 19th day of April in this Honourable Chamber and replace them with the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remunerations and Allowances) Order, 2016 and the Senate and House of Assembly (Remunerations and Allowances of Members) Order, 2016. These would have been laid under the name of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs.

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

Dr. the Hon. D. S. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded the lay the Green Economy Scoping Study Report.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (RECOMMITTAL)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: I beg to give notice of:

1. Resolution to approach the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remunerations and Allowances) Order, 2016; and
2. Resolution to approve the Senate and House of Assembly (Remunerations and Allowances of Members) Order, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, with that we have come to the end of Government Business for today and with that I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

5.07 p.m.

CONTENTS

MINUTES

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	1
Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, 2.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY.....	2
-------------------------	---

FIRST READING OF BILLS.

Hon. R.D. JONES.....	4
Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 4.	

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	4
Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, 4.	

ORDER 21

BILLS

SECOND READING

Hon. R.D. JONES.....	4
----------------------	---

ARTICLE 14

EXEMPT FROM TAXATION

ARTICLE 15

LEGAL STATUS OF THE AUTHORITY

Hon. A. D. BRATHWAITE.....	12
Miss M. A. Mottley, 12; Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 15.	

RESUMPTION

Mr. E. G. Hinkson, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 32, 36; Hon. D. St.E. Kellman, 23, 24; Dr. M.M. Agard, 24, 26; Hon. S. A. Lashley, 27; Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, 30, 32, 36; Hon. R.D. Jones, 33, 34, 36.

COMMITTEE

ORDER NO. 20 – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS VESTING AND DISPOSAL ACT, CAP 225, THE VESTING IN THE BARBADOS WATER AUTHORITY OF THE PARCEL OF LAND, THE PROPERTY OF THE CROWN SITUATE AT LOT 60, THE GARDEN ROAD AND SKEETE'S ROAD, BANK HALL RESPECTIVELY BOTH IN THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN THIS ISLAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMP STATION AND SEPTIC TANK AS PART OF THE HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD UPGRADING PROGRAMME (HNUP).....37
Hon. D. St.E. Kellman, 37; Hon. S. A. Lashley, 37; Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic, 37.

PAPERS (RECOMMITTAL)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	38
Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe, 38.	

GOVERNMENT NOTICES (RECOMMITTAL)

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE.....	38
--------------------------	----

SUSPENSION.....	19
-----------------	----

ADJOURNMENT.....	38
------------------	----

Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, 38; Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, 38.

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

AGARD, Dr. M.M. (Christ Church West)

BOSTIC, Lt. Col. J. D.

BOYCE, Hon. J. D. E. (Christ Church South)

BRATHWAITE, Hon. A. D. (St. Philip South)

HINKSON, Mr. E. G. (St. James North)

JONES, Hon. R.D. (Christ Church East Central)

KELLMAN, Hon. D. St.E. (St. Lucy)

LASHLEY, Hon. S. A. (Christ Church West Central)

LOWE, Dr. the Hon. D. S. (Christ Church East)

MOTTLEY, Miss M. A. (St. Michael North East)

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EDITORIAL NOTES — NOT PART OF THE REPORT

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

EDITORIAL QUERIES

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

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

Q2. Order No. 21, second reading. The source records the question as put and agreed, seconded by Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, immediately after Hon. R. D. Jones's opening speech, and again at the end of the debate after his reply. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 21, title of the Bill. The title is given in several forms with unbalanced brackets: 'The Caribbean Accreditation Authority Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions) (Incorporation) Bill, 2016' (First Reading and Order heading), 'The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) Incorporation Bill, 2016', and, at third reading, 'Caribbean Accreditation Authority (Educational in Medicine and Other Health Profession Incorporation) Act, 2016'. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Order No. 21, Committee. Clauses 1 to 7 are recorded as passed without amendment, but the Chairman reported 'the passing of one Bill in Committee, with amendments'. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 21, Hon. D. St.E. Kellman. Mr. Speaker rules 'no point of order is found' early in Hon. D. St.E. Kellman's speech, but no point of order is recorded before it; the source notes only that certain remarks by the Member for St. James North were ordered expunged. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Take-slip, Order No. 21. A time stamp before the Minister's opening speech reads '10.48 p.m.', presumably a.m.; the next reads '11.59 a.m.'. Printed as in the source.

Q7. Speaker labels. Mr. Hinkson is labelled both 'Mr. E. G. HINKSON' and 'MR. E.D. HINKSON', and Hon. D. St.E. Kellman appears once as 'Hon. D. KELLMAN'. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Government Notices (Recommittal), item 1. The first notice reads 'Resolution to approach the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remunerations and Allowances) Order, 2016', presumably 'approve'. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016 at 10.00 a.m., with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Mark Harewood. The Minutes of 19th April were confirmed, and Mr. Speaker announced receipt of the Auditor General's Report on the Financial Statements of the Government for 2014 and 2015 and his Report for 2015. The Leader of the Opposition, Miss M. A. Mottley, gave notice of a Resolution of no confidence in the Government. Its recitals cited the 19-month home-grown fiscal adjustment strategy, the proposed US\$500 million sugar factory against an estimated 7 000 tons of sugar in 2016, the refusal to disclose the Sandals Memorandum of Understanding and the Cahill Agreements, labour unrest at statutory corporations, and the water crisis affecting one in every four Barbadians. Hon. R. D. Jones moved the first reading of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (Incorporation) Bill, 2016, and Standing Orders were suspended.

On Order No. 21, the Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Hon. R. D. Jones, moved the second reading of the Bill, which puts into domestic law the treaty establishing CAAM-HP. He traced the treaty's history, said there were about 31 offshore medical schools in the Caribbean but only one in Barbados, the American University of Barbados, and read the Articles on tax exemption, legal status and protection from legal process. He spoke of the United States body that recognised accreditation, and of Barbadian students trained in Cuba, 99 per cent of whom passed in Jamaica within six months.

Hon. Miss M. A. Mottley gave the Bill general support, but said the Minister had spoken for almost two hours on a two-page Bill. She stressed the value of articulation and equivalency, and urged that a solution be found for medical graduates waiting to practise, offering a committee of parliamentarians or a Private Member's Bill. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, the Minister of Health, said that internships might be extended into the polyclinics, that the Government had put a \$6 million deposit into laboratories, and that \$40 million to \$50 million had gone into engineering and the Eye Ward at the hospital.

After lunch, Mr. E. G. Hinkson asked whether all member States had signed, noting that the signatures of Dominica, Montserrat, Haiti, St. Lucia and St. Vincent were missing from the agreement before the House. Hon. D. St.E. Kellman's speech produced repeated points of

order from Mr. Hinkson, none of which Mr. Speaker upheld. Dr. M. M. Agard urged that constructivist teaching replace the didactic method, and Hon. S. A. Lashley supported the Bill. The Attorney-General, Hon. A. D. Brathwaite, said that incorporating the agreement into the Act was a non-issue and the practice followed across the region; his exchange with Mr. Hinkson brought warnings from the Chair.

In reply, Hon. R. D. Jones said the ball had been dropped in turning the Agreement into domestic law, and recalled that Barbadian students had passed regional examinations at 30 per cent the first time, against 80 per cent elsewhere, until better preparation raised the rate to 75 and 80 per cent. Further points of order from Mr. Hinkson were not upheld. The Bill was read a second time and passed Committee, with Mr. J. D. Paul in the Chair, and was read a third time and passed.

On Order No. 20, Hon. D. St.E. Kellman moved the Resolution to vest in the Barbados Water Authority two parcels of Crown land of 210.5 and 89.9 square metres at the Garden and Skeete's Road, Bank Hall, St. Michael, valued at \$2 538 781.87, for a pump station and septic tank under the Housing and Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme. Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic said the Opposition supported it, and it was agreed to. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce withdrew papers laid on 19th April and replaced them with the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries (Remunerations and Allowances) Order, 2016 and the Senate and House of Assembly (Remunerations and Allowances of Members) Order, 2016, and gave notice of Resolutions to approve them. Dr. the Hon. D. S. Lowe laid the Green Economy Scoping Study Report. The House was adjourned until Tuesday, 10th May, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.