
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

PRESENT

His Honour MICHAEL A. CARRINGTON, Q.C., B.A., LL.B. (Speaker) Her Honour Mrs. M-J. MARA THOMPSON, M.Sc. (Ph.Ed.) B.A.(Deputy Speaker)
Mr. GLINE A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P.
Mr. RONALD St.C TOPPIN, LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. DENIS St.E. KELLMAN
(Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development)
Hon. Miss MIA A. MOTTLEY, Q.C., LL.B.
(Leader of the Opposition)
Ms. CYNTHIA Y. FORDE, J.P., L.C.P.Hon.
RONALD D. JONES, J.P., B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Ed.)
(Minister of Education, Science and Technology and Innovation)
Dr. Hon. DAVID C. ESTWICK, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.
(Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management)
Mr. DALE D. MARSHALL, Q.C., LL.B (Hons.), L.E.C.
Hon. MICHAEL A. LASHLEY, LL.B. (Hons.)
(Minister of Transport and Works)
Hon. RICHARD L. SEALY, B.Sc., M.B.A.
(Minister of Tourism and International Transport)
Right. Hon. FREUNDEL J. STUART, Q.C., B.A., LL.M.
(Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Public Service and Urban Development)
Hon. JOHN D. E. BOYCE, B.C.H., MRAC, M.Sc., C. Eng.
(Minister of Transport and Works) (Leader of Government Business)
Hon. STEVEN D. BLACKETT

(Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, and Community Development) Mr. JAMES D. PAUL, B.Sc.
(Chairman of Committees)
Dr. the Hon. DENIS S. LOWE, Ed.D., M.Ed., B.A., Dip. Theology
(Minister of Environment and Drainage)
Hon. ADRIEL D. BRATHWAITE, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.)
(Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs.)
Hon. STEPHEN A. LASHLEY, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.
(Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Hon.
DONVILLE O’N. INNISS, Dip., B.Sc., M.B.A.
(Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development)
Hon. CHRISTOPHER P. SINCKLER, B.A., M.Sc.
(Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs)
Mr. TREVOR PRESCOD, B.A.
Mr. KERRIE D. SYMMONDS, B. A., LL.B.
Lt. Col. JEFFREY D. BOSTIC, M.V.O., B.A. (Hons.)
Mr. EDMUND G. HINKSON, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C., LL.M.
Dr. Ms. MARIA M. AGARD, J.P., D.Ds., B.Sc. (Hons)
Mr. DWIGHT G. SUTHERLAND, M.Sc., M.B.A. (Dist.), B.Sc.
Miss SANTIA J.O. BRADSHAW, LL.B. (Hons.)
Prayers were taken by Reverend Father Mark Harewood.

MR. SPEAKER: Good morning, Honourable Members, this House is now in session. Honourable Members, I am not yet in receipt of the Minutes of our last meeting, and I will ask for the usual Motion.

MINUTESHon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes referred to be deferred.

The question that the Minutes be deferred was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PAPERS

Hon. C.P. SINCKLER: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption (Mary White) Order, 2016.

MR. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42 (5), 43 and 44 for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

The question to suspend the mentioned Standing Orders for the remainder of the day's Sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 6

To move the passing of a Resolution that this Honourable House has no confidence in the Government of Barbados.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you very much, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Barbados is not working for the vast majority of Barbadians. We are not where we thought we would be, given where we were and the speed with which we were galloping on our 20th, and indeed on our 40th, Anniversary of Independence. There was a sense that we were going somewhere, and that we stood for something. There was no shortage of Barbadian pride. Parents and young people had in 1986 and in 2006 both hope that they were better off than their parents, and indeed that their children would be better off than them. The only reference to the word "broken" was in relation to the trident on our Flag: the Broken Trident. Sir, I am bound today to ask out of a sense of duty, given all that ordinary Barbadians are enduring and expressing as you move around the country, "Where are we on the eve of our 50th Anniversary of Independence?"

Mr. Speaker, this is a good benchmark at which to stop and look at ourselves without the rose-coloured

glasses that this Democratic Labour Party Government would have us wear. What is it that is really happening to our nation? Why is it that so many of our people are suffering or barely eking out a living? Why are our young people trying to leave our shores for a better life? Why are we seeing a return to the immigration patterns of yesteryear? Sir, from about 1850 - and this House recorded those patterns in a debate in this Honourable Chamber - to about the early 1970s tens of thousands of Barbadians left these shores for a better life, whether in Panama, in North America, the United Kingdom or the rest of the Caribbean. Between the early 1970s and about the year 2010, I daresay, Sir, young and not-so-young Barbadians believed that remaining at home in the country of their birth would give them their best quality of life. Therefore, more and more we saw Barbadians opting to remain and return to this country. Many felt that they could make it here, and that their children would have a better life than them on these shores. Regrettably today, many feel that they have little choice but to pick up and leave. Many of our 15- to 25-year-olds are indeed now looking for a one-way ticket out, Sir.

A few years ago, we were astonished when we had the figures of how many Barbadians were living in Trinidad. Indeed, daily we keep hearing these stories of those looking for opportunities to sustain themselves. Those remaining with graduate degrees find themselves being receptionists or sale assistants because there is simply no work in the area of study which they have chosen.

In the words of the former Prime Minister and Leader of the Democratic Labour Party, Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford aptly stated: How did we get here? Sir, that is what he said: How did we get here, Mr. Speaker? Sir, never before in the history of an independent Barbados have so few contributed to the demise of so many. Sir, everything is falling apart under the watch of this Government and while our Prime Minister remains powerless or indifferent to the circumstances of Barbados, we ask this question: How did we get here? Sir, as have said earlier, Barbados is not working for the vast majority of Barbadians. Who you know and not what you know and/or who you are prepared to pass or can afford to pass something to in high places and low places has become the new governance.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to ask how much more can we take before we lose all that we love. How long can we take governance by stealth, by rumour and by animosity buttressed by a platform of indifference, incompetence and in some instances corruption?

Mr. Speaker, Barbadians have heard and experienced the sordid saga of this country's current and worsening state of brokenness in vivid detail over the course of the last eight years, in particular, many of us have felt it

acutely in the last three years and it may well be referred to as a three-year long season of discontent. Sir, as member of the Opposition, my colleagues and I have examined the issue from every angle and we have not failed to keep the people informed of the precarious position in which this country finds itself, based not on any global economic climate but on an abysmal, almost criminal lack of leadership, capability, compassion, displayed by this present Government. Sir, every country in the Caribbean virtually is performing better than Barbados but yet the constant refrain of a global economic crisis is used as an excuse by this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I say today, that if we have to be the voices of the people then we shall be today because the circumstances cannot be borne easily for much longer, given the Government's determined refusal to accept any good counsel from any and all quarters including from within its own during the last eight years, we know, as do most Barbadians that the most pressing challenges facing this country extends beyond and deeper than the economic and fiscal quagmire in which we now find ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, people do not like to see and hear bad news. It makes you feel uncomfortable, it really does but sometimes in life, you have to deal with it and you have to see and hear that bad news if only to ensure that there is no repetition of the circumstances that have led to the bad news. Sir, anyone growing up from the 1950s until recently, knew that these were the heavy days for our people in Barbados, where we were eventually described in the year 2000 as 'punching above our weight'. We founded our democracy and we founded our nation. Indeed, without a democracy, and without the right to vote, there could be no quest to Independence which we celebrate this year and we, therefore, must see the two in its totality for what it is worth.

Mr. Speaker, in the last eight years, Barbadians have had to watch in total bewilderment, where there has been no sense of purpose expressed by the Government, nor any directions shown by them. We should be further today and, indeed, we expected to be further today, when we celebrated that 20th and 40th anniversary as we look forward. We have to confront the truth but, Sir, what is the truth? It is not just our economy that is broken, it is the Barbados brand that is broken.

Mr. Speaker, when we hear citizens from across the country complaining about the Independence celebrations, it is not simply about the dollar value and in some instances, for some them, it is not even the dollar value. What it is relates to pride. Sir, people expect that you would have to spend some money for a golden anniversary but what they do not expect is that those celebrations ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Just one moment, Honourable Member. I am noticing some people at the Speaker pleasure and so on talking et cetera. It is not the first time I am seeing it. I want make the point from very early today, that we are not going to tolerate that. The members are the one to talk, so please keep quiet and listen to what is being said and if you cannot do that, I am afraid you know what is the alternative.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I actually had difficulty hearing you in the very beginning. Sir, as I was saying, it is not simply the dollar value that bothers people, it is the problem that Barbadians are not feeling proud, our pride is gone and it is now a case for many of diminishing return. There is an absence of hope and there is an absence of pride in what Barbadians see and experience on a daily basis. Sir, there can be no pride in how our health system is functioning, there can be no pride in what is happening in education today. Sir, all of this emanates from Bay Street and from, indeed, this Parliament, which ought to be the nerve centre for leading our nation forward.

Mr. Speaker, what do we have instead? A broken brand as I have said. What is broken in Barbados is hope. What is broken in Barbados is confidence. What is broken in Barbados is pride. Sir, our brand is broken because we have saddled ourselves with an administration that is bankrupt of the ethics, the values and the principles of good governance that peace, stability and progress demand.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that there is an abundance of issues to address. Indeed, in drafting this motion, the abundance of issues became apparent, so much so that you wondered what really was going on but an abundance of issues is what demanded that this motion of no-confidence be brought and, Sir, in the circumstances, we believe that if nothing else, the people of Barbados deserve to know the state of affairs in this country and deserve to hear a response from its Government to whom it has given a legitimate mandate rather than us being informed by stories by unattributed sources from high positions in the Government or from anonymous other comments or, indeed Sir, from political operatives. Sir, this is not what the people of Barbados vote for and whilst the Government's hardship and cruelty has played a role in our present predicament our problem, Sir, are also rooted in their incompetence and in their inability to manage and implement decisions and to lead. Sir, no amount of policy planning, no strategy formulation, no amount of conferences, meetings, consultations, indeed Sir, no analyses or prescription from a Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, who we hear only when he is prepared to talk from the ivory towers and not to be subjected to questioning by the ordinary members of the media, no amount of any of these things can bridge the gap created by an absence of vision and absence of leadership.

I say today, Sir, it is ironic that the date on which we had a No Confidence Motion in this Honourable Chamber was in October 2013 and the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados Report was delayed by one week and was, in fact, delivered late on the very day that Motion of No Confidence was being heard. It is ironic, Sir, today that we are now being told that the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados' Report which is now, in fact, worrisomely so, three weeks late will be delivered today on the very day on which we have the hearing of the Motion of No Confidence. What a coincidence! I give the assurance, Sir, that there are others who will speak to that data if it does not come on time. This was a country that was accustomed to regularity and order. This was a country in which a notion of a Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados not being able to deliver reports on time was anathema to our reality. Sir, this was a country in which the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados was freely questioned by all members of the media. Sir, not even that can bridge the gap that has been created by the absence of leadership which we have come today to speak about and I am not going to spend my time reciting a litany of broken promises of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) the people know them already. The people knew them from as early as 2008 and 2009 and the list goes on and on whether it is to the police, to the nurses, to the public servants, to the people of Barbados, to the students, the list is long, but that is not what today is about, Sir.

I believe that we have reached a stage where every thinking Barbadian must now question what will be the inheritance of this Government and the impact on them, on their children and on their children's children? I have come therefore today to pose a series of questions to you concerning what the last several years might tell us about who we are as a nation and who we have become as a people. I want to know who we think we ought now to aspire to be? I have had cause to ask you repeatedly to ask the people of this country repeatedly in the last few years whether they think the Barbados of today truly exemplifies the fields and hills beyond recall that the architects of independence would be proud to call their very own. I have had cause to ask repeatedly, Sir, in the last few years, whether the heritage of this Democratic Labour Party Administration has so callously created over the last eight years the sort of heritage which Barbadians would want to be guardians of, the sort of heritage that we would be content to pass on to generations now here and generations yet to come.

In 2014, amazingly, I asked the following questions and I really do find it appropriate to repeat them. Would the father of our democracy, the Right Excellent Sir Grantley Adams, believe that Barbados has so descended in the eyes of our neighbours and in the international community that we are no longer seen as leading from in front as we used to? Would the father of our independence, the Right

Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, be at ease with how the party he founded has treated the people of this country over the last several years, especially, Sir, with the removal of free university education or with the decimation of the middle class? Would he recognise the Democratic Labour Party of today and would he be comfortable in consorting or relating to them in anyway given their repudiation of education, their destruction of the middle class and their general actions that have reflected a callousness and an indifference to people. Would the stalwart of the labour movement in Barbados, the Right Excellent Sir Frank Walcott, be satisfied with the manner in which the Government, this Government is riding roughshod over the public service workers of this country, not to mention their abuse of the unions and their leadership? Would he be satisfied with a Government that seeks to kick matters to a tribunal rather than to give a direction from Cabinet to do the right thing because the employer in question is the National Conservation Commission (NCC), a statutory board that is subject to the general policy directions of the Minister who is subject to the directions of the Cabinet? Would that great humanitarian, entrepreneur and member of the then elite of his time, the Right Excellent Charles Duncan O'Neal, applaud the silence and indeed the apparent collusion of so many of Barbados' privilege class in the face of the ongoing decimation of the hopes and dreams of the poor and the working class in Barbados today?

I say today, Sir, that it is appropriate to reflect what the perspective of the national heroes might be having just come out of a month of celebrating their courageous acts, their acts of sacrifice and their acts in pursuit of excellence. Sir, as we continue to discuss how best we move forward from this 50th year, it is appropriate to take stock as to what their perspective might be. Sir, as architects of our freedom and democracy and ultimately of our independence, they dreamed our democratic, independent, just and equitable society, where our values, ethics, choices and actions might justify the griefs that they endured so selflessly all those years ago in order that we, all who sit in this Chamber today and all who are outside, might survive and thrive with courage and the will to bind our hearts from coast to coast in preservation of true nationhood.

Today, Sir, we have people in command of this country and in this Government who seemingly do not know what it is to be truly Barbadians. They have wrecked the essence of the Barbadian way of life and they are now trying to rob this country of the spirit to succeed and to be the best that we can be. We hear people now doubting our ability to succeed, assuming that this is the best that this can be and telling us that nobody can do better. Sir, well I have come today to remind them that we have consistently done better and we in the Barbados Labour Party assert that better can be and must be done. Sir, I have said over and over it is not birth certificates that determine if you are a

Barbadians, rather it is whether your soul and your actions reflect those things that matter to our people and they are reinforced every time we interact with one another and you would either have to keep to yourself - which our Prime Minister, I confess, does very well -- or be extremely insensitive and callous to the legacy that we have inherited and to the people with whom we interact daily to put at risk the soul of our people as it is happening.

Is that not what this Government has done? Is that not the questions that we confront daily? That you cannot do better. We have a person on the call-in programme who parades every day at CBC telling people that better cannot be done, and innocent persons listening to that programme begin to doubt themselves, when even those on that side, five seats down, have asserted that better can be done and should be done. He did not do it in one letter or in two letters, but in three letters.

I say to you, Sir, that this country has a duty to take stock. Everything that is germane to who we are and what we feel strongly about has been put on the auction block or gutted. Indeed, there are some Barbadians - it is not my language and I could not use - who feel that we are infested by political ticks sucking the lifeblood out of this country and out of everything that is distinctly Barbadian. Sir, I know that would not apply to anybody in here so I ask the Members of this Government...

In 1986 as we approached the time to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Independence, the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow gave his most famous speech of modern memory, his mirror image speech, and it became a relevant reference point for all Barbadians but particularly for Members of the Democratic Labour Party and rightly so because it is a speech worthy of reading and retaining in one's memory. As this Government prepares itself for this 50th Anniversary, have they looked in the mirror and have they recalled the language of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow in his speech. If they did, can they continue to justify the road that they have put this country on? Can they?

Sir, I say before I get into the absolute details of the Motion that if I doubted the relevance and the accuracy of what I am saying at the opening of my speech, I was bolstered by the response of the public to the launching of our Covenant of Hope last Thursday and the fact that people felt that this is exactly what they have been looking for and indeed that the Covenant itself reflects the concerns and the aspirations of thousands and tens of thousands of Barbadians.

Sir, I am not going to put Honourable Members to any trouble because I have brought copies today for every Honourable Member on that side and I am sure that the Clerk would distribute them at the appropriate time because

this may be a document produced by the Barbados Labour Party but it is not a partisan document in that sense, it is a document that speaks to the aspirations legitimately...

Asides.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I am told that the Honourable Prime Minister has one already, I do not know, but suffice it to say I make it now a document of this Honourable Chamber and I do so humbly because it reflects a process that took a year, was approved by our Annual Conference after we moved about the country interacting with people rubbing shoulders, having people's assembly and reflecting on our own philosophy as a party. It is premised on who we are, what we stand for and what we will fight for. It is an attempt to return politics to a values-based approach after the repudiation of this Government of so many of the values and principles that were reflected in the 30th Anniversary Booklet of the Democratic Labour Party and to which the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow would have referred. I do so, Sir, therefore humbly but recognising that this country needs, not wants, those in public life to set out a clear path of who we are, what we stand for and what indeed we are prepared to fight for in their name. They need of the confidence of how a Government will act in the name of the People giving the mandates that they give us at the predetermined times.

Sir, where is Barbados at 50? That is the question that Motion of No Confidence essentially asked. I have taken time to start where I started because it is important for us to remember the context within which this debate is taking place and what is being asked of Barbadians to support, to turn a blind eye to in terms of expenditure, to recall that every time we are told to gather and celebrate that a grandmother or a mother somewhere is frightened to go to a hospital in the middle of the night and to hear that this medicine is not available or this treatment cannot be done.

What are the pillars that this country stood for and that made us great? I am going to go through them one by one today in relation to this Motion of No Confidence because the country needs to know what the situation is and the country needs to hear its Government respond to the issue that are before us. Sir, the first pillar that made us great was education. Indeed, Sir, for the first 40 years education in Barbados lifted many out of poverty. I will go even further back. This country in the year 1900 had over 200 primary schools on 166 square miles. This country had six secondary schools in 1900. As we learnt last week from Sir Louis Tull in spite of the efforts of Governments to make public education freely available to persons, it was an effort that took in excess of 30 years contrary to the trumpeting that it was done in one fell-swoop because there were simply not enough places and hence the need. Indeed,

it was only when I was in the Ministry of Education that we had sufficient public secondary places that we did not need to rely on private secondary schools in this country, schools like the Cooperative High, Washington High, Unique High and the Federal High or Industry High, all of them well-known to Members on both side of this Chamber.

Sir, what is of significant is that we find education today in a state of a combustion of confusion from the parents to the teachers to the unions to the children and to the Ministry. It is almost incomprehensible to me that the state of education could exhibit such drift and decay in a Barbados of 2016, and let us look at it, let us start with just the ability to send your child to school and know that your child would stay in school. At the Combermere School classes were affected over a protractive period of time over what, a failure to make decisions that ought to be made. At the Lawrence T. Gay School on the other side of my constituency, children have moved out, environmental issues there again. Part and parcel of the reality is that if a Government is so in fiscally tight circumstances, in other words, have not money to spend, not maintaining things, not doing the things that they ought to be doing in terms of industrial cleaning, then it is only natural that over two, three years, what I call the three-year season of discontent, that we would start to see the implications and consequences of it in different Government buildings, including school plant. The problem is that children have one chance at education and when they lose the time at critical times, what do we say to them?

Sir, I do not know how many Members of that side have read the newspaper a couple of weeks ago when a very articulate young Barbadian 16 years old wrote a letter about her challenge to do what we took for granted when we were children. Sir, we went to school, most of us learnt but some of us played the fool. I am told by the Honourable Member for St. James North that applied more to the Honourable Attorney-General than to anybody else in this Honourable Chamber, but we went to school and learned. I am told that was also his post-posture when he was at school.

Mr. Speaker, we now have a situation where a young Barbadian who attends the Grantley Adams Memorial School has to write a letter to the newspaper indicating that that, first of all, she cannot get to school on time because the buses are not running regularly. She then complains, Sir, that when she gets to school on some days, she is then told that there is no water and that her school has to be terminated for the day, and she then has to find her way back down to go to her home unattended.

Now, Sir, this is not the Barbados that we want for any of our children. Let us put aside the politics today in here on that, let us face the reality that too many Barbadians are facing hardship in relation to how they treat

to the school system. You hear horror stories of teachers and parents having to come to school and bringing basic supplies and that invariably wants for money to buy stuff is not released until the end of the first term, November early December. That is a fact, in the primary schools that happens in September, October or early November.

Mr. Speaker, there are some things - and the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation certainly knows this because I served in that Ministry for seven years - that I will not even speak to on the Floor of this House because I believe that the Minister has the right to be able to intervene and to get certain thing right that ought not to be the subject of public discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I may have problem with the Minister but I want to say this from this Floor. I do not support the conduct of school business, infractions or disagreements in the media, it is wrong, it must stop. There can be no school nor any student in Barbados that can benefit from the conduct of a breakdown in relations between a parent and a teacher, or a teacher and a child in the media of this country, and all of us who can influence it by speaking out against it ought to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I say that but that does not mean that there ought not to be communication between the Ministry and the union or the Ministry and the teachers, or the Ministry and the parents. Mr. Speaker, it must not be the subject of salacious publication as a front page, back page or middle page of the newspaper and we do ourselves a disservice to the country if we believe that that is how we are to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, what bothers me is this, is that perhaps this is the first time that a Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation is peopled by all members at the senior level who have had experience in union membership and leadership. The Minister is a former President of the Barbados Union of Teachers, a longtime President and one, I must tell you, who worked well with me when I was Minister of Education. The Parliamentary Secretary was a longstanding General Secretary of the Barbados Union of Teachers. The Chief Education Officer was also President of the Barbados Union of Teachers. They are all former trade unionists, schooled in the art of negotiations and all would have been trained to understand that it is the pursuit of a tranquil climate that is first and ever most important in good industrial relations policy.

Mr. Speaker, part of the difficulty is that it may well be that the real internal fight at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation has nothing to do with education and that it has more to do with the internal wranglings of the Democratic Labour Party, as we saw with the pictures in today's newspapers.

Sir, part of the problem may well be that it may have more to do who supports whom in which riding in St. Michael to run against whom and who needs a national base to do what they have to do. Sir, part of the problem may well be that the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation cannot get so far the benefit of the support of his leader because the leader has another agenda. Part of the difficulty that we face in education is that, like with everything else, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation has become a pawn for the internal politics of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, that is the real internecine warfare that we need to be talking about in this debate, that is the truth, but what is happening is that the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation is being put at the centre of it all. Sir, then again, there was a time when we used to refer to the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation as Acting Prime Minister. I do not think we have been able to do that for some three or four years, that is the truth.

Mr. Speaker, let me get back to the educational issues. You cannot have an educational system that is divided on the basis of environmental threats, lack of resources, lack of supplies and industrial unrest. It is not fair, that is why even on the eve of the Common Entrance Examinations at a nomination meeting in St. Philip West, I made it clear that I would not support any effort by any union to do anything that would affect the holding of the Common Entrance Examinations because children have one chance and one chance alone. Indeed, the Honourable Member for St. James Central spoke in similar terms and we asked then for a truce to be called.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that beyond the Common Entrance Examinations this is the term of examinations. This is the term in which promotion examinations are conducted. This is the term in which Caribbean Examination Council examinations are conducted. Sir, I say to the Right Honourable Prime Minister that you cannot feel happy simply addressing this matter from a Branch Meeting in St. Peter and allowing the course of events to take the road that they have been taking, knowing full-well the uncertainty and the impact that it is having on the students, the parents and the teachers of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know who is right and who is wrong, I have not been briefed with the facts, but what I do know is that Barbados cannot have a school system that is the subject of daily reports on the newspapers and on the radio in circumstances where it affects the ability of children to be able to sit examinations in this promotion term. I do not know what the facts are but I do know that leadership demands that a Right Honourable Prime

Minister will intervene and bring order and regularity to the school system in this country.

Sir, I asked earlier about Errol Barrow's mirror image speech, and would not on that side dream that this would be acceptable to the kind of Barbados you would be building if you were to follow the exhortations of the Right Excellent Errol Barrow as to what kind of Barbados we should become as a result of the mirror image speech? Would this sit well with a Cammie Tudor who served also with distinction in the Ministry of Education? Would this still sit well with a Sir Frederick Smith, after whom you named a secondary school in St. James? I ask this Government to pause. I know you are distracted by so many other things, and we will come to them today, but understand there are 4 000 children a year -- the Minister of Education can correct me if I am wrong -- there are about 4 500 children for every age cohort in the system. So let's take it from 5 to about 16, a minimum, of 50 000 school children affected by an environment that is unfortunate, and I am almost tempted to say unruly in the educational system of this country, but if that were the total need for me to intervene on education it would be bad and bad enough, but we know, Sir, that this was a country that took pride in providing education, the phrase was often used from cradle to grave, opportunity. Let's get real.

The majority of people who have done well in this country are where they are because of the commitment to education by both political Parties. Grantley Adams built four secondary schools in the 1950s, the Barbados Labour Party that he led, West St. Joseph that is now Grantley Adams Secondary School; Richmond that is now St. Leonards School; Parkinson School and Princess Margaret School. Without that capacity enhanced you could not have literally made free education for many people a reality in this country in the early 1960s. Now we continue, Deighton Griffith was built in the 1980s. Louis Lynch was built and we had problems thereafter that we had to make decisions to re-absorb the children. I believe the Minister now recognizes the need for another secondary school because of the loss of Louis Lynch. This is what Barbadians valued and for good reason (1) in lifting people out of individual poverty, (2) it assured a sense of social stability because if people had something to lose, they would think twice about doing ignorance, and (3) it is a matter for our global competitiveness.

Sir, the Global Competitiveness Index for 2014 and regrettably there was none in which Barbados was included in 2015. There was a Global Competitiveness Index, Barbados was excluded from the rankings. We do not know if it is that the Government did not pay or the Government did not send the information, but it sends the wrong signal to people who want to invest, and who are serious about doing business in this country. Sir, the last available one of 2014 has us in the top 20 countries of the world in terms of

education. Do we know, Sir, it is the thing for which we are most competitive in the world? How do we therefore cut the very thing for \$35 million out of a \$4.4 billion dollar budget for which we are most competitive? I am not telling you that the Government finds itself in an easy fiscal situation, but I do know that priorities matter and I do know that rather than using an axe arbitrary cut expenditure, what is needed is a scalpel to brilliantly and surgically protect that which must be protected. Sir, I say to you that this was a matter on which we led the region. People used the Barbados model and aspired to us, even countries like Trinidad who then wanted to ensure their students had access. St. Kitts, Antigua, all of these countries felt that this mattered to Barbadians and it did well for Barbados, so it could do well for their citizens. What do we have instead? Horror stories of young Barbadians who had to drop out in the final year. I met one working one in a bar on the South Coast last week who wanted to be a social worker who had to abandon, could not afford, could not get someone to sign a Student Revolving Loan. How does it sit well with the conscience of people, the majority of people who went to the University of the West Indies in this country? How do we now get to a point where the first people thrown overboard are the children of poor and middle income Barbadians? Sir, 80% of those going to the university come from poor households, and this is in a Barbados where their own country assessment living conditions has told us that poverty has increased by 50% in this country, moving from 13% to almost 20%. So if people are finding it harder to eke out a living, how do you track them in poverty by refusing to give them access to education, free at the point of delivery? We have to have these conversations in this country, and I am saying to this Government that if you can find the money to spend on things which we will talk about later, then you could find the money to restore and give hope to ordinary Barbadians again, rather than to leave them trapped in a state depending on a parent who may have been laid off, depending on a parent who may not have gotten their separation package like the NCC workers, depending on someone who may be under employed now working 2 or 3 days week, leaving a parent to choose between children and scaring children for life because a child feels that my mother like my brother better because she did for my brother what she was not prepared to do for me. This country is littered with stories of that kind from ages ago, and we thought that all two political Parties put those issues to rest when we moved in the revolution that we had in this country that gave people access to education, that gave people the opportunity not be called a bastard, that gave people the right to be able to have access to land, that lifted the children of former slaves and people exploited in this country, and we now want to send them back to allow parents to do the unthinkable and choose between children? How does a parent divide the left behind children? How does a parent do that? How many people in powerful positions in this country that are carried down not

by a chip on their shoulder but by a quarry, not because of their incapacity to do their job but because they were not properly grounded in love and they feel insecure coming out of an environment, in fairness to the parent not that they did not love them, but the parent had to make choices and sometimes only 1 or 2 of the 3 or 4 can benefit. What they are going to do? Do not let them benefit? None before any? No, no. That could apply to another set of circumstances but not children with education. This is the point I am making.

I have confidence in this Parliament and certainly in this side to go through Government's claims and to prioritise Government's expenditure to protect that which truly matters to competitiveness to lifting our children out of poverty, and to providing a social stability because people understand and can reason. We cannot behave so because we have too much to lose. I commend when the Marshal gives out the documents, I commend this House to Page 26. It is not new because we have said it in here over and over how we will address the claims on public expenditure, how we will prioritise them. Something as either essential or it is not. If it is now, it may be highly desirable or optional, but what we cannot have are claims on public expenditure that confuse our priorities that lead to buildings being shut down for 18 months in bush and paying for security guards to watch the bush grow. Sir, \$30 million that is the price of education at the University of the West Indies for one year. I can go on and on.

Sir, you have the Honourable Member for St. Philip West in his letters referred to the fact that this Government added to its fiscal problems through things like the Constituency Councils and summer camps. Those were not our words. That is the Minister of Agriculture who said that, very clearly because he understood the precarious nature in which our fiscal circumstances were being put, but I say to you today that I am not holding the Minister of Finance responsible anymore. I am holding you the rest. Prime Minister, I am holding you responsible, through you, Mr. Speaker, because it is only the Prime Minister who can act, who can determine who is in charge of a ministry, and if you fail and you fail, and you fail, at what point you are going to leave the same person in there to fail and fail again. At what cost? Who is then to blame but the Prime Minister? I say to you, Mr. Prime Minister, through Mr. Speaker, who is in charge? He is the only one that can make the changes, who is therefore to blame. Then again, perhaps the Prime Minister is weighted down by his own promise at the Barbados Community College graduation of 2012 that there would be no fees, only to come in less than a year to a par to repudiate a promise made at the Barbados Community College. Sir, this is not new to me because an attempt was made, and I do not know how a Party -- they say that familiarity breeds contempt. I really believe it.

How does a Party that in on breath wants to trumpet free education as an achievement, tried not once but twice since Independence. Having not succeeded the first time because an election intervened and the people of this country mercifully decided to vote the Barbados Labour Party in, and the Barbados Labour Party in 1994 one of the first things I had to do was to speak to the World Bank and let them know that our Government would abandon the loan of US\$15 million for the Ministry of Education if it meant, as was committed by the then Democratic Labour Party Government, the fees would be charged at the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the University. When I approached the World Bank in Washington, what did they tell us? They said it was not their conditionality, that the Ministry of Education and the then Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning were who put to the World Bank as a condition precedent. How does a Part -- that is why I said to let us pause and get it right, because there is merit in there being two Parties. I believe in a democracy, but what I do not believe in is a Party that is so repudiated what it has stood for, that it has reduced itself to what it stands in here as.

Let us look at the next pillar, Sir, health. I have said over and over in here that Barbados excelled in its mastery of public health in the 20th century. That is why people left Barbados and were able to get high ranking jobs like Sir Kenneth Standard and Sir Kenneth Stewart, people who became experts in the field of public health throughout the region and indeed in the Commonwealth, and with 166 square miles we do not have a choice, because if you cough in St. Lucy you catch a cod in St. Philip. Size requires that we treat to public health with the upmost seriousness in this country. That is why, Sir, earlier this year I indicated, even before the Estimates were brought, that this side would support any expenditure that would allow Barbados to be properly debushed, to be kept clean and indeed to the able to rid ourselves of all forms of vectors, mosquitoes, rats, or whatever else may constitute a problem to human beings. The Ministry of Tourism eventually got onboard because they realized that Zika was affecting the numbers of persons wanting to come to Barbados, of childbearing age, and indeed the ones who were coming here to get married. Zika became a priority for the whole hemisphere and the WHO. Before Zika there was chikungunya. I have said in this Chamber over and over I knew what it is to still suffer from the aches and pains, and the disability that chikungunya leaves with you, and if you are rested you can get by good, but the day you get tired chikungunya then stays because it stays in your body, it then has a serious impact. Imagine it on older people. Imagine it on people with arthritis or worst still rheumatoid arthritis. I way today, as this side, Barbados is too filthy. We have the unacceptable situation where garbage is collected now in open back trucks, a threat to the workers, open back trucks I am told that they come from MTW and some privately

owned, instead of the compacted trucks that Barbadians have been familiar with for all my life. I am sure that other things existed before, but certainly do not have any recollection other than compacted trucks collecting garbage in this country. A country that needs 35 trucks to service the country daily, has been hobbling for the last two-and-a-half years anywhere between 10 to 17 trucks or 20 trucks a day, and more often than not closer to the 10 or so. Sir, 10 I am told has now gone, but it is not soon enough. When you combine poor garbage collection with the wrong-headed move of the introduction of the activation of a tipping, by the very admission of those in the industry has led to unheralded dumping across this country.

His Honourable Member for St. Thomas and the Honourable Member for St. James Central almost on a weekly basis complain about the dumping, not just up by Vacluse, but dumping across the entire island. I have to ask myself how does a Government focus more on the priorities of a Cahill, rather than on the daily needs of Barbadians to have their garbage collected, to have their country debushed and to do the simple things that would protect them from the public health menaces that face us on a daily and weekly basis. This is the reality.

I want the Minister of Health and the Minister of the Environment to address, in this Debate for Barbadians, how many fogging machines are working in this country today as we speak. I want them to address in this Debate how many vector investigation specialists they now have for the entire island after the layoffs; people who go and investigate and determine whether there is a problem that needs to be eradicated. This is what affects ordinary Barbadians. I do not know about you, but when I go into my constituency there are derelict buildings. I indicated that we would support a programme to remove the derelict buildings for which there has been no programme for almost seven years in Barbados. I want to repeat it. There was a time when we used to knock down derelict buildings and send the bill to the Land Tax owner. Why is it that there has been no removal of derelict buildings in the last seven years, I am told, in this country? It must be a priority, because derelict buildings harbour rats, mosquitoes and even criminals. These are the things that the people elected a Government to take care of.

Sir, I go on to the issue of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH). It is unfortunate that the Minister of Health is not in his seat because I do not believe in talking behind his back. I believe that we have never had a Minister of Health more disinterested in the portfolio. When he speaks about healthcare, he speaks to it as if he is really dealing with an engineering matter; in a matter-of-fact way that reflects no empathy. He does not talk about patient care. He does not talk about patients, or nurses. Today he is talking about ambulances again, is he not? He is talking about systems. In spite of all of that, he tells you

about a new hospital without telling you where the money is going to come from. What matters now in the QEH, polyclinics and Psychiatric Hospital are the patient care issues, and I am going to come to the St. John Polyclinic issue before I sit in here today, but not yet. Take time.

What matters are the patient care issues. Sir, do you know that if you do not have resources in this country, like insurance or cash to pay for health care, God help you in Barbados in 2016? Do you know that there are people who pray that they do not get sick in the middle of night and have to go down to the Accident & Emergency (A&E) Department; because the options are limited and they do not have the money to go to a Sandy Crest or an FMH or whatever? Sir, we cannot carry people to where we carried them. We cannot lead people to where they were on the 20th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of Independence and now bring them to a Barbados... Sir, do you know that the equipment to do colonoscopies in the hospital was not working for over a month? It was more than a month, the Member for St. George South who shadows that Ministry tells me. Sir, do you know that the inability to get a colonoscopy for that period of time could cause an underlying condition to worsen at a rapid rate? It is heart-wrenching.

Sir, I am not offering anymore. We will go and buy the ceiling tiles and put them there at the hospital. If they want to throw them away, throw them away. Imagine the notion of walking through a hospital with missing ceiling tiles. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North West and I butted up there one Sunday when we were both going to visit people. That is a fact. It is true, because all of us have cause to go into the hospital at some point or another. How can you have ceiling tiles missing in a sterile environment and collecting dust, and pipes that are clearly rusting? How can you have on the ground the tiling missing? I do not know if it is "Cong oleum" or some other kind of vinyl tile or what but I know there is a space missing that is about as long as where I am standing to where the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West is sitting. That part is missing, and it is all raw concrete, nasty, uneven and capable of gathering dust, germs and bacteria. I am saying to you that this is our only acute care facility in this country. Is it so difficult?

Let us get real, Sir. One political party planned it and started the construction, and the other party finished it. Both political parties have had a similar type of record until now in relation to the QEH, but there has been a decline. It is not because the doctors have become worse. In fact, the doctors and nurses have to be commended and commended highly, and I want to do so from the Floor of the House. They must be commended for working under the most difficult and straitened circumstances. How do you send back nurses whom you needed as long ago as three years? How do you not fill the gap of the nurses who have gone

but expect the nurses remaining to do the job that has to be done? How do you do it? How do we deal with equipment? I gave the example of the colonoscopy but there are other pieces of equipment that are missing. I say to you that this Government has to prioritise what matters. We all understand that you have to make adjustments, but you cannot put the people who can least afford it at the mercy of the elements in this country.

I say to you again, "Never have so many people been so frightened to go to sleep when the night comes," because they simply do not know what would befall them if they do not have the cash resources or the insurance in this country. This is not about politics or an Election. Election time will come. This is about dealing with the realities of Bajans on an ordinary basis. We have spoken in here and shown the pictures of what transpires at the Psychiatric Hospital; what transpires in terms of food being delivered. The reality is that this Government has been working for five or six years on the building of a kitchen. How do you spend five to six years? Then again, I forgot that this is the same Minister who has spent four or five years now on the building of a road at Warrens. He has perfected the art of cost overruns, but we will come to that later, as I said.

How do you find it acceptable for breakfast to be delivered to patients in a psychiatric hospital, some of whom may be diabetic, at 11 o'clock in the morning and 10:30 in the morning when they should be eating from anywhere between 7 a.m., 8 a.m. or 8.30 a.m.? How do you find it possible for lunch to come at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. simply because you do not have a kitchen onsite? I ask the Prime Minister again through you, Mr. Speaker, "Who is to blame?" It is not by accident that this country is becoming a country of breakdowns. You go to the airport and you see the parking machines with duct tape over the front of them for about two months now. You go to the airport and you see other areas out of commission for a while. You to the Licensing Authority, and for months an air-conditioning unit prevented them from serving the public beyond 11.30 a.m. You then say, having had all the machines broken down, that the Minister of Finance says he wants to collect money, but he cannot collect money because you cannot do your business. You then say that the machines are working again. When the people went to Holetown they found out yesterday that they sent out the wrong signal and that the equipment at Holetown still is not working. How do you expect Bajans to feel? This is the country where everything is breaking down and what is the common denominator. Sir, the Government is so struggling to pay either wages or service debt that it cannot buy goods, cannot buy services and it cannot maintain what it needs to maintain because most goods and services have to be maintained. Sir, that is what is happening. Sir, if it happens one year, you can get away with it but when you have two, three, four, five years of that kind of endemic underproviding in maintenance,

you get what we are getting in Barbados now, where everything is breaking down.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak also to the supplies because when you go into the hospital too, and the Minister of Health needs to know this if perhaps he took the time instead of treating it as an engineering project, to remember that we are dealing with human beings, that people have to take their own soap into the hospital, that people have to carry their own toiletries into the hospital, that more often than not they have to take bandages. Sir, sometimes they have to buy their own medicines because the shortage of medicine available within the hospital and they need urgent access to that medicine. Sir, I am not speaking from hearsay now. I am speaking from direct knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, this is an appeal now. If the Minister of Health cannot deal with it, I am asking the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, who is doctor because he ought to know better and he ought to be a voice of reasonableness on this issue. How can you give a woman, who had internal bleeding as her first meal after a few days, greasy food or spicy food? How can you be giving people food that is clearly unsuitable for their condition? Sir, when I ask questions I am told that you cannot quarrel because the people have to use what they have. Sir, what does that mean? Does it mean that they do not have the sufficient range of grocery to meet the dietary requirements of the range of patients in the hospital? I do not know what it means and I want it to be explained. Sir, I say to the Prime Minister yet again, who is in charge. We cannot continue to have these problems. I have already spoken in the past of the impact that other things have had. But who is in charge?

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that really and truly that the professionals, the ancillary staff in the hospital, the orderlies and the lab technicians are trying their best but they need the help and support of a Government that prioritises health care in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to come to the third pillar. The third pillar is sugar cane and agriculture generally. Sir, Barbados for many centuries have been synonymous with sugar and by extension rum. There was a little for and excursion with tobacco but that did not work and sugar cane was found to be the perfect crop for this country. Sir, many of us when we were going to school, we had to write compositions on the sugar industry. Sir, when I left school in 1983, we were talking about a sugar industry way in excess of 100 000 tons. Sir, today is not the day for a discussion on the absolute decline of the industry particularly from early 70s coming from the initial LOME discussions and what happened to the industry but, suffice it to say, that what we never expected is that we would be seeing a Barbados where the paltry figure of 7 000 tons would be the output of a sugar industry in this country. Sir,

the mirror image that we would have seen would have been of us utilizing the educational expertise, the scientific expertise to continue the work of new varieties. We were doing that when the majority of our people did not have access to education. We expected to see a Barbados that would look at trying to model a form of agriculture that is not plantation model based only recognizing that the infusion of technology and capital is absolutely critical particularly in the area of non-sugar agriculture in terms of us approaching elements of food security on certain crops and on certain livestock animals. Sir, we felt looking forward that Barbados still had a reason to maintain a rural society, that there were aesthetic and ecology reasons for a sugar cane industry and, indeed, before 2008, when we lost the Government there was a lot of work done on the building out of a sugar cane industry as opposed to simply a sugar industry and, Sir, what are the facts. There was more continuity on the face of it and in the face of the rhetoric such that we continue to support a decision by this Minister to pick back up and deal with the industry having had the factory that was planned and left there abandoned by the previous Minister, who I think is now Counsel General in Toronto.

Mr. Speaker, our issue is that apart from the feed stock, we do not support river tamarind, we do not support the site of Andrews because our was to be at Bulkeley but we also knew that you could not build that scale of factory based on the limited production of sugar cane in the country. Therefore, when we heard of plans to boost production first by the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Erskine Griffith, and then thereafter again by this Minister, we thought that the trajectory we would see for the production of sugar cane in Barbados would be going up and not coming down.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know who is responsible. I do not know how, once again, in education it was one set of pulling that the country is being made a victim of and in this instance with sugar, there is another set of pulling that the country is being made a victim of us. There is one set of things being said by the Minister of Finance, another set of things by the Minister of Agriculture and the Prime Minister promising, promising and nothing happening whatsoever. Sir, that is the reality of the sugar industry in Barbados. Sir, what are the implications for the farmers. If you are not paid what you are supposed to be paid in a timely manner, especially in agriculture where time is of the essence when it comes to plant, when it comes to fertilise and when it comes to reap, then people will get out of the industry. We do now find ourselves where nobody can give you a clear answer as to what is happening with the expanded production. Indeed, what is happening with the proceeds of the BAMC bond and, Sir, were those use for the purpose for which they were intended and the farmers able to access the money they were supposed to be accessing, to increase their production and yield or have

they been used to prop up State-owned agencies because of the cash flow difficulties of the Government. Sir, everything is juggling, juggling and juggling and what are the implications of not using those proceeds for the purpose for which they were supposed to be used, if in truth and in fact, that has happened. I do not know, but I know as a lawyer that there are serious implications in terms of breach of commitments and undertakings, if money is not used for the purpose for which it was raised. I am saying to you that these are not State secrets and as I come further and further down there has to be the transparency that this Government went across the length and breadth of Barbados promising, spent money, even asking people to come together to draft Freedom of Information legislation, pretends one thing, says one thing, but simple matters where they are not acting in their own deliberate name, but are acting in the names of the taxpayers and the people of this country, we cannot get a single word of clarity. I am saying that the sugar industry is one which requires urgent communication with the people of Barbados and in particular, the farmers of Barbados.

I am also asking, Sir, how do we feel satisfied at 7 000 tonnes when domestically Barbados has a demand for 15 000 tonnes of sugar? Do you mean that we are not even producing enough to satisfy local demand? These are the questions that we need answered and the Ministry of Agriculture cannot be a sideshow to the Ministry of Water Resources as difficult as the water resources issues are. What has to happen is that the planters and the people of Barbados need to know the future of the project, the intension of the Government to increase production or to abandon what they are doing. Whatever it is they are doing they need to speak to the country and let us know what has been the history of the proceeds coming out of the BAMC Bond raised by Ansa McAl in this country.

In respect of the non sugar agriculture, I am sorry that the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is not in his seat because he has perfected the art of complaining about agriculture problems after the act. I do not know how an Honourable Member, who is a member of a parliamentary party, can only know that an infraction, an offensive act to the farmers has taken place, only after the fact but not in a position to prevent it so we hear him complaining about the importation of chicken wings and licences being issued to the detriment of the farmers and the Honourable Member for St. George North will speak about it. We hear him complaining about Sandals and its procurement policies only after they concessions and benefits were given to Sandals, not before in trying to be able to do what had to be done beforehand. His voice therefore is to be a pacifier for his constituents not in St. Michael West Central but his constituents at the BAS rather than to be an influence or a voice that can make things happen in non sugar agriculture. What is the reality? Once again too many aspects of non sugar agriculture are

down in this country in terms of production. Let us not even talk about fisheries. Mr. Speaker, I say it is the same old, same old and something has to stop, but do not let me talk about water.

Mr. Speaker, there are very few things in an independent Barbados that has shocked me more than the reality of, not a drought, because we have droughts. Indeed in 1994 there was a long drought and somehow or another on the night of the general elections the heavens opened up and the rain came down and showers of blessings were brought upon the people of this nation. I remember going through Waterford in three feet of water so we know droughts. We know the impact of droughts on a water scarce country but what has shocked me more than anything else has been the failure of the Leader of this country in circumstances where more than one, about one in every four people are without a regular supply of water from St. Lucy to St. Peter to St. Joseph to St. John to St. Andrew to St. Thomas to parts of St. George, parts of St. Michael and when the Prime Minister was asked to address these issues he shifted and said to check the Minister of Agriculture. What the people wanted to hear and perhaps even more, what they wanted see and feel was the leader of Barbados' Government moving through the parishes where the affected residences lived. Can we ever even begin to imagine what it is like not to have water for four, five or six days? Where is the empathy? Where is the caring? I ask today: how does a government believe that it is okay to ignore the cries and not to go and speak with people regarding the short term needs. It is alright for us to tell them about what the medium terms issues are. We will get a package desalination plant, we will get a permanent desalination plant, we will lay new mains, but none of those things cannot happen in a day, a week or a month as we have learnt. Only the 31st December when I went through the North of the island, it was because the voices of anguish were too great and if nothing else, we had to be able to be there to work with them and help them, as we have done with some of them, access water in their own small way but there are only so much resources we have. What even compounded the issue, once again, broken down equipment or no equipment. Four water trucks, plus one big truck, a supertanker for a whole island, 166 square miles. How does a government know that a drought is coming? The gentleman from the Caribbean Meteorological Institute indicated that all Caribbean islands knew as early as early last year that a drought was coming and not procuring the equipment that is necessary to mitigate the burdens and the sufferation on the people ... Or is it that the people of the North do not matter?

Asides.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: Why does a Prime Minister believe that he can remain silent and detached on as fundamental an issue as water without which there will be

no life? This is what sums up this Government more than anything else. This is now the fifth month of the year and my letter to the Minister was written in early January and the Minister chose to respond to me instead of responding to the people. I understand. Sometimes I tell him that if he did not treat it as a public meeting he would have done better because he would have treated to the issues of the residents in a more empathic and caring way. That is the truth, but I tell you this, it is now five months and I have people constantly WhatsApping me, there has been some improvements in some districts and in other districts has been little improvements. That is the truth and I trust and pray that whatever medium term solution, because my letter addressed not only the long term solutions - and I will make my letter a document of the House -- but importantly also, the short term solutions because part of the difficulty is that when people go even to the community tanks that have become what they call the modern day standpipes, a lot of them are empty. There are parts of St. Lucy like Date Tree Hill where the tank is so far from where people live that if you see where they have to walk with the buckets and not only distance but the gradient of the hill that they have to climb up and down, and in the town meetings that we had across the island these were the words of ordinary Barbadians crying out for help.

The Minister of Agriculture must know the issue. There is very little difference on the long-term solutions because there are only so many potential solutions for long-term access to water. The difference between us and this Government comes on the need to help mitigate some of the short-term issues relating to access to water. Five months is too long for people to have to wait on this issue.

Sir, the fourth thing that I want to deal with relates to housing and land. This Government captured in 2008 in its campaign that which all of us know, that Bajans want a piece of the rock, that ownership of land. It is said that if there are two things that have lifted Barbadians out of poverty it is the combination of education and ownership of land. That is why Barbados had a legal mechanism known as a Foreclosure Suite, a Title Suite, decades before others found ways to be able to give people access to legal ownership of land so they could use the ownership of that land as collateral to access money to improve their housing, to buy a piece of equipment to farm or as a mechanic or for whatever purposes. It is why Hernando De Soto in his book "The Mystery of Capital" reflects on the fact that Latin America and Africa in particular suffered because they have not found ways to translate possession of land into legal instruments that would allow people to access capital in a western world where the leveraging of property is what unlocks people's access to money. That is a real fact.

We have to feel blessed that we live in a country that found a fictitious Foreclosure Suite because that is what it is. A fictitious suite in a law court is what gave people

access to land when they passed the land seed to seed to seed. Out there that piece is yours, that piece is yours, and you then translate that into ownership through the fictitious suite in the court system. We have since modernised it and instead of it taking three/four years it is intended now to take six to nine months if the system is working properly to give people access to the title deeds. A Registrar's title is the most perfect title you can get.

Housing and land are important to Barbadians. We have now endured a Minister of Housing for the last three years who is more preoccupied with the call-in programme until recently when he was rebuffed and who is more known for his activities at Moon Town than in his conquest in the Ministry of Housing, that is a reality. The bottom-line, therefore, is what we have heard from him attempts to try to talk about different projects. The Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown would speak at length on these issues, but at one and the same time we have heard different amounts, different proposals for the Grotto, a building on which this Government accessed \$30 million without lawful authority because the Trust which established the Housing Credit Trust did not allow for a dividend to be declared. You cannot declare a dividend from a Trust. The Solicitor General has finally settled that issue. I made the point in here in the Budget last year and I was attacked and within less than two months an opinion from the Solicitor General made it absolutely clear that the Government withdrew \$30 million without lawful authority in breach of the Trust from the Housing Credit Trust that is now managed by the Central Bank of Barbados. That Trust was set up to be able to allow financial institutions to have access to money such that they could unlend to other institutions and other individuals. It was not intended to pay for the construction of any building or to a contractor. Do not let me hear that I was for the Royal Bank of Canada because it was the contractor who signed the contract along with the Ministry of Finance.

It was not the National Housing Corporation or the Housing Credit Fund, so that there is no doubt that the problem that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy faces is that he is in charge of an insolvent and possibly even bankrupt National Housing Corporation, that is a fact. The moneys being voted for by this Honourable Chamber are insufficient when the month comes. We all know it. They cannot even pay salaries. We had the invidious situation at Christmastime with the workers of the National Housing Corporation not being able to receive their salaries in good time and good order to do their affairs in this country. Now, how did it get there? To use the language of Sir Lloyd Sandiford, how did it get there? How did we get there? Perhaps the Honourable Member for St. Lucy is carrying water for the Honourable Member for St. Philip North in a bag, not an act to be desired by anybody.

What has therefore happened is that the Government went on a frolic of building construction. This is the first time that I have seen so many empty houses and empty units for people to live in this country. Study it. Six or eight buildings at the Grotto of 80 units. There are probably about 700 houses, more than half of them I believe may have been built on Coverley, we pass them on the way to the airport, most of which are empty.

I keep making the point that the Government for some reason did not understand that it was commissioning and contracting for the building of houses that were not culturally appropriate or desired by Barbadians. A man or a woman will buy a house that is at an arm's length from another house for \$50 000/\$60 000 but they are not going to \$250 000 to \$300 000 to live within an arm's length of another person.

The notion of zero lot line was culturally inappropriate for this country. I am not going to get today into how Housing Concepts SRL even got the contract in the first place when other people were still busy trying to tender for it and how they were approved in the middle of the whole shebang and got it. What I do know is that mercifully in spite of many attempts to go to the National Insurance Scheme to purchase the empty houses that has not yet seen the light of day and should never do so, but what we do have is a Government that in spite of the fact that the housing solutions are not ... In Parish Land, St. Philip, CLICO at Constant. How many years have we been hearing that those houses would be fully completed? A dribble here, a drabble there, a dribble here, a drabble there. Really.

The Ministry of Housing and Lands' programme has been incentivised by something that we do not understand because if you have housing stock that is not being occupied why are you continuing to build more and more and more houses. Are we in the business of giving a return to the use of equipment and plant or are we in the business of allowing Barbadians to access housing? These are serious questions. We took the money from the sale of Republic Bank in 2013 and paid \$24 million for Valery. Cabinet approved Valery at \$15 million. Valery was almost 50 per cent cost overrun. This is the Government that talked about cost overruns in 2008 and said so from on high. Then Honourable Member for St. James Central is more familiar with these facts than I am, and I sure that the Honourable Member will get into them more than I will, that is the truth, then the Grotto which was finished since October 2014, by the Certificate of Practical Completion. Do the math. It was paid for in early 2015 before the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, 2015, last year. The only thing that is happening up there is bush growing and a security there watching the bush growing and being paid \$10 000 a month to watch the bush grow while the Government ponders and ponders. Mr. Speaker,

how do we get apartments that were really built for low income earners to be attractive now to middle income earners since the cost per square foot was \$540 per square foot for Valery, and I suspect the same for the Grotto?

The Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs told us that he had a forensic audit on the high-rise building in March two months ago but the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs has not as yet shared it with us and so I trust and pray that we will hear it in this debate. Sir, through you, tell the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs that the audit that we want is not that, but it is also the value-for-money audit, because the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs will have hell while persuading anybody in Barbados that any low income housing could be built at a cost of \$540 a square foot, the professional who were hired to do whatever... Which house in Barbados for low income earners is built at \$540 a square foot? You can sit a hymn and a ton, the bottom line is that Bajans build every day and they know that no low income house costing \$200 a square foot, far less \$540 could be acceptable. Sir, that is the reality of what we face in housing. Whose interest are we serving in this country?

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy can go back to sleep because I said his duty is more to preside over a séance down there. There is nothing for him to do, he can call the call-in programmes or he could make sure that Moon Town is well stocked. Sir, the truth is that the Honourable Member would always find a reason to open his mouth. Sir, I would only recall the origin of both of our parties when it comes to house construction in this country, both parties built houses that people wanted. Under the late Right Excellency Errol Walton Barrow Eden Lodge was built and Friendship Terrace in my constituency. These are fully populated areas. There were houses that Bajans could add onto at the back, could add onto at the top and could see themselves and their families living out their lives and passing on from generation to generation.

Sir, there were houses built at West Terrace, Oxnards, Husbands, Kingslands, so how come all of a sudden now we are building houses that cannot get sold, when Bajans want houses? Let us get real. There are two problems: (1), the cost is out of their affordability, (2), they are unattractive in the extreme and they will not pay that kind of price for somebody to hear them if they have flatulence far less anything else. Sir, I have not as yet got to the Town Planning Department planning issues surrounding that.

Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development is now up I want to address that issue. Now that the Honourable Member has arisen from

his slumber I would like the Honourable Member to address the issue of Hopeland or Rices, St. Philip where more than 100 people were allocated lots and the Right Honourable Prime Minister for whom this constituency was the first one that gave him an opportunity to enter into this Honourable Chamber in 1994, so the Honourable Member would be well-familiar with a lot of the people. Mr. Speaker, that is a fiasco and there are people who paid all of their money; there are people who paid some of their money to buy land lots at Hopeland/Rices and in some instances I believe there are about eight or ten houses that have been fully built on the lots. Do you know, Sir, that to this day the people have not been given the title deeds and that they were told that the land was pledged in the settlement of the Al Barack matter by the National Housing Corporation? How do you use the same land twice? If it were an individual who was doing that, they would have been guilty of obtaining money by deception, an offence under the Theft Act.

Mr. Speaker, what is even more is that the Honourable Attorney-General is their current Member of Parliament and it trust and pray that in this debate the Honourable Member would speak to his constituents because the former representative -- and I told the former representative let me see before he tells me anymore -- regaled me only last night of an example of a man who went to court to get this land. That man had been allocated the land, he paid, but did not get the title deeds and the court told him that the National Housing Corporation does not have to give him that piece of land because they had pledged it otherwise. Now, I refused to believe that as a judgment of the Law Courts of Barbados, because that is Government acting in the most oppressive, capricious, and arbitrary and wicked manner. Mr. Speaker, I hope that this man has got his cost. I want to investigate it and I give this Honourable House the assurance that I will investigate it, if not by the end of today, by tomorrow because I cannot believe what I was hearing last night. Sir, the others will tell you that I refused to believe it.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I believe him. I do not believe an Honourable Attorney-General who has remained absolutely silent on the suffering of these people at Hopeland/Rices for the last four years and with over 100 people at stake with house lots, one who could preside in a Cabinet, knowing full-well that a National Housing Corporation could go and take up the very same land and not deliver it to the people who legitimately paid their money? Sir, Government is behaving like a charlatan, Government is behaving like a three-card man, if that is what has happened. It is deception and there are people who mercifully were able to build a few houses up there, without access to money.

Mr. Speaker, I say simply that the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development has a duty to speak to the country on these issues in this debate. Sir, what transpired last time was that one person jumped up and talked as if the Government had put the finger up in the face of the people. Do so at your own peril this time because this debate is not about a single Member on this side personally, it is about the facts relating to the people of this country, that is why I keep saying to the Right Honourable Prime Minister who is in charge, who is to be blamed, who is the only person who can make changes.

Mr. Speaker, we have not even started to get into the rut that took place in the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development under the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, a time will come for that because it is rot, rot, rot. Everything that should have been issued and thrown out of the window as good governance was thrown out of the window, that is why the country is paying the financial price in many instances for some of the things that are going on in this country today. Sir, I say the whole Cabinet knows and the Right Honourable Prime Minister knows and everything remains...

I have said to the Right Honourable Prime Minister knows what to send to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, I am sure that he has the files there that he can send. Later on, I can tell him about the X5s too because I raised them in here, and X5s are still being driven, and in circumstances where a Minister could tell the staff of the Sanitation Service Authority to not only carry the Sanitation Service Authority vehicles to Transtech but carry your own. I did not know that a menace could get that low. I really did not know that. I do not have the office; the Prime Minister does, and it is his Cabinet, and it is he who knows which contracts were signed without Cabinet authority and which were not. I will have to come back after lunch and finish on that too. It is not me. It is not only Members on this side. We are not attacking people personally. We are relating to people's public duty.

Sir, when I ask the Minister of Housing to give us an update on Hopeland and Rices, I do so on behalf of those people who do not have a voice to be in here today and who want to know what their fate is. Some of them have paid down money, and as I said, have paid money to an institution that would otherwise be regarded as insolvent, and they ought to know. I have asked my office to investigate the matter with that case which I was told about, because I gave this House the solemn commitment that when I find out about it, I will give the House the full facts; whether today or on another occasion when the House meets.

Let me come now to the fifth issue for which Barbados is well known, Sir. That issue is about public service, governance, rule of law and industrial stability.

That is the truth. That is what separated us. Barbados exported more teachers, nurses, police officers and administrators in a pre-Independent Barbados than perhaps most other countries in the region. Barbados itself benefited from a high degree of professionalism from public servants and still, for the most part, they tried. They tried under difficult circumstances, Sir, but anybody who has been following what has happened in the last eight years would be the first to tell you, Sir, that Barbados has experienced a higher percentage of voluntary early retirement on the part of senior and middle-level public servants than at any other stage in its history. We lost to early retirement a Director of Finance and Economic Affairs, a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, a Chief Education Officer, a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, a Permanent in the Ministry of Investment only last year or the year before, and I can go on and on. This year, we will lose, I am told, a Director of Finance, a Cabinet Secretary and a Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office as well.

Therefore, Sir, part of the difficulty is that it means that people are acting beyond their normal appointed levels. I am told that in the Ministry of Finance, the Permanent Secretary is now acting three levels above her appointed level. We have a problem, and it is not one that is being addressed with any urgency in Government. Regarding the early exodus, the Government really ought to have asked itself, "Why do all of these people feel the need to take early retirement and leave? Does it relate to the behaviour of the Government?" Public servants are not whistleblowers. Does it relate to the fact that there is fear as to what the Government might do in relation to policies pertaining to gratuities or pensions? In most instances, Sir, these people are still capable, competent, and had many years to go when they left. I am not talking about the ones who had reached the age requirement. I am talking about the ones who took early retirement, and I defy anybody in this Chamber to contradict me on them because I know who they are. They took early retirement, and I am saying that the notion that all these people could take such early retirement is unacceptable. It affects the quality of governance.

I have said over and over that you can have a strong Government and a weak public service. You can have a weak Government and a strong public service. However, if you have a weak Government and a weak public service, you have a recipe for implosion and disaster. We know that we have a weak Government, and we know that the Public Service has been under severe pressure because of the extraordinary number of early voluntary retirements that have taken place in the last six to seven years. Therefore, Barbados is reeling under that pressure, and that is why we

singled out the public servants in the Covenant of Hope, because we understand that Barbados cannot function without you. Public servants must exist in an environment that is not acrimonious. What do we have instead? Bedlam and mayhem. From the Sanitation Service Authority to the Barbados Revenue Agency (BRA) to the National Conservation Commission to the Transport Board to the hospital to the air traffic controllers at Grantley Adams International Airport, to the discriminatory acts at the Barbados Investment Development Corporation. From pillar to post to pillar to post, public servants are being treated like footballs in this country, to be used and not promoted, not nurtured, and not looked after in terms of their welfare. Sir, it cannot be right.

I would like the Minister of Finance in this Debate to address - I know he is good at addressing other issues but I want him to address with seriousness the issue because the public wants to know -- how many officers have opted to go back from the BRA to the main Public Service. The facts are these: How much longer will we keep the businesses and households of this country under the threat of a go-slow at Customs because of the low morale at Customs in relation to the Government's stated intention of carrying them into the BRA? What more must they do to tell you that they do not believe that members of Customs ought to belong to an agency that is focused on revenue collection alone, and that the role of Customs goes beyond revenue collection but includes security, in particular border security? These people know that when the first notion of a central revenue agency came up -- I have the Cabinet Paper -- that the Barbados Labour Party Government did not intend to carry Customs into the central revenue authority. They know it would have to be a deliberate policy decision of this Government to carry them. How does a Prime Minister hear the cries of businessmen? The Honourable Member for St. James South speaks all the time. It is true that he speaks on everything, but he speaks boldly about what businessmen in this country are going through in relation to trying to clear goods out of the Port or the airport. They cannot get it done. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central must get the reports of the long lines at the airport, where they are backed up and backed up.

Asides.

Mr. Speaker, do you believe that the Honourable Member for the parish of St. Lucy, used to want an airport and now he wants a seaport too and that he would want to trivalise an experience, having now woken from his slumber, would want to trivalise an experience that does not inure to the benefit of this country or to those of us who have to depend on visitors coming to Barbados. Sir, there are too many visitors who have had to endure lines that are too long and too long a waiting period in the customs hall.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to come back to this matter because I spoke about it in this Chamber already. I am ashamed of what happens in relation to persons coming from the Caribbean. How can it be that there is only a green line for flights from North America? Is that the mirror image that Errol Barrow had of himself or of us, or that we have of ourselves? How do we treat our brothers and sisters coming from CARICOM, flights from Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Antigua, Trinidad, and 99 per cent of the time there is no green line for them but flights that come from London and New York and far away, you get a green line. Now, the green line used to mean something but in recent times, the lines have been so back up. Sir, it is not just that there is a go-slow, in fairness to the customs officers, there is a shortage of appointed personnel available to work the shift. Sir, any Minister who comes through the airport, if they were using the public hall, and ask the customs officers, would be told there is a shortage but yet that is the first impression that persons get when visiting Barbados. Sir, I am saying it is not appropriate or adequate. We depend on tourism and when it comes to the economy, we will better appreciate why an enhanced visitor experience is what must be completed and must be dealt with in this country. Sir, I also spoke about the issue of the public service and one of the things that has really taken off is the partisanship that now attaches the public service. There is no greater example of partisanship than in the choice of persons that were selected to be sent home at the Transport Board and at the National Conservation Commission (NCC). Sir, that is why the NCC's workers have had to be delayed and deferred on a never, never plan to the Employment Rights Tribunal.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who remain working there who have two years, three years and four years, and people who have been sent home with eight years, nine years and ten years. Sir, I was brought up in a household where FSB, Family Stand Back but the Minister of Environment would have to explain to us how in God's conscience, as a man of God, he could see people go home with nine, ten, eleven, twelve years and family close to him remain with two and three years' experience, when the Prime Minister in September 2013, went on the national television of this country and gave the commitment that one, no household would be left without somebody working, that if the person was the sole breadwinner, they would not be laid off. I can carry the Prime Minister to the evidence as well. Two, that last in first out would obtain. Sir, I am not going with the Transport Board because the Honourable Member who is formerly the Minister of Transport can also explain to us how equally -- I am not talking about the current one. I might have to but not now -- family related to him could be left in the Transport Board when other people were sent home.

Mr. Speaker, do you know that there was a woman who came in my office who has seven or eight children,

who was sent home but persons who are related to members of Cabinet and former candidates of the Democratic Labour Party with two, three, four years in spite of a promise given by this Prime Minister remains in the employment of the Transport Board and the National Conservation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that some of it is partisan but some of it is just taking care of a small subset of the Democratic Labour Party because if you listen to other members of the Democratic Labour Party they will tell you that they do not get a look-in from these fellows on the front bench. Sir, that is what you hear them say and that they do not recognise this group. Sir, it is a sad thing.

Mr. Speaker, all of these things go to undermine the public service of this country. We need a credible and strong public service but it cannot be do as we say and not as we do. Sir, a time is going to come when we truly have to make wrong things right and we are truly going to have to recognise that there has to be the insulation of the public service from the kind of partisan encroachment and intrusion that has taken place initially across successive parties but it has reached a new height under this Government such that people can no longer feel...

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, people feel that for anything to be done in this country, you have to know somebody or know somebody who know somebody or pass something in high places and low places. This cannot be the Barbados of the 50th year of its nationhood. We have to commit to a change of culture where people can succeed in this country not by who they know but by what they know and by dint of them being able to work hard, to work creatively and to work long. Sir, that is what should matter in this country and that is what this Covenant of Hope speaks to.

Mr. Speaker, I have had three phases to my political life and whatever may come in future, in Government, in Opposition is the last phase, be it the will of the people but whatever happens, I know that the next 10 or 12 years of my life is devoted to putting Barbados first above all else and all people and all parties in this country. Sir, I can say so freely because I know that Barbados has been good to all of us in here and we have a duty now to be good to Barbados and to protect its future among the people.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the rule of law. Sir, Government cannot be the chief law maker and law breaker too. I spoke already about the Housing Credit Fund. Sir, I will probably break for lunch and come back. Sir, with all due respect, I am going to be speaking for a long time. Sir, last night, up to seven o'clock, we were told there would be no broadcast and then miraculously at 8:30 we were told...

I do not know if the Prime Minister knows what we go through with this leader. We have learnt that we would have this debate for the first time less than 48 hours from my speaking now and, as a result, one of our members is out of the island unavoidably, but we will come and play to any rules that this Government sets and this Leader of the House treats to us in the most officious and off-handed way and we are not accorded the courtesy of being able to plan and prepare for debates. Sir, whatever else I may say, I do not associate the Prime Minister with that.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot be the chief law maker... Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: The email came on Sunday and I have taken the precaution of asking the Leader of the Opposition Business to copy everything to me because I know what the Honourable Member for Christ Church South wants to say in here and the public must know that the Opposition is operating under the most difficult, but we will rise to the occasion and if you give us less than 48 hours for this debate ... I spoke to the Leader of Government Business behind the Speaker's Chair in the House last week Tuesday and I asked him to give me an indication as to when we would be doing this debate because it is the Government's time to determine and he refused to do so. The Leader of Opposition Business spoke to him in the evening and he refused. That is how you want to do it, we will suffer any handicap for the people of Barbados. If this is what it takes to be the voice of the people of Barbados, we will suffer the handicaps.

As I was saying, Sir, you cannot be the chief lawmaker and the chief lawbreaker. It is not said in an acrimonious way, but it does matter and in the sense in which these things are superfluous or incidental. I am sorry for the Honourable Member for St. Joseph is not here and is out of the island because he would be able to speak to chapter and verse when he has proffered on the Floor of this House as others have, recommendations and I will go back to it you know because the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central ought to know better too. The Honourable Member for St. Joseph left the country on Sunday before we were informed that this debate was coming and he has had to take two flights to go where it is going.

As I was saying, the reality is that we have been on this Floor and made suggestions to amendments to the law that in our good judgment either need to be paused and taken to someone else back to the Chief Parliamentary Council, the Select Committee and taken to various things to allow us to reflect appropriately but there is a cavalier attitude and there is a cavalier attitude that is exhibited most when the Attorney General, who, I have never known him to be that way in the early part of his life but in the last few years he has become the most uptight, argumentative, and

in some instances, capable of offensive statements that do not reflect or befit him, not as the man that I know from a little child and I wonder whether the insecurity and the pressure of the job is affecting him. That is not the man that I knew but what I can say is this, that we have to pause.

The matter of the fingerprinting regulations a legitimate case has been made as to why those regulations cannot be valid both from the section under which they come under the Act as well as the fact that they were Gazetted in the wrong order in breach of the law. If we know these things, what does it take us to say, we do it wrong. Rather than saying it is not coming now to make people feel that you, being merciful and benevolent, but you have lawyers now trying to prepare to answer cases. What is going to happen? The Government is going to have to pay cost that it does not have, taxpayers' money that it does not have but then I should not be surprised because I was told that nobody turned up when the injunction was done for the sugar factory to represent the Government's interest either. This is not the kind of representation that I know from an Attorney General's Chambers.

Then there is the issue with the rule of law and the administration of justice. A blind man on a trotting horse knows we have problems. How can we be getting Court dates in 2018 and 2019 for simple interlocutory matters in 2016? I do not go anywhere near the law court to practice if I can help it, that is the truth because you cannot get in and out and our citizens whether in the family court, the commercial court or the criminal courts do not have the confidence of the capacity to get in and out in anyway. The Prime Minister has spoken to some of it already but I say to the Prime Minister it goes beyond speaking.

Mr. Speaker, when we reflected our concerns, I think that the situation is more than *ad hominem* now, I really do. I think it is institutional, systemic and it requires a mature conversation as a democracy as to how we are going to deal with it because we have introduced a rules-based system in a "cud dear" society. Barbados is a "cud dear" society. "Cud dear, gih muh a chance". "Cud dear, I had tuh go and drop muh child at school dis morning so I cudn't file de documents dat I was supposed to file." "Cud dear, I had to go and do X, Y, Z wid muh mudda so I cudn't come to court at 9:15 on time so therefore doan enforce de order on me, et cetera." We have to face the reality in a "cud dear" society rules-based approaches will fail, that persons have to be able to take decisions dispassionately without reference to wanting to be empathic or compassionate unless there is a matter of serious health, serious national security or serious proportions that is not your run-of-the-mill issue. What happens is adjournment after adjournment after adjournment and litigants are thrown from one side to the other carry in increase cost. It is not fair. When I practiced in St. Kitts or in St. Vincent when the judge tells you 9

o'clock it is 9 o'clock. If you do not get there you are going to get penalised but you see in those islands there are rotating judges who are not from the individual islands in most instances so the judges who are there did not go to school with, work with or grow up with the people who are coming before them because they are rotating judges in the OECS court system. I believe that we need to have a mature discussion as a country because, believe you me, we cannot take anymore judgments from the CCJ complaining about the length of time because the Ministry of Finance is going have to start paying out serious money for delayed judgments in this country and it is not fair to the taxpayers and it is not even fair to whomever is Minister of Finance to have to be planning out the affairs of this country in difficult times and then having these judgments coming out of nowhere because of slackness or because of systems not working within the judicial system and I appeal to the Prime Minister. Mr. Prime Minister, there is nobody else who can lead this effort. It is only you. You are responsible for the Cabinet Office, you are responsible for the executive and therefore while you cannot do it alone because the Governor-General is responsible for the appointment of judges, the system requires an all-party and civil society consultation to get it right. Barbados was known for our efficiency and our erudition from the judiciary and right now we are being treated by others who said, do not set up business in Barbados because if you have a dispute you cannot get in and out and it is affecting the investment climate but it is equally affecting the stability of homes in family law and it is affecting the stability of the society in relation to young people who find themselves before the courts.

Sir, I am going to treat to the issue of foreign policy small and then we will break because Barbados was the country that Kofi Annan, a former Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) said that we punched above our weight. We were the successful small developing country, we were regarded as a country to be emulated under both parties. When leaders who were well-known in the world visited the Caribbean they came to Barbados. We have now had the first black American President visit the Caribbean twice and Barbados was not on his calendar. He went to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica. We have had the President of China visit the Caribbean, we have had the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom visit the Caribbean. This is a country that had presidents and prime ministers visit it on a regular basis. When last has any major head of government or head of state visited Barbados?

The question that we get everywhere we go in the Caribbean and the diaspora is people asking us but what happened, what happened to Barbados. If Honourable Members in here do not admit that, they are obviously telling a lie to themselves because it is asked of almost every Bajan. People want to know what has happened to Barbados.

There was a time when Barbadian Prime Ministers or Barbadian Ministers spoke in a room and people rushed back in the room to hear, now we are told that they use it as an opportunity for a bathroom break or to go and walk and stretch their legs. We have a Minister of Foreign Affairs that has perfected the art of being uncharming, she really has, because you cannot even get a simple answer out of her as a Barbadian far less as a foreigner, and you have to ask yourself what has happened to the foreign service under her leadership. I have no confidence in it, that is the truth. How do you appoint persons without the appropriate vetting and how do you end up in a situation as a Minister of Foreign Affairs where persons who ought to be properly moving through... Our foreign service is being weakened and that is because actions that ought to be separate and apart from administration... A Minister's role is policy not administrating staff, not directing staff. Then you ask the question for somebody who is in the air two-thirds of the month what is being done in the name of Barbados. When last can anybody on this side or in this Chamber tell us what the Minister of Foreign Affairs is achieving for us as a country. I know what the Honourable Prime Minister has done with climate change. To his credit, whatever he says at least that comes in the newspaper. What is the Minister of Foreign Affairs doing on our behalf? What is it that is justified? We know that a Minister of Foreign Affairs has to fly, that is not the issue, what is the issue is on what platform is she standing, in whose name is she acting, and for whom is she speaking?

I ask these questions because we support, for a country our size, an elaborate network of embassies and consulates. I still believe that this Government has gotten it wrong by not having more foreign service officers head up critical agencies. How do we have one officer acting in a position for five years in the absence of an ambassador and do not appoint them? The appointment of an ambassador is not a public service or foreign service appointment, it is the Honourable Prime Minister's appointment. Ambassadors are appointed by the Honourable Prime Minister. How do we have one person act in a jurisdiction for more than five years and we do not appoint them? I do not know anything about the person but when I read these things on paper it does not make any sense to me. I am saying that we were a country... It was in our first speech at the United Nations when the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow said what, friends of all, satellites of none. I am humble enough to admit that that has informed all Barbados Governments foreign policies since those words were uttered at the United Nations, it has, but we feel that our foreign policy has lost its way and that there is no relationship that links it back to domestic policy.

The Honourable Member for St. James Central spoke to these issues brilliantly on Thursday on why we need a foreign policy that is rooted in the protection of our domestic interest in protecting and speaking against

oppression and breaches of human rights wherever they occur, that we have to the freedom so to do which means the economically we cannot be dependent on anybody in the need to expand our foreign, economic and international trade possibilities as a buttress to our domestic economic prosperity and indeed in relation to the international matters of the day that are now more complex that require our participation, from climate change to the World Trade Organisation, to what the Honourable Prime Minister may have referred to yesterday - and I hope that he is relying on more than a hope and a pray to fight that battle - in relation to the international business challenges because these are the issues that are required of sovereign states in a complex international policy, and in those circumstances, it matters what is happening in relation to foreign policy and foreign trade.

What has happened to the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)? We heard about EPA and this Government only when the Honourable Minister of Finance was in those days the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Since six years ago we have heard no word in relation to other trade agreements as part of the lexicon of the language of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. I say, Mr. Speaker, that in these matters we can have no confidence in the conduct of this Government's foreign policy or in the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

Sir, it might be an appropriate time to take a break here because I do have a number of matters. I have not yet reached the economy and I have not yet reached the critical issues of governance and equity in this country so this might be an appropriate time at which to take a break.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: yes, Honourable Member.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 2.15 p.m. today.

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 accordingly.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Honourable Members, this Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken we were on Order No. 6, and with that we shall

resumed. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, when we took the Break I was now coming to the point of dealing with the economy and I want to do so, Sir, because in a very real sense it is our economic problems that have led effectively to the implosion of so many other aspects of our society. We have, for example, discussed earlier today the impact of an inability to maintain services and goods and to undertake appropriate maintenance and the impact that that has had on services being made available to the people of this country.

Sir, let us start back from the beginning. This Government came in 2010 and sought to bring a Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy under the then Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and then Right Honourable Prime Minister and indeed there was a session at Sherbourne, the now Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, that spoke to these issues and a proposal was given that would stabilise the fiscal difficulties that the economy was already facing coming out of an international economic recession.

Mr. Speaker, there was then a Revised Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy that addressed the premises upon which action was to be made and all of these strategies were premised on unlocking hundreds of millions of dollars from the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, et cetera. We indicated then that it was unrealistic and we had the Government talking from as far back as then about the rationalisation of statutory corporations some six years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I really must give this Government an Oscar for their ability to speak, because they speak and speak the right thing but it is not buttressed by language and in this instance, appropriate policy. They then came, after the elections, in August 2013, having dismissed the contention that Barbados' economy was in difficulty -- the election was February 21st -- and by no later than June within three months there was a big confab, a big encounter at the Hilton Hotel where the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados came and reported to the Social Partnership and to the country that the economy was in serious trouble, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we said then that it was testimony to the chickens coming home to roost, that it was a case of a political party saying what they needed to say to win and election and having won it now, the bitter medicine that would be administered. Mr. Speaker, in between there let me say there was a 10-point plan brought by the Minister of Tourism, to which the Honourable Members for St. James Central and St. Michael South East responded on the day. It was a Press Conference with the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and we heard a whole host of initiatives, from renewables

for the hotel plant, right back through to a number of things that were to have been done, most of which we have not seen.

Mr. Speaker, to be precise, on August 13, 2013 came the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals and came the startling admission from the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs that there had been a dramatic fall in the foreign reserves of this country and that is required urgent intervention and that the deficit, if left unchecked, would reach 9 per cent of Gross Domestic Product in that year. That was the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs reason for intervention, and we had a whole host of initiatives from the removing from the Reversed Tax Credit, to the question of the first hint that you may be sending people home, to cuts from various statutory corporations; a whole host of initiatives were put to the country in a 19-months' fiscal adjustment strategy.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember this is attempt no.3. I referred earlier in my speech to the Right Honourable Prime Minister's assurances to the country in relation to persons who would have to be laid off and what would be the policy of his Government with respect to laying off those persons. Mr. Speaker, no later than December, within five months, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs came back to his Honourable Chamber and indicated that the measures which he announced in his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals were insufficient and there would now have to be 3 000 persons laid off from the public service.

Mr. Speaker, on that day the Barbados Labour Party help a Press Conference and indicated that we were asking people to bear a sacrifice and a burden, without giving them the comfort that these measures would bring the country to a point of safety. We were attacked and ridiculed for those statements. In less than three months attempt No. 5 came where the Minister, unusually so, in the Estimates announced a programme to raise Excise Taxes and to put a tax on non-bank assets for non-bank financial institutions and a range of other measures. Would you believe, Sir, that the deficit was, in fact, worse than the deficit we set out to avoid as the worst-case scenario that the deficit achieved by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs was worse than what he indicated in August, 2013, would be his worst-case scenario and there started the roller coaster for ordinary Barbadians.

Mr. Speaker, I maintained that when an economy is not performing, because its productive sectors are not performing, that we can fix them within a matter of two, three or four years, but when you have an economy that is being affected by sustained actions that lead to institutional decay and social implosion, that we are then talking about a decade to recover, because the very people who are required to help build out this economy in terms of their

work, in terms of their actions and in terms of social capital, are not in a position so to do and that you start to see the unfortunate signs of increase crime, problems with public health, immigration, people wanting to go away to live and all of the signs that we predicted, regrettably, came then to be associated by the summer, 2014, right through to today.

Mr. Speaker, when I speak of a three-year season of discontent, it is against this background that the public feels that these decisions were being taken to put them forward to bear the brunt of the adjustment but that others, whether within the productive sector or individuals were being treated and given, indeed, preferential treatment in this country.

Sir, I have taken the time today to start to bring some graphics because it is important that Barbadians understand what faces us. I want to go back to some graphs that were done and a Paper that accompanied it by Mr. Ryan Straughan who happens to be the candidate for Christ Church East Central for the Barbados Labour Party. At that time I did not know the gentleman, because this came out before the last election. He produced a document that says it so well graphically that I believe that Barbadians need to have the chance to be able to treat to it. Barbados has a fixed exchange rate, and a fixed exchange rate requires a disciplined fiscal policy. In other words, if we want to keep the value of our dollar, we must be fiscally disciplined; Government must be disciplined in its spending and what deficits it seeks to incur. Between 1955 and 2007, this country was known globally for fiscal discipline. From the days of the Barbados Labour Party's Grantley Adams Administration right through to the Errol Barrow Administration, the Tom Adams Administration, the Bernard "Bree" St. John Administration, the Erskine Sandiford Administration, the Administration of the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter, and then that of the now deceased Member for St. John, we took a snapshot of what fiscal governance looked like. In other words, how Government spends money; if it spends too much, too little, or if it is balanced, because there is an old Barbadian saying that all of us have had drilled into us: "You cannot spend what you do not have." Between 1955 and 2007, the Government of Barbados adhered to those principles, so that in 1955 under the Barbados Labour Party administration until 1961, because the Democratic Labour Party won in December 1961 which would have been in the middle of the 1961-1962 year....

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just a minute. What is happening here?

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am using aids in order to make them Documents of the House. It is not the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: It is certainly new to me.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: It certainly is not the first time in this Parliament, Sir. A document is still a document irrespective of its size. It is not electronic.

MR. SPEAKER: The rules provide that you may speak from your notes.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: This is my notes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: If that is your note, speak to it because I am not permitting any use of placards. Soon from now, one will have to stop other Members from getting up with placards saying this is that, Ma'am. I am not permitting the use of those aids there. It was not brought to my attention and I am not permitting it.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, these are my notes and therefore it is not a placard. It says "public finances 1955-56, 1961-62", and you will see from these....

MR. SPEAKER: Opposition Leader, I am not permitting their use.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like the reason for the ruling - I am not sure of it -- so that I would know how to move in terms of the Committee of Privileges, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. The rule is that a Member may not read his speech but may read extracts from books or papers other than newspapers, and so on.

Aside.

MR. SPEAKER: You asked for a ruling, Ma'am. If you would keep quiet, I would give you the ruling.

Aside.

MR. SPEAKER: The Opposition Leader likes to speak. When she is finished, I will make my ruling. I will wait. If you are in control, you make your speech. Do not let me finish. Have your say.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, if we were in control we would not have given the Opposition 48 hours or less notice for this Debate. We are not, but I do believe that this House allows me to address you on matters of logic and reasoning. I do not have a placard in my hand. I have in my hand, Sir, a document which I am using to read from. I cannot see how this is other than my notes when the source is the Central Bank of Barbados, the Accountant General and the Ministry of Finance. Mr. Speaker, it shows the current revenue, current expenditure and capital expenditure. It also shows that....

MR. SPEAKER: Are you finished on your point of logic so that I can make the ruling and explain why I did it, Ma'am?

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am describing the notes.

MR. SPEAKER: You are describing the note.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I cannot believe that in 2016 the Attorney General has a laptop for which the Rules do not provide, and it is open and he is using it. The Member for Christ Church East Central and the Member for St. James South all have electronic devices open.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please sit down and let me make my ruling.

Asides.

MR. SPEAKER: You know, this is interesting. Honourable Member, please take your seat. I have made rulings in here against two Prime Ministers and a former Leader of the Opposition, and all I have heard was "very well, Mr. Speaker" and they sat down, but this particular Opposition Leader feels that she can control this Chair, apparently. Madam, as far as I am concerned, there is no provision made for the use of such aids in this House, and there are good reasons for that. If we had made provision and we had some kind of means of ensuring that all Members could see it from there and so on, I could understand. If you had consulted the Chair before, so we could see how it could be done, I could understand. I am not going to permit you to walk in here with your aid, which disadvantages some Members, simply for the benefit of the cameras. I am not allowing it. It will not be allowed.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: I am bewildered but I am obliged to you.

MR. SPEAKER: We are both bewildered. Continue.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: I am asking the Member for St. Michael South East to use her notes, because the truth is that no amount of removal of aids or notes will stop the ability to tell the story of the fiscal indiscipline that this Government has engaged in from 2008, Mr. Speaker. I do not need that. I really do not, because the facts cannot be erased. Between 1955 and 1962, the Government of Barbados did not run a fiscal current account deficit. Let me break it down to what it means. The Government of Barbados kept within what it earned on a month-to-month basis, and it spent within its earnings. It did not put the taxpayers at risk. It did not put the dollar that we would ultimately adopt at risk. Between 1962 and 1977 under a Democratic Labour Party

Administration, Mr. Barrow as Minister of Finance only ran a current account fiscal deficit on two occasions.

Aside. (These words were subsequently struck from the record)

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: In 1962 there was a \$600 000 deficit.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, just a minute. I want you to withdraw those comments and I will have them struck from the record, because it is very popular now to take the rulings of the Speaker and say that they are the Government of Barbados' rulings. As I would have indicated before, I have tried to rule impartially and those who do not like the ruling can bring them up as a substantive matter, but I am not going to let you denigrate the Chair by basically suggesting that it is the ruling of the Government.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: I did not hear you, Sir, your voice is dipping.

MR. SPEAKER: I said I am not going to let you denigrate the Chair -- I think that is the correct word -- by suggesting that the ruling of the Chair is the ruling of the Government. We have been going very well today, and I would like that to continue.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I did not suggest that at all and if that is what you heard, I am sorry. I never said so.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Opposition Leader, the other thing is that I would like you to observe the rule that when the Chair is speaking, you keep quiet and wait until the Chair has finished. I think you heard that?

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am obliged but I also would like you to remember that there are times when I am telling you in all sincerity that I am not hearing your voice, and on at least two occasions today I have had to ask you to repeat. For whatever reason, your voice dips and gives the impression that you are no longer speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: I see. Mr. Clerk of Parliament, please speak to the sound engineers and make sure that they correct that, so that my voice does not dip and she does not hear.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: It is a fact. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Eastmond, please speak to the sound engineers and make sure they correct that thing so that my voice does not dip and she does not hear.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Sir, between 1962 and 1977, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barrow ran a current account deficit of \$600 000 in 1962. There was not another current account deficit by his Government unless 12 years later in 1974. I want Honourable Members on this side to appreciate the significance of what is happening in our history today on the eve of our 50th Anniversary. Sir, between 1952 and 1977, we ran a current account fiscal deficit twice. Sir, between 1976/77, under the Tom Adams and Bree St. John administration and 1985/86, we ran a current account deficit once in 10 years and that was the very first year they were in Government in 1977 to 1978 a current account deficit of \$1.1 million. Sir, you had \$600 000 in 1962; you have \$12.2 million in 1974, which I suspect was the oil crisis; and you had \$1.1 in 1977. The next one that was run was under the Erskine Sandiford administration in 1988/89. He ran a \$21.3 million current account fiscal deficit on monthly bill. They were not capital projects. Sir, he ran a \$7.8 million in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, look at it, these are the notes. There were none under Sir Grantley, two under the Errol Barrow administration, one under the Tom Adams administration that was negligible, \$1.1 million and indeed, two under the Erskine Sandiford administration. Sir, under the administration led by the Honourable Member for St. Peter, there was one in the final year in which we were in office. Sir, look at it, when the orange exceeds the black is when you are running a current account fiscal deficit and, Mr. Speaker, under this Government elected in 2008, the former Honourable Member for St. Peter and the current Prime Minister, we have run current account fiscal deficits in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and we are projecting to run one this year in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, what was an aberration for the first 52 years of our governance since universal adult suffrage, since Cabinet Government was introduced in this country, five times in 52 years has now become the norm. what was the exception to the rule has now become the rule and then we want to know why buses are not working, why the hospital cannot get the supplies, why people are not being fed what they need, why the school meals and the schools are in the state that they are, why public servants are employed in many instances to sit down and twiddle their thumbs because there are no goods or supplies available for them to do their job. Sir, all the time is was speaking this morning, I did not know you had problems back again in Oistins with the machine again and that more than 50 people were up there this morning and eventually when they did open, only four people could be processes in an hour, and it took a while for the machines to get up. Sir, Holetown was not working either.

Mr. Speaker, this Government feels that we are just saying it but, Sir, we are all Barbadians. It is this situation, lack of fiscal governance and lack of fiscal stability that

puts us in here. Sir, I am going to go through my notes to speak to some other matters because miraculously, the Central Bank of Barbados Governor's Report came during lunch time and thank God, I did not address the economy before lunch because if not I would not have the benefit of it.

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, let us look at what is going on in Barbados. Sir, I will have to show the public of Barbados the large graphs at a different time but when you look at what is happening in relation -- the slides will be available on the Barbados Labour Party Facebook page within a matter of no time at all, so that persons can follow it. Sir, if you look at this graph, this is zero and this year starts in 2006 and goes to 2015. The only time that this graph become appreciably above zero percent is in the year 2006, ever since this Government has been the Government and the blue line is the line that traces growth in this economy. Sir, I will make them documents of the House for Honourable Members.

Mr. Speaker, you will see that Government experience as a Government has been effectively to preside over no growth or negligible growth. Sir, as we have said in the Resolution that it has effectively meant that we have an economy in Barbados today that is nominally smaller than it was in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, it means that our economy has contracted. Sir, look at it. This small line is 2006. The next line that goes high is 2007, where the nominal GDP of the economy was \$9.92 billion. Sir, our GDP in 2015 is \$8.817 billion. Sir, look at how short that graph is compared to tall graph here for 2007. Sir, a picture speaks a thousand words.

Mr. Speaker, I go on because I spoke about the fiscal decline. Sir, if you look at it, this is this Government's record. Sir, everything below this line is in fact a deficit but this is a laughing matter for the Government. The consequences of this, however, are no laughing matter for our constituents. Indeed, Sir, if we continue, perhaps the most worrisome thing is Government's interest payments. The Honourable Member for St. Philip West, his letters have continued to speak to this. Sir, look at where Government's interest payments have gone from 2007 to 2015/2016. They have almost trebled, they have almost increased. They have doubled, not trebled and, Sir, look at the graph. Sir, every day you have to spend money to pay interest, is a dollar taken away from spending on some other needy activity or productive activity to help this economy grow.

Mr. Speaker, we have said and we have had debates in here now every year for the last few years, from 2008

onwards. The interest problem became acute from 2010. The Minister of Agriculture has been writing from 2012, I believe. The Honourable Member for St. Peter has spoken to it. The Opposition has been consistent on it and the only person who has ignored it has been the Government and the Minister of Finance. I do not know who is worse off. Sir, every member of Cabinet not being able to stomach that they are wrong, or the one man who clearly cannot stomach that he is right among them. In other instance, Sir, the only similarity is that both are in convulsions and when we look at these graphs reflecting these interest rates we begin to understand why Barbados is in the position that it is in.

Early in the Estimates this year, I made the point that we are now in a position where the interest rates for 2016/2017 are within \$40 million of all the wages that we have to pay across the entire central government and that the interest payments for this upcoming year are likely to be at the level of \$730 million and in 2007 we were spending less than \$390 million on interest rates. That is where the money is going but we have a stubborn headed Government that is not prepared to listen. What are the consequences of these large deficits, Sir? The National Insurance Scheme, the Central Bank of Barbados and the private sector or Barbados are carrying this Government's reckless and profligate spending.

In the year 2007, we left the National Insurance Scheme holding no more than \$1.4 billion in Government Paper. Look at the graph again, down here, \$1.4 billion. Do you know what the National Insurance Scheme was holding at the end of 2015? The National Insurance Scheme was then holding \$3.228 billion, more than a doubling. Indeed, Sir, 130 per cent increase in eight years so that the NIS has now super exposure to the Government of Barbados' Paper in circumstances where this Government has not allowed them to invest the pension funds that they have on behalf of Barbadians outside of this country and the region since 2008. I really do not know, I am told that the Central Bank's Pension Fund is allowed to invest outside. I would like to know whether that is true. I cannot speak definitively to it but if it is, there can be no reason why the Central Bank's Pension Fund is given that permission and not the National Insurance Scheme and while I accept that the NIS must help build out this country it must do so in projects that give them an appreciable medium term rate of return in excess of 6 per cent but not in the purchase of Government Paper simply because a government cannot adjust its spending to the proper level that it should be at.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007 the Central Bank of Barbados had only \$21 million in Government Paper. This is how the Government seeks to get these entities to help them pay its bills so the Central Bank of Barbados and the NIS would buy the Government Paper and the Government then can go and pay its bills because it is a way of financing the

Government's deficit. Sir, do you believe that between 2007 and to now that our situation has become so dire that at the end of 2015 the Central Bank of Barbados was holding \$1 072 billion in Government Paper? From \$21 million in 2007, the last year of a Barbados Labour Party Government, but, Sir, how, was the most shocked person to receive the Central Bank of Barbados' report at lunch time because the figure has now further increase since the report given in January and this document now in table 5 and I make it a document of the House, the March 2016 press release. No wonder that they did not want us to see it is now \$1 028.3 million or to put it in perspective, Sir, that the Central Bank of Barbados continues to print more money and has printed another \$56 million in the first quarter of this year to support the Government spending. When will it stop, Sir?

In the Estimates, I asked the Minister of Finance why has the Government of Barbados not release the IMF 2015 Article IV Report. It is not for us to release. Why is it that the people of Barbados and the investors doing business with Barbados cannot see it? What is the first major risk that the IMF continues to be worried about is that it continues to be the increase Central Bank financing. They said in straight terms, Mr. Speaker, cease. The young people know the word "cease" very good you know, stop. Do not reduce and breakdown, cease, but instead today, this morning the Central Bank of Barbados release a report showing that in the first three months of the years it printed another \$56 million. What are the consequences to ordinary Barbadians? That this activity puts us at risk, puts our exchange rate at rate, and God-forbid the reason why there is such commitment to maintaining our exchange rate is because we know the consequences of devaluation on ordinary people in this country and indeed not so ordinary too. It will be devastating. We know stories from Guyana, Trinidad and Jamaica. We know what those people have had to endure but yet we continue to do the very thing that places at risk our monetary stability and our exchange rate by continuing to print money. Mr. Speaker, I say this country is in deep crisis and Mr. Prime Minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, I have to ask again. Who is in charge? We reappointed a Governor of the Central Bank that clearly does not enjoy the confidence of the Members of Cabinet and they say so openly and we reappointed him at the age of 70 but sent home Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) workers early because we say that they have reached the normal retirement age. What kind of message is this Government sending the people?

Let us go on, Sir. I have had cause to complain in here and on the last occasion, I thought that the Central Bank of Barbados had cured their ways. These are both to be made documents of the House because Mr. Prime Minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, because if you are not seeing what is going on in his Government's name he need

to. For two or three reports information that is known to the Central Bank of Barbados is withheld from the public of Barbados. Go to table 1 where we should be told what the fiscal deficit is as a percentage of GDP at the end of March 2016. What is the fiscal current account deficit, that thing I just had all those graphs on, Sir, that you said I could not use for notes. What is the revenue as a percentage of GDP at the end of March 2016? What is the expenditure as a percentage of GDP at the end of March 2016? What is the Government's interest payments as a percentage of revenue?

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance made a great sound and dance in the Estimates about information coming to him daily. He does not have to wait, he knows. I do not know if the Prime Minister gets it daily or not but I know that we simply get it quarterly and we would be very happy to get it quarterly but all of a sudden, having restarted the practice of printing that information in table 1 in the December 2015 report, look at the blank columns today. Who are we dealing with in this country?

This is the kind of disrespect and contempt that is being meted out not just to Barbadians but to institutions. This data, for sure, in the January to March 2015 column is available to the Central Bank because that is last year's data. They have it but have left it out because clearly I can only assume that the trajectory is not going in the direction in which they want it to go.

Let us deal with the foreign reserves. The foreign reserves at the end of March this year stood at \$940.3 million. What is the reality, Mr. Speaker? That this is \$195 million less than it was last year March. I want to repeat it Sir, because in respect of foreign reserves you have to compare quarter with quarter because of the traditional sectoral activities that affect the reserves. Inasmuch we would want to follow it in a continuum, we need to compare quarter with quarter to see where we are. This Central Bank Report has at the end of January to March 2016 foreign reserves of \$940.3 million. Mr. Speaker, at the end of January to March last year, 2015, the country had \$1 135.7 million in foreign reserves so in spite of all of the measures that the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank are putting in place...

I come back to the Minister of Agriculture's letter to the Honourable Prime Minister. It certainly seems as though he knows more about what he is speaking about than any of the two of them. The Prime Minister must ask himself at what point do I continue to carry not the Government but a whole country down the path... Is it that a teacher cannot admit that a student can correct him, because I am told that the Honourable Prime Minister taught the Minister of agriculture?

We know that the fiscal deficit in 2016/2017 is intended to increase. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Report, which is not being released, tells us that we must be reducing the deficit and not increasing it. That is what the Government committed to do; that is why the Government sent home 3 000 persons; and that is why the hospital and the University of the West Indies and all of the other agencies cannot get their full allocations but yet the deficit is going back up in 2016/2017. Is it because of what kind of spending? Can we therefore afford to spend the \$8 or \$9 million on independence and the other things given that we are going back up in spending. Having asked people to be laid off and to take the lashes, some still do not get their money in a separation package, but Government spending is going back up in the deficit this year. We then come to the foreign reserves.

The reason why the 19-month Fiscal Adjustment Strategy was brought in place was to stem the decline in the reserves. The Honourable Minister of Finance indicated then that he needed urgent action. What he does not tell us is that we then borrowed that Credit Suisse loan and that same Credit Suisse loan has had its interest payments increased twice because of downgrades that this Government has described as garbage. Well, garbage has cost the people of Barbados more money not just the garbage that is going to SBRC but the downgrades because with every downgrade we have to pay a higher interest rate, so if you were paying, for argument sake, 10 per cent before, you got to pay 11 per cent. One per cent or 2 per cent on US\$200 million is a lot of money. All of this is going on in the country and nary a word, not one, from the Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados or the Honourable Minister of Finance. Other than the occasional letter that the Minister of Agriculture writes, the public of Barbados is no better. This is scandalous in the extreme.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that when we look at where Barbados has gone too with these downgrades we got to have a conscience in here because -- it would be Crop Over soon, it was just Christmas, it is only 18 more months of this and then two years' time... How many of us could remember the year 2010? The Honourable Member for St. John passed away in 2010 and it seems like just yesterday.

Barbados continues beyond us, beyond you on that side and beyond us on this side, and that what is required of us is to stand in the breach for this country. I trust and pray that a conscience would emerge in this Chamber today that would allow people to do the right thing because this fundamental economic data is not good. I do not even bother to read the Editorial comment at the front of these Central Bank Reports anymore because they are not worth the paper on which is it written, they really are not, because we now have political propaganda that would make

Goebbels looks like a neophyte coming from the Central Bank, we really do.

Mr. Speaker, I have not even had the time to go through the full Report yet but the truth is would you believe that with all of the increase tourists that we had last year and the stellar years since 2007... We do not count tourists for the sake of counting them. What matters is their spend and their contribution to the economy. With all of that the inflows from tourism last year could not even top the inflows of tourism from this Government in 2013, not to mention what they were when we left Government in 2007. We left the inflows from tourism at \$2.3 billion and change. Prices have increased about 40-something per cent since then. Do you know that all tourism was able to earn last year was \$1.843 billion? Even this Government earned more money in 2013 with less tourists. This Government in 2013 earned \$1.927 billion. These are not mine figures, these are their figures, but I want to cause the public of Barbados is beating their chest about the narrative of number of tourists. At the end of the day it is about how much we earn, and what we earn allows us then to be able to service the other things that we need to service. I am just flipping through this, Sir. I really am.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is sad is that revenue seems to be performing better in the first quarter, but guess what, expenditure is up by \$85 million from the first quarter last year. Wages and salaries are down by \$23 million, so they spent less money on wages and salaries between January and March this year than January and March last year, but, Mr. Speaker, we are spending \$38 million more on goods and services, we are spending only \$4 million more on interest and we are spending \$66 million more in transfers and subsidies to the statutory corporations so that the overall deficit for the first quarter of this year is up. The Honourable Member St. Philip West should look at the Central Bank Report and let us hear his perspective in this debate.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to foreign capital inflows, long-term private capital inflows in 2015 declined from the year in front by \$150 million. In other words, money that people brought into Barbados to spend went from \$651 million in 2014 to \$505 million in 2015. Sir, do you know where we left it in 2007? We left it at about \$1.4 billion. That is a measurement of the lack of confidence that people have in this Barbados economy to bring money into the country.

Mr. Speaker, I can go on and on, others will have the opportunity to deal with the Central Bank of Barbados Report and data but as I said, they are going to trumpet here that the economy expanded by 1.7 per cent in the first year. Sir, let us do the deep heavy lifting, the Central Bank of Barbados is printing more money; the foreign reserves are down from last quarter last year, first quarter last year

the same time; expenditure up; the indices are not reading right.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates therefore to Moody's it is no wonder that the Barbados' long-term credit was further and it is because people want... It is no sense us quarrelling about it, I do not always agree with what they do, but there has to be a rational basis for it, and people who want to lend us money are going to seek to get an independent reference point as to how safe it is and what are the risks associated thereto. If it was not relevant the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs would not have brought a Resolution in here for the Credit Suisse loan, agreeing that every time there is a downgrade the bank is to be paid more money by the Government and taxpayers of Barbados. That is the ultimate proof of why ratings matter. The movement of SAGICOR from Barbados with its domiciled Headquarters here to Bermuda happened because companies that are domiciled here are also affected by the country's overall sovereign rating.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: The matter is to go before the shareholders, I am obliged to the Honourable Member for St. James South but I know that the matter is before the shareholders, but the largest shareholders in SAGICOR are no longer Barbadian. The reality is that if they are going to be affected by Barbados' country risks and its ratings then they are not going to stay here just so, so Mr. Speaker, these things matter.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go forward because the truth also is that there have been some actions on the part of this Government that leaves one to wonder. You have the Central Bank of Barbados seeking to appropriately regulate commercial banks in Barbados, that is what they must do, that is what they should do. A commercial says to a depositor who happens to be a pal of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, we cannot keep your deposits anymore, and ask them to come and collect the money. How does that money end up in the Central Bank of Barbados, whether as deposits, holding Treasury Bills or Treasury Notes? Sir, anybody who has spent any time as an Honourable Attorney-General would know that your customer guidelines and other aspects that are imposed for anti-money laundering on commercial banks non-bank financial institutions, lawyers on the whole range of service providers, are done because it is not only to do it for the sake of doing it but to protect the institution from money that the bank does not feel comfortable keeping because it believes that it may be associated with some kind of activity that may be regarded as illegal or inappropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I was Honourable Attorney-General for five years, I fought this battle with the Financial Action Task Force. I fought the battle that regulation must be

appropriate to risk and that we cannot have a one-size-fits-all prescription. Yesterday I heard the Right Honourable Prime Minister speaking to blacklisting and to the battles that we have to fight, but we have to get down and fight them and not go on a hope or pray. Sir, but what happens in Barbados? The most bewildering action happens, the very banks that are being regulated by the Central Bank of Barbados made a judgement that for whatever reason that this money can no longer occupy a safe harbour in the deposits of their institution and the very entity that is in charge of ensuring that the banks act in that way, go and provide safe harbour for the very money that the banks do not want to keep, for whatever reason. Sir, are we sending messages to people who get money from other proceeds from which they should not be getting that money? Will the Central Bank of Barbados now, if they were to be even-handed allow people who have drug money to buy Treasury Bills and Treasury Notes in this country, or who are found guilty of other things?

Mr. Speaker, the problem with money laundering is that you need to find a safe harbour to deposit money. Now I do not know that is the reason money was taken out from the commercial bank, but what I do know is that in the absence of speaking to the public, there are many Barbadians out there who wonder how money can leave a commercial bank and end up in a Central Bank of Barbados which is not a deposit-taking institution and end up in Government Paper if it is not in a deposit account, in circumstances where you have to be suspect.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James South goes about this country and this region trumpeting that Barbados has been adhering to all of the best precepts of the customer guidelines and then we have this conundrum that the Government, the Governor does not even feel that he needs to explain to the public of Barbados how the good name of Barbados can come into disrepute through actions that none of us knows about but for which all of us will pay the consequence in relation to whether we blacklisted or whether we are treated in a certain way by international jurisdictions. Who is to be blamed? I say to the Right Honourable Prime Minister that he is in charge and under his Government he cannot continue to allow this country's name to be used. If the people are wrong then the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados has to come out and give chapter and verse as to how he took that money, when he took it, why he took it and why it was rejected from the commercial bank. Sir, if the people are right, then they have to find another place to carry that money because it cannot find safe harbour in those towers there, in the back of this building.

Mr. Speaker, this is a country that is known for its governance and this is what we have been reduced to. George Belle called this Government the worst Government ever to occupy the corridors of power in

Barbados since Settlement, and it is these kinds of things that cause people to feel that the judgement is a legitimate one. I am not going into details today but there are too many Barbadian enterprises that are suffering from refunds not being given and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs has to address how he is going to deal with the interest that is legitimately owed to the refunds in relation to VAT and income tax.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that in the same way that people expect the Government to issue an amnesty, that at some point the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs may have to say to some of these enterprises that they be given an amnesty too. Sir, I do not think that is an unreasonable position for the Government of Barbados to take in these straightened fiscal circumstances, so that this side is not being unreasonable but I do believe that these issues have to be addressed frontally. Now if what I am hearing is true, that so many officers have gone back to the public service, I can understand therefore why they are under serious pressure at the Barbados Revenue Authority, but you need to talk to the public, silence does not help you, it does not help the public to plan out its affairs, and it puts us in a position where the worse is believed at all times. The Prime Minister is not to be followed in that respect when it comes to silence.

Sir, I want to move onto the eighth pillar, and that is our sense of fairness and equity as a people. Sir, I spoke earlier about this being a “cuddear” society. Barbadians believe in social justice, Barbadians believe in fairness, Barbadians believe in giving people a chance, Barbadians believe that people must be given every opportunity to do the things that they can do in the best way that they can. When I say that it hurts me that this society has become one in which who you know is more important than what you know, all of us should be concerned. There are too many people who call and ask you to intervene on their behalf, because in high and low places -- and it is now across the board -- decisions are made on the basis of who people know, not what people have done or what people are prepared to do. Then arbitrary rules which make no sense are being imposed on people. I will give you the example of passports. My aunt who was born a deaf mute in Guadeloupe is 82 or 83 years old. I believe she is known to the Member for St. Michael South Central. She lived with us and helped to raise me. She has had a Barbados passport since Independence. Her twin sister lives in Trinidad. It happened first with her and then her twin sister, and I only use this example because I do not want to be invidious and use someone else's. When they went to renew the passports, they were asked, “Where is the birth certificate?” The birth certificate had to be given in for every passport renewal for the last 40-something years. In law there is something called a presumption of regularity. Because I come from a family of lawyers and we talked it through and explained to them how they would end up

incurring costs for the Government, eventually after two to four days they understood the wisdom of it. How many ordinary Barbadians cannot talk it through, and why are we now imposing arbitrary requirements on ordinary people?

I ask this Government to intervene and stop the tyranny, because it is a form of tyranny. We have a situation where the legitimate expectation has to be that you will get a passport once you previously had one, unless there is something to cause the Immigration department to believe that fraud has been perpetrated. The proof of fraud is a very high standard. These things are too easy to fix for it to humbug a whole Government's reputation. They really are, but it requires intervention and leadership. Similarly, Sir, we have a situation in Barbados where there is a strong belief that only a certain class of person will succeed, and we have done nothing under this Government to thwart that assertion, to put people back in their place when it comes to that. There are young people who feel alienated in this very country, and I trust and pray that the Member for Christ Church West central will speak in this Debate, because the people who are carrying the biggest burden in terms of dashed hopes and frustrations are young people.

I went downstairs at lunchtime, and I met yet another young Barbadian from St. John who has just returned with a degree in International Relations from the University of the West Indies at Mona. The Member for Christ Church East Central clearly knows her. She has nothing to do. I can go through chapter and verse of people who have left with degrees and are now working, if they are lucky, as receptionists and in positions that are not suited to their qualifications. One of the young ladies who helped us this week with the covenant has two degrees and is working as a customer service representative in a printery. The Minister of Youth Affairs has to address the issue of how we can create a real and genuine platform of hope for our young people. Unemployment is greatest in the under-25 age group, and what we see in this Government is the provision of money for services to pay officers but the officers have no money to carry out programmes other than a token one here or there, which invariably are restricted to one or two constituencies. I am saying to you that this is not how we expected Barbados to be in the 50th year.

The Minister very valiantly went on the radio a couple Sundays ago and said that there were \$3.1 million in proposals submitted to the Cultural Industries Development Fund. I would like the Minister to tell us in here how much money is in the Fund to process those \$3.1 million. Have they in fact put into that Fund a single cent yet to meet that \$3.1 million in proposals? Was this not admitted at a town meeting with the artistes two to three weeks ago after his encounter, such that the artistes believed that the Government was playing fast and loose with them, Mr. Speaker? I was not at that meeting but there was an uproar. When we come to these issues, people are disturbed. When

a country can have almost \$14 billion in debt and its young people can find no hope, it is no sense saying that the debt is less because you can net out the National Insurance and the Central Bank. If you default on the National Insurance, you have to pay it so you cannot net it out, and it is the same with the Central Bank.

Barbados' debt at the end of December last - as I said I have not had a chance to work it out with these new figures because they came two hours ago - was \$13.8 billion. We are one of the most highly indebted countries in the Hemisphere, and I will remind the Member for Christ Church West Central that we have the data, so please do not try to get up again and say that Barbados is not the most indebted country in the Caribbean, as he tried to do in the Estimates. The facts are clear and the data is here.

Mr. Speaker, I say to you that young people are trying to build their lives for themselves against a background of programmes not being built in the way they used to be. We used to train thousands of young people in sports and cultural activities every year. It does not happen anymore. What do we have instead, Mr. Speaker? Confusion again. I am not even going to get into the nonsense that is humbugging the whole Crop Over calendar and humbugging people being able to plan out their visits to Barbados. I have had so many calls from people asking me when is the calypso finals and when is the Sweet Soca Finals.

Asides.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Fore-Day Morning might be the only firm date that we can give anybody at this stage. People need to book their flights. Sir, for the Minister to believe there was not confusion means that he has buried his head in the sand and not read the comments both in the newspaper and has not been interacting with the people who have had their families calling them or who have been calling us directly. Sir, it is sad because at some point ... Sir, I am not going to get into a number of things today but what I will get into is really what is a perfect example of this Government's confusion and topsy-turvy nature of Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to make these documents of the House. Sir, on August 31, 2015, a letter was written by the Office of the Prime Minister to the Beak Foundation providing them with an approval for development signed by the Acting Permanent Secretary for the approval of Application Number 1871-10-2012B. The application was made in 2012, for the restoration of theatre at Probyn Street, Bridgetown. Sir, you would forgive me if this project is dear to my heart. It really is because it is the only theatre of this type in Barbados. It is more than 100 years old. I refer specifically to the Empire Theatre. Sir, as a child, I used to go there regular when it was a cinema and I

look forward to the days when it would be a theatre again. We did have the Cubans do architectural work but it is up to the Government to choose a different direction but what I want to see is a proper theatre restored consistently with the designation of Bridgetown as a World Heritage Site, which we started on when we were in Government.

Mr. Speaker, here you have an approval signed by the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office Defence and Security, approving the development of this theatre by the Beak Foundation on August 31, 2015, and then, Mr. Speaker, miraculously, there is another application number and, indeed, this one is from the Maloney Group Incorporated at Lears St. Michael, in my constituency. The application number is 187/11/2013B. Sir, the beauty of Town and Country Planning Application is that they carry the year in which they were submitted first, so the Beak Foundation clearly submitted theirs in 2012 and the Maloney Group Incorporated submitted their in 2013. Sir, I am told and I am yet to see and I would like the Minister of Culture to please address this, that the NCF has already leased the Empire Theatre to the Maloney Group Incorporated or an entity associated with them and that in spite of that lease, the TCP has refused the application for the theatre and craft brewery at the Empire Theatre site in a world heritage designated Bridgetown. Sir, what is the first reason for refusal (1) the comprehensive processing of this application requires an environmental scoping study for the brewery component of the proposal. Sir, today the environmental scoping study has not been submitted and this has hindered the thorough processing of the application. Sir, this is dated December 16, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I pause and I pause because there are too many things that I would speak to where the same individual has openly breached all town planning permissions in this country and I have to ask myself who is running Barbados. I know his initials because there are the same as mine but it is not me. The initials are "MAM".

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I would not call him Ma'am, because he might be offended but the others on the other side call him Sir.

Mr. Speaker, a lease is given but how do we get doing a craft brewery in the Empire Theatre. I saw so much commentary on social media by the artistes of this country. Does the Government not see the same commentary? Does the Government not recognise that artistes of Barbados just simply want a theatre? How did we get into the business of creating another profit centre for the same group of individuals, to build a craft brewery now? Sir, I have not gone across the street to ask what is happening at Hyatt. I believe if the Prime Minister has not dealt with the matter,

it is to come to him but Bridgetown is a World Heritage Site now and there has to be a sensitivity.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the block with the old Harbour Police knocked down, in advance of Town and Country Planning being properly obtained and I ask the Minister of Tourism to address in this debate, the consequences of that in relation to the investment there and whether he can incontrovertibly and assuredly say to this Parliament whether Hyatt is still on board and is still interested or will they have to look for another chain. There is no harm in saying if that is true but what Barbadians must not be doing is peeping up and whispering to one another to find out what is happening in this country. We do not know and it cannot be right in the year 2016, that we do not know what is happening. Sir, how does this Government explain a lease given to the Maloney Group Inc., Town and Country Planning approval refused and the poor Beak Foundation cannot get a lease, a sub-lease, a piece of lease or anything but they have Town and Country Planning permission because their proposal finds favour with those who are sensitive to heritage development. I would like to think that is most of us.

Mr. Speaker, when I speak about these things, I speak with passion because we only have one chance to get the Empire Theatre right. There is only one such theatre with 100 year history in this country and if we do it wrong, then we lose it as a heritage asset and cannot use it to bolster our competitiveness as a jurisdiction nor more importantly to create opportunities for Barbadians in getting this theatre right. Sir, why a brewery? We have Banks Brewery already.

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: What was the one that the Honourable Member for Christ Church South used to run? Sir, I would prefer to see Tiltman come back.

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: If he wants to call it Mottley Brewery now, I do not have an objection to that. He might just have to pay me a licensing fee.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. James Central says he was incapable of making a profit from the brewery because he was the brewery's biggest client and also its biggest creditor.

Mr. Speaker, I am therefore perplexed and I appeal to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central. I am begging him because this is a matter... I do not know if I am being directed to the Town and Country Planning but this is now Barbados and whatever else we do, we only have one opportunity to get the Emperor Theatre right and

if it is not the Beak Foundation and it is not the Maloney Group, whoever it is, let us keep it as a heritage asset as a theatre. You are going to need to acquire some property at the back for the stage rooms. I believe Republic Bank is now interested in helping and treating to it as a serious project because their headquarters are next door therefore let us look at it in a serious way.

Sir, this sense of fairness caused me, in the Estimates debate, to reflect on the condition of UCAL. Sir, UCAL is something that we really need to pause and get right and I cannot for the life of me understand how this Government that professes to love the small man can still owe UCAL almost \$20 million. In the Estimates, we voted the sum of \$3.8 million and I said thank God, give UCAL some money to get on with the business of what they were doing. Do you know, Sir, that I was the most shocked person when the members of UCAL indicated that of that \$3.8 million it is only \$1.2 million that has been delivered to them? All of us in here thought that the 120 families depending on UCAL would be at least appropriately compensated for all of the work that they did but it was only \$1.2 million and a one man firm, Trans-Tech Inc., gets \$1 million but this Government leaves to UCAL, all of whom have not been able to bring to work mechanics on a daily and weekly basis, frighten that they have now put a ramp on a bay at Mangrove that have Trinidadian mechanics coming in to do the work that UCAL should be doing. The Minister said that UCAL had buses in there for 12 and 14 months. Did the Minister tell the country that UCAL has a labour only contract and that UCAL cannot fix the buses unless the Barbados Transport Board buys the parts? Has anybody told them that?

Last night I saw a big, fancy story on the television again with a fuel injection machine but we are taking the very, ordinary Barbadian families, former workers of the Barbados Transport Board and they are now being marginalised week by week and month by month but the Government finds its way to send for transmissions to be repaired, a transmission that cost less than BDS\$10 000 and the Barbados Transport Board is paying \$30 000 and \$35 000 for the repair and that is a new transmission. What are we doing? This is not the first time it was raised in here but the fact that it continues, Mr. Prime Minister, I ask again: where does it stop?

Asides.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: I do not know whether some is corruption, I do not know whether some is incompetence, I do not know what, but I know that you are in a position to find out what is what and to act upon it. I do know that you cannot have 120 Barbadian families still being owed \$20 million. Of the \$3.8 million we voted in here in the Estimates they only got \$1.2 million. They need the money, they have overdrafts and interests to pay. They

are workers who are owed significant sums of back pay and we should not have to be talking about this in a post-independence parliament divided in here like this. This is what bothers me because what is utterly Barbadian is the sense of fairness that we must have. I am not even going to touch the issue of 40 per cent procurement for small businesses because we know that was a fiction.

Mr. Speaker, when I speak about fairness the Government feels that we are just picking on them. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North raised in here legitimately the concerns of tourism providers in Barbados and we have asked this Government over and over, and the Minister of Finance even had a decent discussion with me on the radio about it the last time we were on the call-in programme I believe when he was correcting himself and apologising to the country for misleading this Chamber. He has not apologised to the Chamber but that is alright, he did it to the country. You cannot have a Memorandum of Understanding signed conferring benefits on an entity and keep it private.

One of the reasons why the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Act exist - and only today I came across the Port Ferdinand one signed by the former Prime Minister in 2010 - is because actions taken in the State's name must become the subject of public sight. We have said over and over and over again that there must be a level playing field in Barbados with respect to what we are prepared to extend for one entity, it must extend to another entity of similar proportion, similar purpose and similar activities. This is not anything against Sandals, this is something that speaks to the fact that our governance is best when these agreements are released. It is true that the Minister of Finance acted faster than Usain Bolt in the conclusion of the concessions, that is true, and that there are Barbadian tourism providers who are still waiting and who are on the uneven playing field because they are told that if you owe NIS or other taxes you cannot get the benefits but the truth is that they would always owe in this environment when the previous Prime Minister asked the Government to hold on to people's jobs therefore statutory liabilities would increase. I do not owe any statutory liabilities myself but the firm with which I am associated owes and there are very few people in this country who do not owe because the choice was, do you send home 20 people or do you let them stay on and you try then to pay what you can. I am saying to you that it is wrong to let the tourism providers ... because these are the same people who are earning. Governments do not earn, business is earned and these are the very same people who we are relying on to employ people to have profits to pay corporation taxes and to still pay some level of VAT even at a lesser amount. I ask the Government, please to revisit the unlevel playing field that would see a number of tourism providers that are local being excluded from the terms and conditions.

The truth is that the terms and conditions given to Sandals are far more generous and we may well have to come and may the determination as to what will happen to those import duties on food and beverages because I have said over and over that we are effectively running a commissary when one hotel has the benefits of food and beverage at a price that is 50 per cent or 100 per cent less. The Honourable Member of Christ Church South should know because a lot of the tourism providers are in his constituency and it is not fair. I ask the Government to revisit this issue in an even-handed manner. That is the MOU on Sandals and we accept that Sandals may give jobs and may provide airlift but there has to be good governance as well in respect of a level playing field between them as an employer and an investor and Barbadian employers and investors that have been with us for decades.

Sir, I come to the issue of Hard Rock Cement. Everyday those passing the Spring Garden see pillars going up. The pillars are tall.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: I asked a question because I also saw a story in the newspaper that they came to a settlement with ADM Flour Mills in relation to the cement down there, and it struck me, when I found out, that there has not even been a Town Planning application put in to build any facility on port lands for Hardrock Cement. Now, how do we get to the point... It is bad enough that they were the beneficiary of an opportunity to run a cement plant on valuable port lands. When was that put out to a request for proposal so that other Barbadian could have said we too want to run a cement plant? When did the port either do or required of them an Environmental Impact Assessment? This has nothing to do with the Honourable Member for St. George South. Mercifully, there is a statutory register of applications in this country for town planning, so all the fancy talk over that side, they better get to know what the law provides in this country and what it does not provide. Go and do some work and you would find out.

Sir, the bottom-line is that there are clear problems not only there with the Flour Mill, but I understand that the Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force has now written a letter to the Government indicating an unusual number of members of the Coast Guard reporting with upper respiratory tract infections. Check it out. This is for a category of worker that needs lung capacity to dive. What madness are we doing? Who is running Barbados? It is not this Ma'am, it might be that Sir. It is not this Ma'am.

You could tell me that there are Members in the Cabinet who do not know what is going on, but are you going to sit back and say nothing. The most you can have in this job is 18 to 20 months. Are you going to throw away

a whole country for that? No, man, no. I want to know when the Town and Country Planning Department will issue an enforcement notice. Have you seen the height of those columns? Those columns got to be, I ask the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown, about 20 to 30 feet high.

Asides.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: No, I am not going to be invidious because if I did that then I would have to ask the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central some questions that he does not want me to ask. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central may want to proffer his engineering skills but I think the time is coming soon when he may need them again so that is not a problem.

Sir, the bottom-line is do you put down those level of columns without a Town and Country Planning application in and without feeling that you need to... Sir, would you believe that Valery in the Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central's constituency and constructed by the same firm started without Town and Country Planning permission too. Let us go to Bushy Park. Bushy Park started without Town and Country Planning permission too. What is more about Bushy Park is that... The Honourable Member for St. Lucy should know about this because at the end of the day there is an old railway track to be protected. The Honourable Member for Christ Church West Central needs to have his voice heard too. The old railway track is a heritage site too. How does a fence and a ticket booth get on the old railway track in breach of the law and without Town and country Planning permission and how does it remain there without anybody telling them to take it down? In last Friday newspaper we saw them dismantling a building. You must have seen it in the Nation Newspaper. I cannot use the Nation Newspaper or any newspaper in here as the Speaker reminded me today, but there were pictures of Town and Country Planning dismantling a building of ordinary Barbadians but we have columns remaining in the port from Hardrock Cement and at Bushy Park in relation to a ticket booth and fences on the old railway track.

Sir, I do not know whether these have been taken down but I picked them up about a month or two ago and these are called luxury car suites at Bushy Park. Now, I must confess that I have not been able to find a Town and Country Planning application for the building of these luxury car suites, and these are three-storey buildings. I make it a document of the House. There is a garage underneath and then there are apartments, bathrooms and bedrooms and I am yet to see the Town Planning application for this as well. Now, if there is one I am the first to sit down right now and give way because when you are looking in a statutory register you have to be prepared for error, but there is none that I can find for Bushy Park

with these luxury suites. When I asked about it I was told - and this is a bigger picture of it with the car underneath in the garage - that these are just accommodation for mechanics. That is what the civil servants are being told. Now, how are civil servants told that these are units for mechanics but yet, the Luxury Car Suites, Bushy Park Barbados. The first of the five planned clusters of Luxury Car Suites situated overlooking the banks Banks Esses and Sesash Hairpin, was completed in time for use as the Driver's Lounge -- it is not now building, it is completed - over the Race Of Champions weekend last December. Each cluster will comprise three units, with a two-car garage with workbench, washroom and shower on the ground floor; on the first floor, the living space of just over 600 square feet includes an open-plan living room and kitchen area, with a powder room, plus a spacious balcony and entertainment area overlooking the circuit. The central unit of each cluster - do not get tied up - will have an additional floor of around 400 square feet, with two bedrooms, a lounge and a bathroom. The flat, concrete roof-top of the other two units provides their owners with a second balcony and prime vantage point, creating another area for viewing and entertaining. These suites are now available for sale and will allow the owners the luxury and the security of keeping their cars at the facility, while also living on site during a weekend race meeting.

I simply want to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance whether duty-free car concessions are available with the purchase of these units and whether an application was made for the sale, and it is a simple question. If it is not great, if it is, then he will tell us, but we need to know what is being done in our name, and if there are pending Town and Country Planning decisions regrettably the man has gone ahead yet again and done build, offered for sale and available from December. Not all of them. He has built one and he made it clear that, there is a cluster, the first of the five planned clusters, I believe that this was being advertised by Tower Caribbean, and, I speak subject to correction. Explain that to me, that is Bushy Park. Who is running Barbados?

Mr. Speaker, last year at the end of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, the same gentleman came out in the newspaper and there was a big headline. I can only remember, I cannot quote from it, not so, Mia. Maloney denies Coverley claims. I was told that it is not so. We were told that the island at Coverley on the highway was built in compliance with all the regulatory requirements and that the junction is no different from some other junctions like that that are built all over Barbados. Sir, we have hell getting newspaper coverage sometimes but he got it very easily. There were all kinds of allegations, PreConco has no affiliation with Housing Concepts. That was July 1, 2015, but the sad part about it, Sir, I was concerned about the accident at the junction, and I repeat it here, in which a young boy leaving his

graduation at Welches Primary School, passed for Queen's College, left his graduation and was about to be going home and an accident took place. I do not know the facts of the accident, that is not my interest, what I do know is that there is an island in the road that is an obstruction. What I do know is that is not the only accident that has taken place there. What I do know is that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs came in here to castigate me. Indeed, I remember because I was at a funeral in St. Philip, I think the late Clarice Holder funeral when he was speaking in March, when he tried to suggest, at the same time, he spoke about the audit of the high-rise buildings. He preceded by saying that, how could we talk about this man and this man is a good man, that this man only, et cetera. Sir, I am not talking about none of that, so I do not know to whom he was responding. I am dealing with some simple issues because I really have nothing against anybody who carries my initials, that is the truth, but here is the problem. Mr. Speaker, Bushy Park, no Town Planning Department permission; Valery started with Town Planning Department approval; Hard Rock started with Town Planning Department permission. Sir, I make this a document of the house. Would you believe that there was an enforcement notice in 2012, let me read it, that the erection on the land situate at Coverley adjoining lands of National Housing Corporation to the north and ABC Highway to the south in the parish of Christ Church in this island, of entrance, walls and plant within the road shoulder and road reserve; the demolition and removal from the land of the said entrance wall and planter. Signed 26th March, 2012. Sir, this young boy died in 2015. This Government in spite of an enforcement notice signed by the Chief Town Planner...

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister is looking bewildered. The Honourable Member can look bewildered on this one because he was not the Minister that stopped the enforcement notice from being carried out. You were not. Mr. Speaker, as if that were not enough a gas station was opened less than seven days after the young boy was killed near the entrance to Coverley and that gas station was opened without Town Planning Department permission again. I ask, who is running Barbados, Prime Minister? Who is running Barbados?

Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2015, the Permanent Secretary -- poor fellow, they are working him hard. Hold on, this is a different one who signed this time, but it is the same Permanent Secretary position -- who wrote the Managing Director of Housing Concepts SRL/MAN -- Application No. 0947/06/2013E -- Retention of a gas station at the Villages at Coverley. This was to deal with the conditions for the gas station to be retained, having been built, because the gas station was built before planning permission. There are fumes emitted at gas stations, gas stations should have an Environmental Impact Assessment Study, but that gas station was built, but this is an application now for retention, not construction.

Mr. Speaker, it goes on: "Condition 1 -- the submission to and approval by the Chief Town Planner of a revised plan, making provision in particular for:

(a) The removal of all of the houses which fall within 50 meters of the gas station, to be retained including numbers 378, 379, and 380."

(b) The existing access and egress located within the acquisition corridor of the ABC to be redesigned and retrofitted to the specifications of the Chief Technical Officer."

Mr. Speaker, do you know what is that access and egress? Sir, it is the same one to which I just talked about. Mr. Speaker, have the houses been removed? I would like the Honourable Member to speak to this. I really would like him to. Sir, it continued: "That the houses which fall within 50 metres of the gas station shall be removed to the satisfaction of the Chief Town Planner." Mr. Speaker, how does someone ignore the Chief Town Planner Department in this country with such impunity? Sir, what is worse, and I am going to take my time and read this letter because it needs to go into the Records of this Honourable House. This is a memorandum from the Deputy Chief Technical Officer to the Permanent Secretary dated 3rd July, 2015. I am sorry that the Honourable Member for St. Philip North is not here. Mr. Speaker, do you remember I told you that allegations were made on July 1, in a newspaper column entitled: "Not so, Mia." That newspaper column referred to the fact that the Ministry of Public Works was responsible for the design of the island and for remedial work. This letter reads as follows: "Subject: Response to the comments attributed to Mr. Mark Malone in a July 1, 2015 Daily Nation newspaper article. I refer to our Bennett, Inniss, Alleyne of July 1st 2015 conversation when I drew to your attention to a Wednesday July 1st, 2015 Nation Newspaper article written by Maria Bradshaw entitled: "Not So Mia" in which Mr. Maloney was quoted as saying that the junction at the ABC Highway, Villages at Coverley access road was, "actually designed by the Ministry of Transport and Works and "2. The matter was raised with respect to comments made previously by Opposition Leader Mia Mottley following last week's accident at that location, which resulted in the death of 11-year-old Abijah Holder-Phillips. Some of Mr. Maloney's comments are not accurate, and further they cast aspersions on the professional integrity of the technical staff of this Ministry." This is a senior officer. The article reports that he stated that the junction was "actually designed by the Ministry of Transport and Works, and the developer just put the junction there". This Ministry, however, does not provide design services to the private sector, so she deals with that first issue.

"3. He is also reported as saying that there were many junctions identical to that in Barbados, so there is

nothing different about the one at Coverley. This is another erroneous statement as the dimensions of the acceleration and deceleration lanes at Coverley are quite different. In fact, they are deficient when compared to the ABC Highway Belle Road Junction, the only other location in Barbados where this situation of deceleration and acceleration lanes occurs.

“4. When asked if this company would examine the situation at Coverley’s entrance, Mr. Maloney apparently said that was for Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) to do, and he is quoted as saying, ‘I built it in compliance with all regulatory requirements.’ Once again, this statement is simply not true, as MTW’s comments are on record with the Chief Town Planner, copies of the relevant inspectors’ reports are attached in chronological order for easy reference with respect to the relevant Town Planning Department applications.” She quotes three application numbers there as well.

“5. Mr. Maloney further states that Preconco has no affiliation with Housing Concepts. Yet this Ministry has communicated with Mr. Maloney via a letter addressed to him in care of Housing Concepts, particularly because he has attended meetings with Ministry officers present and identifying his presence as a representative for Housing Concepts. Please see note of a meeting held on September 14, 2011 at No. 8 on File 270T167, and also refer to Paragraph 6G of this Memorandum.”

They then go on to give the facts from the Ministry’s position as follows: That MTW’s general comments on the EIA are dated August 26, 2011, and that this Memorandum refers to no right turns from or onto the ABC Highway. At 10, it speaks to the placement of signage so as not to hinder the visibility of motorists or other road users. Further, under “Utility Concerns”, the need to maintain a shoulder separately from the three-and-a-half-metre merging lane is mentioned. This size of the traffic island is mentioned as being obstructive.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on. Subdivision of land for residential purposes and erection of houses at Coverley, Christ Church is discussed, and comments on the application of April 2010 give specific dimensions for the acceleration and the deceleration lanes which were -- capital N,O and T - not followed by the developer. These specifications were communicated in the Chief Town Planner’s letter dated September 28, 2011 to the developer’s legal environmental consultant, Mr. Oughterson. Mr. Speaker, I can go on and on. I am not going to but I am making this a Document of the House because this is a full and entire repudiation of all that was said in that July 1 article, and it makes it clear that there was no planning permission, and that it was not built by MTW. It is offensive to say that MTW had to clean it up and repair the problem there, but it goes on also to talk

about the gas station. It makes it clear that at 106 is a letter from the Ministry of Defence and Security dated January 16, 2015, which is the letter I just referred to, with the application number and the retention of the gas station. It has been addressed to Mr. Mark Maloney of Housing Concepts SRL, regarding the Villages at Coverley, clearly indicating that an affiliation between those parties most likely exists.

The letter outlines the conditions for the retention of the gas station, and speaks specifically to the access onto and the egress from the ABC Highway. “A call to Mr. Cummins at the Chief Town Planner at July 3, 2015 revealed that the gas station appears to be operating even though this situation has - capital N,O and T -- not been met and neither has another condition for the removal of houses which fall within the 50 metres of the station. We were also informed by the Chief Town Planner that an enforcement notice is being prepared in this regard.” Did this enforcement notice ever go? Can this Government account to this Honourable Chamber today whether they have got the houses removed, whether the gas station has been removed, and whether the island in the road has been removed, and how many more, in the words of John King, “how many more must die”? How many more must get into accidents? How many more must be disadvantaged before this Government is motivated into action to deal with a man who is now a serial breacher of Town Planning regulations in this country? He is a serial breacher. I did not say preacher.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I wish to caution you on how you will go with this one. The Rule still applies that if you want to call the conduct or character of persons in their public capacity, you need to give advanced notice and explain the context and so on. I permitted the use of the letter and so on, because you seem to have been dealing extensively with the matters relating to Town and Country Planning generally, but I think you have gone far enough on that one, and I caution you on it now.

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: I am appreciative of that. I really was trying to stick to the terms of the letters for that very reason, so I will not go any further on that matter, Sir. Suffice it to say that somebody has to stand in the breach for Barbados, Sir. The days of overseers and a limited few lording over the people of this country are over, and this party will not be part of any such thing. We are going to be fair, and I have said in here that those companies got work before in Barbados because they are Barbadian companies, and they must not be equally penalised. However, they cannot be allowed to feel that work must go to a few companies in this country. We are not a part of that, however which way.

Sir, it is getting late. I want to come back to Cahill, Sir, because in good conscience, I asked for a Resolution to be debated since August last year. This is now May, and perhaps you now know why even in spite of numerical majorities we have to do what we do today, because the Government having a numerical majority is not going to deter us from now bringing motions to speak to issues seriously. Mr. Speaker, in good conscience, I laid a Resolution in here in August last year and I laid it three months after speaking about the Cahill contracts. I indicated that these contracts were signed by four Ministers, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy and a Senator from the Other Place. I indicated that those contracts were signed without the agreement of Cabinet and I indicated to the Prime Minister that I would like him to be able to investigate these matters and to produce these contracts because these contracts trigger \$4.8 billion in expenditure from a Government of Barbados over a 30 year period, for the purchase of electricity, for payment for them taking the country's garbage, for the acreage being given free of cost and for the water and other things which would be given to Cahill pursuant to the contracts that were signed. I felt then, as I do now, that this was a matter that the Prime Minister would treat with a certain degree of alacrity and, indeed, the Prime Minister would have mentioned on September 13th, that I can assure you and I quote him from my notes: "Any solutions of which we come up are not going to be taken by stealth under the cover of night and not going to be taken in darkness. This is a discussion we must have with the population".

Mr. Speaker, if I raised an issue and you are aware of it, the most natural thing to do is to say I am aware of it. Sir, if it is true then we deal with it and if it is not true and you are not aware of it, then as Prime Minister, you have the authority of office to require all of the contracts to be produced and to be made documents of this House not because of anything else other than the fact that the signatures applied are not applied by these individual persons in their personal capacity but are applied as representatives of the Government of Barbados as Ministers of the Crown. Sir, I do not know that I can be any clearer. Sir, this is not private business. This is public business and the public has duty to see the contracts.

Mr. Speaker, as have said, 10 months have gone and this Government not once, has offered to debate the Private Members Resolution which calls on the Prime Minister to produce the document. Sir, not once in 10 months and I have been very patient. Sir, in the meantime, I have seen documents come on the net, and I make these documents, documents of this House now because I want this Prime Minister to tell this Parliament if these documents are authentic or not. I want the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy

and the Honourable Member for Christ Church East to tell us whether these documents are authentic or not because I, as Leader of the Opposition, in the sovereign State of Barbados should not have to depend on a document from a blog site across every page to determine what was signed in my constituents' name and the people of this country's name that would endure potentially for 30 years, long beyond the time when we are alive in this country in some instances.

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I hope to be living but you never know. Sir, therefore, I make this first document a document of the House. Heads of Terms Relating to a Waste to Energy Project, Final Execution Copy. Sir, this is a copy that treats to the issue of a Heads of Terms Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, there is also a Power Purchase Agreement that is dated March 15, 2014. Sir, I well remember that day like if it was yesterday because that was the day

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am just trying to understand you. You are saying that you want to make a document of this House, documents whose authenticity you question?

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: It is for the Prime Minister to tell us whether this is his signature or not, and I want the Ministers to tell us whether these are their signatures or not. Sir, I am not questioning the authenticity of the document. I am questioning whether the signature are the signatures of members of this Honourable Chamber. I, therefore, want to know whether the signature on the Power Purchase Agreement of March 15, 2014, which was the Saturday before the Estimates which started on Monday, when the Minister of Finance came in here to parade this as the new project to save this Government. Sir, I remember it clearly. Look at the signature page here, Senator the Honourable Darcy Boyce and there is a signature. The Honourable Denis St.E. Kellman, Member of Parliament. There is a signature for the Ministry of Housings Lands and Rural Development, Dr. the Hon. S. Lowe, Member of Parliament, Minister of Environment and Drainage, a signature and the Honourable Christopher Sinkler, Member of Parliament and a signature, signed by Cahill Energy by N.E. Clair Chrome and then there is a signature without any reference to what it is for of a Margo Agnes Harvey, Chairman, I think a lady who is well known as Branch President, Branch Chairman or Branch Secretary of the Honourable Member for St. Lucy for the Democratic Labour Party Branch. Sir, that is the Power Purchase Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, then there is the Incorporated Terms Memorandum on March 15, 2014, with the same signatures. I want to know because to this date, 10 months after, this House cannot see from this Government a single copy of an agreement signed in our name and I say to you that this country cannot bear the burden of this Government anymore moving off like a pop kite, bringing liabilities. What does these document says? Subject to English law and subject to English jurisdiction, liabilities on the part of the Government of Barbados that may follow us, that side, this side and all sides in here for years to come because even if the country backs out of this stage, they can in fact assign the contract or sign the contract as they have been doing trying to bring people down here. Sir, the next thing we are going to hear is that there is new technology. Sir, do not mind this talk about plasm gasification, the next thing we are going to hear is to reduce the size of the contract but you are still up in \$400 million or \$500 million, so you hopscotch over the procurement process. Sir, I expect to hear all kinds of things but what we do know is that every plasma gasification plant in recent times has been a failure with the last one in the UK closing down within a matter of weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, when I spoke on that day, I remember speaking to the Prime Minister and asking him to deal with what I consider behaviour that was unacceptable on the part of these four Ministers. Sir, I was the most shocked person to discover... Sir, at this point I now start to shudder because whatever I had in mind before I really cannot anymore. I could not believe that the person whose signature is attached here for the Heads of agreement for the Cahill project on September 13, 2013, signing on behalf of the Government of Barbados, acting by the Honourable Freundel Stuart, Q.C. M.P, Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker, can we also say of course to the fact that it was signed without a Cabinet decision being agreed to it? Can we also say that decision and these heads of agreements committed the Government and the people of Barbados, and I can go through it, no later than three months after the date of the final agreement, the Government shall sell to CAHILL Energy (Barbados) for the sum of US\$1 the freehold of the proposed site or the alternative site. Do you know where the proposed site is, Sir? Look at the plan at the back behind here. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy denied that the land being acquired from BC Holdings in this Chamber was the land intended for CAHILL and that this Government has committed the spending of millions of dollars, while Bajans cannot get land and housing and you came in here since my Resolution, since the Budget last year and the Government went full steam ahead and come to incur liability to pay out millions of dollars for almost 28 acres of land for CAHILL or whoever else will use it. Do not go there. Do not tell yourself ... I like you. Do not get yourself in trouble. Send this to him so that he knows that when he starts talking about the wider use of photovoltaic and all kinds of things

on that land it is 83 acres. Do not commit yourself to nothing that is going to get you into trouble, I beg of you. Send that to him because it was done in here already by the Honourable Member for Christ Church East who came in here and tried to make us believe that these sites were for different things. This is the application number to Town Planning in relation to the building of industrial purposes mechanical workshop, waste to energy plant, wind turbine and solar voltaic complex with all kinds of problems being identified here, from water to all kinds of issues and EIA. Mr. Speaker, what hurts me is that this Government with impunity knowing how the country felt about CAHILL never admitting that the Prime Minister sign this since September 2013, 21 months before I spoke about it in a Budget debate. The first time the Cabinet sees these agreements is after they were signed by the four ministers and the Cabinet was asked not to agree, they were asked to note but the ministers are going to have to tell you if they ever saw the agreements or whether they were asked to approve a paper that talks about agreements and the agreements never made their way to the eyesight of the ministers who were not signatory to it. That is not for me to tell you. What are we coming to in this country? What have we been reduced to? I expect all kinds of things to come flying now, but I deal with the facts and I take my time. If these agreements are not carrying the signature of the Prime Minister or the ministers then say so, but the Prime Minister sotto voce told me that he signed it. Yet the Prime Minister must agree that when you make statements in September 2015, two years to the day after you signed it, saying no decision taken yet ... When you read the terms of this agreement and you see what this agreement commits the Government of Barbados to, particular once the PPA and the Incorporated Heads of Memorandum are signed then you understand that the three documents are read together as a trilogy therefore you cannot tell us that things will not be done by stealth because this Prime Minister has already acted in stealth.

Mr. Speaker, if it is madness let us send these agreements to an independent legal authority, not chosen by me, not chosen by the Prime Minister and have the independent legal authority assess the liability of, not the Prime Minister, no me, but the liability of the taxpayers of Barbados in relation to these contracts. It needs to be done. I want to send a message now that we would not know how to allow these agreements in this form without the most appropriate forensic audit if we ever had a say in the matter because you cannot commit a country to \$4.8 billion in liability of a farce of a project such as this, ministers signing in advance of Cabinet approval and authority but if that were not bad enough, a Prime Minister signing in advance of that same and signing, committing a country without knowing what are the consequences and what is the EIA. It is not even a one page MOU, it is a MOU of 13 pages and when you start to go through it, let us look, "the Government shall ensure that CAHILL Energy should have

access to the proposed site within one month of the date of the heads of terms in order coming into being". Do you know why they had to run and acquire the land, because the heads of terms came into being on 14th March, so technically, CAHILL Energy should have been having access to the land at Vaucluse on 14th April.

Do you want me to continue? At paragraph 18, "this formal agreement shall be governed by the laws of England and whereas any dispute shall be determined by arbitration on the terms at paragraph 27. These heads and terms of agreement in connection with the project and all disputes in connection with them or their subject matter or formation including non-contractual claims and disputes shall be governed and construed in accordance by the law of England and Wales." This is the document the Prime Minister signed and I have not gotten to the one that the ministers signed yet, so that we understand what is being committed to in the names of the people and what is of particular import is paragraph 28: "The provisions of part 8 of these heads of terms are subject to contract and do not constitute a binding agreement and express the intention of the parties in principle as to the terms ..." I am not finished at all.

What happens in Part A? Part becomes a binding agreement upon the signing of this implementation of heads of agreement by these four Ministers so this is now a binding agreement. Let us go to Part B that the Prime Minister was on his own for with six months signed "Site Inspection". Procurement: "the Government represents awards to CAHILL that the award of the rights set out above an agreement of CAHILL energy are not subject to any requirement to tender our mandatory procurement process as a result of conditions set out in Rule 239 of the Financial Management and Audit rules." The Prime Minister gave them that assurance. Negotiation and Documentation: "The parties are to negotiate a formal agreement by 15th November, 2013." These are the justiciable parts: "Either party at any time in notice or in writing may terminate the negotiations for the project and the entry into the force of the formal agreement." Number 21-4: "The Government acknowledges that CAHILL Energy would incur substantial costs in connection with studies, due diligence and other activities. Accordingly the Government undertakes that it shall forthwith, on demand, reimburse to CAHILL Energy all costs and expenses in relation to the investigation, negotiating, documentation, design, engineering schedule and funding of the project and all associated and connected matters." That is part B, okay, and I could go on and on and on, authority, cost. The Government shall pay all costs relating to the assessments referred to in Paragraph 4 (2) above including the contractor's fees and expenses. Let us send this to an independent lawyer. Do not take my word. Do not take the Government's word. More importantly, let the Honourable Prime Minister and this Government produce a document

that does not have anybody else's name on it because these agreements were not signed in our name but in the name of the country.

As I deal with Cahill Energy, let me just issue a warning now. There is company called Deltro. I spoke to Deltro in October of last year at our Annual Conference. Deltro was proposing to sign a Power Purchase Agreement with the National Conservation Commission. I said then and I repeat now that the National Conservation Commission... I make this Power Purchase Agreement draft a document of this Honourable Chamber too. I am not coming in here talking blindly. I want also to remind the Government of Section 5 of the National Conservation Commission Act, Cap. 393 where the functions of the Commission do not include the purchase of electricity. What is more, the National Conservation Commission Act relates to public parks, beaches and related matters and to make provision for the conservation of sites and buildings of national interest. The National Conservation Commission should have been protecting the Harbour police Station.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say very simply that the land at Friendship Plantation from Friendship Plantation at Waterford, whatever you choose to call it, is in my constituency was acquired for a public purpose which was a national botanical garden. The former Honourable Prime Minister who is no longer with us, the Honourable Members for St. John, was Prime Minister when this Government reconfirmed that that land would be used for a national botanical garden. If you want to change it, you have to come back in this Parliament and do so, first thing, secondly, you have to subdivide the land, and thirdly, if as the officials were telling you that this is the worst possible site - and I feel very strongly because this was also the site that they were dumping sargassum seaweed on that is next to the Codrington well... I am not even saying half of what I know. Those in here who know, know that I know. Here we have a complete flippant disregard for the well-being of all who have to use the Codrington well by the dumping of Sargassum seaweed on the site and now you are going to have development in that Zone 1, nine months after I spoke about it, and there is still be a presentation of this proposal to the Infrastructural Committee of Cabinet on Friday this week. What madness am I hearing? For there to be development - yes, you can continue to look so -- in a Zone 1 area you would now have to be taking that development to The Belle. The Belle as much as Waterford is equally Zone 1. I am asking who is running this country and who is running this Government?

Mr. Speaker, let me go further. You have a situation where if you were to trouble the Zone 1 in The Belle or Waterford, what are you going to tell the squatters. That this Government is prepared to do so for a major company out of Canada but does not understand the need to be able

to protect Barbadians trying to eke out a living in this country. No, no, no.

A man actually asked me last night how does a country like Barbados seek to import expertise from a temperate climate to teach it how to harvest sunshine when we were harvesting sunshine for over 40-something years with solar water heaters. I had to reflect on the question and I thought it was not so much that it was Barbados seeking people from a temperate climate, I suspect that people were seeking the Minister to get the project done, and I want to know why the lawyer is the same in this project as it was in the Cahill Energy and why the Minister at the core of the environment is the same. These things are too much.

The Honourable Prime Minister wants to know what to do. Well I say to the Honourable Prime Minister all the evidence is here and he knows what to do with it, not me. If you do not know what to do with it when the appropriate times comes then you can speak to me and we can agree how it should be dealt with, that is the truth. What is more is that the country has not been told that one of the principals worked in the Prime Minister of Canada Office and eventually he was prosecuted and spent time in Government shackles, I cannot remember if it was a day, a week or a month. That is who we are doing Government and putting at risk Zone 1 land for in this country and then you want to know why I feel we have no confidence in this Government. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. I say to this Government Sir, that that cannot continue.

Let me go further, Sir. We will wait to see what the Infrastructure Committee and the Town and Country Planning Department does in relation to the Deltro contract. I clearly have touched some nerves because all of a sudden the Honourable Member for Christ Church East is now like if he has been troubled; poor fellow. Sir, he does not have to threaten me anything because...

Asides.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want permission to give him a copy of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow's writing because he went to St. Bartholomew's School last week and told them to take time, he would soon be Minister of Education.

Asides.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I can understand that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East has never seen the handwriting of the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, but that is alright.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please stop disturbing the House. Continue.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, anyhow a gentleman who is a menace can go low to make anybody on this side snort is the day that same gentleman would have to account to the entire country for all of his dealings. Those dealings, Mr. Speaker, may well find any Government, including his own Government far less a future Government, having to commission a special forensic audit for all of the dealings with his ministry because we have already shown you Cahill Energy and we have already shown you Deltro. Mr. Speaker, LEC or LSE would match him because this Minister has walked around Barbados with impunity and has driven and X5 owned and registered by a company called TransTech that is responsible for the repair of transmission at the Sanitation Service Authority and this Minister does it with impunity.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: It does not have me at all, but it does have me that this country is a country where the Right Honourable Prime Minister said as recently as on Sunday, that there must be transmission of documents for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and therefore there ought to, because under the legislation if the Honourable Attorney-General were to advise him, there would be a prime facie case for a conflict of interest and for potential acts of corruption because the entity who owns has registered and owns the car on a prime facie basis is the entity that is fixing transmissions, and the forensic audit comes with the other circumstantial evidence, that all of a sudden karaoke and shop 'limes' are not done in St. Michel South, in St. Michael North East, I do not think they are done in St. Michael North West, but they are done in Christ Church East and in the Honourable Member for St. Philip North.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: when I said therefore that the Honourable Attorney-General... I have had to endure this for the last 12 months, that because I have raised a matter in here about Cahill and this Minister signing a document, I have been described from every part and without the protection of the Chair or anybody else, but my back is broad enough to take it because it will not stop me from being the voice of the voiceless in this country, and he can continue to put up LEC because far from LEC I want to hand over to the Right Honourable Prime Minister the registration documents for TransTech Inc. and I make it a document of this Honourable House for the X5, because as he hands up LEC, TransTech Inc. XE 802, chassis number: WBAZ24090L491113, a black BMW-X5, date tax: 19th May, 2014; date expired: 18th May, 2015. The Honourable Member needs to update this, Right

Honourable Prime Minister but I still see the same vehicle on the road driving and so I assume that it has been registered lawfully. If the Honourable Member has now subsequently purchased it, then there should be a transfer of ownership in there and therefore the Minister would only be accountable for the inappropriate period of time when he was driving it, without it being duly owned by him. Would the Clerk of Parliament please pass that to the Right Honourable Prime Minister for investigation? He can take the LEC with it and let the LEC also be investigated, out of fairness to the Honourable Member for Christ Church East. I will also produce on that occasion the handwriting of the late Right Excellency Errol Walton Barrow who recommended me to be a Member of Middle Temple where I received my professional qualification and where...

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Of course, not only that, Sir Henry Forde's whose is typewritten, while the late Right Excellency Errol Walton Barrow is handwritten, so it will allow the Honourable Member for Christ Church East to see the handwriting of the late Right Excellency Errol Walton Barrow for the first time. Sir, I make that too a document of this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, I come now to the St. John Polyclinic. Mr. Speaker, this Government made a big deal about the St. John Polyclinic but all would not be so bad because I genuinely feel that the people in St. John deserve a polyclinic, just as I feel that the people of St. James across to St. Andrew deserve a polyclinic that is the truth. I believe that polyclinics, in a decentralized way, take the pressure off acute care facility and therefore they add value and if anything some of our polyclinics in fact should be opened for longer hours in order to help ease the pressure off the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as an acute care facility.

Mr. Speaker, I feel as though I am being savaged by a sheep who is now all of a sudden shivering in his boots now that a matter has been given pursuant to section 79 of the Constitution for investigation of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Mr. Speaker, the second document for XG-10 will also be made a document of this Honourable House so that the Minister has reminded me that there were two vehicles and I have only submitted one but somewhere among these papers is the second one, so that both will be done. You have carried along your friend when there was no intention for me to carry him along with you. Madness. I never see such madness yet.

Mr. Speaker, let me come to the St. John Polyclinic. Mr. Speaker, this Government indicated that the St. John Polyclinic would be built for the sum of \$13.8 million. This was the same party that talked all over its mouth about cost overruns. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine that a polyclinic

that should have cost \$13.8 million due to the utter incompetence of the Minister of Health and others, at the time of its opening that cost went to sum of \$28.6 million, more than 100 per cent of the \$13.8 million. Sir, it goes further. Would you believe that as we speak since February there has been another claim of \$1.5 million for that polyclinic opened in November, to bring the claim to \$30.1 million, from \$13.8 million?

Mr. Speaker, what concerns me is that you have just heard me say that there was need for a polyclinic between St. James and St. Andrew, so we are building a polyclinic in St. John for twice the sum of what it was originally quoted to be for. Then we cannot get work on simple things done at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Mr. Speaker, I have said this is why we have brought this Motion, there are too many things going wrong, Barbados is not working for the vast majority of Barbadians. Mr. Speaker, what bothers me is that the Right Honourable Prime Minister held a meeting with the consultants towards the end of 2014, no doubt because the project had stopped. The Ministry of Health allowed that project to have been suspended for over nine months, a cost to the taxpayers of over \$1.2 million in claims for that suspension on the nine months.

Asides.

Hon. Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: who is the claim from? I can only imagine from the contractor, but the contractor is claiming on the basis of the delay but the Ministry of Health and employer to resolve the issue. The Right Honourable Prime Minister then intervenes, not to have the architect who is the only body who can issue certificates, but the quantity surveyor who does valuation, to settle a draft final account in 2014, almost one year before the work on the project was completed.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot settle a draft final account a year before the civil works were completed because you do not know what the civil works can bring up, it is commonsense. Furthermore, under the contractual provisions of the Joint Contracts Tribunal and the specific contract used in this matter, you only go for a final account when there is a practical completion certificate. There are two engineers on that side who should know this and advise. A practical completion certificate means that 97.5 per cent of the work has been completed. However, the reality is that a directive was given to settle and discuss the projected final account, approximately \$29 million, setting a figure and all, one year before you open the building. Sixteen million dollars was more than what the contract allowed for, and this St. John Polyclinic is now the representative or the example of the most profligate and awful cost overrun by this Government in the Ministry of Health. You cannot get money spent at the hospital.

Let me go further, Sir. A person was appointed as project manager with no lawful authority. For that person to have taken over the role from the architect, they would have to be appointed pursuant to the formal contract, but that person then directed the works of the project. What is of more concern is that that draft projected final account which was to be settled and discussed had a claim. Whichever way you look at it, you cannot have a draft final account being discussed 12 months before the work is completed. There are enough engineers in here, and I just showed you why it is linked to that. What is more, Sir, is that that draft final account claims a 17 per cent increase on our rates. What has happened in Barbados last year that would occasion a 17 per cent increase in labour, in materials, in plant and equipment across the board? Why would the Government leave the project suspended for over a year to cause the contractor to have to claim \$1.2 million in expenses from the Government? Why would the Government preside over a situation where a mill wall can move from \$660 000 to \$1.2 million, or the steps and the ramp adjacent to the mill wall can move from \$22 000 to \$550 000 in this country, Mr. Speaker? Then we say we have no money.

Aside (Mr. Speaker, please. I was suspended for 15 years at no cost to the taxpayer of \$1.2 million, so let us agree and understand.)

Hon. Miss. M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is the Government that condemned 100 per cent cost overruns. As I said at the beginning of my speech, Barbados is not working for the vast majority of Barbadians. Every sector in this country has been assaulted, brutalised and impoverished by this Democratic Labour Party Government. No-one or nothing has been spared, save of course themselves and a handful of cronies. The Book of Ezekiel warns of the judgement awaiting those leaders who exploit and abuse the trust of their people, and I quote from Chapter 34 verses 2 to 4:

“What sorrow awaits your shepherds, who feed themselves instead of your flocks. You drink the milk, wear the wool and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick nor bound up the injured. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them with harshness and cruelty.”

There is no truer way of describing this Government, Mr. Speaker. This Government is broken, because it is bankrupt of the ethics, values and principles of good governance that peace, stability and progress demand. Mr. Speaker, when Members on the other side finish with the personal invective that the Member for Christ Church East wanted to start with just now, we expect it. Every one of us in here expects to be cursed, and we expect the personal

invective. When they finish with the trip down Memory Lane to tell you about a Barbados Labour Party Administration elected 22 years ago, we expect that too. However, when you finish doing those things, I ask this Government then to address the realities of Barbadians today, because this is not about an election in here today. This is about dealing with real people and real needs. Neither the cursing nor the blame will put a grain of rice on anybody's table tomorrow in this country. Neither the cursing nor the Memory Lane trips will change the vagaries experienced by Barbadians of the new governance that this Government has presided over, where Bajans hope that they know someone or know how to pass something to someone to get through somewhere, somehow, in order to be able to move through life.

We have to change this culture. We have to change the culture that unless you know somebody in authority who is prepared to do something for you, then you cannot get through in this country. That is what our Covenant of Hope speaks to, and I trust and pray, Sir, that this will be the legacy of the next 50 years of Barbados. We brought copies for everybody. I want you to ask this Government to ask Barbadians two questions, Mr. Speaker. Every Barbadian must be asked, “Am I better off than I was eight years ago, and will my children be better off than me given the direction in which our country is going?” If you cannot simply, as a Government, recognise that most Barbadians will answer in the negative, that they will tell you “no”, then do something about it. If the job to get something done to correct it is beyond this Government, then they need to say so, because this Government gives the impression of being four-foot men in eight-foot water in a rising tide; submerged and like a drowning man threatening to drown 280 000 adults in Barbados. Sector by sector by sector, the appearance of incompetence, indifference and regrettably in some instances, corruption, appear now to define this Government. It is governance by stealth, governance by rumour and governance by anonymity. There is a famous mouthpiece at Barbados Today where you see a high-ranking official without a name being attributed. When I see that, I know to start driving to Deacons Farm and look somewhere in Ferniehurst to see if Barbados Today put up a tent down there to take comments from people. I know.

Mr. Speaker, the much touted Team Barbados has become Team Failure with a capital “F”, but the greatest insult is about to come. The greatest insult I have left to the end because this one knocked me for six. I felt a way when I saw the Prime Minister's signature. Last Tuesday in this Honourable House, four documents were laid and given notice of. Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries' Remuneration and Allowances Order 2016, Senators and House of Assembly Remuneration and Allowances Order 2016. Mr. Speaker, on the 15th Day of April, 2016, this Government through the signature of the Minister of

Finance - and it would have to be with the approval of the Cabinet of Barbados gave themselves and all parliamentarians a ten per cent increase.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us have some order, please.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, however which way you put it, if last month Ministers were getting 10 per cent less, do not tell me that it is because they took a 10 per cent cut in January 2014, because let me remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the public servants of Barbados, who were sent home by the NCC in May 2014, are yet to get money for a separation package but Ministers and parliamentarians are putting themselves at the head of the trough. Mr. Speaker, I know that you cannot have public servants being the victims of a wage freeze in this country since 2010 and this Government can in appropriately, insensitively and without any sense of self-respect put themselves at the top of the line not just to spend \$9 million or \$10 million on Independence but to increase all Ministers, parliamentarians, Senators salaries in these precincts by 10 per cent from what they were getting last month, last year and the year before. The fact that you chose to freeze your salary as an optical illusion ...

Asides.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: I would like to see the Minister for Welfare show the same righteous indignation about the people in St. Michael who cannot get welfare payments, that he is showing now about his salary.

Mr. Speaker, many of the members in here may be too young to remember but I certainly remember, recall and read about the occasion the triggered the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow to fire two Senators under a street light in Quakers Road and in front of Government House. The then former Prime Minister the Right Honourable Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford abstained from his salary increase and Senators John Connell and Denis Hunte voted with it and Errol Barrow made it clear, not about here.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying tonight to you, Sir, that the Barbados Labour Party parliamentary party met last night and we will not know how to receive this money. I certainly will not receive it in my name and will have to find a way for it to go to a charity until public servants in this country receive a salary increase and until the public servants for whom this cut was taken receive the separation packages. You cannot play with people's emotions.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have some order, please.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I make the other one a document of the House in relation XG10 as promised.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not know that the Minister of Welfare, the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central could be so agitated on any matter. He has never been agitated on the poverty of the people of St. Michael.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have never heard this behaviour. I am shocked.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, just one moment, please. Let us have some order. Thank you. Continue now.

Miss M.A. MOTTLEY: Thank you. Sir, this has to be about the MELP, not the DLPP. This party is now called the MELP, the Democratic Labour Party is now the ME Labour Party. You cannot do this to people. Do you know what kind of suffering people are enduring in this country? Sir, I was shocked because I cannot believe that this passed a Cabinet and that this was signed on April 15th. I am going to make it easy. We have determined that we will be no where near the scene of the crime when this matter is debated and we will not be coming into this Honourable Chamber to debate this issue because we want no part of it at all, at all. Mr. Speaker, it is political sacrilege of the highest order. Sir, as have said, it is wrong and there is no other word for it. Sir, while the records do not reflect is that this Government knows because the people who are suffering equally go to them as they come to us, that you cannot do one thing and say another thing and this will come to characterize in my view, this Government. This single action, duplicitous and treacherous and politically sacrilegious.

Mr. Speaker, what is at stake today? Do you know why it is being done? Most people think it is about the 10 per cent when the month comes but it is not about that, sir. This Government is lining up to see how they can eventually give public servants an increase. It is also lining up, however meagre, to increase the base of their salary so as to increase the pensions and gratuities to which they are entitled if they are no longer members of this Honourable Chamber. Sir, that is what this is about. This is the pensions and gratuities fix.

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I not have a copy of the old figures but I would have to assume that a Minister's salary now goes back up by almost \$18 000 for the year and that has nothing to do with the entertainment allowance and the travelling allowance and when you add that is another \$500, so a Minister's salary goes back up by about \$25 000 for the year. Mr. Speaker, the Other Side is

entitled to their view. I am stating what the position of Barbados Labour Party is on this matter. We would not know how to take this money in advance of the NCC workers. Do you know how it works, Sir? The NCC workers have been told that they cannot get a decision from the Employment Rights Tribunal before the Employment Rights Tribunal now hear the cases of the Barbados Workers' Union members of the NCC.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: Yes, but it is not fair.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: It is still not fair then to hold back the decision for the people who belong to the case that has been heard for the last six months for them not to get it.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a minute, Honourable Member. May we have some order, please? Thank you.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: I never knew that this issue would be so divisive, contentious and cause men to want to jump over the isle at beat people.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: Sir, I really do not know how Honourable Members can be calling people liars in here and flaring about their hands? I never knew that the wound was so raw. Suffice it to say, Sir, that this is the greatest vote of No Confidence in this Government, not anything we have said, not anything that the 60 to 70 per cent of Barbadians who in every single poll say that they believe the Government is on the wrong track and who effectively reflect little confidence in this Government irrespective of who does it. This document signed to increase salaries by 10 per cent, Ministers, parliamentarians and Senators, is the greatest vote of No Confidence because this is about increasing the base of the pension and gratuities that these Members would be entitled to. Why would a Government be so callous and indifferent as to take this decision in advance of making sure that they took care of the public servants who are under them? I say simply to the unions, take a close watch, there is clearly money stirring around that the unions need to be able to get better terms and conditions for their workers.

Mr. Speaker, what does that state today? It is not the electoral fortunes of a party, the Democratic Labour Party, but the rescuing of a country which is on a blindfolded journey. Too many people are saying since the death of the former Honourable Member for St. John that the carts have

become disconnected from the tractor. Some say that the Prime Minister trying to hold them together and some are saying he is not. Some are saying that they are not listening to him and some are saying he would not lead them. Suffice it to say that whatever it is, this is a "pop kite" government, nobody is in control. Mr. Speaker, if only Members on That Side would start to say publicly what they genuinely feel about the way and the direction in which the Government is going. I am not talking about idle talk. I am talking about genuine concern about the country in which we are living in, the kind of Barbados that we are building and the extent to which their decisions will have consequences of a negative impact on too many tens of thousands of Barbadians and too many different sectors, but for me to hope that might be too much because what we then have is actions like this politically sacrilegious one which would had to been agreed by the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, in summary, Bajans confidence in this Government has been set adrift on a putrid, horizonless ocean where the only hope lies for the country in the year 2018. Another 18 long, tortuous months of more pain and suffer, and far away from the bounty of the fatted calf unless you belong to this small group of people who have been isolated for special assistance in this document. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, last night after I had finished my preparations for today day, I started to do some light ready because I could not sleep and came across a poem by a 20th century poet called Roger Wattis. I read it and I laugh and I read it again, Sir, and then I cried. Mr. Speaker, let me read it for you.

"The outlook I fear is appallingly bad

The engine is failing the captain is mad

We have long lost our bearings, we're drifting off course

We'd signal for help but we never learn morse

The compass is broken the wheel is askew

We'll know where we are bound if we ever heave to

The crew is a rabble of mutinous dogs

And we'd write it all down if we understood logs

The firstmate's half craze with a terrible tick

The doctor is drunk and the engineer is sick

We're listening to starboard the radio is dead

So let her go sideways and full steam ahead."

Mr. Speaker, of course, these words are far too unparliamentary for me to ascribe to any Honourable Member in this Chamber on the Government's side and I would never do so and our rules and traditions would not permit me to do so, but it does permit me to borrow some of the words in the description: The outlook I fear is appallingly bad, the engine is failing, we've long lost our bearings, we're drifting off course, we should signal for help, the compass is broken the wheel is askew, we'll know where we are bound if we ever heave to, we're listening to starboard the radio is dead, so let her go sideways and full steam ahead. Sideways or sinking, one after the other, the Other Side will vote nay, nay, nay but full steam ahead. Who can tell the other one come back? Who would stand in the breach among you for Barbadians and for Barbados?

Mr. Speaker, I am under no illusion as to the numerical strength of the Government. I said so on 8th April or 7th April when I announced that we were bringing this motion. Furthermore, my numbers, I have told you already today, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph was not aware that this motion was being done and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South emailed us after 12 or 1 o'clock in relation to this matter. Suffice it to say that if we go into another day, hopefully he would be back. I have another member who I am sure that the Prime Minister like me will wish a speedy recovery and I am not going to go any further than that at this stage so that the issue is not about numerical majorities. The issue however, is that the country wants to hear the Honourable Members of That Side and if the Government is going to do as it did on the last occasion and one Member speaks, then you could as well shut down the debate now and let us go home.

Asides.

Hon. M. A. MOTTLEY: The reality is that This Side understands the importance of speaking to the needs and the concerns of the people that they represent. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East and the Honourable Member for St. George who are all in here will speak to the needs and the concerns of their constituents. I will ask whether Members of Parliament on That Side will see it as their bound and duty also to speak and to open their mouths and address the issues that have been placed before them. On some there may be no agreement, on others there will be very, very adversarial positions taken, but speak you must because the people of Barbados deserve to hear you. Will we be craftsmen of our fate or will we be spectators to our fate? That is the issue here, therefore our constituents will see whether who will speak or whether people contemptuous of them and find no need to speak or that they are too difficult as on the last occasion.

Asides.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: and find no need to speak or that they are too difficult as on the last occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I take no pleasure in speaking many of these words in this our 50th Anniversary year, but I pray that the Honourable Members on the other side recognise that I do so out of duty to bring this No Confidence Motion because the people want to hear the Government on these and many other issues which the others on this side will speak to at length. I do so to give voice to the voiceless. On the behalf of the thousands of Barbadians of all walks of life that we have encountered over the last two years, in particular whose common refrain has been: Does this Government know what they are doing? That is what they are saying. That is one simple question that they asked as proof positive that the people themselves have lost confidence in this Government.

Sir, therefore my voice and those of the rest of us who speak in this debate would only be instruments to express the deep dissatisfaction, disaffection, distrust and despair that have engulfed to our people. Sir, the people of Barbados have lost confidence in this Government and those of us on this side of the aisle have equally lost confidence in this Government and the Honourable Prime Minister.

I am obliged to you, Sir, and so moved the Resolution.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: I beg to second that, Sir and reserve my right to speak. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if there is no Honourable Member on the other side that is rising to speak, then may I speak now, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you may.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: I would really wish to be here for the Honourable Member's speech but I wonder if this this House may be amenable therefore to taking the afternoon...

Asides.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am asking a question. If this House does not believe that it is willing to entertain the request of an Honourable Member of 20 years standing, then tell me. I am asking whether...

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have some order please.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we normally take an afternoon break or 5:30 or 5:45 for 15 minutes. Mr. Speaker, with your permission I am humbly

asking that we take a 15-minute break which would allow myself to be present when my Members speak.

Asides.

Miss M. A. MOTTLEY: There is no answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: The break is not in my control. Honourable Member, are you speaking?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us hear this point of order.

Asides.

END OF MISS MOTTLEY'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by giving my unreserved support and congratulations to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition on her very detailed and comprehensive address to this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the lead up to this debate, the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South would have addressed his party faithful and he sought to detract from this No Confidence Motion by saying to those gathered that it was his judgement that the Government that he presides over was not on trial in this country for the quality of its policies nor it was not on trial for the performance of the administration but rather that this motion was really something of a political ultimatum and that if this Motion was not supported by Honourable Members of the Barbados Labour Party that the Party would be confronted with a carnival, his language, of expulsion.

Sir, I want to begin gone that that note because I think that the content of that which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition just put before the House makes it abundantly clear to all who heard that very little seems to be working in this country. It made it abundantly clear that Barbados, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said, is not working for the average Barbadian.

Sir, the Mighty Chalkdust has a song "I have been in town too long", and I want to emphasize that point because I too have been in town a little bit too long. Sir, I know that in George Street a pre-election strategy that has been tried and tested repeatedly is the one that the Honourable Prime Minister sought to put abroad spoke as he spoke about this No Confidence Motion which at the time was pending. The grave bearers in George Street are of the view, and they counselled and advised strenuously, that if you can create a good piece of mischief - in George Street they would call it a good lie - and let that lie go abroad, it would give great stress to the Barbados Labour Party to try to catch up with

the lie or haul it back and indeed by time you have an election the election is fought and won and the Barbados Labour Party is still struggling to catch it back.

Mr. Speaker, let us not pretend that we have not seen in recent history that methodology put to work because in 2008 this country was told by this entire Frontbench and one who is no longer with them that the Democratic Labour Party Government was going to give to the people of Barbados duty-free cars and interest-free mortgages, the public servants were to see those things, and of course that mighty lie went abroad and it was hell to catch it back, but it served its purpose. In 2013, the Democratic Labour Party did a similar thing on the issue of privatisation and that too went abroad and was impossible to be hauled back in and again it served its purpose, so out of an abundance of caution and understanding because I have been in town a little long I wanted to start on the note of disabusing the public record and decontaminating the public's mind and making it very clear what transpired in the lead up to this debate because the Honourable Leader of the Opposition shortly after the Estimates convened a meeting of the parliamentary group of the Barbados Labour Party and canvassed their opinion of every single member there present and gathered of affairs in Barbados' economy and in Barbados' society and invited us to give our own view on the course of action that we might wished to see implemented as a result of that rapid state of deterioration. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members here present all agreed that something had to be done and something drastic.

As I have said to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, the Honourable Minister of Finance there is a school of thought that the No Confidence Motion should be in him but the problem transcends him and quite frankly, as has been most ably demonstrated by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, they impact on every sector and on every Minister with responsibility in this country, and that is why this Motion has come against the Government. Sir, we stand here shoulder to shoulder not under any threat of any carnival of expulsion but we stand shoulder to shoulder because of the need for the Barbados Labour Party to draw a line in the sand and to confront a carnival of aimlessness and a carnival of lawlessness

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which is confronting this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me speak, first of all, on the lawlessness because on that subject I want to begin by making my position very clear. I think that it is something cold bloodedly reprehensible when the country is on its knees, when you have workers from the National Conservation Commission who cannot see financial closure to the agony that they are enduring; when, Mr. Speaker,

Sir, you have as recently as in December, young children or adults at the University of the West Indies turning up to do examinations and being turned back at the door on the morning of the examination because tuition fees have not been paid and those students being told to go to Student Revolving Department to have that matter sorted out.

Mr. Speaker, I am still young enough to know what it was like pulling all-nighters at the University of the West Indies, you go home and have a cold bath and come back the next morning. Sir, it is the most unconscionable thing and while people are going through that kind of agony because of the financial constraints facing the country, it is a cold bloodedly, ruthless, self-serving and reprehensible thing for this Government to be saying, at this time, that they are going to reimburse the salaries of Ministers of Government and Members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wash my hands of that. I have said sotto voce to the Honourable Member for St. Lucy that as far as I am concerned, when 3 000 people who got sent home have been dealt with appropriately in law, when you have had wage increases in Barbados, then you could come and talk to me about that, but when the people in my constituency are walking on a bed of nails, I am not prepared to float on a cushion of comfort, so count me out of that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is my position.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that we have just witnessed something shocking, because you would have thought that you were confronted with an 18th century desperado when the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central got vexed and from his seat telling us that he would done with politics first, as though that would be a great loss, but the Honourable Member could go along. Mr. Speaker, the point is that as far as I am concerned, I want no part of that, because I sat in this Place and watched the systematic degradation of the society when the financial simpleton who runs the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, without any comprehension or vision of financial matters whatsoever, set about to destroy the social fabric of the middle-class and the lower middle-class of Barbados, the people who depended on a home improvement allowance to help them to retrofit their homes. Sir, the Honourable Member took that away. The Honourable Member also took away from people who were depending on their Registered Retirement Savings Plans and the allowances attached thereto, because it helps them to make provision for their future. Mr. Speaker, all of us know public servants who use the travel and entertainment allowance to help supplement their car loan, that was also taken away, and the simplistic lack of vision of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs set all of those thousands of Barbadians back. Now we are coming to say to this Parliament, at this time when these same people are still suffering and cannot see five cents back, that all is well, that the political class of the country is supposed to look after itself, while all the rest

suck salt. I am not going to walk on any cushion of comfort while my constituents who have sent me here are walking on a bed of nails, I am not part of it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, the other concern I have is that, quite frankly, this Government has lost all of its credibility and we heard it portrayed here today. The question was appropriately asked, in my view, who is running Barbados. You have one entity that finds itself located very, very comfortably in the middle of every financial activity that this Government undertakes, whether it is at the Empire Theatre, Coverley, Bushy Park, the Bridgetown Port, Hyatt, the ABC Highway, the Grotto, Valery, Hard Rock. Sir, the 14th Recycle, I believe it is, speaks to the concern that we have as an Opposition, about the consolidation of wealth in this country and about the absence of a level playing field of financial and business opportunities in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, that too is part of the concern when I talk to you about an absence of credibility.

Asides.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Mr. Speaker, it does not matter where you look. The Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development wants me to talk about his Ministry. The Honourable Member keeps interrupting me, so we are going to talk about his Ministry. The truth of the matter is that if you start at gross public sector debt this Press Release from the Central Bank of Barbados, dated March 2016, which was released around 12 o'clock today, indicates that gross public sector debt at 2008 stood at \$5.8 billion. Gross public sector debt this afternoon is now \$9.645 billion, all under the watch of the incompetent Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs. That is his legacy to Barbados. Mr. Speaker, if you drill down a little deeper you would see that the debt at the statutory corporations in 2008, prior to this Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs was \$1 billion. The debt at the statutory corporations, corporations where the Honourable Member sent home thousands of people to try to haul in and to rectify that problem of debt, has gone up beyond the \$1 billion point to now \$1.425 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is testimony not only to the Minister's failure and to the Government's failure but it is an invitation to drill down deeper into the statutory corporations to see where the problem lies. Sir, inasmuch as the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development likes to debate me from his seated position, then, Sir, I will engage him, because his Ministry has a major corporation, the National Housing Corporation.

Asides.

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: Do not drop your pencil, take time and write the notes. Sir, the National Housing Corporation today has a waiting list for people who want

units. Sir, over 38 000 people are on a waiting list at the National Housing Corporation for units and these are working-class people who are hoping to find shelter of their own. Mr. Speaker, the public record reveals that the National Housing Corporation has been, since August 2010, meeting its payroll by monthly advances of \$2.46 million from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to the National Housing Corporation. Sir, to be fair to the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs that is not only part of his legacy, it is also part of the putrid legacy of the Honourable Member for St. Philip North, that Parliament was bypassed since August 2010, \$2.46 million being sent to pay wages and salaries at the National Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as of June, 2014, the National Housing Corporation debt stood at \$95 357 000. By March, 2015, which is the most recent statistics to which I have access that debt now has to be added to, to the tune of \$4.7 million which they owe to the National Insurance Scheme, on top of the \$95 million I have just talked about. In addition to that, there is a \$42 million unfunded liability for pensions, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

5.51 p.m.

That takes you to approximately \$142 million. All of this, Sir, is debt at the National Housing Corporation. They owe \$29 million at The Grotto, which was paid to the same Maloney group, and then on top of that you have to look for another \$7 million to acquire the land at The Grotto, of which \$6 million at least went to Sagicor, Mr. Speaker. Sir, you are approaching at one statutory corporation, under the watch of the Member for St. Lucy, almost \$200 million in debt at the National Housing Corporation.

One would have expected that with that kind of burden, the Minister responsible for the NHC would at least begin to approach a level of seriousness. One would have hoped he would at least begin to approach the image of being a genuinely interested Minister. Mr. Speaker, it struck me as peculiar that I could be driving through Fustic yesterday, having executed a will. I took the coastal road back out of St. Lucy, so I had to pass through Half Moon Fort, and at 20 minutes to 12, I thought I saw an apparition. It appeared to be the Minister of Housing shepherding people at 20 minutes to 12 into his place of business at Moon Town, on the Government's dime, and on the Government's time, with all of those difficulties at NHC which I just elaborated on to this Parliament. Because I thought it was an apparition, I stopped and rolled down my window and spoke to it, and called it by name. I called it "Denis" and it responded. That was how I knew it could not have been an apparition. Mr. Speaker, it is not a laughing matter, because this is part of the difficulty that has brought us to this place; that Members of Cabinet have completely violated the convention that when you serve as

a Minister, it is a fulltime job that you do 24 hours a day. It is not a part-time affair. The person who has to rein in that conduct, with all due respect to him, Sir, is the Prime Minister of Barbados, who must be aware of what is transpiring. He may not be aware of some of the other things that the Minister of Housing does. Mr. Speaker, he may not be aware, for example, that across the road from Moon Town there is a public carpark facility which is part of the fish market. It may come as a shock to the Prime Minister, as it came as a shock to me, that there is a lovely white tent which has now been put over the top of that public carpark. The only problem is that there are no cars. It is now a seated waterfront dining area for somebody's private business. The public land that should be protected in the public interest by the Minister of the Crown charged with responsibility for the public's land is now completely shaded over with a big tent and is a seated waterfront area for dining, Mr. Speaker. I am not concerned with whether or not you feel it is his business or not. I am saying to this House, Mr. Speaker, that unless the change of use has been brought to this Parliament or unless somebody is paying rent for it, then it should not be there and should not be used for that purpose. If it is being done under the watch of the Minister of Housing, that only makes it worse, because on a daily basis he is across the road from it. If he wants to say he is benefiting from it, that is his business. I am not going there, because to go there would mean that I too am getting into the corruption debate, Sir. All I would say on that is that we have come to a very sorry state in this country, because we have allowed the country to continue for some time on autopilot, and the Prime Minister cannot really correct the problem. To be honest with you, Sir, the Prime Minister, through his inaction in reining in these things, is also guilty of having lost his credibility, and I take no pleasure in saying that.

Mr. Speaker, I take no pleasure because the average person out there now feels that the Office of the Prime Minister is an extension of The Grotto. We know where it is, we know how to find it, but we also know that we pay a high price for it to remain empty. Mr. Speaker, the reality is that that is something which the country feels a great sense of shame and pain about. No Barbadians take any pleasure in that because we have been accustomed through the years to having very powerful personalities in the Office of Prime Minister, persons who made their presence felt. Since we have entered the age of the absentee landlord, it disturbs Barbadians deeply. That is part of the reason why we cannot have any confidence in the Office anymore.

To that injury that we feel about the diminution of the Office of Prime Minister is added insult when, in the lead-up to this Debate as recently as last Sunday, the Prime Minister tries to detract from the substance of it again by inviting the Opposition to bring him evidence about corruption. Mr. Speaker, I have read the Resolution. The word "corruption" is not mentioned in this Resolution.

Nowhere in the Resolution does it say anything about corruption, so it tells me that the Prime Minister has corruption on his mind. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, if I were him I would have corruption on my mind too, because if I had to walk through the carpark at Cabinet every Thursday morning and find another brand new luxury car parked there, then I too would have to wonder how it is that my Cabinet Ministers absorbed a pay cut three years ago but every Thursday morning I can find a brand new luxury car, a fresh investment. The difference between me and the Prime Minister, however, Sir, is that I do not know that I would give the country an invitation where to go in the Constitution to look for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to solve the problem, because I understand governance, as I thought the Prime Minister did. I know that the Prime Minister knows that the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away in our system, blessed be the name of the Lord. The DPP did not give any of these on that Front Bench any office and called him a Minister, Sir. The Prime Minister did.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Mr. K.D. SYMMONDS: That is fine, Sir. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that it is in the power of the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister alone to pull a Minister to the railing at Cabinet and look in the carpark and ask, "Skipper, where did the Audi come from? Where did the X5 come from? How was it paid for?" Mr. Speaker, this country was told a month ago about the fact that at The Grotto there is a proposal that has now been on the Prime Minister's desk since November of last year. Sir, the proposal - for the Minister of Housing who seems again not to know - is that The Grotto will be called Dalkeith Woods, and that at Dalkeith Woods there is now a proposal that you will rent to tenants. The 80 units previously known as The Grotto was built for low-income purposes to reduce the 38 000 people on the waiting list of the NHC, to solve their request and desire for shelter. Are you now going to rent to them, if they can afford a rental of between \$1 500 and \$1 800 a month, Mr. Speaker? Sixty of the 80 units are supposed to be rented at that kind of money. The day after that was disclosed, the Voice of Barbados carried the voice of the Prime Minister saying that he would address the matter of The Grotto soon. Sir, that was exactly 30 days ago today.

5.57 p.m.

Sir, a month has passed but soon has not yet come for the Honourable Member but 38 000 people out there continue to wait and depend on shelter. Sir, it is that kind of trite and indifferent approach to the issue of governance that the Prime Minister accepts, condones and himself practices that has brought us to this point where we must

draw a line in the sand and say this is a point beyond which we cannot allow the Government to take this country.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition make the point with respect to the Private Members Resolution that she laid in this place on the August 28, 2015. Sir, a Private Members Resolution that seeks to address fundamental issues again relating to governance, that on March 2014, the Minister of Finance announced that Government had signed a Memorandum of Understanding for construction of a plasma gasification plant and that a year after that a Confirmation Information Memorandum was issued to parties interested in purchasing Cahill. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Confirmation Information Memorandum commits this Government to acquiring land, which they went ahead and acquired and its commits the Government to providing lagoons in order to cool the furnace of the plasma gasification plant, in a situation where eight parishes of Barbados today have difficulty in assessing potable water for homes. Sir, in St. Thomas, where they want to put the same plant, people have no water in their houses, in their places of business, in schools, threats to public safety and hygiene but you can merrily go ahead and pursue a plasma gasification plant and the Prime Minister no less, gives a commitment in this Parliament that he would speak to the issue. Sir, what is it that we are asking him to talk about?

Mr. Speaker, you heard the Leader of the Opposition in here today in the full interest of transparency to make available the Memorandum of Understanding, the Implementation Agreement, the Power Purchase Agreement, so that the country can know the extent of the obligations agreed to by Government and a year after, Sir, you still languish in a state of expectancy because these matters of governance that impact on the psyche and the well-being of all the residents who are potentially affect. Sir, it is as though the Honourable Members on that side do not understand what Barbadians are going through.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up on this point.

Mr. K. SYMMONDS: Sir, if you live in St. Thomas or in St. James Central, the idea of a plasma gasification plant in your backyard is something that is deeply worrisome and the possibility of something going wrong with it are equally worrisome because nobody wants to be guinea pig.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I will say this to you. All of those people we speak to say to us that they are calling it quit. First it was magic, then it was tragic but finally the relationship with the Democratic Labour Party has come to a time where they call it quits.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House be suspended for 15 minutes until 6.15 p.m.

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

The question that the House be suspended until 6.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker suspended the House accordingly.

6.22 p.m.

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the suspension was taken we were on Order No. 6 and to that we shall revert. The Honourable Member for The City of Bridgetown.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join this debate to give a presentation as to why I support this No Confidence Motion and I do so first of all by congratulating the Leader of the Opposition for making the case as to why we have arrived and how we have arrived at the point that we are at as the Opposition.

With my limited parliamentary experience, I consider a No Confidence Motion to be a very serious thing and I think that we ought to treat it with the degree of seriousness that it deserves. It is very serious and recognising the fact that we do not have the numerical superiority we still believe that it was an important thing for us to do and I would urge those on the Other Side, for the sake of this country, even though you may not agree with everything that has been said, I believe that enough has been said for us to take stock as to where we are going because for me there is a greater part of this entire exercise. I fear, personally, that if we continue on the sloop that we are on that we may well reach the point where people in this country decide one day that they have no confidence in politicians and that when there is apathy, despair and hopelessness that would create a serious situation for democracy as we know and enjoy it.

My contribution today would really address the extent, in my view, to which this Democratic Labour Party Administration has succeeded in ambushing the hopes of many, and I will explain why I used the word “ambushing”, and causing great anxiety for the ordinary man and woman in the street when it comes to being able to own a part of this rock. We have been in this Parliament in this current session now for about three years and that is the length of time I have been here and I believe that the Honourable Member for St. Lucy, the Honourable Minister of Housing

and Lands, has had sufficient time, especially given the fact that they are always Housing and Land Resolutions before this Honourable Chamber, to really explain or provide information, not only to this Chamber, but to the population as a whole in relation to some critical issues concerning the state of the Housing and Lands in Barbados. I believe that this is an important pillar of our development that should be addressed and unfortunately, the Honourable Minister responsible for the Ministry of Housing and Lands has not really addressed a lot of the issues that he ought to have addressed and he has spent a lot of time dealing with other matters so the country really does not know what is going on with relation to Housing and Lands or what is the Government policy with relation to Housing and Lands. I will take the latitude of bringing focus on to the broken housing policies and the questionable delivery of housing solutions undertaken by this Administration which, in my view, gives credence to the view that Barbados is not working for the majority of Barbadians.

Let me say from the beginning -- and I like to be fair -- for all Administrations, whether Bee or Dee, housing and land issues will always be challenging for whichever Administration is in office. That is as long as we have a prevailing climate of limited or restricted space, as long as we have a prevailing climate of increased construction costs and as long as we have a prevailing climate of changing demographics these challenges will always confront us, however, we on This Side, will always find it a dereliction of duty if we move away from a situation where an institution like the National Housing Corporation which was created to provide settle for the most vulnerable people in our society, that was the policy and the intent, not to compete with the private sector but to be able to provide that which some of our citizens would not otherwise have been able to enjoy. When that institution seems to be going in a different direction at the expense of the vulnerable persons in our society that is something that will always concern us. Unfortunately, that is what has been happening in this country. Were we to be provided with the information that we have been asking for continuously in this Chamber on behalf of the people of Barbados in terms of the housing policy and a lot of the other issues that people are seeking answers for but are not getting any, perhaps this aspect of the No Confidence Motion would not have been necessary but regrettably we are at the point where there is no choice. The Honourable Minister responsible for housing seems intent on making policy statements only at Democratic Labour Party Branch Meetings and that is not good enough, the people of Barbados need to know what is going on.

I remember about two years ago, January 2014, the Honourable Member for St. Thomas laid a Parliamentary Question in relation to the InterAmerican Development Bank Neighbourhood Upgrade Programme and she was speaking about Allen View at the time but that question has

applications as well for all of the other areas that were supposed to have benefitted from this programme and up to now there has been no response whatsoever from the Honourable Minister in this regard. Although I know that we have vented on this matter in this House and do political platforms and so on, what really concerns me about this is the fact that up to now, in spite of all of the newspaper articles, all of the speeches coming from Member of the Other Side with regards to the project some years ago, as far as I am aware, there has been no official communication to the residents of Cats Castle, Allen View, Garden Land and the Greenfield indicating to them that this project has been abandoned. That for me represents a case and a crisis of confidence.

Mr. Speaker, when you have not delivered and you have not even communicated to the people at the bottom as to why you have not delivered or to the fact that the project has been abandoned, and we could hear today people talking about housing estates going up in Church Village or about housing solutions for people in Ellis Village and so on, you do not have the creditability to make those statements because the people do not have an confidence at all in what you are saying in that regard and that is based on the experience of the people.

During the 2013 political campaign and in the 2013 Manifesto of the Democratic Labour Party housing was touted to be the flagship of achievement within the Democratic Labour Party for the period 2008 to 2013. It was the standard bearer of achievement and if that was the flagship in the party's flotilla at the time and it was a flotilla with ships that were sailing aimlessly and perilously off course, ship after ship, after ship, after ship.

6.32 p.m.

At this point in time that flagship seems to have hit rock bottom or to have gone shipwrecked and without the means the the stewardship to make that flagship seaworthy again. I say that there is a crisis of confidence in the captain and the crew of that flagship by all those Barbadians who are depending on this ship to become seaworthy again. I believe that the admiral of the fleet ought by now to call in the captain of the flagship and give him some new coordinates, some new bearings, to set him on a path because right now he is sailing aimlessly.

We have to look at the current state of housing and lands in Barbados. I want to say that in the absence of careful planning, we have seen housing solutions vanished along with large sums of money like the Inter-American Development Bank funds which were earmarked to improve the housing lot of the most vulnerable in our country. Just look at Allen View, Cats Castle and the others and you would see exactly what I mean.

The Honourable Minister, Mr. Speaker, needs to tell us what is happening with the Rent-to-Own Programme because there are scores of people who are still waiting on their conveyances and not a single word from the Minister on this. This is something that would allow these people to be able to use it as collateral to develop their housing and other things like that.

Asides.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: Mr. Speaker, my mistake. I am not perfect neither are you.

We also have the situation with the terrace units in all of the housing estates where up to now no word has been communicated to them as to exactly what is going to happen because they are in a peculiar situation in terms of the communal areas like the play parks, the grounds, sewerage, electrical and other issues like that. Nothing has been communicated to the people. I am not just saying this, this is what has been said to me by residents of various estates around this country. These are things, Mr. Speaker, that if the Honourable Minister does not address, will certainly create a crisis of confidence.

What is happening with the urban tenancies programme? I remember that before the Barbados Labour Party demitted office conditions were created where people in the urban corridor would have been able to get the lands that they have been living on for years in the same way that those in the rural areas were facilitated several years ago, but in the St. Michael area, and St. Michael is an area with several tenancies, nothing much has happened and nothing much is being said so the people are left wondering. These are things that helped create this atmosphere of a lack of confidence, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we then move to the vacant housing estates. I have made the point in this Honourable Chamber that there is no value in continuing to build housing estates when you have a large number of existing estates that are vacant and remain vacant. This is a problem. This is a problem at Constant, nothing has been said, at Parish Land, nothing has been said, and at The Grotto.

A lot has been said about The Grotto by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and also by the Honourable Member for St. James Central. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if there is one housing project which in my view would merit a Motion of No-Confidence against the Ministry of Housing and Lands, it is The Grotto. Why do I say that? I say that because the experience at The Grotto would suggest to us that Barbados is not working for the majority of Barbadians. This is a project that was conceptualised and designed for low income earners, and tell me how on earth this project could reach the point where the 80 units in the five complexes at The Grotto are

valued at \$450 000 and above, those were the words reported by the Honourable Minister for Housing and Lands, for 650 square feet of space each apartment, a price that the people in the Bayland, Brittons Hill and surrounding areas can never ever afford and certainly a price that really does not reflect the going price in Barbados for construction. This is a problem.

This is something that was brought to this Honourable Chamber for low income earners who had to endure the whole period of construction and then when they really thought that something was coming to them because they had their eyes set on the completion of the project - and that is why I use the term ambush - suddenly something happened and then it is priced beyond the potential of the people they were intended really to service. That, Mr. Speaker, for me is a very, very serious problem.

The same thing happened to some extent at Country Park Towers and Valery in terms of the pricing. This is not to say that prices that existed many years ago could really be sustainable now. I am not going to going there but I am saying that if we are going to design houses or housing estates or housing solutions for low income earners we cannot come at the last minute and then priced them beyond the mean of the low income earners. That is something, I think, would lead to social exclusion. When we are talking about \$450 000 and up for two-bedroom apartments, that remind me really of a song that the Mighty Sparrow sang, I believe, "Capitalism Gone Mad" especially for an institution that was supposed to be providing a social good. If it is not capitalism gone mad, Mr. Speaker, then some Honourable Member on that side is probably singing Crazy song, "I am a Mad Man With A Mad Plan, A Crazy Man, That is What I am".

The cost to get into The Grotto, Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that people are desperately in need of housing is wrong. If the situation has to be changed for whatever reason, say so, but let us not fool the people of Barbados that we are constructing housing for low income earners and then at the end of the day low income earners cannot get into the houses. In fact, those houses at The Grotto, Mr. Speaker, are now priced beyond the means of most conservative middle class earners in this country, and then we ask why it is that these houses are empty or remain empty. Part of the reason, apart from the fact that they are beyond the means of the average Barbadian, is that they may not be appealing to those people who have the means to be able to afford to pay for them, and that is also a critical issues.

A similar thing is happening, I believe, at Coverley, Mr. Speaker. It is not like West Terrace, Wanstead, Oxnards and those places where those people initially had more or less like a starter home where they were able then to develop their houses to the level that they are at today.

Those facilities do not exist in the housing estates that I am talking about.

Mr. Speaker, this crisis of confidence does not only apply to prospective or potential homeowners, it is within the construction industry as a whole because basically the way we are going in terms of construction in Barbados and the National Housing Corporation estates and so on, we are putting it, and it has been said here today, in the hands of a few, but that is not even the worst of it for me.

6.42 p.m.

6

Mr. Speaker, we have gone in a direction where we are removing a whole heap of labourers, artisans, caterers and so on from construction sites because of the type of construction that we are doing and this is affecting the economy of this country.

Asides.

Lt. Col. J. D. BOSTIC: I am not an economist but I can tell you that. Mr. Speaker, like I said earlier, progress is a good thing but everything that is done in the name of progress, history has shown us, has not really been progress at all, it has not proven to be progress. Mr. Speaker, had the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development, recognising the fact that he did not have the wherewithal to do a lot of things, decided on a different course of action, had he decided on a policy directive, in other words, not to be sailing aimlessly, had he gone the route, for example, of maintaining the existing estates as I have said to the Honourable Member before, I could have lived with that because no one can expect the Honourable Member to do things if he does not have the cash to do so. Mr. Speaker, not even that was done because the existing estates, the older ones in particular, have been in a poor state of maintenance for the last several years, especially within the last three or four years. Sir, nothing much has happened on a lot of these estates because there is no maintenance plan. On some estates those people who have been responsible for maintenance have been removed from some of the estates and so we have serious problems, including electrical. I know of electrical problems at Rosemont and Deacons, Kensington Lodge and at Pondside. I know there are also plumbing problems and other problems that for the last two to three years nothing at all has been done. Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development that instead of trying to at least convince people that he is going to be building houses here and there, to come up with a plan to maintain what we have. The Honourable Member should come up with a proper maintenance plan because there are tens of thousands of people who are suffering as a result of poor maintenance in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Honourable Member that we also have a problem in terms of loans that ought to be administered under the General Workers Loan Fund. I ask the question to the Honourable Member, through you, Mr. Speaker, have any significant loans under this scheme been disbursed in recent times? If not, why not? What is the status of the Fund? Is the Fund being utilised for other things or for other areas other than those for which they were designed? Sir, those are the questions I would want to ask of the Minister of Housing, Lands and Rural Development.

Mr. Speaker, in the last few minutes I have, I now come to speak to the issue of the Covenant of Hope. I said earlier that we are facing a situation where people may begin to lose confidence in politicians in general. Mr. Speaker, but thank God for this Covenant of Hope. As long as we do the things we say that we are going to do in this Covenant of Hope then confidence will be restored to the political landscape of this country. If you on the other side are wise and you read the document that was presented to you, those of you who have it, you would still have some hope over the next 18 to 20 months.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by saying that it is regrettable that we have reached the point of a No-Confidence Motion. It is regrettable but it is absolutely necessary. There are too many things that require the attention of those on that side who have responsibility, in circumstances where that responsibility is not given and so we find ourselves in the situation in which we are today. Mr. Speaker, I have given this some serious thought, when we discussed this at Parliamentary Group I came to the conclusion that this Motion of No Confidence in the Government of Barbados, particularly in my case the Ministry I am shadowing, that of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development, is one that is justified and one that I am happy to be associated with. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. The Honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. D. G. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this very important Private Member's Resolution. Sir, before I get into the meat of the matter I wish to echo the sentiments shared by the Honourable Member for the City of Bridgetown in that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East in her marathon presentation not only had a marathon presentation but the Honourable Member also dealt with all aspects of critical matters as they relate to governance in this country and to the treatment of people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to spend my half-hour discussing this whole aspect of a caring Government. Sir, we are in the 50th Year of Independence and it presents an

opportunity for reflection. In reflecting one must ask the question, is the legacy and traditions of this country being eroded? I asked the question and I will respond to it because there can be no doubt that the gains we have made post-Independence years are being reeled back by a Democratic Labour Party Government who has failed to understand the importance of those pillars that the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East spoke about, the importance of health, education and labour. Sir, not only are they important, they are also important to the development of this country.

Mr. Speaker, people would not forget the challenges we have faced over the past eight years in this country under the Democratic Labour Party. At its core the people in this country have been betrayed by the Democratic Labour Party, a betrayal of trust. Sir, it is a Government who continues in the name of austerity programmes to roll out uncaring and anti-people policies. Mr. Speaker, I want to use a quote from Thomas Jefferson. For those of you who do not know of him, he was the third President of the United States of America. Thomas Jefferson said: "The care of human life and happiness and not destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good governance." Sir, Thomas Jefferson spoke about the care of human life being an object of good governance. He speaks to good government as one who cares for the people. He speaks to government's responsibility being that of caring for its citizens. Sir, when we examine the track record of the Democratic Labour Party for the past eight years we see a Barbados that is not working for the vast majority of people under the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, when we examine the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the healthcare system, when we examine the labour relations issues in this country and how this Democratic Labour Party has foisted upon the people an anti-labour agenda in everything that they have done, when we examine the National Insurance system in this country, when we examine the lack of respect for people's money, the lack of respect for the elderly and other citizens, you tell me if this Government is a caring Government.

7.01 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I have a few areas I wish to examine that fall under the shadow portfolio that I hold: Health and Labour. I will start with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH). Our flagship for primary healthcare has been starved of resources and, Mr. Speaker, our hospital, the QEH, is in a mess. As I make my rounds visiting the people from St. George, only as recently as Sunday, I am met and regaled by various stories about the QEH. On Sunday when I approached the stairs to go to the "A" Floor of the hospital, I was faced with an out-of-service elevator. This is common year-round. Doctors, nurses and health officials have said that the QEH is facing the worst ever

crisis in its history. What a diagnosis by the doctors, nurses and healthcare officers.

QEH is at its worst with respect to operations, and ordinary Bajans who must use the services there and at the polyclinics are worried about the multiplying risks posed to the health of Bajans as a result of these issues. I can list some of them. They include lack of equipment for the doctors to perform key surgeries and diagnosis. The Honourable Member for St. Michael North East spoke about the lack of colonoscopy equipment, a key piece of equipment. We also have a number of people out there awaiting hip replacement surgery and cannot get it. Equipment has been breaking down, and I spoke about the elevator, due to the lack of maintenance. Most importantly, patients are frustrated and afraid that the lack of resources will compromise the care at the QEH.

Sir, we are celebrating Nurses' Week and I want to echo the sentiments to the nurses and congratulate them for providing the care which they have under the circumstances. I want to congratulate those retired nurses and those in the system, whether they are at the polyclinics or the QEH. However, we have a serious problem in that the QEH has not recognised that we need an adequate nurses-to-patient ratio. The problem is not that we do not have enough nurses but the problem is the QEH's strategy, having failed to recognise that we need more nurses per patients. That is a fundamental issue. The shortage of drugs is still an issue. Mr. Speaker, all of this came about as a result of the failure of the Minister and the Government to recognise that they have underfunded the QEH. When you allocate in the Estimates \$146 million to your flagship institution that needs \$185 million to \$200 million to run it efficiently and effectively, then tell me if this Government is a caring government. I say no. I give a vote of no confidence as it relates to the management of the healthcare sector in this country.

Mr. Speaker, let me move on because I am going to the Psychiatric Hospital. I am not going to spend my entire evening speaking about the QEH. They can make sport at this. This is a very serious issue. They can laugh and have fun, because when we look at the Psychiatric Hospital - I would take all of them -- patients are sleeping on floors. The physical plant is in a mess. I heard the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East speak about a kitchen. Pray tell me that over three years you cannot put equipment in a kitchen? And you are still giving the patients cold food; food with water and not beverages; lunch coming at three o'clock and breakfast coming at midday? Is this a caring government? You have the Grassfield Ward shut down. The Minister has to address these issues. Grassfield Ward has been closed. You would not know what I am speaking about, Honourable Member for St. Philip North. You might think the Grassfield is the bush up in St. Philip. Grassfield Ward is a known ward at the Psychiatric

Hospital. It is closed. It has cracked walls. The Honourable Member for Christ Church South needs to address these issues. Several nurses have been suspended on full pay, and yet you have a shortage of nurses at the Psychiatric Hospital. Nurses have been suspended on full pay, but one of those nurses was a known union organiser, and I was told he is on suspension as a result of organising the union members. That is true. The mentally ill are people too. Some of them only need rehabilitation. They only need care, but you are driving them insane with the issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to spend my whole presentation on the healthcare sector, but just to mention the Drug Service. We have challenges with our Drug Service. There is the drug formulary with generic drugs. I have elderly persons in St. George South and I know others in St. Michael South East and St. James Central who cannot get drugs. We need to re-evaluate the drug formulary in the Drug service, because this is a fundamental issue. Our drug formulary is not working. Is this a caring government? I therefore have no confidence in this Government, which has clearly misdiagnosed the issues in the healthcare sector. I have no confidence at all in this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I now move to Labour and Social Security. I want to make the point again that Barbados is no longer working for the majority of Barbadians. I want to begin with the Employment Rights Tribunal and the National Conservation Commission (NCC) workers because this is a fundamental issue in this country. It is a fundamental issue, and people have to understand that when you have friends in places, you have to tell your friends when they are wrong. This Covenant of Hope emphasises fairness and justice. These are some of the elements of good governance in our covenant. Other elements include integrity, respect, fair play and equality. I start with the NCC workers. They were given unfair treatment. Their case was sent to the Tribunal and, Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Tribunal has gone on record as saying that he will make no decision on the NCC case until the Barbados Workers' Union case is heard, so we have those NCC workers out there. Can they go to the shop within another three to four months without compensation? They cannot. Some of these workers are sole breadwinners in families in St. George, and I know some personally. Is this a caring government? That is not all, Mr. Speaker. The Chairman of the Tribunal has gone on record as saying also that there shall be no re-engagement or reinstatement of workers because this Government has no money. That is not his job.

7.01 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am surprised that you are going there. I will tell you why. You know that the rule says that if you want to deal with a member of the

public in their professional capacity, you ought to give notice of it before hand. I am not going to allow you to impugn the reputation of the Chairman of that Tribunal. I want you to withdraw the comments and that they be struck from the records. In addition to that, there is also the matter of the fact that it is a matter that is sub judice and you are not allowed to make reference to it. There is no rule which says you cannot make reference to it at all, but you are not allowed to make reference to it in such a matter as in the opinion of the Chair can influence the outcome. I believe that has the potential to influence the outcome and I want you to withdraw those comments and do not go back there if not I will ask you to discontinue your speech and take your seat. Also, the comments must be struck from the records.

Certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for St. George South were ordered to be expunged from the record by MR. SPEAKER.

Mr. D. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Speaker, what I will say on this matter with respect to the NCC workers is that they were dismissed over two years ago and up to this day, they have not received any form of compensation. Sir, that is as far as I would go.

Mr. Speaker, the NCC workers could have been paid under the Statutory Board Pensions Act because they were entitled to compensation, so they could have been paid under the Statutory Board Pensions Act but that was not done. I ask the question again, is this a caring Government?

Mr. Speaker, that is not all, this Government has shown scant respect and blatant disregard for the trade unions of this country. Sir, workers have rights and they have the right to representation and when this is threatened or altered or if due process is not being recognised, then you show a lack of respect and care for the workers, and this has been demonstrated. The Right Honourable Prime Minister in 2015, has gone on records as referring to the NUPW as fanatics armed with guns, using words such as bullying and blackmailing simple because the NUPW did not agree with the Democratic Labour Party. Sir, that is the level of governance we have come to now. Sir, people cannot have objective views. Sir, when you can look at a young man and say, fanatics armed with guns, yet we have other Presidents of the NUPW who presided in this country over ill treatment and uncaring judgment for the working class people of this country and nothing was said by the Prime Minister of this country to him but here is a young man, who is fighting for the workers' rights and the Prime Minister is going to speak about fanatics armed with guns and bullying and I think he used the word "bandits" too.

Mr. Speaker, this Government was allowed also to get away with the non-payment to the Grantley Adams International Airport workers but yet we saw recently when

the Barbados Workers Union came out to demonstrate and to protest for the Barbados Water Authority's workers, we did not hear this level of rhetoric coming from the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Sir, I am saying to you that we have to be fair. It has gone on record now, I have been told, that there is a move by members of the Democratic Labour Party to get rid of the young man, a young vibrant man because he is representing the workers' rights because workers have rights in this country.

Asides.

Mr. D. SUTHERLAND: You seem to be pro employer. Sir, when you are lobbying to remove the President of the NUPW simply because he has voiced his concerns against the Government, that is not fair. Is that a caring Government?

Mr. Speaker, I want to use this opportunity to remind the Democratic Labour Party that the first political organisation in this country came out of the notion of wanting to protect workers and fight for the betterment of workers. Sir, after that, we saw the birth of the Barbados Workers Union that came out of that said political organization and will continue to champion the cause of Sir Grantley Adams and Hugh Springer. The fibre in the bones is in the DNA of the social revolution of the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying to you that we, as a body in this Lower House, that we have to represent workers in this country. We have to care for workers and do not take it upon yourselves that you cannot be opposed, and when you are opposed, you want to bring down the heavy hand. Sir, that is not fair.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Labour Party has a vote of no-confidence in the way you treated the workers in this country, Sir, the civil servants too have not had a raise in years but yet we come in here and hear the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central up in arms because we are discussing a little 10 per cent pay. Sir, he should not make any noise about money. When we enter public life, all of us, have a duty to the people of this country first and not to ourselves. We have a duty to the people of this country and if you are going to allow \$400 to make you behave like that in this Honourable House then something is wrong and we are in public life for the wrong reasons. I say to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East to put mine in the same charity that she is putting hers. I do not have any difficulty with that.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the rebirth of poverty among the working class and also the destruction of the middle class.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us keep the noise down, Honourable Members, please.

Mr. D. SUTHERLAND: We have seen the rebirth of poverty among the working class and the destruction of the middle class in this country under the Democratic Labour Party and that alone is a vote of no-confidence in the way you have managed the affairs of this country. You have wipe out and returned poverty. Those golden years that we have fought and dethroned the plantocracy back in the 1930s and 1940s and we have seen the resurgence and the rebirth of poverty under this Democratic Labour Party. The people will not forget you and the day of recokening will come shortly, when they will have their choice, they will have the power to exercise whether they have the confidence to return you to power or not and I know they will give you the same vote confidence that we have done today.

7.11 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) is also in a mess. While those funds may be well-endowed with money, we have seen pensions and unemployment funds not being paid and I can draw an example. I recently had to look into this matter of an old lady in St. George South and thanks to the Church who brought it to my attention, this old lady did not receive her old age pension for four months straight. I will continue to work with the Church because those are some of the issues that we address. There is no reason why that should happen because you claim that the fund is well-endowed but yet you have an elderly lady living alone and not receiving her old age pension. Is this a caring Government? It is not. Medical benefits owing to people and people waiting long for severance payments but yet these funds are well-endowed. If you are telling me that these funds have money, something is definitely wrong with the management of the affairs of the National Insurance system and I am calling on this Government to make wrong things right. While we recognise that you are not a caring Government and while we recognise that you have mismanaged the affairs of this country as it relates to education, healthcare and also the labour relations, failure to maintain a decent industrial relations climate and you have foisted an anti-labour agenda on the people of this country. That cannot be a caring Government. Everything you have gotten your hands on, you have destroyed as a Government and we now have a broken Barbados, but Mr. Speaker, there is hope in the Covenant of Hope. The people of this country will not forget how the healthcare system has been compromised by the Democratic Labour Party and mismanaged for eight years. This Government has failed the people of this country miserably and while I will not call for your resignation the time will come, I say, shortly where the people will judge you based on how you have performed. I cannot call for your resignation, I do not

have that power but the people have the power and you have to recognise that.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to leave with the people of Barbados, including the Democratic Labour Party, with a few words from our Covenant of Hope. A commitment and a pledge to you the people of this country, to recognise your role and to care and treat with you fairly, to treat with the public servants and to respect our trade unions. That is all part of the Covenant of Hope. Our vision for good governance is to treat with you equitably. Last, but by no means least, for us to provide the caring Government that has been lacking in this country.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we have no confidence in this Government in managing the affairs of the people of this country and I say to you, enough is enough and this Government has less than 20 months to at least try to make wrong things right. I do not know if it is enough time, because eight years of damage cannot be repaired in less than 20 months but at least try.

I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, the lot has fallen on me to speak at this time. I believe that the Government has to take this No Confidence Motion with some degree of seriousness.

Mr. Speaker, a No Confidence Motion is a very serious, serious Resolution and we need to take it very seriously. I am very happy that the Government has chosen to bring the Resolution with dispatch and haste. It is very important because even though the Government Front Bench, the ministers, may be feeling that this is a Resolution that is not worthy, history will show that a No Confidence Motion was brought against this Government in 2016 and students of history would read and look at the affairs as to why and what led to this No Confidence Motion.

I must say from the outset that I served in a Government where a No Confidence Motion was brought some time ago and it was also dismissed but one of the things the then Prime Minister said to us at the time is that we must take note of everything that was said in that debate. I am not sure if the ministers are as disciplined as we were then but I believe it is a serious debate, one in which the ministers must take very serious because accusations are being made out there, in here, and all around, about the nature of the Government. I believe therefore that I must speak today on some of these issues that we are looking at. It is a fact, and when we look and examine the facts, Mr. Speaker, one has to ask the

question: Are we better off today than we were in 2007? Are we going backward or are we going forward? Is Barbados working for Barbados? Is Barbados really working? Are we working as hard as we can? Is every minister in charge of his ministry? Can we do better and if we can do better, why are we not doing better? These are legitimate questions that are being asked. In every field Barbadians are asking a question: Is there a mismatch in Government? Do you think the Prime Minister at this half way juncture, should really reshuffle the Cabinet to put new ministers into position; promote backbenchers, can other ministers do better? Mr. Speaker, therefore, we have to ask ourselves the question: why is it that it appears to be more poverty today than it was in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we in 1994 as a young Government set about to move this country forward. We found unemployment at more than 20 per cent and we set about to ensure that employment generation was key and all the things we did, we were reminded constantly that you cannot go away from where you left the country when you leave the constituency. For example, you must recognise where you came from and you must stop Barbadians from being poor. I want to ask the Government, Mr. Speaker, are you satisfied that your constituents are better off now than when you first came? You have to ask yourself because all of us have a conscience. I am persuaded and I speak on behalf of the people of St. George North, in particular, and on behalf of many Barbadians who believe that they are being unfairly treated by the policies, not necessarily the Members of Parliament, because I am not going to be *ad hominem* in this debate at all. I believe that personality does not matter but the policies of Government.

Let us look at some of the policies that were introduced by this Government and then we have to ask ourselves the question: Do you think the Government is listening to what they hear from time-to-time and what can they do by listening?

7.21 p.m.

I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, that in 2007 people were able to claim retirement saving bonds on their income tax returns, roads were being fixed, houses were being repaired, people's education were being paid for especially at the tertiary level, the University of the West Indies students were a bit happy, and unemployment was down to 6.5 per cent.

Now, clearly, I have children, and I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to speak from my heart, that I have a young son who is an attorney-at-law but things are hard with him because he now has to pay professional fees, and if he does not pay the January 31, it has to be doubled. Now, tell me is this a caring Government? Now, ask yourself this question. Professional fees in January for

attorneys-at-law is about \$3 000 and if you do not pay by January 31, it doubles. I have asked the Honourable Minister of Finance can you find in your heart where you could allow those professionals to spread it over six months. What about people who have to pay road taxes, Mr. Speaker? Do you realise that almost 50 per cent of the cars coming against you do not have road taxes or insurance? There needs to be some compassion by Government where you allow people to pay these fees over time, and I am saying it has not happened. When you see a man has an accident and he gets out and run, you know that he does not have insurance or the road tax paid. Too many people have to suffer because of this.

I am saying that Barbadians have to have hope in their Government. Barbadian must have hope in their Government, Mr. Speaker. Young people must have hope in their Government knowing that they can find employment. Mr. Speaker, too many young people cannot find work in Barbados and therefore we have to look at ways of finding work abroad for them.

Now, I believe that there is a Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development whose job it is to find work for its people. If the Government is not supposed to find jobs for people, what else should the Government do? If the Government cannot find jobs the Government should go home. Mr. Speaker, I am serious about that. The Government must find jobs for its people. The one activity that the Government needs to do is to find jobs and housing to stop poor people from getting poor. In Barbados there is too much poverty. I see it from St. Lucy, and all over. There is too much poverty in St. Lucy. There is too much poverty in St. Peter, Christ Church, St. George, St. Thomas, and all across Barbados.

I do not blame the Minister of Transport and Works because he cannot find the money. The Government has to find the right policy. The Government started wrong in 2008. I do not fully blame the present Honourable Prime Minister but he inherited a hand that he has to bat. The Honourable Prime Minister is on the wicket. Prime Minister, you are poking for too long. You have to now start scoring some runs, you have to hit some boundaries and you have to start to score some runs. That 2008 Budget has destroyed the Democratic Labour Party in its foot. When you increase water rates by 60 per cent and when you increase taxes across by 60 per cent, people have less disposable income in their hand and the Government has not learnt from the supply side of the economy. You cannot increase taxation and expect people to have more money, it cannot work.

This debate is very serious Mr Prime Minister. You have to put a full stop and start all over again. Go back to 2007 and let us start all over again. That is a fact, we have to. We have seen it in all areas of activity. Mr. Speaker, I

want to say to you tonight that there are people in this country who cannot get water. Can you imagine this? I have never brought water in all my life. My brothers and sisters brought water from a standpipe but not me. I was fortunate in that I was the seventh of the eighth child and I never had to bring water. One night someone from St. Joseph called me and told they had no water and I had to get into my car go down Horse Hill and took a lady with her children with about eight or seven pails, and this is a fact, to get water for her. This is really unfair. Do you realise that in St. John, the flagship of the Democratic Labour Party...

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: It is an investment. You have to do things for people.

In St. John, the flagship in the Democratic Labour Party, there is no water. There is a home in Massiah Street - if the Honourable Member for St. John does not know, it is a fact -- where the occupier cannot get water and the landlord cannot get his house rented because they do not have water. Throughout Barbados, especially, in rural districts, St. Peter, St. John, St. Andrew, the Barbados Water Authority is not providing adequate water service for these people. Mr. Speaker, even when the truck comes out the truck select certain people to service and I do not understand why. I do not believe that it is a problem that cannot be fixed.

Asides.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us have some order please.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I believe that it can be fixed. I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it is not a situation of the mains replacement programme which I thought it was, but a deliberate act by the Barbados Water Authority to turn off the taps in certain places and turn on the taps in other places.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the Honourable Minister knows what is going on in his ministry. I do not believe that the Honourable Minister knows what happens at that level because, I will tell you this now, there are some people in Redland, for example, who were living on Zone 1 for 30 years who could not get water but people just came in and got water. The Honourable Members does not know about this. Things are happening in the ministries that the Ministers are not in charge of. Can you imagine this? People living on Zone 1 in Redland for 50 years cannot get water but persons just moved in two weeks ago and the Barbados Water Authority came and connected water for them, and I am getting pressure for it. What is really happening? Do you believe that these people have

any confidence in a Government that cannot provide...? I do not believe that the Honourable Members knows about this but I am getting pressure for this because people are saying to me that I was trying to represent them for 20 years and I could not get water for them and that somebody just come in for two weeks and they are connected already. We have to have a fair system.

Mr. Speaker, since the Honourable Minister has returned to his seat, I know that he has been one of the persons who have tried to help the Government, he has produced a lot of papers. The Minister was the one who was pilloried in here when he were in Opposition. He went through the hottest fire as the Shadow Spokesperson on the economy, but he does not stick to his programme. He produced lots of letters and programmes, but Mr. Speaker, he does not carry them to its fullest conclusion. We know that the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resource Management have the capacity to do these things but he is really only talk at this point in time.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: You have to carry through more. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that if the Minister of Transport and Works was on this side he would also bring a No-Confidence Motion in the Government because when he looks around and see what is happening... I do not believe that the Honourable Minister realises that he does not like what is happening in agriculture. Agriculture has declined over time through no fault of his because he does not have the money to give the farmers to plant, but it is the policy of the Government. The Honourable Minister of Finance has found himself in a grip. I know that the Honourable Minister of Finance

7.32 p.m.

I know that the heart of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs may very well be in a good place but the Honourable Member does not have the money. Mr. Speaker, I must tell you, I could not be a Minister in this Government, I could not go to work day after day and not do anything. Mr. Speaker, I am serious, I could not be a Minister in the Democratic Labour Party Government because Ministers come to work, they cannot find employment for people, the policies are not working, they are not coming through so that something is wrong. Sir, a full stop must be put in place.

Mr. Speaker, for example, the Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management said that since 2012 there was a White Paper on Agriculture. I mean, you cannot find the Paper, Mr. Minister? Where is it? You cannot even clean up the Fishery Complexes, there worms that are destroying fishing

vessels at Oistins and Bridgetown Fisheries, while the jetties are falling apart. Where is the Minister of garbage?

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: I am from the country, we in St. George do not have a sea, but I was told that the Minister and his buddy from Christ Church South went to Oistins one night and after drinking a few beverages and so on, they went to the back and recognised what was happening, as the fishermen took them and showed them what was happening there at the beautiful complex that was built by the Barbados Labour Party. Sir, the Minister said that was not really what he thought to be happening, that it was not good enough, but nothing has happened since then to Oistins or the Bridgetown Fisheries Complex.

Mr. Speaker, I recognised that the Minister with responsibility for the police, the Honourable Attorney-General has flexed some muscle and that the people who commit praedial larceny are now being held for stealing pigs, goats and so on, but I understand that the farmer who lost his sheep, goats and pigs was a friend of the Minister, so that the Minister was able to convince the police officers to collect those people, so that you have problems today. I am told that the Honourable Member for St. Philip South is a friend of the farmer who was collected by the police. However, you would recognise that what I am saying in true, in St. George we have farmers who are losing large numbers of cattle both nights and days but the police cannot find anybody to hold. The Minister must therefore come to St. George and St. Thomas where people are breaking canes left, right and center, where they are killing animals, yet nobody is being held, therefore we want a Minister to come to St. George and St. Thomas to make friends with the farmers so that somebody would be arrested too.

Asides.

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Yes, you have come there but I am talking about the farming community. Mr. Speaker, I understand that there is Praedial Larceny Act in Jamaica of which we have a copy. It has to be addressed. We need a serious look at what is happening in the farming community, something is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to talk about the sugar factory because I believe the intention of the Barbados Labour Party was to build a new sugar factory. The Government has chosen Andrews Factory and Andrews Factory is also located to the north of my constituency. Whether you go from Andrew to Buckley's does not matter but I think that the Environmental Impact Assessment Study was necessary. Sir, right now there is a matter that is lodged in the Courts of Barbados because that study was not properly done. Then, again, I ask myself the question, if

a factory was existing for all those years at Andrews why is it that the Minister could not have convinced the financiers that since a factory already existed there that at least there could have been some study done in the long run. Sir, there is a problem. I believe that because of this new factory and what it is supposed to do may have caused a lot of problems to the neighbouring community, so we have to be able to convince the neighbours.

Mr. Speaker, again this is nothing new, we know that every person has his or her rights and therefore the Minister and the Ministry must understand that they must carry out certain studies, they must have town hall meetings to alert the residents as to what is happening in this area, but we have had three attempts at this, we have had financiers after financiers, the last one I understand came out of the United States of America. Sir, what is happening? Are you satisfied that these financiers are still on board? How long would they remain on board? Now, you have to be able to answer these various questions. I believe there is a need for a sugar factory. I am not complaining about the contractor either because the Minister and the Ministry must know with whom they are dealing. If the contractor has done good work, then that is fine. Sir, what I am saying is that the Minister must ensure that we get value for money. The Ministry must provide proper programmes to ensure that we get value for money. It is the taxpayers' money and therefore I am saying that we need to look at this as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are producing just over 7 000 tons of sugar this year. I mean, we have to be serious, we have to move towards producing at least 25 000 to 30 000 tons of sugar. Again, we must go back to St. John where you have over 2 000 acres of land that is lying idle and all that is happening is that it is providing 'cow itch' for the people of St. John. I want to say to the Honourable Member for St. John that I have an interest in St. John, just like the Honourable Member does, and therefore the Honourable Member must ask the Government to ensure that those lands at Wakefield, at Pool, et cetera, are brought back into production at the earliest of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, for example, in the yard at Pool Land House there was a beautiful old house, which is now derelict. This cannot be right in this year at all. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Government has to do better in the field of agriculture. I believe that the Minister means well but that he has to be able to put forward his programme. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has a big voice and he has support all across Barbados, so that if the Minister feels that his programme is not working, if the Honourable Member feels that his conscience does not allow him to support a programme that is not working, then the Honourable Member needs to leave. The Honourable Member has been in here from 2003, he is a senior person, I believe that the Minister has the right to speak to the programme that he wants because we have seen it in here

we have bought into it and we recognised that it can work, the programme of asking Government to hold on the loans that it has attracted over these years. We have seen all of the things that are happening in the economy where you had the financial institutions downgrading Barbados, which has not worked to the extent where investors do not want to put their money in Barbados. I am sure that the Minister has spoken to this, the Minister used to speak to debt financing, he Honourable Member used to speak to the consolidation of debt and therefore I believe that this will auger well for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management.

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

Mr. G. A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I want also to say that the Government must not believe that only tourism can carry Barbados through to its final conclusion, you must have manufacturing, agriculture and the other industries working as well.

7.45 p.m.

The Government must take stock of what we are doing in here today. Mr. Speaker, the Government must take stock and recognise that this Debate is important for the people to look at what the Government is doing. The Government also has to look at its various Manifesto pledges. We have pledged in our Covenant of Hope that the Barbados Labour Party believes that Barbadians have a right to live in a strong and cohesive society which provides access to quality affordable land and housing, Mr. Speaker. Of course, Mr. Speaker, we started a Land for the Landless programme in St. Philip. I do not know where it is, and I hope the Minister can speak to that programme. There was also the Agricultural Credit Fund, which was used to help support those persons who had applied for land and who were getting land to satisfy themselves and the country. That is a programme that needs to be resuscitated, and is one which I believe the Ministry should be involved in.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that the programme started by the Ministry of Education in terms of providing access to land for educational facilities in St. Lucy is a good programme, and we need to follow through on that. Of course, we need the Minister to tell us what is happening. Too often, the Ministers are not coming to Parliament and carefully documenting their programmes. That is one of the reasons why this No-Confidence Motion is here, because Ministers are not speaking to their Ministries. We need questions on these things coming here from time to time. In fact, I have always been of the view, Mr. Speaker, that the Parliament Standing Orders need to be amended. The Government has done very little to promote the parliamentary agenda in terms of how to

amend and bring Parliament into a modern age. We should have a system where you could ask questions of Ministers, so that you come here prepared with your technocrats, Permanent Secretaries and so on, to ask and answer questions. These questions would not only be from the Opposition but from people in the society.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have stated our case. The Government needs to take stock of what it is doing and must come fresh. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this side and in fact the majority of Barbadians are of the view that there is no confidence in the Government at this time, and that it needs to look at a fresh agenda to bring this country to where it was in 2007 and beyond. I thank you.

SUSPENSION

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for dinner until 8:30 this evening.

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

The question that the Sitting do now suspend until 8.30 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.

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Tuesday, May 10, 2016

RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, this Sitting is resumed. When the Suspension was taken, we were on Private Members' Business, Order No. 6 and with that we shall continue. The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I should like to add my concerns and perhaps a little advice as well to this Government and I do support every aspect of this no-confidence motion.

Mr. Speaker, there is a little verse I learned that say:

"He that fears not the present, may enjoy the future. Yesterday is not ours to discover but tomorrow is ours to win or lose."

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations through its Millennium Project, commissioned in 2002, to develop a concrete action plan for the world against poverty, to reverse poverty and to grind it to a halt. Sir, Barbados formulated its own strategies and targets to reach Goal 1 in 2025 for the eradication of poverty. I am sure that over the years, all of us have seen many projects that were instituted

to help to reduce the poverty in Barbados. Indeed, the establishments of Rural Development Commission, the Urban Development Commission and the Poverty Alleviation Department would have assisted in helping to reduce poverty in this country. Sir, when we looked at rural Barbados and certain sections of urban Barbados, we saw a lot of houses that were run down. There were limited facilities and when it came to water borne facilities, a lot of people have pit toilet and, of course, generally poor people. I believe those projects would have assisted greatly in the past in helping to ensure that we helped to eradicate poverty.

Mr. Speaker, over the last eight years, there has been a reduction in the offerings from those departments and we have seen a turnaround where poverty is now hitting us full in the face. Of course, the Welfare Department and other social agencies would have been established as well and they would have been doing their part but somehow, this Government seems to have lost its way in ensuring that those pillars that we worked towards strengthening to be able to eradicate poverty, that they have lost those thoughts and sadly, in Barbados we are at a stage where it is my personal belief that we will have another 20 years to build back Barbados to the level it would have been at in 2008. Sir, I say this because I walk the streets every day. I am all over the place and people call me from all over Barbados and I have witnessed a serious decline in the strides that we had made and how they have been destroyed by this Government that came to the people of Barbados stating that they have come to give governance, to ensure that equity and fairness was distributed across the island, that they would be transparency and all those different things in 2008 and then to come back in 2013 to talk about the pillars that the Democratic Labour Party would have been developing for socially balanced policies, economically viable developments, environmentally sound practices and good honest governance.

Mr. Speaker, we see the breakdown in a lot of our social services, if you are talking socially balanced policies, where this Government made decisions to send home a number of persons. I think that the number of persons who have become unemployed within the last three to four years is about 6 000 because the private sector played its part in helping to send home persons but the Government might be responsible for approximately 3 500 and not to mention the people were not replaced when others went on retirement or when others resigned. I believe that the number of unemployed in this country is over 6 000 within that short period of time. Sir, what has happened to those persons who have been made redundant?

Mr. Speaker, we were told by the Government that they would not be interfering with those persons. We were also told, especially by the Honourable Minister of Labour in the Other Place that the policy that would be pursued

would be the last in, would be the first to come out but sad to say, Sir, that never materialized and, unfortunately, quite a large number of persons lost their work and they are now on the breadline and cannot survive in this turbulent economic times, when a Government came and said that its mantra was, "Cost of living, cost of living, cost of living", that they would tackle the cost of living and wrestle it to the ground. Sir, instead we have seen the cost of living spiraled perhaps by more than 10 per cent and persons go to sleep hungry at night in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Honourable Members on the other side canvass house to house. I do not know if they take a bus or public transportation sometimes. I do not know if they go to church often in different communities in the constituencies they represent but every day of my life within the past four to five years, I have been meeting people who have serious problems in being able to eke out a living and so I think that we need to let the Government tell us what it has been doing over the last five years that these problems cannot be corrected and Barbadians are suffering by the minute. Sir, as the Honourable Member for St. George North and the Honourable Member for St. George would have said, that the working class people are now becoming poorer and the middle class people are being attacked in a way that is frightening.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time in my life that I have seen women go to commit suicide in the way women have now. Sir, women would probably take a few pills but they are not going to jump off any building, meaning the car park, they are not going to drink Gramoxone but we have had women within recent times, who have taken their own lives as a result of that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would rather the Honourable Member for St. Philip South to give me a moment because we know of the incident at the carpark down the street. We know of the incident in rural Barbados two weeks ago. Mr. Speaker, I want to say again that we have never seen women seek to destroy themselves but when you have your pride and you have to go begging, begging your partners, begging men, begging your parents and others for help to give you food, to help you feed children, it reduces you to zero. Sir, I am a woman and I will not beg but everybody does not have that pride. Sir, some have no choice but to do it. I do not have to do it in the way others have because I still have employment and I am still able to maintain myself but a lot of those people in the drainage unit, those persons from St. Thomas and other communities from Beautify Barbados, those young men from MTW, who were working that are not on the breadline that have to seek alternative ways of raising money to maintain their families, some can get no work because the economy is so bad. Sir, agriculture is down, construction is down and perhaps tourism is beginning to look up but, Sir, there are

so many areas where men would get employment because it did not call for certificates, so they can do masonry and carpenter and most of them would do general work. Sir, many of them were in those Government agencies and have been sent home. Sir, many of them were in those private sector entities that have been sent home and some of them are on two days and three days a week. Sir, what makes it even worse is that many of those persons who had those jobs that can find nothing now because people are buying their own lawn mowers and weedwackers and are cutting their lawns instead of hiring somebody to do it for them as they did because they had the elbow room in the finances. Sir, that is no longer happening and I am sad to say that in Barbados a Government had said, they would put X amount of dollars aside, so that when child maintenance could not be put in place that the funding would be there to help women to be able to look after their children but, Sir, that still has to materialize. Sir, what is happening is that too many of our young men have to go to prison because they cannot maintain children because the Government has put them out of work. It is sad that in this time, 2016 we have to go that route where children are seeing their fathers go to prison because of maintenance but the women do it because some of them can do no better. There are some men who can do better but they are not putting in the funding but it should not be the case where our men have to be imprisoned because they cannot maintain their children because a Government that we expected to come with the vision that espoused in 2008 and again in 2013 has failed to let me see anything developed that would have eased the plight of poor Barbadians. It is wrong and I believe that this Government has to wheel and come again with the policies it has put in place that has helped to destroy the social fabric of this society.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke about Rural Development and the help that would have been expected through the Commission. I am sad to say that last week Monday an old lady around 80 years old called - her request was put in officially more than three years ago -- and that old lady fell into a pit toilet in St. Thomas. How do we have millions of dollars pumped into agencies and an agency that served in St. Peter for a small amount of money is now operating Rural Development Commission (RDC) has moved from the rural Barbados to come into Bridgetown to play almost four times as much rent per month on a 25 years lease and Barbadians cannot get their houses fixed? When it comes to over \$100 000 for Rural and Urban to be paying when the month comes or probably even more and Barbadians are suffering to get little house repairs, to get the floor put in or to get a little waterborne toilet. It is wrong and Barbadians are suffering as a result of this Democratic Labour Party that told people in the past, the DLP stood for "dear loving people". Where is the "love" for Barbadians. Today I want to ask: Are we better today in Barbados under a Democratic Labour Party that we were last year or than we were in 2008 or in 2007? Almost everywhere you

go, Mr. Speaker, people say one thing: when the Labour Party is the Government we have a little money in our pockets, we have a little elbow room, we could buy a drink, we could buy a gift, we could take out our partners but now we cannot do it. It is so sad when it hits the middle class where the middle class persons who have a mortgage some of them almost to the end of paying the mortgage would have lost their work and there is no help for them.

The Democratic Labour Party Government, I believe it is in 2013/2014 indicated that they would have been able to get the Constituency Councils to make recommendations to the Ministry of Social Care for persons whose light and water would have been threatened, I can under the telephone to a point, and many people had to go cap in hand to the Constituency Councils asking for help and many people were turned away because persons from the community were able to say, we she is a Bee so no help for her, but he is a Dem so he can get help. We are all one people and I have a tremendous difficulty in people being segmented like that or segregated for that matter in a situation where they were desperate.

Mr. Speaker, then there are some welfare officers who do excellent work but there are one or two who when they come to the house and see that you have a flat screen TV, you would have worked so hard in the hotel industry day and night, you would have worked so hard in the school meals so when you lost your work, some of them say you do not seem to need any help because look at your living room. Are you to reduce the standard of your living because you have lost your work but if you have acquired those things through Courts (Barbados) Limited and different agencies before. Then they do not get the benefit of the Welfare Department as a result of the standard that they appear to have had but if you open the fridges they is little or nothing in the fridge to eat. I have people who say to me, Miss Forde I had nothing to eat yesterday or Sunday for lunch, of all times, Sunday being Mothers' Day and a "dear loving party" has brought Barbadians to their needs in this time. We were never like this before, Mr. Speaker. The people in rural Barbados may be a little more fortunate because there is still provision for people to pick a breadfruit, somebody to offer a few pieces of cassava, a couple green bananas and so on so you can still eat out in rural Barbados but what happens to urban and sub-urban Barbados? Those are the persons who have no space for land, they cannot rear chickens, they cannot rear pigs, they cannot do so much and they are the ones that are suffering as well because is nothing to eat. People are asking for salt and sugar again. The Lord is my judge, Mr. Speaker, I do not care who suck their teeth. That is the contempt that some of the Democratic Labour Party members have because they do not face the problems and the trials that so many other people face. A lot of people would be ashamed because unless they see you are a personality who can be

compassionate who would listen and even assist they are not going to raise a word because they have their pride.

We came through poverty, Mr. Speaker, but we have never seen challenges like what has developed over the last year and a half where there were three consecutive Sundays from the first Sunday in April until the third Sunday. All of my family and guests who come to my house -- and they have been doing it for more than 15 years -- I had to serve them lunch on a plastic plate with a plastic fork and plastic knife because there is no water on a bright sunny day. Even Christmas week, no water, Mr. Speaker. We have had water challenges before but the limited communication we get and the way that the pipes are being turned off, one section of people seems to me, and I will repeat it again until I die or until I see improvements, rural Barbados, in particular, is suffering from this plight of water outages consistently, sometimes for three, four and five weeks. If you get a drizzle you are good and the hurtful thing about it is, there was an effort before to remove standpipes from communities. Luckily, I made cases for the folk in St. Thomas, thank God, because would we not been able to have a single standpipe to get a drop of water for people to be able to use but folks come from St. Joseph and sections of St. Andrew, and to St. Thomas sometimes. You would see them with trucks, persons have to pay \$5 per bucket for somebody to bring water for them. That is not the Barbados we know. We are not fulfilling this millennium goal to eradicate poverty by 2015 when we were never like this until, well let me say in the past we were and we had to rely on standpipes, but our plights were not the same. It is so unfortunate that we have been making queries and complaints, you would hear an ad on the radio and that is all. A tanker would come once in a blue moon and it is not even possible all the time to use the all of water which comes from the tanker. People in Edghill Terrace and Shop Hill, St. Thomas had no water for about five consecutive days last week and the WhatsApp messages come through to me and I try my best to see if I can make contact to the Barbados Water Authority. It is a retrograde step because Barbados is, yes, I can understand it may be a water scarce country but why in St. Philip, Christ Church, St. Michael and so on always have water unless there is a major burst main but we cannot get a drop in rural Barbados? St. Andrew, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, sections of St. Peter, St. Lucy and St. James for the last eight to 10 months, Mr. Speaker, the evidence is there, no water and no proper or plausible comment to be able to help to allay people's fears. It is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I passed through Bridgefield, Hope Well, Carrington's Village, Welchman Hall and Jackson and the garbage has not been picked up for the last three weeks and this week will be four weeks. This Government has failed the people of Barbados. When our garbage is not being collected what environmentally sound comment is that then coming from the Democratic Labour Party? If we

cannot get water how can we survive? There is confusion in almost every Government department, the Ministry of Education is in disarray and CAHILL is supposed to be coming to St. Thomas and the residents only learnt a little bit about it when the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East spoke about it and then the company itself held a meeting in St. Thomas in June 2014 and residents were made aware of it. Almost everything is creeping in in the night and St. Thomas is now becoming literally a dumping ground because the tipping fee has now caused almost every cart road and almost every village to have garbage dumped in it, and we are seeing that the Environmental Protection Department and the Ministry of Health seemed to be doing something within recent times. Some people are being caught dumping illegally across Barbados but St. Thomas seems to be the dumping ground. It is wrong, Mr. Speaker, and I would wish to make a request of this Government, whether it is on its last leg or not I do not know, to please give us a little ease in the parish with the disposal of garbage and I want the clean up to happen.

It pained me Mr. Speaker, when I learnt that the Environmental Department had given permission for the molasses to be removed from the Harbour location and it went to St. Stephen's Hill and there was a court injunction so that had to be stopped and then like a thief in the night at Mount Wilton, St. Thomas all the molasses was dumped their truck load after truck load and the driver cursed me in the media because we said what are you doing up here. Now Coves Cave has been destroyed, a cave that has been in existence for so long and when we questioned it we were told that the Environmental Protection Department gave permission. Where was the vision of the persons in that department who should know better, if that is the case, when they know that that site is an environmental protection zone where Harrison's Cave has been established and persons cannot even build around there? People in Allen View cannot get water. It is a sad indictment on this Government for instructions to be given to go and dump molasses there but as soon as I made a fuss the dumping went up to St. Philip and then all was stopped, so it means that St. Thomas is really the dumping ground. It is sad, Mr. Speaker, that we have to keep coming up with these confrontational things all the time and nobody seems to want to pay any interest in what is happening.

When our water bills went up to 60 per cent and people pipes are being turned off by the minute because they are not working, the families who would help them before moneys have been reduced, some of them have had their allowances taken away, small businesses are waiting for their VAT returns, some of them are waiting for their income tax returns as I am and they cannot get the water put back on and for somebody to give you three and four buckets of water now it means that their water bill will go up and go up higher at that.

Land tax increases and loss of pensions. I will talk forever about those persons who were receiving two pensions before. They worked hard day and night to be able to achieve them and one of the pensions has been taken away from them and all the old people tell you I used to rely on that little money to help to pay my land tax and to help to pay my house insurance when the year comes. We have reduced them to zero because they are relying on one pension and sometimes the pension does not even come on time.

A lot of the people who got laid off, to get unemployment benefits they have to go to NIS and go somewhere else in another bus to get it stamped and then it takes months. Sometimes the baby becomes four and five months for those who have maternity leave and they cannot a single red cent because of operational challenges in the National Insurance Department.

Is this Government managing the affairs of Barbados effectively? I say no, and I would like for the Honourable Ministers and others on that side to pay attention. I had suggested to the Honourable Prime Minister that he follows Bermuda because in 2013 Bermuda made the decision... We have got to step back and look at our revenues and our expenditures and so on annually and we are going to have to take some opportunities to look to see how we can diminish some of the costs to Government. The Bermuda Cabinet was cut to save over \$250 000 per year and we are seeing Ministers here in Barbados, 17 of them, with half-day jobs, and I believe that if the Honourable Prime Minister had cut his Cabinet we would still been able to save a little more. I am appalled that the request by this Government to bring that Resolution asking for Members to be returned their 10 per cent cut that was taken in 2014 when marshals and police officers and so had their allowances taken away or cut too. They are still out there and some of them have to moonlight to survive because they have children to maintain. It would be the worst thing in the world for police officers to have to be put before the court for child maintenance even though one or two of the Ministers in here I have heard, it might not be true, have to have their salary garnished when the month comes for child maintenance. It is still wrong. I believe that we should make every effort to make that we bring pride...

I am not talking about the constabulary, Mr. Speaker, in the way that the Attorney-General would want to hear. I am talking about the males in the Royal Barbados Police Force whom I would not like for them to have to have the money garnished from their salary to maintain the children that they could not maintain because they allowances and so on have been cut.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I want now to talk to child care because the Child Care Board comes under the ministry which I shadow. We saw last year an element of strange activities occurring where we lost two children under circumstances that were not known to us in Barbados. I was appalled to hear the comments made by the Chairman of the Board apologising. Then there was a family in St. Andrew that have now gone to England where there were numerous reports on children who were to be put in care and those children remained languishing in the family house to be abused in the worse way.

I am still requesting that formal reports be laid in this Honourable Chamber as the legislation requests for the audited report from the Child Care Board and an annual report so that we can know how many day nurseries are functioning correctly within the law and so on and so forth, and I would like to know what plan this Government has because it does not seem to have a plan for anything but to get back their own allowances. I would like to know what plan does this Government have for those 18-year-olds who are in the homes, who never come along with a mother or father, who were born at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital perhaps or found abandoned somewhere and can no longer stay in those facilities.

I want to know what parenting programmes have been put in place when we see the challenges that our children have been experiencing. I want to know what is happening for the aged because you have a whole large amount of elder abuse cases and we have a lot of elderly persons who really need care.

I was applaud again when one Honourable Minister previously said that at Christmastime people are dumping their dead at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as though it is a handbag, but there are families that can no longer look after their parents and uncles and aunties and so because they do not have the wherewithal because care of the elderly is a very expensive exercise and if they are down with Alzheimer and Dementia and so they cannot care for them if the person is the only breadwinner and there is nobody to supervise them. I understand that the Vauxhall Centre is not even fully occupied and there are persons who would be glad to go there for their own comfort and for them to be safe in a safer environment.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to refer to those aged persons who have so many difficulties with their medication. They are changing the medication all the time, they are not getting accustomed to it and then those poor old souls because they want the one they are accustomed to they have to go a private pharmacy to pay for it and then it is eking into their own pensions that sometimes they too are getting late when the month comes.

I believe, Sir, that there is a lack of accountability from this Government. There are a lot of wastage projects, projects where funding has been wasted, for example, those six shops at Rock Hall Freedom Village which were to be open in September 2011. Those are made of wood so you know, Mr. Speaker, among the trees, the termites and the wood ants and so will destroy them.

9.04 p.m.

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Mr. Speaker, that is wasted funds, it may have been a good idea to have done it, but to keep them shut up like that all the time is sad.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that our children are precious to us, we must love, nurture, protect and propel them. Sir, our seniors make up a sizeable and growing percentage of our total population, they have made their contributions to society and they too should be protected in a very special way now in their old age. I want to advise the Right Honourable Prime Minister that his ship is sinking because his Ministers have not performed their duties in this country in the way that we expect, they having boasted of what they intend they do. There are roads that are not finished, structures that are not properly put in place, the health sector is in turmoil and the school system is in turmoil.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time has expired, please wind up.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I want to say that there has been too much wastage, that there has been a lack of governance, that there has been no proper accountability, that there has been limited transparency, that this Government has failed and that I strongly support this No-Confidence Motion. Sir, I think it has been appropriately tendered and ventilated, and the facts have been outlined and I trust that the people of Barbados who want to go forward will make the necessary decisions when they have to, because this Government has failed Barbados and we on this side, the Barbados Labour Party, having outlined some of these instances would wish for the people of Barbados to do what they have to do when that time comes. I wish to thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. E. D. HINKSON: Mr. Speaker, I first wish to intervene in this debate by commending the Leader of the Opposition for bringing this Resolution before this Parliament today. In her more than five and a half hour speech the Honourable Member prosecuted the Government of this country admirably and showed how it

has failed the people of Barbados in each and every sector of the economy and society. Mr. Speaker, this Resolution simply states what the vast majority of people in my constituency of St. James North are saying every single day. Sir, not only the vast majority of people in my constituency are saying what this Resolution outlines but the vast majority of Barbadians are saying this as well. They are saying that they have no confidence whatsoever in this Government's ability to take us out of this socioeconomic melee that it has put us in over the last eight years. The people are saying that they have no confidence in the ability, capacity or capability of this Government to properly manage and to effectively manage this nation's affairs of State or to govern in the best interest of the people. Mr. Speaker, every day people ask me when will the Barbados Labour Party force an election, when are elections going to be called, when are you all going to be able to get rid of this Democratic Labour Party Government that has become a burden and a complete obstacle around the necks of the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister's recent statement that to experience Easter Monday you have to experience Good Friday is of course correct within its Biblical context but it is totally out of sync with what is happening in real terms in Barbados today. Mr. Speaker, Good Friday suffering has gone on for too long now for eight years, and Easter Sunday is nowhere in sight. This Democratic Labour Party Government came to office in 2008 to bat on a firm foundation that was laid by the outgoing Barbados Labour Party Government. Sir, unemployment was down to record levels, the lowest it had ever been since the abolition of slavery 175 years ago, to below 7 per cent; foreign reserves were at its highest; Barbados occupied a leading role in the affairs of CARICOM.

Mr. Speaker, the ball started to swing and scheme, the Democratic Labour Party with their abysmal batting techniques soon got Team Barbados in real trouble. Mr. Speaker, the first thing was that a Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals was brought by the then Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, the then Right Honourable Prime Minister, putting on over \$100 million in taxes, taking money out of the economy that people would have spent. Sir, the Democratic Labour Party then failed to make the necessary fiscal interventions before the last General Elections that should have been made on the political expediency of hoping to win an election.

Mr. Speaker, that was followed by continuous fiscal adjustments mentioned in the first paragraph of this Resolution, strategies that started one after the other which are outlined here, starting with the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, August, 2013. All of these fiscal strategies have failed the people of Barbados. Sir, the result was the laying off of over

3 000 public servants after the Right Honourable Prime Minister on Saturday, 27th October, 2012 had assured Barbadians that the Democratic Labour Party would not be cutting jobs in the public service. The Honourable Member then said that the Democratic Labour Party was going to protect the people of Barbados and the public service from that kind of political slaughter. The exact words of the Right Honourable Prime Minister were that: "it would be a recipe for disaster." Yet those words were not honoured, yet we talk about sanctimonious hypocrisy by politicians. Those who say those words know of whom they are speaking.

The result of this promise being broken meant that not only one but in many cases both breadwinners in a household no longer have a job as they were fired from their Government employment; they no longer have financial sustenance to carry their families; their homes have been lost as a result of people's inability to pay their mortgages as a result of poor fiscal strategies and the incompetence of this Democratic Labour Party Government. Sir, young adults at Cave Hill Campus have had to drop out in the thousands as a result of the imposition of tuition fees. For the first time in 50 years people's healthcare has been placed a severe risk. Sir, no right-thinking person can have a modicum of confidence in this Government which in 2008 had told the people of Barbados that they will not lie, cheat or steal, but instead they have proceeded to break every major Manifesto promise made in 2008 to the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has continue to impose draconian taxes and fees on its citizens, over 33 in all over the last eight years, while removing the vast majority of tax allowances that income earners could have claimed as tax refunds. This has resulted in the demise of the middle class in Barbados, it has resulted in over 20 per cent of people living in this country now living below the poverty line. This Government has used the same kind of thinking that it used to create the problems in the first place in its attempt to solve the problems, even though, as Albert Einstein has said, insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Mr. Speaker, all of this has happened while there has been a restriction in the quality of the social services to which people have become accustomed in this country, which have been paid for by their taxes.

9.23 p.m.

There has been a diminution in the welfare benefits paid to people. There has been a diminution, as the Honourable Member for St. George South said, in the benefits from the National Insurance Scheme (NIS). In fact, there has been an incapacity to obtain these benefits in many cases, whether there are unemployment benefits, maternity benefits or disability benefits. This has especially

affected the community of persons with disabilities and senior citizens; two categories which comprise the financially vulnerable persons in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, the end result of Government's incompetence in terms of its economic management and political leadership, has been that Barbados, our beautiful island home, has fallen from a lofty ranking of 37th of 182 nations on the Human Development Index in 2007 to 57th of 188 nations in 2014. A very large number of Barbadians have no confidence in this Government going forward.

Again, as the Honourable Member for St. George South pointed out here earlier this evening, the Democratic Labour Party has adopted an anti-trade union stance that is totally despicable and contemptuous. This is the party that used to speak about the poor, black man. This is the party that cares about the poor, black man. Mr. Speaker, to be truthful and to their credit, they have certainly not said that since I have been in this Parliament, so they have told the truth on that one. The Right Honourable Prime Minister's condemnation in July last year of the National Union of Public Workers' (NUPW) leadership was despicable and, really and truly, unbecoming of someone who holds his high office. He made reference to the leadership as "bandits" and as people holding guns as if they want to start a war, and that kind of language against people who were doing what they elected by their membership to do. They were elected to represent their union in the face of harsh economic and social policies by an uncaring government. That is all these young folk are doing and they should have been encouraged. Reference was made to amending the Constitution, Section 49, to limit trade union rights which have long been fought for in this Parliament under the Barbados Labour Party over 75 years ago by National Heroes Sir Grantley Adams and Sir Hugh Springer. Are we talking about going back and curtailing the power of union activity, when this Barbados Labour Party in 1940-1941 legitimised that activity?

Mr. Speaker, nowhere is the incompetence of this Government to manage and lead our country, and in the management of the Ministry of Education, more clearly shown than in its educational policies or lack thereof. This Minister of Education, the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central, is acknowledged as the worst Minister of Education out of the 13 which you had. He has been so acknowledged by the Press, the teachers' unions, the University students, the Barbados Community College students who now also have to pay tuition fees for their degree programmes, the Polytechnic students who cannot get their City & Guilds certification, and by the parents of children of this country themselves.

We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary of Independence, but this country was previously known among small, developing countries, which had newly emerged from colonialism, as a country with a globally

competitive edge, and our educational system was the envy of many. This sector now, after eight and a half years under one of the longest serving Ministers of Education in our country's history, is lurching from crisis to crisis to crisis. There has been an inability to resolve any union relations dispute with any respective teachers' union, and a "shoot off heads and crack skulls" mentality has been adopted. The Barbados Union of Teachers members are now therefore on a work-to-rule.

There has been an inability by this Minister of Education to resolve the growing number of issues relating to student-on-student violence, conflicts between teachers and students, and conflicts between principals and teachers. There have been principals and teachers on the one hand, and parents on the other hand. There have also been conflicts between teachers and the Ministry of Education. The Honourable Minister's approach has been to label some children as "demonic" and to establish a committee two weeks ago to investigate violence in schools, which he says will provide recommendations as to its resolution. Mr. Speaker, this decision to establish this committee is a complete dereliction of ministerial duty by the person entrusted by this Parliament of Barbados with the very important political mandate for the educational development of our people, especially our young people. It is indicative of why the general population and the stakeholders in education have no confidence in that Honourable Member as Minister of Education. Numerous studies have already been undertaken on violence and indiscipline in this country. We had a Law and Order Commission headed by Sir Roy Marshall years ago. The establishment of this committee is merely a substitute for decisive political action which is now required. The Education Act and the Education Regulations have sufficient teeth to effectively deal with this issue. It is for these and similar kinds of reasons why the people of this country and this Opposition party have no confidence whatsoever in the Honourable Minister of Education.

There has been a failure to reform the curriculum after 15 years, when the last reform was by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in her capacity then as Minister of Education. There has been a failure to reform the curriculum of Barbados in terms of education and to make it more relevant to modern-day Barbados. The Ministry of Education, under the leadership of that Honourable Member, appears to be more concerned with partisan politics and with placing Democratic Labour Party supporters and card-carrying members in positions of influence and authority. There has been the refusal by the Honourable Minister, a former President of the Barbados Union of Teachers, as the Honourable Leader of the Opposition said earlier today, to be advised by a Chief Education Officer and a Parliamentary Secretary, both of whom occupied senior and top leadership positions in that union for many years. There has been failure by him to

meet with the teachers of this country; over 2 500 teachers. My advice to the teachers of this country is not to meet with him or with any of his supporters in Cabinet when they come to you in less than two years' time to ask you for a vote. Tell them you will not meet with them if they cannot meet with you now. What are they coming at your house for if they are so arrogant and contemptuous of you that they cannot meet with you? What are they coming at your house for now begging you for a vote? Tell them to disappear off your property.

There has been a failure to appoint hundreds of eligible teachers to permanent positions in spite of promises made over two years ago to do so. Only 400 have been appointed when that Honourable Minister said that he would appoint 800 of them. There has been a failure to resolve the plethora of environmental issues at a number of schools, as this Ministry of Education under the Honourable Member has no policy of proper maintenance of school plants and infrastructure. There has been a failure to establish a teachers' services commission, which was provided for in the Constitution of Barbados over 40 years ago.

9.23 p.m.

A 1974 amendment as promised by that Honourable Member to the teachers of this country at a meeting with them on September 6, 2012. Sir, at that meeting he had told them that the paper to establish a Teachers Service Commission, which would solve many of the problems that you have right now, had already gone to Cabinet and that was over three and a half years ago. Sir, as if that was not bad enough, the Honourable Minister has presided over the dismantlement of 50 whole years of hitherto previously free tuition fees, free university education education for Barbadians at the University of the West Indies resulting in the despicable loss of hope for thousands of Barbadians from working class background. It is the fact of the matter that 80 per cent of the Barbadians students who before used to go to the University of the West Indies were from working class backgrounds. Sir, that was the only way out for them to come out of the circumstances of their births. Sir, 14 of the elected Democratic Labour Party members in this Parliament may not be in here or in the position they are in, or in a position to raise their salaries by 10 per cent and to be crying over it like the Honourable Member for St. Michael Central here today if it were not for free tertiary education. Sir, you talk about kicking down the ladder that you climbed up on, and that is in the record of the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. Sir, that has been his legacy to the people of Barbados after eight and a half years of holding the political mandate for the education of Barbados and, Sir, this is after the Right Honourable Prime Minister in October 2012 committed to Barbados, as was said by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition at the Barbados Community College graduation

that the Democratic Labour Party will continue to fully fund the University of the West Indies' education to our citizens. Sir, this is why we have no confidence in this Government. They do not keep their word, their word is not their bond. Sir, that was said way back in 1986, when they brought a Manifesto and then told you that it was not a social contract, so that should not have surprised the people of Barbados but, Sir, that is the Democratic Labour Party for you, you cannot take their word and you cannot trust them.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a failure even after now removing the payment of tuition fees by the State for Barbadians, there has now been a failure to clearly enunciate the policies relating to the funding of tuition fees for some students of the university. We first heard about bursaries two years ago, that there will be 3 000 bursaries at \$3 000 each and the bursaries took 19 months to come and then there were only about 1 500 and there were only about \$1 800 a month. Sir, by that time thousands had already dropped out of the university anywhere.

Mr. Speaker, then you heard about grants but, again, that was after hundreds more had dropped out and you do not even know up to today, May 10, 2016, whether the bursaries are done or not because nothing from the Minister of Education or anyone else in that Ministry on that particular issue. Sir, if all of that was not enough, there has been a most despicable act in terms of the Westminster system, which we say that we operate under. Sir, a most despicable act by the Honourable Minister of Education. Sir, 14 months ago, in an Estimates debate, he made a pledge, we did not ask him for it. He volunteered the pledge, the covenant, the undertaking to do something, to send documents to the Opposition relating to the educational policy of his Ministry. Sir, he made that promise, that undertaking, that covenant, agreement voluntarily, not forced by us because we did not ask him for it on the Floor of this House, he got up on the Floor of Parliament and promised to send the document. Sir, in fact, on that occasion now, two months ago, he named the document, a 2014-2020, draft or strategy paper for the Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I followed it up by writing to him personally on it. Well, Sir, I am not a boy in the yard. I am elected by thousands of people to come in here and represent them and the wider people of Barbados but up to now, that letter written March 21st, which is almost two months ago but not even a response by that Minister. Sir, at least, I must say that the Honourable Minister for Transport at least when you write to him, he personally responds within a week although there is no action on the letter but at least he acknowledges receipt of it. Sir, that is the contempt that the Honourable Member for Christ Church East Central holds this Parliament because, Sir, it is not about me now. I am going to live but it is this Parliament

here that we speak highly of and two years ago had big thing about the 375th anniversary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

MR. E.D. HINKSON: Yes, sir. Sir, he is no longer fit to be a member of the Cabinet of Barbados. Mr. Speaker, the people of Barbados have lost their trust in this Government led by a Prime Minister who has presided over an administration which has ultimately been marked by broken promises after broken promises. It has failed the people of this country and the Right Honourable Prime Minister has to take full responsibility for his Party's failure to honour its commitment. This laying of Resolution that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition spoke about earlier today for a raise in the salary of Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries by 10 per cent in a situation where the public servants of Barbados have not had a salary increase nor increments for the last seven years typifies the callousness, the insensitivity and the contempt that this Government has for the people of Barbados. Sir, I could not believe it when this Resolution was brought for me. I understand English but I was reading it and I could not believe this and I called and ask that it be clarified for me and I heard that it was to raise salaries by 10 per cent, I really and truly found it incredible. I could not believe that a Cabinet of Barbados could sit down around a table and agree to raise their salaries by 10 per cent. Are you telling me that the \$14 000 a month plus allowances of entertainment and travel plus the per diems of US\$150 each day that they get when they travel and they travel all about the place first class is not good enough but it is good enough for thousands of Barbadians to be without a job and tonight not having anything to give their children and not know whether they could send their children to school tomorrow, not knowing if they could pay their rent or mortgage at the end of the month, not knowing if they can carry their old grandmother to the doctor tomorrow. Sir, that is really and truly an affront of the highest indignity to the people of Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has to take full responsibility for the failure of this Government to enact Prevention of Corruption legislation. The Leader of the Opposition today raised issues of corruption, of conflict of interest positions and the recent statement by the Attorney-General of this country that those who draw reference to the failure to enact prevention of corruption legislation, that those who speak about it are making silly noises, really and truly shows that he is unfit to be the principal legal adviser to this Government as well.

9.32 p.m.

Asides.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: That is what you said. There has been a total lack of accountability and transparency in this Government. There has been no freedom of information legislation, again a breach of the 2008 Manifesto promise. This Government does not even understand the system of governance, that these are issues that today matter in the world, that if Barbados wants to stand as it stood before, as a great country in this world, these are things that have to be brought into place legislatively but this Government, and they would know why they do not want to bring in prevention of corruption legislation. They must know because if they was no perception or reality of corruption, any Government would want to bring it in; that is standard. There has been the issue of the fingerprinting exercise and an attempt to make it seem that those involved in the case ...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up. Your time has expired.

Mr. E. G. HINKSON: Yes, Sir. Just this point, Sir, if you would allow me.

An attempt to make it seem that those involved in the case are looking to breach Barbados security when all we are doing is saying that the legislation was brought by a wrong method but also that to fingerprint Barbadians is against their constitutional rights, an attempt by a Government to deny Barbados their fundamental human rights enshrined by the Constitution. Mr. Speaker, the Covenant of Hope in this Child Month which has been made a document of this House will restore hope for our country's youth as opposed to the hopelessness that many are now experiencing under this Government. I fully support this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, and call on the Government of Barbados to dissolve this Parliament and to place the fate of our citizens during the foreseeable future, in the hands of the electorate since we cannot, as the Resolution says, continue on this path for another 20-odd months.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South East.

Miss. S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this No Confidence Motion. I do so against a background that I believe that this No Confidence Motion speaks to the sentiments that have been expressed not only to myself but certainly to all of the members on This Side of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition over the course of the past almost eight years. I believe that, given that this Administration came to Office championing that it would create a new dispensation in political life and certainly in the governance of this country and that it was going to introduce transparency,

accountability in public life and also ensure that levels of corruption which it said that the Barbados Labour Party was engaging in, that they were going to stamp out all levels of corruption. The people of this country have had the opportunity over the last eight years to certainly judge for themselves whether this Democratic Labour Party Administration has lived up to the expectations that people had. Certainly the late Prime Minister and Honourable Member for St. John, would have espoused a number of principals upon which he believed in and certainly lead the people of this country to believe that the Democratic Labour Party stood for. One of those things I recall was that Ministers were supposed to enter in to ministerial codes of conduct which would govern the way in which ministers of the Democratic Labour Party Administration when they came to office behaved, not only behaved in relation to their individual ministries but also behave in relation to their collective responsibility as a Government. When we bring this No Confidence Motion today as we have brought two others before it is against a background that the people of this country are extremely disappointed in the governance of the Democratic Labour Party Administration. It is against a background that people, I believe, actually believed that the Democratic Labour Party was actually going to stand for the things upon which they said that they believed in and the principles that they indicated for which they stood.

This No Confidence Motion is about how the people feel. The Leader of the Barbados Labour Party this morning and certainly this afternoon gave an excellent presentation taking us through, not only the macro economic issues but also each individual ministry held by ministers on the Other Side as it relates to deficiencies and mismanagement in each of the organs of Government and in each of the various departments and ministries of this Administration. There are things that, I think, Honourable Members on Both Sides would hear on a repeated basis.

When an Administration speaks of things like freedom of information, one would expect that it would uphold the very principles that it has espoused. One would expect, for instance, that the Prime Minister of this country would not be heard to utter the words to the public of this country that if there is corruption in high office that persons are free to bring the ministers before the DPP. Instead, one would have thought that when this Administration spoke of corruption in public life and brought the Prevention of Corruption legislation to this Chamber and certainly to the other Chamber, that this legislation would have been proclaimed, certainly by 2016 but we have seen a backing off by this Administration and, I think, the people of this county has started to draw their own conclusions as to whether what the Democratic Labour Party says it stands for is, in fact and indeed, what it does stand for.

This Administration came to office with a manifesto leading the people who have small businesses and medium-sized enterprises to believe that once they came to office would allow 40 per cent of all the procurement opportunities to be given to the small business sector. When you look at the Small Business Association's Annual Report, year after year the Small Business Association makes the same observations as it did in the previous year which is that this Administration has failed repeatedly to enable the very sector for whom it promised that it was actually going to give the 40 per cent procurement opportunities to. If you look at the report for 2015, Mr. Speaker, again the same observations have been made. They promised legislation to ensure that there was greater access to finance and that has not happened. They promised that there will be a procurement committee that was going to be set up, procurement legislation was supposed to come and it has not happened. Mr. Speaker, why is this so important to the Barbadian economy and certainly to the Barbados Labour Party? Sir, it is important because the Barbados Labour Party understood when it was in office that in order to fuel the Barbados economy, we needed to look also at our small and medium-sized enterprises. It was not simply about big businesses in this country because this Administration has now become known for an administration that seems to concentrate the wealth into the hands of a privileged few but when it came to office in 2008, it did so against a background that it was for the small man and the medium-sized enterprises but what it has done since it has come to office is completely gone on a different course as if the small and medium-sized enterprises do not matter in this country. If the small business, all of the beauticians, florists and nail technicians who existed under a Labour Party Administration because we understood what was necessary by creating legislation under the Small Business Act and other frameworks to be able to encourage persons to set up these enterprises we understood that but the Democratic Labour Party has come to office and completely eroded the small business and medium-sized enterprises sector. Day-to-day we hear the complaints of person in the sector, whether it is the increase in the cellular phone tax, whether it is the fact that the water rates have gone up or whether it is the fact that electricity has gone up, across the board every aspect of businesses in this country trying to be able to make a living has now been attacked by a Democratic Labour Party Administration. We understood that new economic sectors were needed. We understood that if you fuelled small business and medium-sized enterprises, if you fuelled things like the creative economy and the sporting sector that you gave the Barbadian economy an opportunity to diversify.

The Democratic Labour Party claimed that it understood these basic principles when it came to office because it did not come to office and there was a sudden recession across the international community, all of us on

Both Sides understood, even before the 2008 election, that things were changing, the markets were liberalising and therefore with the whole process of globalisation whatever Administration took up the reins of Government in 2008, there were things that we had to do to be able to prepare Barbados to be able to diversify its economy, so it is not to say that this administration came to office and it did not know that there was going to be things that it had to do to fuel the economic sector.

Mr. Speaker, instead what we have found is that in the first couple years they spent as much money as they possibly could, ignored things like the international business sector and introduced policies towards the small business sector which actually resulted in people spending less within the economy. Mr. Speaker, when we thought it could not get any worse, they came then in 2013 and told us well you know we are losing investment, we are seeing a pull-out of our foreign reserves okay, and then of course now we need to take some stringent measures to be able to turn the economy around.

Mr. Speaker, what is unfortunate is that I think that the people of Barbados actually believed the Honourable Minister of Finance when he said that there were better days ahead, that if we held strain, that if we held the hands and walked with Government along these difficult times that things were going to change. The vendors on the street, the people who run the minibuses and other persons actually believed that if they work with this Administration there were going to be better days ahead, that is what we were told, and so hand in hand the people of Barbados and the business community, who decided not to cut their staff, held strain despite perhaps not sometimes believing that things were going to change because they kept doing it with the belief that this Administration had the best interest of the people at heart, but in the 2013 Budget this Administration, through the Honourable Minister of Finance, came to the people of this country with a series of measures that it sought to introduce. I remember distinctly the Honourable Minister of Finance indicating that there were going to be no supplementaries unless there were emergency cases, that there was going to be a strict position taken by this Administration as it related to this supplementaries, but what have we seen since 2013, supplementary after supplementary for various ministries coming to this Chamber for approval whether it be in transport, health or in some of the critical areas, but we have seen it in areas where clearly the Administration had not budgeted properly for the things that it actually needed to be able to run this economy.

We can say on this side certainly, and the people have judged for themselves, that fine you may produce an Estimates document which presents or is supposed to present a true picture of what you intend to spend but the reality is that the international community is also reading

the document and obviously would draw their own conclusions that you have not accurately represented the full figures of what it is that you intend to spend. The fact that you have come back as an Administration time and time again for supplementaries would suggest to people of this country who would have no doubt had confidence in you at that time that you do not know what you are doing, that it is not a case of things are changing slightly and then you are making adjustments. Just as I said a few weeks ago you have come to his Chamber and said you are likely to spend \$7 million in an independence celebrations which before the end of the Estimates went to almost \$8 million, and no doubt by the time that we come back here in another couple of months after the celebrations are over it is probably going to be \$10 million or \$12 million, that is the reality, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when we therefore speak of no confidence in this Administration, it is against a background that people simply do not trust what is uttered from the various Ministers on the other side from the Honourable Prime Minister back down. I was appalled when I heard the Honourable Leader of the Opposition Business mentioned today the Cahill Agreement and the fact that the Honourable Prime Minister admitted across the Floor that he signed the document. This is the same Honourable Prime Minister who in September of 2015 gave the country the impression that nothing could be done in this country without his knowledge, that people were creating scare tactics as it related to the whole Cahill Energy Project, that all of the people who had petitioned online and all of the people who were writing and expressing concern about the environmental issues in this country related to Cahill Energy had nothing to worry about because the Town and Country Planning permission could not be granted through his ministry unless he knew about it. Sir, that is not the only instance where the Honourable Prime Minister has given the country the impression that his word is his bond and then in a matter of months or weeks or years you have seen a backpedalling on the position that was taken.

Mr. Speaker, even if you take the issue of education, the Honourable Prime Minister of this country told the people of this country that they are not going to cut education at the tertiary level and within a couple of months came back and said that the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow never said that education was intended to be free forever. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to get into whether that is true or not but I do believe that the Democratic Labour Party has now so far removed itself from the legacy of Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow that it does not resemble anything to do with the Democratic Labour Party of 1966, and it is unfortunate because Honourable Members on the other side... It is like the Barbados Labour Party taking away the right to vote. If we in the Barbados Labour Party did that, then you would

be critical of us because the two principles upon which the two parties are known are those two principles, the Barbados Labour Party giving people the right to vote and the Democratic Labour Party dealing with the issues of free education in this country. Mr. Speaker, when you move away from those principles the people of this country have no more confidence in you.

I have spoken to even Democratic Labour Party persons who in my constituency supported the Democratic Labour Party for years. They understood what it meant to come up under free education in this country and cannot now understand what it is that this Administration now stands for because it does not resemble anything that it used to stand for before. If that was not enough, Mr. Speaker, if a Honourable Member or Honourable Members on the Democratic Labour Party Administration do not support the Democratic Labour Party Administration policies, it tells me that I can no longer have confidence in them and it tells the people of this country that they should also question the validity and the ability of this Administration to be able to govern.

I say that because I remember when the famous document because there were a number of letters that were written by the Honourable Member St. Philip West but what perhaps stands out most in my mind was the letter that he wrote which was entitled "From Recession to Stability and Growth" in which he indicated that when the Democratic Labour Party Administration came to office, given that they should have been aware and were aware of the financial state in which they were dealing with at the time that things like free bus fares, constituency councils and constituency football were all things of a nature which you do not go on an exercise in a rampant stage of promoting and giving away when you do not know how long the recession is going to end. Mr. Speaker, if that has come from within the bowels of the Democratic Labour Party, why should I believe any Honourable Members on that side, why should anybody in this country believe the Democratic Labour Party?

Mr. Speaker, never mind that the Honourable Member St. Philip West has not recently had any outburst, I take it that the document that he wrote back then still stands because we have seen the danger in all of the policies that were articulated by the Democratic Labour Party, all of these free social entitlement programmes, and what has resulted from those programmes.

It astounds me, Mr. Speaker, that I can hear the presentation from the Leader of this party speaking to a Democratic Labour Party that seems to want to concentrate the wealth in this country in the hands of a privileged few when it relates to this issue of Town and Country Planning permission, that one individual in this country can get planning permission or in some cases not get planning

permission and erect structures in this country and nothing happens to this person or to his companies, but let a little small man or small woman in St. Michael South East, the City of Bridgetown or in St. Michael North East who has a housing unit, who has been living in that house for 20 years, qualifies for his or her unit, is entitled to his or her conveyances, has a little shop built on to the house and this Democratic Labour Party Administration through the Town and country Planning Department will say to those persons that they must break down their structure. That is the problem that the people in this country have ... that they cannot have confidence in you because at the end of the day you promised the people of St. Michael South East and across all of the housing units in this country that you were going to empower them with the ability to own their own homes, to own a piece of this rock. But what have you done? You have given the MAN-initialed gentleman the right to build without permission but you are coming after the small man and wanted to come in here time and time to tell the people of this country that the reason you cannot give conveyances in the Pine is because some previous Minister who sat on this side and your side, because you created him too, created the illegal extensions in the constituency, instead of being man and women enough over there to ensure that you deal with the issue that has presented itself and to ensure that wherever there were illegal extensions that these extensions were regularised. How is it that Mr. Maloney can get permission to do as he likes in this country but the businesses and small people that you say that you protect and that you look out for cannot not only get their title deeds but where they have issues with parking, that Town Planning Department can be sending them letters left, right and center telling them that they must take down their illegal structures.

Mr. Speaker, I say to you those are the reasons why we do not have confidence in a Democratic Labour Party Administration, those are the reasons why the people of this country do not have confidence in a Democratic Labour Party Administration, because you did not think through the policy of the 20-year programme either, because when you are going to say to people that they were going to get the houses free but now everybody in the constituency of St. Michael South East and across most of the Housing Areas who have not been given those conveyances, cannot get electrical work done on their houses. Some people have had their electricity turned off because they have been laid off from the Drainage unit or the National Conservation Commission and of course once your electricity is off for six months you know that you have to get another inspection, so that people cannot afford to get the connections turned back on but the National Housing Corporation neither does not have the money to be able to ensure that the people can actually get light in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I have to interact with some elderly people. I met a 70-year-old man the other day who told me that he has to go to the Errol Barrow Park to be able to get water because his water is turned off. Mr. Speaker, I get very passionate about these things because I see the suffering daily across Barbados and I constantly ask the question whether this Administration sees what I see. I do not know how to explain to hungry children that this Administration can spend as it likes and can behave as it likes in this country and not be able to cater to the basic needs of our people. I do not know how to explain that anymore. I do not know how to explain that they can come here and justify, with the Order that was laid on the last occasion we were here, that the 10 per cent that was deducted on the last occasion, which was supposed, no doubt, to be in sympathy with the people of this country who they had laid off, the 3 000 people that they said would not be sent home, the 3 000 people that they said that the Barbados Labour Party was supposedly to send home, but they can come here in good conscience and can behave as though the Barbados Labour Party does not want our money restored. That is not the principle upon which we take a position that we do not want the money, we take a position based on principles for what we stand for as a Barbados Labour Party Administration, both in and out of Government.

Mr. Speaker, the beautiful thing is that we have not waited for an election to produce a document or a manifesto to make the people believe that we are going to stand by something. The Leader has not foisted on us the principles of who we are, what we stand for and what we will fight for as a Barbados Labour Party Administration, but every single member in the Barbados Labour Party Administration believes in the Covenant of Hope. We believe that the days of the politics where you say one thing and do something else has to come to an end. We believe that there has to be something that we stand up for in this country and that people will get tired of believing in political parties if we do not take a stand and be able to stand for what it is that we believe in.

Sir, this document is a masterpiece that the Barbados Labour Party has produced and I encourage Honourable Members on the other side to read it. You come to our political meetings and snoop around to listen to what we say but if you read this document you will very well find out what the Barbados Labour Party stands for. Mr. Speaker, it concerns me that Honourable Members take this hands-off approach to what is happening in this country, all of our people across this country are hurting and whether you take it from the creative industries sector where the Honourable Member with responsibility for the sector cannot get the dates right as it relates to Cropover because he has not consulted with the industry. When they come here and say that they have consulted, they have not consulted fully with the people who are the stakeholders in

the industry. The Barbados Labour Party left the cultural industries legislation when we left office, it was there for you to pick up and to run with. But what, Mr. Speaker, has happened is that it took them almost five years before they could bring the legislation. Sir, having brought the legislation it took almost another year before it could be proclaimed. After it was proclaimed, there was now no money, so that you have given hope to what I consider the hopeless people, the artists. You gave a position that you are going to do something, you promised the artists things and then what you do? Yet, again you have no money. The Minister with responsibility for culture is hoping that the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs will give him some money to put into a fund.

Mr. Speaker, that is what the Honourable Member is hoping for but the Honourable Member must also be mindful that he has been hoping for this for almost eight years and it has not happened. This Administration continues to promise the people of this country things that it then does not realise. Sir, nothing comes to fruition that this Administration says it is going to do, and if it starts something then it does not finish it, so you have a situation where they talked about sports policy, that they are going to have a sports development plan. Sir nothing has come of it. They said they were going to create incentives within the sporting sector but nothing has come of it. They waited until the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East did the semiprofessional league in this country in football and then they came and said that they would like to have a professional league. Sir, nothing has happened.

Mr. Speaker, the sad part about it is that when they talk about a strategy for the sports sector, the strategy document that has been created speaks to the fact that the Government would reduce the transfers to the National Sports Council. It speaks to the fact that the Government would start to look at advertising at various pavilions and community centers across the island so as to direct revenue to come from various sources. These are simple things that you would think money could come from immediately, but again, the head does not talk and the rest of the body clearly is ailing.

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

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, that is symptomatic of a Democratic Labour Party Administration, they make pronouncements left, right and centre. The Ministry of Health comes in the newspaper yesterday and said that he has two additional ambulances to service the island, but last week he pronounces that there is going to be a new hospital built in this country. Sir, do you know what? We already heard that from the former Minister of Health in this country and nothing has happened. We heard about a study that was supposed to be done to discuss where the

project was supposed to be built, where the financing was supposed to come from and nothing has happened. Mr. Speaker, we could go through every single Ministry in this Administration and we can find things where simple things that require no money have not been implemented. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most telling thing in this debate has been the fact that this Administration has been the quietest ever since I have been in this Honourable Chamber. I do not know if it is that they have resigned themselves in this debate to saying nothing because -- you know, my grandmother used to say if you have nothing good to say, you should say nothing. Mr. Speaker, I feel they have nothing good to say about their Ministries, to be able to defend this No-Confidence Motion and so they have been extremely quiet.

Mr. Speaker, fine, they could wait until the end and try to rebut what the Barbados Labour Party has said but I believe that the people of this country have already made a determination about how they feel. It is just a matter of time, Mr. Speaker, and so I do hope that this No-Confidence Motion like all the others is a little bit different because this is against the entire Government, this is not against a Minister, this is not against a Prime Minister but this No-Confidence Motion speaks to mismanagement, to levels of corruption, to issues of simple inefficiencies in handling the Barbadian economy, in handling the various Ministries and departments for which the various Ministers are responsible. I do hope that coming out of this that Members of this Administration will take note, because while we criticise and say we have no confidence in this Government, all Barbadians, including Members of the Barbados Labour Party, know that better can be done. All we ask is that better is done, because I believe that simple things like us having to be able to televise this Debate today should be standard. We should not have had to wait for the last minute to hear last night that the Debate was being televised today. Just as I was notified about the No-Confidence Motion on Sunday, the same should have followed; we should have been told the Debate would have been televised. There are simple things that can be done by a Democratic Labour Party Administration to reform this Parliament but if you are not serious about the job, then you are going to leave simple things like this to fall by the wayside.

We bring this Motion, but there are Private Members' Resolutions that do not get answered. They will die with this terms. There are questions to Ministers that will die with this term, and not one of you will come here and answer them. There are simple things to get this country moving, to get people to participate in a democracy that most Barbadians want. I am sure that deep down, that is what each and every one on the Democratic Labour Party side would want, but I do not know what it is that holds them back from doing it. We want a better Barbados. That is what the mantra of the Barbados Labour Party is about; a

better life for all Barbadians, and I would think that the Democratic Labour Party members would want the same thing. The fact is, however, that we have no confidence in you anymore because you do not demonstrate an interest in the people. You do not demonstrate an interest in the Ministries with which you run, and if it is that you have to ask us questions to be able to help guide you in the Ministries, then perhaps you should pause and reflect on some of the advice that is given here. Mr. Speaker, I am obliged.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North.

Mr. R.St.C TOPPIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I join this Debate because I think that what is before this Chamber today is a very serious matter. A No-Confidence Motion is not something that should be taken lightly. It is brought when a party believes that either an individual Minister on the other side, or the entire Government in this case, is guilty of such incompetence, dereliction of duty, whatever you may wish to call it, that in fact that Government should no longer be the Government of the day. Therefore, a Motion is brought to express a total lack of confidence in either that Minister or, in this case, the Government of the day.

What is before Parliament today should not be taken as expressing the views of the Barbados Labour Party only. Take a common walk, which I would advise Ministers to do from time to time, through your constituencies first of all, through Bridgetown, a simple visit to a gas station or a supermarket or anywhere at all in this country, and you would hear the views of ordinary Barbadians. They are very disgruntled and very dissatisfied with this Government's performance to date. You hear local businessmen telling you quite frankly, "It is not that we do not have money to invest, but we are not investing it under this Administration because we have no confidence in this Government of the day." Even the Minister of Finance himself, a couple Budgets ago, I think it was 2013, said in this Chamber that he recognised that businesses were expressing a lack of confidence in this Government that is ruling the country today.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we are really giving vent to the views of people out there, and we are really joining them in expressing the view that one should have no confidence in this Government. The thing is that the Government does not really seem to care, because even now, today, after an excellent six-hour presentation by the Leader of the Opposition, which laid serious charges on this table in Parliament, not one Member has had the decency - first of all, even in terms of the normal protocol which these debates follow where a Member on the other side responds officially to what is presented - or has seen it fit so far to make a single comment. That in itself is a serious

indictment on the Government, and should strengthen the view that one should not have any confidence in a government that believes that it can be so arrogant and dismissive of the views of the people as pronounced by their representatives here in Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, this goes further and deeper than just the behaviour of the Government in here. In a country where the economy controls everything, at the very least you should be able to have confidence in your central monetary authority. However, Mr. Speaker, I make bold to say that we can have no confidence whatsoever in the Central Bank of Barbados. The first thing is that the Central Bank is deciding whether it is going to release information, so that only today, some two months after it was due, the Central Bank released information on the first quarter of the year in terms of Barbados' economic performance. Two months after it was due. Investors look at these things to decide how they are going to behave, and when a Central Bank Governor can behave like that, no wonder there is such lack of confidence in the Government of the day. Mr. Speaker, we also have new terminology in Central Bank reports, so that you have the Central Bank Governor no longer speaking in his Reports about debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP). That term is not being used anymore in Central Bank Reports. Instead, the Governor is now using a new invention of his called "net public sector debt"; not debt-to-GDP anymore. That is being used to trivialise Barbados' national debt, which we know is a real serious problem, but there is new terminology to mask a very serious problem.

Mr. Speaker, coming from that same institution, the Central Bank, you have the politicisation of the information coming from the Central Bank. When you look, for example, at Barbados' public outstanding debt, and you look at the External Debt as set out in that table, Table 5, you see that out of \$2.9 billion in External Debt, the Governor lists only the prison debt of \$249 million, which is a Barbados Labour Party debt. There is no mention made whatsoever of any of the billions of Democratic Labour Party debt. This is serious politicisation of information. He goes further, because when you look at Domestic Debt, out of \$6.5 billion in Domestic Debt, the Central Bank Governor lists only the Justice Improvement Programme debt which is fully paid, so it should not even be mentioned at all. He itemises it, even if he puts zero in the column, and then he lists the Coast Guard debt, \$22 million, and the ABC Highway debt, \$115 million. Those total less than \$140 million out of \$6.5 billion. All three, of course, are Barbados Labour Party debts, but there is no mention at all of any Democratic Labour Party debt, so the \$120 million that went into Four Seasons down the drain and which Barbadians have to pay for has not been mentioned at all in the Domestic Debt schedule here in the Central Bank Report. Nor is there mention of any of the billions of dollars in debt that the Democratic Labour Party has racked

up, so we have the politicisation of information coming out of the Central Bank.

You might say that all of that is just my interpretation of data, but there is another important document that the Government is refusing to publish. They are refusing to publish another very important document, which is the Article IV Consultation with the International Monetary Fund (International Monetary Fund) since last year and they would not publish it at all. It is to remain a secret document. Mr. Speaker, do you know what that says in a nutshell. Sir, it goes to the integrity of the information that is coming from the Central Bank of Barbados. They said basically that the statistics that are being produced by the Central Bank of Barbados are not based on data actually collected but merely based on hunches. Sir, the Central Bank of Barbados is producing information that is based on hunches only. Sir, it is a fact and it is in the Article IV Consultation that the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister and other Ministers over there, the Honourable Member for St. Philip West that none of them will make it public. Sir, that is not my interpretation any more, it is a statement of fact by an international rating agency, the IMF, which speaks for itself.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the power of the Minister of Finance to fire the Central Bank of Barbados but, of course, the Minister of Finance is no better. In fact, the Minister of Finance, perhaps should be the Minister of Recycling because he has been recycled more than anybody else a Minister in the shortest possible time, and lest we forget the history, let us revisit it for a second. He first started as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, unsatisfactory in that capacity, non performing, had to be recycled to the Ministry of Social Care and Urban Development, not performing again, and then out of spite for the Honourable Member for St. Philip West, that is all it was, sheer spite, they decided to take the most important Ministry in this country, the Ministry of Finance and put it in the hands of a junior politician.

Asides.

MR. R. TOPPIN: Sir, do not mind the grandiose physique at the time, he was still nothing more than a junior politician and to this day, it shows. The Minister really would not know that he should fire the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados but he should. Sir, that is one of the reasons why we are today where we are because we have in the Ministry of Finance, the most serious Ministry one of the most junior politicians that Barbados has had at the time to offer.

Mr. Speaker, come down on the Minister of Finance the way I do sometimes because of some of the policies and the approaches that he uses. I am going back again to the Sandals issue because I am calling again for the

Memorandum of Understanding entered into between this Government and Sandals. We cannot continue to operate in a vacuum like this. You cannot just give away a half billion dollars in concessions to a company like Sandals. You are getting practically nothing in return and you just accept that there is an agreement out there somewhere in a drawer or under lock and key somewhere saying something and you just do not know what it is. Sir, Barbadians need to see that Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Speaker, there is still the case going on in the Turks and Caicos Islands, where the former Premier and the former Minister of Finance was not charged but there is still that case going on in the Turks and Caicos Islands where Sandals admitted that it made an improper payment to a company that had as one of the shareholders, the former Premier, the former Minister of Finance and so on, and it is before the court. We have to see this Memorandum of Understanding to see what was agreed between the Government of Barbados and Sandals. Sir, people are taking about this and we have given much power and authority to Sandals right here in Barbados. Sir, I am going to talk about the every time because we have in Barbados a veritable animal farm, where all are equal but Sandals is more equal than other. Sir, Sandals did not build the tourism sector in Barbados, other smaller hotels did that and operators and they have now come in and they are getting things that smaller local operators will never ever get despite the rhetoric of this Government. They are never going to get it. again, I am calling for a study to be done, so that we can see the full impact of Sandals operations in Barbados on the operators, not only in the area surrounding Sandals in St. Lawrence Gap/Maxwell area, where they are but businesses all across Barbados.

Mr. Speaker, we already know how Sandals operate with smaller operators. They go and impose themselves on you. They tell you if you want my guest, you have to charge it. If you miss and agree to it, you do not get paid by the guests, you get paid by Sandals. Sir, Sandals charges them, take nearly all the money and send you a pittance as a small operator, whether you are a jetski operator or whoever. There is a catamaran named "Sandals" right across from here in the Wharf area. It is the biggest insult you could ever want but they have given this power to operate in this country.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to all the thing I have said before, Sandals has also been permission to build. I do not know if they got the permission because Sandals was even operating with concessions before the Order was even prepared and issued, as far as I am aware. They went ahead anyhow knowing that it was coming but they were given permission to build and they have built a warehouse right (6:54) across the street from the operations there in St. Lawrence Gap in a residential area and a tourism belt. Sir, a big obnoxious warehouse was built across the street from

the hotel. It is not only mystifying as to how they would have got approval to do that but they got it. Sir, what compounds the problem is that Sandals has another warehouse in Miami, Mr. Speaker, and they take all the goods from up there in Miami and send them straight to the warehouse right there in the Dover area. They do not have to get into a line to deal with the Customs Department or that. Sir, the average importer has to get in a line and deal with the Customs Department to get things out Port but there is nothing to with the Port when it comes to Sandals because it is straight from the warehouse in Miami and straight to the warehouse in Maxwell.

Asides.

MR. R. TOPPIN: Everything is duty free, they do not pay anything at all. They are operating in Barbados free. They just come straight from warehouse to the next warehouse. Sir, I want you to understand how this actually works. I am going to give a real life example because only today, I got a call from a local wholesaler who used to supply in good over \$100 000 per month to Casuarina Hotel. Sir, Casuarina is the predecessor of Sandals. Sir, two months ago, in March, he supplied just around \$10 000 to Sandals. Sir, that is 90 per cent decline in the goods he was supplying to the same entity in effect. It went from \$100 000 to \$10 000 and then for last month April, it came down to less than \$2 500 that was supplied to Sandals from over \$100 000 to Casuarina because Sandals has a warehouse in Miami.

There is a CEO of the Barbados Agricultural Society (BAS) in this Chamber and he gave the local hoteliers real hell when they were looking a concessions to be granted to them, he was not prepared at all to give them a cent, not a quarter, as your grandmother used to say, but Sandals can do anything and this BAS CEO remains silent in the face of all of this while warehouse to warehouse ... Do you know what is going the happen now? The man told me today that he has to lay off people because he cannot sustain this, he is cutting his losses. He is going to lay off people in Barbados while the warehouse in Miami will continue to employ the same people where no Barbadians work but Sandals somehow has been allowed to come in Barbados and do exactly whatever they want to do. Mr. Speaker, something is not right. Something smells. That is all I can say at this time and I am again going back to my call. The MUO may solve everything and that is all I am asking all of you to do. Let us see this MOU between the Government of Barbados and Sandals.

Mr. Speaker, I want to turn lastly to the Sam Lord's project because if ever there was a project that proved a lack of investor confidence in Barbados is the Sam Lord's project. The Government in its very glib way likes to around saying that they managed to get some Chinese investment in Barbados by this Sam Lord's project. There

is not Chinese investment. The Government was unable to get anybody at all to invest in the project and had to go cap-in-hand to the Chinese for a loan that Barbadians have to repay.

Asides.

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: That is ABC, this is first principle.

Asides.

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: The Government was unable to get any investor interested in this project to carry it out therefore, they had to go cap-in-hand to the Chinese for a loan that Barbadians have to turn around and repay. That is not any big deal that is ABC but, of course, you are not going to see that on the Central Bank of Barbados (CCB) part of the public sector debt because the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados will politicise the other debts and so on whenever that becomes in thing that is not going to be seen in there but investors has no confidence at all in the Barbados Government so there was no investor but a loan from the Chinese. Mr. Speaker, on top of that, no plans have been prepared for this project to date. Certain the plans are under preparation but in November last year when the Prime Minister was up there - and I see somebody nodding, yes, yes, I know I am not going to call your name -- breaking ground with all the Ministers except one, one could not make it apparently, the Prime Minister was making some grandiose nothing announcements about a project that had no plans at the time. There were plans before when it was a CLICO project and when it was a 250 room project, they had plans for that, but this is a 450 room project so 250 plans cannot apply to a 450 room project so there were no plans in existence. Yet we were hearing from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Tourism too, he is never to be left out, but they were talking about how much foreign exchange and jobs this hotel is going to bring in. Do you know another fascinating thing too about this loan from the Chinese, it is the only time in the history of the world where you go an borrow money from somebody that you have to repay, it is not a grant you know, and they tell you the labour that you have to use when you have high unemployment. You go to the Chinese for a loan that you have to repay, they say yes, I am going to lend you the money but you have to take on 60 per cent of Chinese labour. The only Government in the world that can agree to those terms would be this Democratic Labour Party Government but no plans.

Asides.

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: The Prime Minister announcing without any plans or any scale model at the time in existence, nothing was being said, at the time, of how the hotel was going to work. Was this going to be

another all-inclusive hotel? At least you know the things planned for Almond from Sandals, that is supposed to be something for families but you did not know if this one at Sam Lord's was to be a conference hotel, if it would be an all-inclusive, nothing said and using a Wyndham name, that was at Almond before that was a failure. That is why Almond took over Wyndham down there at Almond but they decided now that it was a failure down there so we will put it back on now at Sam Lord's. This is an upside-down Government, it really is. There were no plans but you announcing all of these things about a project. I want to know some other things because a company has been chosen to build the hotel. We have a well-established practice in Barbados that these things should go out to tender. I want to know if there was tendering and I would like to know the other companies that tendered and why this one would have been chosen. I also want to know something about the company that is going to be building this hotel. I want to know what track record this company has, if it has a track record.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude.

Mr. R. St.C. TOPPIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to know more particularly, that other hotels this company would have built. Particularly, have they built other hotels in Caribbean conditions because in Barbados we do not want to end up with another Bahamian hotel project. When the Government was to buy Almond to then turn it over to Butch Stewart and he heard that the Chinese were going to be building it, he said no, he does not want any Chinese that is why the Government had to change plans and then let him buy it directly and all of that but the Government still decided well, Butch does not want any Chinese but we will take them so I just want to be sure what is the track record of this company.

Do you know what happened in The Bahamas? Some Chinese went do there, not familiar with the conditions, used inferior materials in building the hotel in The Bahamas with the result that the hotel is actually deteriorating even before it is finished. A hotel that is still under construction is already deteriorating because of Chinese labour that was used in The Bahamas to build it. It is not good enough for many others but it is good enough, it seems for this particular Government. How on earth, after those things that I just mentioned, could anybody have any confidence whatsoever in this Government to manage the affairs of this country? That is why I am supportive of the motion before Parliament today. I do not lightly support No Confidence Motions because it is a very serious thing. When you are tried and convicted, even if not in here, but certainly in public opinion, it is a serious thing. It is like a notch below a criminal conviction, as far as I am concerned. I do not like to put anything on anybody's record willy-nilly but I felt constrained to speak in this

Motion because of a record of a Government that just does not seem to care. Apart from all I have just said, you hear about garbage collection and problems. People want little things for their constituents like streetlights and so on but cannot get them done. Unemployment in Barbados is high and rising. People cannot get their income tax returns. Do you know how many text messages I got today saying do not forget to ask about the income tax returns, people cannot get them, which also includes me, Mr. Speaker.

Road works in this country is zero. I want to put in, as I conclude, another request through you, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Transport and Works to please fix the road in Well Gap, Cave Hill because people recognised that I have sent the Minister a letter and they want to know if it is normal for a Minister not to respond when a Member of Parliament writes to him on behalf of them. I have written now the Minister since last year, I made the point in the Estimates debate, I made the point more recently in the Estimates and I am making it again. I am asking for the road in Well Gap, please, to be fixed. Can I take the shake of the Minister's head to mean yes he is going to fix it? Can you prevail this upon your colleagues who would want you to selfishly pursue anti-Barbados Labour Party constituency policies? I am urging you not to treat the people in Cave Hill as pariahs. It is dangerous in walking, it is damaging people's cars, and it is causing people to get splashed up, you name it, and it is not an area that can be patched, it is a road that has to be re-laid. The patching has been done erratically, it does not work, so I am asking the Minister to please give some attention to the road in Well Gap, Cave Hill.

Mr. Speaker, with those words, I support this Motion and I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am here this evening to defend a No-Confidence Motion in this Government. Some of the charges laid is that we were told previously in this House that prior to 2008 that there were no current account deficits, now today we were told that between 1962 and 2008 there were four current account deficits.

Mr. Speaker, we were also told that for the last eight years that the Democratic Labour Party ran deficits, and the impression given to the world was that the Democratic Labour Party was committing a criminal offence by running a deficit for the last eight years. Mr. Speaker, this is the same error that Moody's has been making on the economy of Barbados because Moody's has been judging the economy of Barbados on the cash basis under the Democratic Labour Party when we are running an accrual system of accounting.

Mr. Speaker, what the speaker did not recognise is that between 1962 and 2008 no Minister of Finance had a right to run a deficit but after 2008 it was not illegal for anybody to run a deficit because the accrual system of accounting means that you can run a deficit because under the cash basis you can only spend the cash you receive, but under the accrual basis system it is the cash you receive plus the money that you have incurred. Mr. Speaker, this meant that you would have been hearing all over the world that Barbados is doing something wrong after 2008 by running a deficit, without the speaker recognising that the accrual system passed by the speaker under the Barbados Labour Party allows you to run a deficit because you do not need cash to incur expenditure under the accrual system.

Mr. Speaker, when you hear economists joining the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in the Barbados Labour Party and giving the impression that the Democratic Labour Party is doing something wrong after 2008, what it means is that the Barbados Labour Party when they passed the accrual system they did not know what they were passing because to come and criticise the Democratic Labour Party for running a deficit after 2008 is an admission that you were ignorant of what you were passing when you passed the accrual system. Mr. Speaker, that is why I keep making the point that the accountants in Barbados need to step up to the plate and stop allowing the economists to masquerade in this country on a topic that they are not qualified to speak on. I challenge all of the economists to tell me that I am wrong about what I have just said on the Floor of the House. The accrual system is quite different to the cash basis, and if you ask me I will tell you that those persons that actually incurred a deficit between 1962 and 2008 had no permission to incur the deficit.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: I am also hearing, Mr. Speaker, that the revenue increased and the expenditure increased which is an admission that the economy is expanding. I have also heard, Mr. Speaker, how the revenue has only expanded by a certain amount. Mr. Speaker, let me say this to this House. We in Barbados have to be very careful what we say if we do not understand what we are saying. Listen, under the traditional tourism plant we had a way of measuring revenue and receipts but what people have to understand is that under the Democratic Labour Party the demographics have changed from having villas and hotels being responsible for the number of tourists coming and counting the spend based on the villas and hotels. In Barbados, do not care where you go, Mr. Speaker, what you would find now is that the tourists are now living all across Barbados and we are not capturing the spend within community tourism, like this is what is being spent in Oistins, in Silver Sands, in

Baxters Road, in Six Men's, in Speightstown or in Payne's Bay.

Mr. Speaker, people do not even understand that the demographics in tourism have changed in such a way that the multiplier effect of the spend is even much greater than we are appreciating, and that is the same error the economists have made in this country, it is the same error that Moody's has made and it is the same error that the Barbados Labour Party have copied and do not now understand. I am challenging all of them, the economists and the accountants that know better and are not talking... The biggest insult to this country is the accounting profession who know better and allowed the economists to come and talk foolishness all the time in this country about this economy. I challenge all of them to say that what I am saying in this House tonight is wrong because the truth is what has happened is that we have understated the spend the growth in this house.

The ... is right. We are operating in an accrual basis system but still operating in the cash basis, so we are understating the growth of this country at the expense of this country, and that is why the rating agencies which do not know better have even gone so far in companies that we in Barbados that we have supported for many years, using the taxpayers' money, we have allowed rating agencies to encourage them to leave Barbados and to go elsewhere. Sir, where are they going? I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, that they are running from Barbados but would end up in a worse position where they are going because at least our revenue and our spend is being understated but they are going to countries that would not be in a better position than Barbados. I have always been told, Mr. Speaker, that it is better to underrate revenue and overstate expenditure. Mr. Speaker, we are not hearing this happening in Barbados, you are hearing people criticising the economy, giving the impression that the economy is worse off when instead it is better off. Mr. Speaker, I am hearing the Honourable Member for St. Andrew asking me to speak on the Motion and to speak on the matter of housing.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, you have a situation where these agencies do not understand the dynamics. Sir, I have heard a lot of foolishness in this country. I am not in here to go into the gutter and to low my dignity, I am here to deal with the issues. I have been hearing on the call-in programmes and some ignorant moderators agreeing with people and telling them that we are counting intransit passengers as long stay or short term passenger. What they do not even recognise is that because of homeporting the Minister of Tourism has been able to convert intransit passengers into short stay and long stay passengers. In other words, people are not just moving

from the airport to the seaport anymore, we have been able to get people to stay in Barbados before they move from the ship to the plane or from the plane to the ship, so that if we have been able to do that how could you call them intransit passengers when there is a description for an intransit passenger. Sir, they do not understand that. Also, some guy who the Barbados Labour Party feeds with garbage every day, he comes on the call-in programme and gives the impression that we are overstating the tourist people staying in Barbados when the person is misinformed by the Barbados Labour Party and they go to the call-in programmes and have moderators lapping up that ignorance.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying it is utter foolishness, it is an insult to the intelligence to the country Barbados in its 50th Year of Independence, it is also an insult to our educational system when you can get people who cannot throw figures together to come on a call-in programme and having moderators lapping it all up, while not making corrections to those statements.

Asides.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have no apology.

Asides.

Mr. E. D. HINKSON: On a point of order. The Standing Orders of this Honourable Parliament, Standing Order 28(2) says that a Member must confine his speech to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matters irrelevant thereto. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is in breach of that Standing Order.

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

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have heard people talking foolishness about housing. Sir, everybody knows that when I came to the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development there was Lancaster to be completed. Lancaster has been completed. I was told by the Honourable Member for St. Thomas that the only thing she saw in Lancaster were Blackbelly Sheep running about but when I went in Lancaster all I saw were black people living in those houses.

Mr. Speaker, I went to Constant, St. George, and completed Constant, with people about to be living there shortly. Sir, we will use the money that we will get for Constant, we will use that revenue to complete at Parish Land, which is about 99 per cent completed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us have some order, please. Let us hear the Honourable Member.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, the only thing left at Constant to be done is the repainting of those houses. I have completed the Grotto. We are doing River Land which will soon be completed also. Mr. Speaker, do you know what is happening? I have spoken on housing on four occasions within the last week or two and it is rather interesting that I have spoken extensively and nothing has been reported by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation nor the rest of the Press. Sir, even last Friday we in the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Rural Development did a launch and a support of the 50th Anniversary and we are yet to see anything pertaining to that on either the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation or in the rest of the Press.

Mr. Speaker, the only entities that gave us any mention was the Barbados Advocate and the Barbados Today. Sir, I found that rather interesting because after those occasions they came and asked me something completely different. Sir, it tells me that the Barbados Labour Party has now been able to control all sections of the Press and that they have been able to dictate to the Press what to carry in this country. Sir, I said to somebody that it was rather strange...

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: On a point of order. I believe that the Honourable Member is misleading this Honourable Chamber.

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: You believe? Sit down then, once you believe.

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, to suggest that the newspapers are not reporting what he said, is to suggest that the Honourable Member has said something that was worthy of reporting. The Honourable Member has been speaking for several minutes and the Honourable Member has not even collided with his Ministry, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I will forgive the Honourable Member who has just erred. Mr. Speaker, I have been speaking extensively in this Honourable House and outside of this Honourable House and it is not my fault if I am only reported in Hansard and the Press in this country has decided because they have been dictated to by the Barbados Labour Party not to carry me, I do not have a problem. Mr. Speaker, the point is that they cannot stop me from getting coverage on 100.7 FM, that is why whenever there is an issue in here, I speak to

those issues because I know that the whole or Barbados, even the fishermen out to sea, will be listening. That is why I become involved in all of the debates because I know that you cannot pay anybody anywhere to prevent me from speaking directly to the people when I come to this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, I am not worried, the point is that I am not a blue peter shark either, I know why the Leader of the Opposition has accused of something of which I was not guilty. I do not worry, because as I keep telling you all on the other side, unlike you all, I am not a blue peter shark. If you want to hook me you have to have proper bait and you have to be able to outsmart me, and none of you all can outsmart me in this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, the housing policy of which I am part if quite clear. Everybody knows that if the world economy is in trouble, any sensible Minister of Housing will ensure that he maximises the usage of the financing that is available to him and that he does not put pressure on the Minister of Finance. He ensures that he uses the money available to him in such a way that the Minister of Finance is then able to give that money to the productive sectors, while at the same time, he seeks to complete those projects that can add to the infrastructure and can also correct some of the social problems in a particular country.

Mr. Speaker, wherever I go in the world, especially in this year of Habitat Conferences, everybody speaks to the developmental projects. I just came back from a meeting in Mexico, and the governor at Habitat spoke. He spoke about agriculture and manufacturing, and never once said one word about housing. Do you know what was interesting? Not one word was even spoken about services, and after that I asked him, "How come we are at a housing conference and you are speaking about agriculture and manufacturing and not about housing?" He said, "I am glad that you asked me that question, because in these economic times I have to focus on the things that will create revenue and make the economy better so that the people in housing then can have some money to deal with housing." It is rather interesting that that governor could make that point, because that is exactly the point which this Minister has been making all the time; that we cannot be dealing with our social problems without creating revenue to help the productive sectors. It is when the productive sectors are functioning in the right way and we have surplus revenue that we can then deal with the surpluses to help with new housing projects.

When one listens to the Barbados Labour Party in the area of housing, do you know what would have happened? Constant would not have been finished, nor would The Grotto, Lancaster and Parish Land. What they would have done would have been to close down all of those projects and start projects on their own just to

demonstrate to the public that as Ministers, they had started something of their own. That type of behaviour, that cannibalism, will not happen with this Minister. What you will get from this Minister is that he will complete the work that he has found and ensure that the masses of people are empowered. He will also ensure that he operates efficiently to complete those projects and to ensure that he does not suffer the productive sectors and create problems for the economy.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, it is getting a bit too unruly and too loud, with the asides and so on. Please let us keep them down. Let us hear the Member. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. D.St.E. KELLMAN: That is why history will bear me out on my housing policy, because I am here to help the Minister of Finance and to ensure that the Minister of Finance has money to help with the productive services and to help build out this economy. Anybody who listened or saw the Central Bank Report would recognise that the policy has been working. I heard the last speaker speaking about what we have done for Sandals. What the last speaker did not recognise is that he admitted that this Government has seen tourism as part of the productive sectors, and that the things imported by Sandals are actually raw materials to make the hotel industry more efficient. When you hear the criticism coming from the Barbados Labour Party, you just do not bound like a blue 'peter' shark at what they are saying, you have to analyse what they are saying and see the ignorance in it. If you have tourism and the market is competitive, you have to ensure that that market is given the ability to be able to compete in the world. We are not the only ones offering the tourism product, so we have to ensure that the tourism product is an efficient product which can compete with the world.

Asides.

Hon. D.St.E. KELLMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am hearing the Honourable Member for St. George North asking about the Rural Development Commission (RDC), and the truth is that the most work which the Honourable Member for St. George North got done in his constituency was in the eight years of crisis under the Democratic Labour Party. Between 1994 and 2008, the Honourable Member for St. George North was not able to spend as much money on social things as we have been able to spend in the crisis years on their constituencies. What is worrying them is that they want to know how come that in eight years' time, in crisis time as they have stated, we have been able to do more work than them and spend more money under rural development than they had been able to do when there was honey and milk. I have produced the statistics in here already to show that RDC has been able to deliver a lot of work, so do not let them come in here. Do you know what

is even more regrettable? They are saying that RDC does not have any money, and I am bombarded by all of them to spend some money on their constituencies. They are even so ignorant of the facts that there is nothing called Steps at Stroud Bay; what they mean are Steps at Archers Bay. What is Archers Bay? Archers Bay is a place in St. Lucy which had a beach and the people had to swing down on rope to get to the beach. The Honourable Members on that side do not want my people to get accessibility to the beaches in St. Lucy but want me to build roads for them for their people to walk, as if a beach is not important to my people.

I am supposed to come here after suffering for 14 years under the Barbados Labour Party, where they had all the money and wasted it. The evidence is there to show that they had been given a lot of money by the Right Honourable Member for St. Peter but they wasted it. What have I been able to do? According to them, I have been able, with \$162 000, to put steps into Archers Bay which have allowed a gentleman now to build a big complex of apartments and a restaurant, and to even import a boat to add to the community project. On top of that, because of the steps at Archers Bay, I have been able to offer....

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: The Honourable Member is misleading the House. The Member needs to tell us about the house at Mile-and-a-Quarter which cost US\$150 000. Tell us about that.

MR. SPEAKER: No Point of Order. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: The Honourable Member should know that I am not a blue 'peter' shark, so if he feels that he can come in here and talk ... about a house costing \$150 000 when the Honourable Member knows....

MR. SPEAKER: That is unparliamentary. You cannot say that the Honourable Member is talking foolishness.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: Sorry. My apologies, Sir. I will withdraw those remarks, but the Honourable Member knows better and the Honourable Member will come in here and talk about a house, Sir. According to him, the house is at Mile-and-a-Quarter and costs \$150 000, but the Honourable Member would not talk about the \$240 million that he gave to one criminal, because the contractor on that highway had been branded all over the world as a criminal. It was \$240 million, but he is going to come in here and complain about a poor person.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Sir, the Member is misleading the House. On a Point of Order.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member.

Mr. G.A. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, I have never given any money to any person on a highway. I have never done so. The Member must withdraw that statement because I have never done so.

MR. SPEAKER: I would not know, Honourable Member. No Point of Order found.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: Not only that, Mr. Speaker, What was worse, Sir, was that the Honourable Member was the Minister. The only flyovers I have seen in the world where you fly from highway to highway were what the Honourable Member wanted to build in this country for millions of dollars, and comes in here talking about a house for a poor person. I do not know about it, but if someone is spending money on a house in Mile-and-a-Quarter for a poor person, \$150 000 under RDC or whatever, I have no apologies. Do you know why? This was the same Government that came to this House and told me that a prison would cost BDS\$120 million and then, in the next breath, the Attorney General could say US\$120 million; double the price. You have come in here for a man who has not committed a crime, and you are saying that we spent \$150 000 on him, but you did not mind paying \$120 million on a contractor who you did not know anything about? Do not come in here and bring that ... to me today. I am in no mood.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you have five minutes in which to conclude. Secondly, Honourable Member, I repeat that you are not allowed to tell any Member of the House that they are talking foolishness or bringing foolishness to you.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: No, I said that....

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I heard you. You are senior. You know better than that. Please withdraw it. Let us move on.

Hon. D.ST.E. KELLMAN: I withdraw it, Sir, but what I actually said is that you cannot come in here and tell me so. That is what I said. Mr. Speaker, what I actually said is that you cannot come in here and tell me so. Sir, that is what I said. I did not say the person was doing it.

Mr. Speaker, what we heard today is that so many persons are retiring from the Public Service early and that is supposed to be a charge on the Democratic Labour Party, when it was the Barbados Labour Party that increased the retirement age. Mr. Speaker, the evidence is now before this House that the civil servants and the people of Barbados do not agree that the retirement age should be 67 and a half years, which means that the bad decision made by the Barbados Labour Party is now haunting the

Democratic Labour Party and instead of people waiting to get 67 years or more, they are retiring at the age, they thought they should go home and that is supposed to be a charge on the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that I am committed to the 20 year programme and, Sir, I will you why, unless all of those who have no commitment to it. Sir, I have a commitment because as far back as 1960, before the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow won a Government in this country, he had given a commitment to the people of Barbados that they should not be paying rent but that they should own the houses and a lot of people walk around and as usual misinterpretation what Mr. Barrow was saying. Sir, so committed was Mr. Barrow to that policy that in the 60s, when he won the Government ...

Asides.

Hon. D. KELLMAN: Do not come in here telling me anything about Mr. Barrow because you used to be a supporter of Mr. Barrow and you 'juck' him in his back and went to the Barbados Labour Party, so do not come in here and tell me anything about Mr. Barrow.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior to the elections in 1961, Mr. Barrow was all over the country telling people that they should own the houses and not have to pay rent. Sir, one of the first things he did when he came to Government was to ensure that he empowered those people and kept his commitment. Sir, the houses that were built in Clinketts, he sold them to the people in Clinketts. He did it in Parkinson and he did it also in the Bayville area. Sir, when we say that we are going to empower people by giving them houses under the 20-year programme, it is not a 2008 decision, it is a decision we inherited by the man who is now the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow. Sir, that is why I am so empowered. Sir, I have been telling the Minister of Finance that we have to get the money because this is a commitment not only from the 2008 programme but as far back as the 60s when the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, he was Mr. Barrow at the time, gave the commitment.

Mr. Speaker, we know where we are going and what is now hurting the Barbados Labour Party is to know that when they were walking around telling people that the growth of the economy was only 0.5 per cent last year, they now recognise that the figures...

Asides.

Hon. D. KELLMAN: Sir, I keep warning them that you cannot tell lies on figures that they will come back to haunt you. They were telling people that we had no growth but now we understand that the previous year, that we had 1.5 per cent growth and now as it stands today, we are at

1.7 per cent. Sir, they are telling the whole world not to lend us any money. Sir, the Barbados Labour Party bad-mouthed Barbados and stopped people from lending us money. They also allowed people to charge us at interest rates that we should not have been charged. They have punished the people with what they said, that ended up not to be true.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please wind up.

MR. E.D. HINKSON: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House. Sir, if he was only misleading himself, I could understand but he is misleading the House. Sir, to say that the Barbados Labour Party has bad-mouthed Barbados and has stopped people from lending Barbados money is totally misleading and really and truly should be struck from the records. The Barbados Labour Party is an integral institution in this country, made and established ..

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I will not allow you to make another speech. No point of order found. Please continue.

Hon. D. KELLMAN: I am happy to see that this non-confidence motion has no wait. It was predicated on the fact that between 1962 and 2008, that they were deficits and they gave the blessings to the deficits. Sir, the truth is, when you are spending money, you cannot have a deficit and they came in here and gave praise to that. Sir, in truth and in fact, they came in here and criticized the Democratic Labour Party for following the accrual system that they put in place and, Sir, I am saying that instead of this motion being a motion against the Government, this motion should be reversed against the Barbados Labour Party for misleading the country, misleading the world and even misleading Sagicor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged. The Honourable Member for St. Michael South Central.

Hon. R. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, like the Honourable Member that just took his seat, I am not in support of this Resolution. Of course, it is a motion of no-confidence brought by the Leader of the Opposition against the Government. Sir, motions of no-confidence or motions of censure are, in essence, political tools, that is all they are. They are usually designed for a purpose to impact on the Government of the day or the feelings of the public towards the Government of the day. I think what we have here and what is unique about this particular motion of no-confidence is that it is brought by a political leader who has really put it on the order paper in order to deal with issues that the Honourable Member is having with her own Party.

Sir, you have all of the evidence right in front of you glaringly. Sir, at little points during the course of this day, even during the six-hour speech has the Opposition Barbados Labour Party been able to command a quorum for their Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, if every member of the Government were to get up and walk up right now, this debate would have to stop.

Mr. G.W. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this House because he is saying the Barbados Labour Party from these benches that we are not speaking from the point of having a quorum. There is no provision in the rules for any quorum for any Opposition and, Sir, that is misleading.

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, no point of order found, and in future, please note that you must address the Chair from your assigned seat. Honourable Member, please continue.

Hon. R. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Andrew knows better than that. Sir, I was part of an Opposition and we were told that when you bring Resolution in here, you should have your people in place and you an Opposition here with numbers and they cannot find their own people to support this ever so important Resolution. Sir, I stand by that.

Mr. Speaker, frankly speaking, I think it is an insult to the Leader of the Opposition for all the hard work that she has been doing. I have given her some credit because she is working hard but the real reason for this motion is this document. I have to hand it to the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East, the only political party anywhere in the world that has been around for 80 years and does not have a philosophy, does not have any guiding principles and at least she is trying to find some after 80 years. I have to hand it the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: It is about time, we now have guiding principles. I have to hand it to them. Imagine that, all of those leaders, how many of them, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 leaders. Well, I have to say 6½ because one of them done gone along and left them already and he is sitting down out here now. Maybe now that they actually have a philosophy we can hear them start to quote from one of these leaders because they are only quoting Barrow all of the time.

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Every time they get up in here, Barrow legacy, associated with Barrow, the Honourable

Member for St. Michael North East, the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East, the Honourable Member for St. George North, the Honourable Member for The City of Bridgetown, everybody is quoting from Barrow. Nobody is quoting from none of their seven leaders but, of course, you have a philosophy now. I want to welcome you to the fold. The Democratic Labour Party from the time it admitted its very first member of the party in 1955, the recently deceased, Sir Douglas Lunch, may he rest in peace, after the founders of the party he was the first person that was admitted. He should have been a founded member but it was felt that because he did not look like the majority of Barbadians, but he was the first person admitted as a member and we had founding principles then as we had founding principles when we had a very successful induction ceremony last week for the Democratic Labour Party

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: We always had them so do not get me wrong. I still want to commend this effort, I would not go as far as to call it -- what kind of document was it described as, a Covenant of the Art?

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: No, no, no, let us give them some credit. They do start out with a message stating, "who we are", "the legacy of the party" and "what we stand for" this is a good first effort. A political organisation that has never should for anything firm over the last eight decades and they are trying. The truth is the document does degenerate into the usual Barbados Labour Party stuff, we pledge this, and we promise that, and we are going to do this, and we are going to develop this, and the shopping list of promises that they usually do but it still is a first effort therefore ...

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Tourism up. Okay. I am going to tell you about that too. Alright, you take it light. This is all this is about. We are going to get to that.

We understand what this exercise is about so put it in its context. A leadership that is struggling and so we have to have these covenants and these motions in order to try to justify exactly what they are doing, preaching justice. It is almost painful to the Honourable Member for Christ Church West and the treatment that has been meted out to her. We are hearing about the just approach, the Honourable Member for Christ Church West was expelled from the Barbados Labour Party for expressing a view. I want you to understand that, Mr. Speaker. You keep on saying that you do not have any confidence in this Government and we are hearing that Honourable Members

are being expelled because of expressing a view. Do we understand what sort of dangerous territory we are in now? Is this a political party, as presently constituted, that should be in the corridors of Government? It is scary. Is that a political party that should have control of the defence force of this country?

Asides.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: That is what we need to keep in mind. I know that the actually Resolution, a wash pan or recitations, 23 recitations, it to some extent even contradicts itself at certain points. It criticises the Government for these high deficits fuelling large debts but at the same time you also criticise the Government for taking measures to get these troubling fundamental issues under control and certainly one would have thought that within six hours you would have heard something by way of an alternative approach. You want to be in Government, what would you do differently to deal with these issues? We have not heard anything at all but reference was made to the Central Bank of Barbados report that was released today and this is the other reason why this motion had to come. The Barbados economy has expanded by 1.7 per cent during the first quarter of 2016. That little detail, Mr. Speaker, was omitted during the course of the six hours. I will have to continue because the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West wants me to continue here and the 1.7 per cent, thanks to another strong winter tourist season. Long stay arrivals were up 7 per cent with continued improvement in the US and UK market. Retail prices are estimated to have remained unchanged for the quarter and unemployment for 2015 average 11.3 per cent, down from the previous year of 12.3 per cent. We are going in the right directions.

Mr. Speaker, international reserves at April 30 stood at \$938 million equivalent to 14 weeks of import cover, and increase of \$11 million during the winter tourist season. We are going in the right direction. Far from having any motion of No Confidence, there should be a vote of confidence in the work that this Government is doing and the direction that we are going in. We had the suggestion put that somehow ministers have sought to increase their remuneration arrangements by 10 per cent. It is interesting that all of the hullabaloo but when we decided to take the cut, I do not remember the Leader of the Opposition or anyone getting up and commending the Government Ministers and Permanent Secretaries for taking the decision that we should, in essence, demonstrate some sacrifice. In fact, there were people who public said that they were against it and that is the reality. I do not mind. Mr. Speaker, it has to work both ways. Do you see this one-sided approach? We agreed up front that in solidarity with the Government's adjustment programme we would take a 10 per cent cut on our remuneration. That programme was extended on two occasions and we agreed

to extend what we were doing on those two occasions. Far from the Government being criticised for any increase we should be again commended for showing solidarity during the adjustment period. We have not gotten any increases, we are only restituting what was there before and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East knows this but sought again to play this political game in order to deal with her own issues. As I said, this motion has nothing to do with the Government of Barbados, nothing to do with the Right Honourable Member for St. Michael South, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West, or any of my other colleagues on This Side. This has to do with what is going on at Roebuck Street and the elections in October and who is going to control the destiny of that political party. That is what it is all about. Numbers popping off now and that is the reality of what is really at state.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to obviously touch on one or two bits of misinformation that were put out there with respect to tourism, but before I do that I think there is another point that needs to be mentioned here because again people are trying to be economical with the facts... I know that there are certain things that you cannot say in here. There is an established convention, Mr. Speaker, you are aware of it and the Honourable Member for St. Michael North East is aware of it and I suspect that she would have enlightened the Honourable Member for St. Michael South East because the understand that the Honourable Member is part of the leadership of the parliamentary party of the Barbados Labour Party. Whenever motions of censure, whether No-Confidence or otherwise, are placed on the Order Paper they are prioritised and they are debated as soon as is practical. That is understood and has always been understood, Mr. Speaker, and therefore I do not get this business about the Government springing the Resolution on anybody. You bring the Resolution. As a matter of fact because of the disagreement that was held over some of the text and so on and presumably some negotiations that would have taken place with the Speaker you had even extra time, so I do not get that point, and it was repeated by a couple of speakers on that side. I imagine that if they feel like turning up there are a few other speakers that might speak on that side, I would not want them to repeat it and for the public to get the view that somehow the Government was in any way trying to restrict the opportunity for the Opposition to do what it has to do.

Mr. Speaker, we gave them free rein on national television for the whole day to say what they had to say and they got that opportunity. I think you were right to rule on the billboards because I see some huge things which looked to me like you need Town Planning permission for far less permission from the Speaker. I see some big large things and you were right to rule on that. Mr. Speaker, we are not in the market or under a tamarind tree. It does not work. You have to have rules. Rules are in the Standing Orders

which are what governs things not that large bristol board thing there. You probably got to get a pickup truck to get them out from in here, but you are right to rule on that. I think you were right on that regard.

I do not think that anyone in the Government has anything to be embarrassed by what we have done. I do not think that the Opposition can in any way claim that their opportunity has been fettered in any way. With all of this griping and bellyaching about we are not taking the Motion seriously because we are not speaking, we gave them free reign for the whole day. Put your case. It is your Resolution. You are prosecuting so you had the whole day and most of the night actually to say what you had to say and we are still waiting to hear something tell you the truth. Some of it even got to the absurd that because a tent is over a car park you are no longer fit to be in Government, who driving what and all that kind of thing and little ends and bits of things. We have to get past that.

Mr. Speaker, again let me just say that I understand to some extent the angst that the investment in tourism may be causing for some because as you realised, the figures are good for tourism and, not only that but the prospects are even better. If you think that I am just saying so because I am supposed to because I am making political points, I think the House would be glad to hear that Expedia, the leading online tour operator voted Barbados the best Caribbean destination for 2016. Caribbean Journal, of the more prestigious online publications again, also voted Barbados the best destination as well. TripAdvisor had us at third. The Telegraph doing their annual survey also had Barbados rated. Routes Americas had Barbados finalised as one of the better destinations in the western hemisphere as well, so we are our work is being recognised. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? It is so because we are understood that we had to do some serious restructuring to the tourism industry. We had to do restructuring on a Copernican Scale. Copernican meaning shift the whole centre. Nicolaus Copernicus was the man that said that the world resolved around the sun and not around the earth. He was a Polish astronomer. He did not own any slaves, as the Honourable Member for St. George South might want to know. We had to shift the whole axis of how the tourism is operated. We want to see the spend increase. How did we do it? We established a Product Authority to work with the various tourism entities to see how we could have greater spend on the ground. We want again not only direct spend from tourism but we want the indirect spend that comes to the suppliers to tourism and the induced spend which is the spinoff that comes, and it is on the increase because we have done the restructuring because we recognise with the world recession in 2008 it was going to get that much more difficult to extract moneys from our visitors. This was not unique to Barbados. It was indeed the global trend that we were seeing.

We also had to look at or investment climate. Mr. Speaker, we shifted the whole basis by which concessions were offered to the sector. We treated the sector as an export industry where in essence we saw that all of the imposts from the inputs were removed. We did this for the entire sector and it was done in consultation with the Barbados Manufacturers Association and the Barbados Agricultural Society because we understood that if you allowed that type of facility that your local producers could be seriously disadvantaged if you do not bring everyone to the table.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand this point about the Honourable Member for St. Michael West Central is upset by what we are doing at tourism, he is a full partner. Indeed members of his organisation are working with hoteliers to see that the Farm-to-Table Programme functions in a meaningful way. We are not satisfied there. With the increases we are seeing in home-porters, the Honourable Member for St. Lucy spoke to that, we also thing there is an opportunity to supply cruise ship while they originate their journeys here in Barbados. I think the manufacturers have done a little better in that department than the agriculturalists but that does not mean that we are not looking at all of those possibilities as well.

The truth is that in 2001 the previous Administration did make the initial step by amending the Tourism Development Act (TDA) at the time or rather developing the TDA. That replaced Hotel Aids, but in essence that did not go the full monty, that was governed by certain Schedules to the Act in terms of items that you could bring in but because the tourism industry is so dynamic we felt that it needed to be amended and in essence not be restricted to the Schedule to the Act. For example, AM/FM radios were on the Schedule, but clearly that is obsolete now you need iPod docking stations, so rather than having to amend the Schedule all the time it was felt that we could do it differently and treat the industry as an export sector.

Sandals, of course, has come up for mention. Sandals was treated differently, that is true but that is not new. This business about hiding something with respect to Sandals, we came in here four or five days after we agreed to the Sandals investment and laid a Parliamentary Statement. The Honourable Members on that side should remember quite well because the last occasion we had a No-Confidence Motion is when we read that Statement and it had nothing to do with the No-Confidence Motion. It was actually at the insistence of the Honourable Member for St. Michael North West and myself because there were officials in the Ministry of Finance who did not think that we had any right doing that, that was never the practice, now when the Honourable Member for St. Peter was there not when anybody

.... else was there, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs has always held that power of issuing an offering concessions close to their chests. That does not mean that they do it willy-nilly, they assess the contribution or potential contribution of the project and then they accord concessions to suit, but we felt because of what we were doing, because of the vision that we had for the sector, that we should do a Parliamentary Statement, which has never ever happened, and because of the difference that Sandals and these investments are making in the sector.

Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing it is only about Sandals, but since we did this amended Tourism Development Act close to 40 hotels have been refurbished and that is directly related to what we are doing. I heard that we are ignoring the small sector, that is not true. Sir, if you actually look at what Sandals got, what did they get that the others did not get? Sir, they got a limited number of duty-free vehicles, that is given to other hotels as well. Again the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs previously would have done their own assessment but we have actually set a threshold in terms of the level of investment and it was made quite clear that we are not talking about Sandals' investment. We did set the threshold at US\$250 million in investment, which has never before been done, so that again to say that somehow the duty-free vehicles are something new is not true, there are other properties on the west coast that enjoy it.

Mr. Speaker, the waiving on withholding tax on dividends and profits is given to other hotels and projects as well. The waiver of stamp duty on the acquisition of new properties is given to others, for example, Royal Westmoreland among others. They gave it to the Prison. The waiver of stamp duty with respect to mortgage is given to other properties. Mr. Speaker, therefore to try to suggest that there is some unique peculiar set of concessions that Sandals has got is not true, they got what they got on the basis of the level of investment, the level of employment, the level of economic activity that would be generated, the benefits of having a strong brand and what it can do for the destination. Mr. Speaker, all of those factors were done.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, even though they will be treated differently, we are still doing more for the small hotels, as has ever been done in the history of this land. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that those are the facts, arguing over a Memorandum of Understanding whether or not it is here or there... Sir, I understand it to be on the internet, if you want to see it you can go see it. It is on the ground, it is not a State secret.

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

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, that is the reality so that now that it has come to light that the Sandals project is doing so well, they are now moving from just over 200 rooms to close to 500 rooms under construction. There will be more jobs, more foreign exchange and more economic activity for this country, so now that that is not working they are now moving onto Sam Lord's Castle.

Mr. Speaker, I heard a new benchmark for Tom Foolery in here just now, that you went cap-in-hand...

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am not going to allow that, it is unparliamentary. You are essentially saying that an Honourable Member is talking nonsense and so on. Please withdraw it and let us get on.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the remark. Mr. Speaker, I will say I heard a new benchmark for Tom Foolery. [full stop]. Can I say that?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not to the extent that you are talking about what has transpired in the Honourable House. No, you cannot say it.

Hon. R. L. SEALY: Mr. Speaker, what I will say is that I do not know how you could go cap-in-hand to a bank for a loan, you go cap-in-hand when begging. We are borrowing money, like what millions of governments all over the world do every day. You do not do that cap-in-hand, and for the record the rate that we are getting from the Exim Bank in China is a very good rate, it is a concessionary rate, that is why they are called concessionary loans, they take place between the People's Republic of China and Governments, they are Government-to-Government loans. The money, of course, is then on-lent to the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. and we develop the Sam Lord's Castle. We engaged in a management contract with Wyndham which is similar to what the last Government did with the Hilton, except we negotiated one on better terms. Sir, I heard that Wyndham at Heywoods has failed. Sir, since the deal with Marriott's and Starwood they are now the second largest hotel group in the world, that is whom we are talking about.

Mr. Speaker, again this is a pattern, Sandals is making a big difference, so they must attack Sandals, they talk about Michael Missick and all of his various shenanigans and so on. We do not have any such characters in this Government, we have been recognised internationally as one of the cleanest, less corrupt Governments anywhere in the world by Transparency International, so do not throw those little things out there to try to create confusion. Sir, Sam Lord's Castle is now the new target because that too is going to make a big difference. There will be 1 000 direct jobs and another 2 000 jobs from the indirect and induced that will be created.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, I just want to say that confidence is up in this Government, that investor confidence is up, that arrivals are up, that arrivals spend is up, that the economy is growing, that levels of employments are up and therefore I say this Resolution is a waste of time, as confidence is up in this Government of which I am very proud to be a part. I am obliged to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this No-Confidence Motion be now postponed until Thursday, 12th May, 2016.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Honourable House be now adjourned until Thursday, May 12, 2006, to be resumed at 3.00 p.m.

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

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

11.45 p.m.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

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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. Adjournment. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce moved the adjournment ‘until Thursday, May 12, 2006’, although the debate had just been postponed until ‘Thursday, 12th May, 2016’. Printed as in the source.

Q3. Order No. 6, end of Miss M. A. Mottley’s speech. The source has a free-standing line ‘END OF MISS MOTTLEY’S SPEECH’, which prints as a heading, after the exchanges on a request for an afternoon break. Mr. Speaker’s ‘Let us hear this point of order.’ is followed by no point of order. Printed as in the source.

Q4. Minutes. The heading ‘MINUTES’ is run into Hon. J. D. E. Boyce’s motion to defer the Minutes (‘MINUTESHon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move...’), so the motion prints as an unlabelled paragraph. Printed as in the source.

Q5. Order No. 6, Mr. D. G. Sutherland. Mr. Speaker ordered remarks of Mr. D. G. Sutherland about the Chairman of a Tribunal, and about a matter he said was sub judice, to be withdrawn and expunged; the expunged words are not shown. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Speaker labels. Mr. Hinkson is labelled both ‘Mr. E. D. HINKSON’ and ‘Mr. E. G. HINKSON’, and Hon. R. L. Sealy also appears as ‘Hon. R. SEALY’. During Hon. D. St.E. Kellman’s speech Mr. Hinkson addresses ‘Mr. Chairman’ while the House was not in Committee. Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

The House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 10th May, 2016 at 10.15 a.m., with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Father Mark Harewood. The Minutes were deferred, Hon. C. P. Sinckler laid the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments Exemption (Mary White) Order, 2016, and Standing Orders were suspended. The rest of the day was given to Private Members’ Business, Order No. 6, the Resolution that the House has no confidence in the Government of Barbados.

The Leader of the Opposition, Miss M. A. Mottley, moved the Resolution in a speech that ran through the morning and afternoon. She said Barbados was not working for the vast majority of Barbadians, criticised the Prime Minister’s silence on the water crisis, and said that \$24 million had been paid for Valery, which Cabinet had approved at \$15 million, almost a 50 per cent cost overrun. She traced current account deficits from \$600 000 in 1962 under Mr. Barrow, and made several letters documents of the House, asking the Prime Minister and Ministers to say whether the signatures were theirs.

After lunch Mr. Speaker refused to let Miss Mottley use large printed sheets, ruling that he would not permit placards and that a Member may speak from notes; he directed her to withdraw remarks he regarded as denigrating the Chair. She ended by saying the people had lost confidence in the Government and moved the Resolution. Mr. K. D. Symmonds seconded it and, after her request for a 15-minute break was not taken up, spoke in support. He said over 38 000 people were on the National Housing Corporation’s waiting list and opposed a plasma gasification plant in St. Thomas or St. James Central.

After a suspension, Lt. Col. J. D. Bostic supported the Motion. Mr. D. G. Sutherland said NCC workers dismissed over two years earlier had not been compensated; some of his remarks were ordered expunged. Mr. G. A. Clarke urged the Government to take the Motion seriously and spoke on water mains, praedial larceny and the farming community. After the dinner suspension, Miss C. Y. Forde spoke on child care and what she called waste and a lack of governance. Mr. E. G. Hinkson said the Leader’s speech had lasted more than five and a half hours. Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw and Mr. R. St.C. Toppin, who questioned the duty-free concessions to the Sandals project, also supported the Motion.

Hon. D. St.E. Kellman, for the Government, defended the record on housing at Constant and the Grotto and the figures on current account deficits; amid points of order from Mr. Hinkson, Miss Bradshaw and Mr. Clarke, none of which was upheld, he was twice made to withdraw remarks. Hon. R. L. Sealy opposed the Resolution, calling motions of no confidence political tools and saying its 23 recitals contradicted one another; a point of order by Mr. G. W. Payne was not upheld, and Mr. Sealy withdrew a remark the Chair found unparliamentary.

On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, seconded by Hon. R. D. Jones, further consideration of the Motion was postponed until Thursday, 12th May, 2016, and the House was adjourned until that day at 3.00 p.m.



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