
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(UNOFFICIAL REPORT)

PARLIAMENT 2013 – 2018

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2017.

PRESENT

His Honour MICHAEL A. CARRINGTON, B.A., LL.B. (Speaker) Her Honour Mrs. M-J. MARA THOMPSON, M.Sc. (Ph.Ed.) B.A.(Deputy Speaker)
Rt. Hon. OWEN S. ARTHUR M.Sc. (Econ.)
Mr. GEORGE W. PAYNE, Q. C.
Mr. G. A. CLARKE, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., J.P.
Mr. R. 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)
Miss 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. the 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)
Hon. FREUNDEL J. STUART, 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 the 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)
Mr. ADRIEL D. BRATHWAITE, 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. INNIS, 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.)
Dr. Mrs. 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 Canon Ivan Harewood.

MR. SPEAKER: This House is now in Session.

MINUTES

MR. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, October 3, 2017.

Hon. John D. E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes referred to be taken as read.

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

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

PAPERS (5:00)

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Finance the following:

1. Duties, Taxes and Other Payment Exemption University of the West Indies Capstone Student Film Order, 2017.
2. Financial Services Commission Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2106 and ended Report 2015/2016.

Hon. Dr. D. LOWE: I am commanded to lay the following:

1. The 2015 Joint Consultation with IOS Consultancy for the Development of a Route Optimisation Study in solid waste collection in Barbados.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Food Fisheries and Water Resources Management the following:

1. The Barbados Agriculture Management Company Limited 23rd Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2016.

FIRST READING OF BILLS (6:27)

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the first reading of the Criminal Records Rehabilitation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

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

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES (7:06)

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon. F.J. STUART: Mr. Speaker, I take the opportunity to ask this Honourable House to take formal notice of the passing of the former Governor-General of Barbados the late Sir Clifford Straughn Husbands. Sir Clifford was the longest serving Governor-General of

Barbados and passed on the 11th of this month and ever since then discussions have been taking place between the Cabinet Office and his relatives with a view to the planning of a State funeral in accordance with the traditions which have become solidly established in Barbados for Heads of States and Heads of Government who are called to higher service in the country.

I can inform the House that the State Funeral for the late Sir Clifford Husbands will be on Friday, November 3, 2017 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the St. Lucy's Parish Church. In the fullness of time, of course, this Honourable House will be given a chance to reflect on his life and over the next few days, decisions will be taken as to where condolence books will be placed and of course other issues in relation to the planning of the State funeral. Sir, whenever these issues arise it is customary to designate a Minister to be responsible for the planning of the funeral and I have designated the Minister with responsibility for Labour and Social Security and Human Resource Development, Dr. the Honourable Esther Byer-Suckoo, who sits in the Other Place, so over the next few days the country will be made aware of all of the more particular arrangements relevant to the State funeral of the late Sir Clifford Straughn Husbands.

Mr. Speaker, I am obliged to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am obliged.

Sequence 1

Insert s2 juliette

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Continuation of: Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS:

Mr. Chairman, I know of no one who worked for Greenland so therefore they could not have worked for me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Right, so in that case...

Mr. K. D. SYMMONDS: It is a most improper and vulgar thing for the Honourable Member to put abroad.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, please. I do not think you have a point there, so let us move on. Continue, Honourable Member.

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know sometimes I wonder if those interventions are not deliberately planned to try to disrupt the flow of the speaker because you can only conclude that.

Mr. Chairman, as I said, especially in the litigious climate that prevails worldwide, you are never truly

satisfied that all the providers, et cetera associated with a particular project have reached full settlement with these projects but anyhow.

Mr. Chairman, I know I have come to the Chamber before indicating that this matter was the final payment but as things would have it further consideration by the officers associated with the project in the Ministry of Health in consultation with the Ministry of Finance would have reached the best conclusions that they can in the circumstances. As a matter of fact, the last time we came here it was clearly pointed out when I spoke that the submission to the Ministry of Finance was in the order of \$4.3 million or \$4.4 million but that the Ministry of Finance could then only guarantee \$2.5 million for payment for the project, so obviously, and I would have said this too, we would have had to come back to the Chamber for the remainder and that is exactly what we are doing today. We are asking this Chamber to consider and, if so minded, approve the sum of \$1.881 million to complete payments to providers for the project at St. John.

Mr. Chairman, of course, I made the point in my opening that the St. John Polyclinic had now been fully integrated into the healthcare delivery regime in Barbados and I want to quote some numbers so as to put in perspective the kind of activity which goes on at St. John. For the month of September, for instance, the St. John Polyclinic would have seen something like 1 100 patients. It fluctuates in that region of 1 000 to 1 200 patients and this is actually in an environment where we have not in the Ministry of Health firmly addressed the question of areas of operation. Catchment areas is the term use in the Ministry of Health to refer to the geographic locations associated with the polyclinics. What is in place is more or less that obviously persons from the area of St. John will attend the David Thompson Centre along with some patients who now attend the Glebe and the St. Philip Polyclinics, and that was the thinking when the project would have been designed some years ago. I think the project would have been first conceived as early as around 1989 and would have started and stopped between 1991 and 1994. Of course, it would have suffered from a hands-off treatment for the 14 years of the Barbados Labour Party in Government, 1994 to 2008. This project came to the fore around 2008 when as a Government we would have looked at the state of affairs in St. John, we would have recognise that the need was still there to provide healthcare services at that location and the assessment of the civil engineers and architects was that the structure though severely warped was in a condition which could be rehabilitated and the redesign took place. Actually, the opportunity was also taken for the project to be significantly expanded to cover more areas which would have come to the fore during the intervening period so because of this neglect of course and the fact that this structure which would have been more or less just about the foundations which would have been

prepared and some steel and blockwork which would have been completed to about the first floor, that because this was left in that condition for so long there was obviously some extra work required in terms of the construction to bring it to what we have now.

Indeed, Sir, it is a significant architectural statement on the landscape of Barbados and I invite Barbadians to reflect on that aspect of the construction.

We have to give our artists, and I include the architects in this, an opportunity to express themselves because their designs become part of the footprint of a country and it also separates routine structures from structures of excellence or structures which speak to some significant aspect of our country's history. Mr. Chairman, with all of the criticism that may attend that structure at the Glebe we must admit that it is certainly of architectural significance, and the obvious inclusion of what would be a windmill structure as the waiting room for the polyclinic is an extremely attractive if also expensive piece of architectural work, so be that as it may.

Sir, as I said, the significant point is that we are now rolling out at St. John as was designed not only healthcare services directly. We have our Environmental Unit located at St. John, fully staffed and they would be responsible for overseeing the general living conditions throughout that area and make sure that the control of vectors which can cause serious diseases in our country, I refer especially to mosquitoes and rodents, are taken care of and that persons, both business places and householders, who may inadvertently, I would hope, been harbouring these kinds of conditions are appropriately alerted and assisted in bringing their environment back into control.

Sir, along with that we have added the feature of a Welfare Office where again it is a fully staffed Welfare Office, a Department of Social Care, where Barbadian families in the area who are in need can have their matters dealt with in the privacy and comfort of the Centre with the officer from the Ministry of Social Care and not have to make the trek to Bridgetown and Roebuck Street. This is something, of course, which I speak to very often especially in terms of the needs of the south of the island which for some time now has been without an officer for social care delivery. Persons in need of this attention from the south of the island, the area which I represent included I think...

House D19 Sequence 3

10.57 a.m.

Insert s4 prince

Insert s5 Ricky

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Mr. D. SUTHERLAND: (Seq 5)

Mr. Speaker, the Minister needs to tell the Honourable House what is the final cost of this project. I do not think that the Honourable Member for Christ Church West would be ... to tell the Honourable Chamber what is the final cost of the St. John Polyclinic project. Sir, the reason I am asking, and I am hoping we do not have to wait until the Auditor-General's next report or future report to review some of the challenges that we know occurred on this project, demobilization and remobilization more than once or twice.

Mr. Speaker, this is the same Minister, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South who comes to this Honourable Chamber and looks into the face of Honourable Member on this side and also the Honourable Member for St. Peter and criticise use heavily on the 3S Project. Mr. Chairman, I happen to know that the contractors, I think that it was ADC Builders that there was some \$33 million paid to ADC Builders who were the contractors on this project. Mr. Chairman, when we look at the Eric Holder Facility in St. Joseph that houses a magistrate court, a police station, a public library and a post office, the cost of that project is around \$17.5 million to be exact and when we look at the Grotto which has 100 per cent cost overrun, the cost of that project is some \$27.8 million. It begs me to ask the Honourable Member for Christ Church South what went wrong on this project. He need to tell the Chamber and do not let us wait until the Auditor-General publishes his next report or some report in the future, to let the public read from the Auditor-General Report what went wrong on this project because this project seemed to have had tremendous challenges. Yes, he is going to talk about the Barbados Labour Party leaving this project in the wilderness but if we recall, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South in his Estimates back in 2015 -- I read that this morning. He said he needed some \$5 million to complete the project back then, back in 2015, and it was 95 per cent completed. Sir, we recognise that at that stage the project cost some \$23 million, so I am waiting for the Honourable Member in his wrap-up to tell this Chamber the true cost of the St. John Polyclinic. Sir, we have a more fundamental issue in the health care sector in the country, and I will speak to it.

Mr. Chairman, the Barbados health care sector is somewhat at a critical cross road as I speak to you in this Chamber this morning. I would go as far as to say that the Democratic Labour Party has skillfully avoided treating to any of the pressing issues of substance and has left this Ministry in the wilderness drifting aimlessly. When I see that, Mr. Chairman,, I have the facts to support what I am saying because the reality is that over the last nine years, we have seen a significant decline in the quality of our

health care sector this was most evident because the fact is that prior to the economic crisis in the country most Barbadians sought the private services for their medical treatment or their consultation and we can attribute roughly around 55 per cent prior to the economic crisis seeking the private sector for medical treatment because the waiting time was way less and also they had privacy of attention and some 45 per cent of persons sought the public facility like the primary health care facility but what we are seeing now is that more persons are now turning to the public from the private due to the economic downturn. Sir, couple with that, we would have done our homework on this side and we would have seen that since 2007, we were spending \$12.40 in every \$100 we spent on health care and today, we are spending \$7.60 in every \$100 we spend in health care at a time when people have less disposable income and they are going to public entities. Now, Mr. Chairman, we have a serious problem. What has gone wrong? The primary health care facilities such as the polyclinic systems are broken and the Honourable Member could speak to the inefficiencies in the system. They are struggling to meet the expectation of the staff and also patients and clients. Mr. Chairman, I could give you an example. AT the Glebe polyclinic currently as we speak in this Lower Chamber only eight or nine persons are being seen daily by doctors and nurses at the Glebe Polyclinic, only eight or nine persons are allowed the see nurses or doctors on a daily basis at the Glebe Polyclinic.

Asides.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The Honourable Member is misleading this Chamber. I hate to disturb the Honourable Member as he makes his point but the Honourable Member is misleading Chamber. At the Glebe Polyclinic for the month of September alone some 1 309 persons were seen at that centre, this is significantly more than eight or nine per day. The Honourable Member does not have any fact and his message is purely anecdotal.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member, proceed.

Mr. D. SUTHERLAND: Mr. Chairman, I have taken it upon myself at the request of a constituent to journey to the Glebe Polyclinic with a constituent who spent most of the morning being told, and the Honourable Member for Christ Church South should do his homework before he speaks, being told that you cannot see a doctor because the limit of eight or nine persons would have been facilitated on that particular morning when I arrived there. I am saying to let it go on the record that there is tremendous inefficiencies in the polyclinic system. Sir, while we support the use and the role of the St. John Polyclinic and the role it will play, we do not have any difficulty with it on this side, our difficulty comes with the fundamental issue within the health care sector in the country and also with the cost

overruns or not knowing the final cost of the St. John Polyclinic.

Sequence 6

Insert s7 juliette

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Hon. D. St.E. KELLMAN: ...those services to the constituency of St. Lucy when one considers that the Honourable Member said that more people are using the polyclinics, so it is quite obvious that if more people are using the polyclinics now that the good people of St. George in his constituency do not need the one at the Glebe and that those persons that need the facilities that we can get the Minister of Health to transfer these services to him.

It is rather interesting when one considers that the Minister of Health is reporting that in September over 1 100 persons were able to go to the one in St. John. Mr. Chairman, if over 1 100 persons were able to go to the one in St. John and in George a very large parish you can only get eight or nine persons going to see the doctor, it means that we should look to put that polyclinic somewhere else. It reminds me very much of a speech I heard in here in the 90s when the Honourable Member at that time for St. Philip North said that they were in here for a supplementary to build a jetty in the constituency of St. Philip North and all of the boats are now fishing in Bridgetown and there is no likelihood that those boats would go back to St. Philip but yet still even though I advised them not to build the jetty at Skeete's Bay today the history is there, so I can only come to the conclusion that if we do not take the advice of the Honourable Member for St. George South that we would have a polyclinic in St. George doing the same thing that Skeete's Bay is doing for fishing, so I am asking the Minister of Health to make the correction and to deal with that particular thing.

The Honourable Member also said in the other matter that they need two more polyclinics to open 24 hours and I thought that based on that call that there is definitely a demand for polyclinics in Barbados and there is a misuse of the one at the Glebe, St. George based on the statistics provided by the Honourable Member for St. George South.

Mr. Chairman, it is no doubt that the Democratic Labour Party should take praise and it is no doubt that the moneys spent on the David Thompson Medical Centre is well-spent when one considers that over 1 100 patients monthly are attending there and when you do the maths that between 240 to 270 is attending at the Glebe, so when one considers the future cost of both of them, it shows that what the Honourable Member was complaining about

cannot be too much money spent on that particular polyclinic when one looks at the usage of it.

Mr. Chairman, it is quite clear that the Democratic Labour Party had foresight and that they chose the right place to build this polyclinic when one looks at the usage of it because one would have expected that this large demand would have been found in Christ Church and St. Philip and probably in St. James and more so in Bridgetown. Mr. Chairman, when you can get a constituency with the population like the one in St. John to have a polyclinic and could have such a demand, it tells you that the foresight of the Democratic Labour Party is such that people should stop criticising what they are doing and recognise that they understand fully what they are doing because when one looks at usage, this money has been well-spent in this particular part of the vineyard. I want to say, Sir, that it shows that the criticism of all of the things that we are doing is just hot air and that there is no statistical data to justify the criticism given to this party by the Honourable Members on the other side.

Mr. Chairman, I want to tell the Minister of Health that he has been proven to be correct based on the speech given by the Honourable Member for St. George South. I want to say that we need more of those speeches. The Honourable Member asked for a dialysis unit to be placed there only to hear that there is a dialysis unit there. Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate him for acknowledging that the polyclinic is so well-placed that even a dialysis unit is being placed there and is working in the interest of the people.

Mr. Chairman, it is no doubt that this Democratic Labour Party must continue to do the work it has to do. I have made the point over and over to my comrades that any good project that we have we cannot afford to leave it for the Barbados Labour Party to destroy.

Mr. Chairman, while the Honourable Member was criticising the cost of this particular project, one thing that came to my mind is how can the Honourable Member be criticising and asking for the cost to be justified when speaking about the Ministry of Health when they had something called Greenland under the Ministry of Health that up to today not one load of garbage has been placed there but yet still a polyclinic that is receiving over 1 100 patients a month the Honourable Member is heard complaining saying that we are spending too much money to provide service for poor people in this country. Mr. Chairman, what is even worse is that the Honourable Member asked how much more money is owed. The same person should go and find out if money is still owed on the road that has been associated with the transfer station that is also associated with Greenland because up to today Brathwaite Construction is still owed for the road that was built for the transfer station under the Barbados Labour Party and has not been paid.

Mr. Chairman, I want to know if people know the meaning of opportunity cost because quite obviously when one looks at the opportunity cost of Greenland and looks at the opportunity cost of the polyclinic in St. John one can only come to the conclusion that the opportunity cost is in the favour of the Democratic Labour Party building a polyclinic in St. John and that the money wasted on Greenland cannot be justified but the one spent on the polyclinics in St. John has been justified, 1 100 patients per month and the amazing thing is that they are happy.

Mr. Chairman, what I like about it is that they not only built a polyclinic but they are so interested in the people that they also put in a gym because everybody knows that once people keep fit then there might not be any need to use the other services in the polyclinic. We are not just building the polyclinic for people to come because they are ill, we are building it to ensure that they keep their bodies right and they are not ill.

Mr. Chairman, with those few words I want to say that I want to support this supplementary and that the money has been well-spent and that when one does a comparative analysis for the Glebe Polyclinic based on the statistics given by the Honourable Member for St. George South and when one does a statistic and a comparison on Greenland, two ... matters, you would see that the Democratic Labour Party was right in the foresight in building the St. John Polyclinic and that the Barbados Labour Party would have been wrong in going to Greenland.

I thank you, Sir.

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

Miss S. J. O. BRADSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I enter this debate in respect of a Resolution for a supplemental for moneys to be allocated to pay the contractors in relation to the St. John Polyclinic. I listened attentively to the Honourable Member for Christ Church South in his explanation. It is not the first time we have come here hearing an explanation similar to this, but repeatedly we have heard that... We are here on now four occasions asking for additional sums of money to pay the contractor in relation to the St. John Polyclinic. I believe the Honourable Member for St. George South was correct in asking the Honourable Minister to indicate to this Chamber what is the true cost...

House D19 Sequence 8

11.46 a.m.

Insert s9 prince

Insert s10 ricky

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: (Seq 11)

Mr. Chairman, in difficult economic times, stressful economic times I would say, largely influenced by a reluctance... I want to say this for the public record because we have been dancing around Barbados as it relates to the reasons for our current economic challenges without facing the facts as to why we are here.

Asides.

Hon. S.A. LASHLEY: The IMF reports are there for us to see. The IMF calls it growth that was not sustainable, artificial growth. Sir, what we have had in difficult economic times is a Government being very focus on how we could create a better health care system in Barbados, that is the story behind St. John Polyclinic. While as we move through various iterations of the project, and we have come here, we have not hidden anything. We have come and said to the House and to the country that there has been some additional cost. We have said that and that is why you have a supplementary. In fact, in this House, we are called upon to scrutinize increase costs brought by the Government but I think we do the taxpayers of Barbados disservice when Estimates come in here and we try to come up with a whole set of negativity without looking at the kind of purposeful development that we have had in relation to the St. John Polyclinic.

Mr. Chairman, what we have is a very enhanced facility. The facility is not only a polyclinic. Mr. Chairman, we have a library, we have gym and we have also an office for Constituency Council and we have enhanced

medial services. Sir, I am saying that when you look at the overall cost of removing some of the pressure on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, this increased costs will be sunk in relation to the overall cost that we would have to utilise in relation to running a Queen Elizabeth Hospital without having and enhanced polyclinics and I would like to hear the member of the Opposition on that. Sir, they are so narrow in their thinking that they want to make the country believe... We have to look at the overall cost. Sir, health care is not to be seen within a vacuum and my contention in this debate is simply that. You have had a development of decentralizing health care and in my view it removes the pressure significantly from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and this will translate to overall better planning of our health care services. I believe that when you look at it, it will also help to reduce our overall cost of managing health care in Barbados. Sir, I am saying that and when the figures are brought, you will see that is the overall case. Let us look at that. Sir, no amount of 'mamaguising' from the Opposition's members can remove that reality.

Mr. Chairman, I will come back again in this debate if necessary because I believe that if we want to discuss overall health care in Barbados, let us do that because the record of the Barbados Labour Party is not very pretty in that regard. Mr. Chairman, once we are able to complete the enhancement of our overall polyclinic network in Barbados, what you would see now is Barbados being prepared for what it should have been prepared for long time ago, that is, providing medical care services for the earning of foreign exchange in Barbados. We have to get to that stage where we can provide medical care to persons who want to have it at reasonable cost who would be bringing foreign exchange into Barbados. I am saying that it has to start with the polyclinics where we can provide those services to persons who want to come to Barbados and exchange good quality health care for very much need foreign exchange.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you. I certainly would be re-entering this debate if necessary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Thomas.

Miss C. Y. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I sat and I listened intently. I am happy for the people of St. John that they have got a facility that they can go to if the need to. Of course, we have heard of the people of St. Philip and the adjoining communities having access. I am not going to be complaining about that but I want, Mr. Chairman, to indicate that on March 21, 2014, in the Estimates that the Honourable Minister of Health, the Honourable Member for Christ Church South told this Honourable Chamber and the Hansard would carry it, that the overall cost of the St. John Polyclinic would be \$24 301 889. The Honourable Member spoke about the windows and doors that are in

place and the equipment that is being stored at the Ministry of Health to the tune of \$703 000 and so on and so forth. Sir, that is my not, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that on a tangential note that the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic, what used to be the Warrens Polyclinic, and then I will get back to the rest of what is happening to show the spiraling impact, has been developed.... I am not going to go to the steel in their days when it was to be crematorium built under the Democratic Labour Party that the Barbados Labour Party came and turned it into a polyclinic because we had the vision to make sure that health facilities were brought to the people and there after the Barbados Labour Party opened quite a large number of polyclinics across the length and breath of Barbados and, at the end of the day, who are they for? They are for Barbadians and those visitors among us, so I am not quibbling over that because health care for Barbadians and others is extremely critical. I want to say that because of the large population that the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic has to service residents who go there are sometimes put back for three or four months before they can get an appointment. I am not going to speak to an individual there who tell residents sometimes to go back and wait until tomorrow to get medical care. I will speak to that in another forum. I know that if you are not feeling well and you go to a polyclinic or health institution you expect at least some kind of care or some kind of transfer or referral to another department so you can be facilitated. The large population St. Philip, St. Andrew, sections of Bibby's Lane and sections of St. Michael, St. Joseph and so they are the ones that go to the Warrens Polyclinic. It is extremely heavily used.

Mr. Chairman, do you know there are tremendous challenges with persons who want to get dental care. Sometimes I understand there are only seven or eight people per day who could be facilitated and persons have toothache and so on and, Sir, they are poor people, that is the point, who are going to have these services to be able to get relief. Sir, many people do not have money to pay a dentist now because of the economic situation that I am not going to dwell on too much. I think that dental department there needs a lot of upgrades to facilitate not only adults but school children as well.

Mr. Chairman, the other challenge I have is that the Welfare Department there was closed almost six months now. The people of St. Thomas and the adjoining communities who are in the catchment of the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic have to leave their homes in the bosom of the country and trek to Bridgetown in Roebuck Street to be able to see a welfare officer and then when they get there, they have to wait so long...

Sequence 11

Insert s12 juliette

Insert s13 jackie

Insert s14 prince

insert s15 ricky

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Mr. D. MARSHALL: (Seq 16)

Mr. Chairman, this particular administration has allowed to fall into a state of almost total dereliction while they find \$34 million or \$33 million to spend at a polyclinics in St. John. Sir, I am very serious.

Mr. Chairman, the clinic in Horse Hill is perhaps the Government most poorly ran institution. We have in my constituency individuals who sometimes walk, catch bus, get lifts to Horse Hill for medical attention in relation to such things as diabetes and asthma and half of the time this Government has been in power since 2008 and it is time, Mr. Chairman, that they begin to accept the responsibility for the state of affairs in the country, so to go back to who was where and what in 2005 and 1915 is nothing more than an exercise is burying the Democratic Labour Party collective heads in the sand. They can no longer be allowed to get away with saying in this Chamber or elsewhere what the Barbados Labour Party did or did not do because their hands have been on the wheels of this particular State since 2008. I do not know who those asides are intended to satisfy but they do not satisfy me and I am sure they will not satisfy my constituents are suffering while a monument to the reckless memory of a Democratic Labour Party Prime Minister is being built in St. John because, Mr. Chairman, while \$33 million is being spent in St. John, I have a clinic in Horse Hill, half of the time the doctor does not show up and nobody is told a word or a reason why. Sir, your constituency is far smaller than mine but for somebody to get on a bus from down in the depths of Bathsheba and come up Horse Hill to get medical attention at the clinic to be told that the doctor is not coming today to come back next week.

Mr. Chairman, my constituents are not going to buy fish, rice or beef that they can easily scurry off to another shop. They are going for critical medical care and if the Honourable Member for Christ Church South is pleased as punch that this is happening under his watch then that tells me how he really feels about the people of Barbados because as far as I know, Josephines are Bajans too.

Mr. Chairman, most of the time there is no maid at the clinic in Horse Hill and so an institution that is intended to provide health care for individuals is frequently found to be in a state of uncleanness. Now, Sir, what kind of health

institution is that. Mr. Chairman, when the rain falls there is not even a canopy. I heard the The Honourable Member for St. Thomas speak about a canopy but there is none at the clinic. The dispensary hardly has medication. They close, just like the clinic without notice.

Mr. Chairman, sometimes we have to ask ourselves whether Government and governance is not about a balancing act because it cannot benefit a country as a whole for some of its citizens to have roads while the rest have none, for some of its citizens to have the benefit of high end dialysis, gym and all kinds of things at a facility in St. John while the people in Horse Hill are I have heard it said that the worse person to be is a child in a candy store but your jaws are wide shut. In order words, everything thing is there but you cannot benefit from it. There is also that saying, water, water every where but not a drop to drink, so this wonderful edifice is going up in Gall Hill and this administration has been saying that the people in Horse Hill can go there but how will they get there, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, as the crow flies, Gall Hill may be one mile and a half from Horse Hill but we have no transportation route to get us there, so a sick individual must leave Bathsheba, go into Bridgetown and then get a bus from Bridgetown all the way up to Gall Hill in order to get treatment. Mr. Chairman, that could hardly be fair in today's society. Sir, our problem is this. We have a Government that is intent on building these monuments.

Mr. Chairman, the Tamarind Hall Facility has police station, it has a magistrate court, it has post office and it has a public library. It costs the Barbados Labour Party \$17.5 million under a BOLT partnership, \$17.5 million for four facilities. This clinic is hustling hard to \$34 million and by the time the Honourable Member for St. John gets the equipment for the gym she wants, it might be at \$35 million but the people of Horse Hill are to get no benefit from Government resources. Sir, as far as I am concerned that is a skewed way of dealing with Government resources. Sir, if the Democratic Labour Party administration wants to say they are not doing anything for the people of St. Joseph, it should come out and say so but do not tell us that you are building this fine edifice in St. John and it is going to benefit us, it will not because we cannot get there and, Sir, I am not talking about the 80 Transport Board buses on the route today because on the best of days you still cannot get a bus to the polyclinic.

Mr. Chairman, all that the average Barbadian needs to ask for is fairness in the distribution of Government resources and fairness when it comes to treating the average person who ill. Sir, a society is judge not by those among us who are the wealthiest, better provision or best taken care of, a society is always judged based on those at the bottom and, Sir, I say that this treatment of the people in St. Joseph is disgrace as far as the clinic is concerned

and a mere fraction of the resources that are devoted to the David Thompson monument in St. John, had it been applied to a place like St. Joseph to take care of just a few fixes to the clinic in Horse Hill and perhaps my constituents might not have had any reason to feel resentful about the St. John expenditure but, Sir, it is a disparity in how our citizens are treated and regrettably, Sir, it is a disparity that comes from within the bosom of this Government and it has to stop.

Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to you.

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

Hon. D. INNISS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to join this debate coming right on the heels of the Member of Parliament for St. Joseph who has made a passionate plea. It is the first time I have heard him plea like this in nine and a half years in Parliament for his constituents in St. Joseph for the Government to spend resources, resources that he constantly claimed the Government never has in upgrading a polyclinic in Horse Hill, St. Joseph to suit his clinic. I believe that every Member of Parliament has a right to advocate for what they determine to be the best for their constituents but they must also realise that there is a bigger picture. First to state that the David Thompson facility is a monument is perhaps to run away from the norm or a basic.....

Sequence 16

Insert s17 juliette

Insert s18 jackie

Insert s19 prince

Insert s20 ricky

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

HEAD 16

MINISTRY OF CIVIL SERVICE - \$201 005.00

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South.

Hon. F.J. STUART: Mr. Chairman, this supplementary calls for the sum of \$201 005 to supplement the Estimates is required to meet additional cost associated with the payment of salaries, acting and entertainment and travelling allowances. The need for this money arose as a result of payment of officers and substitutes who are replacing persons acting outside of the Ministry of Civil Service. Mr. Chairman, in other circumstances I would

have spent some time discussing the Public Service in relation to all of this and particularly the Ministry of Civil Service, having regard to the fact that some modernisation initiatives are taking place in the Ministry of Civil Service and particularly in the Personnel Administration Department but another opportunity will arise to allow me to do that but in the present circumstances I should just like to move that Head 16 stand part.

Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 16 stand part was put to the House and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F.J. STUART, Mr. Chairman reported to Her Honour the DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of one Money Resolution in Committee of Supply and Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE, seconded by Hon. F.J. STUART, the Resolution was read a first, second and third time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. D. E. BOYCE: Madam Deputy Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government Business for today. I beg to move that this House be adjourned until Friday, October 20, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

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

The question that the House be adjourned until Friday, October 20, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

Sequence 21

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BRADSHAW, Miss S. J. O. (St. Michael South East)
FORDE, Miss C. Y. (St. Thomas)
INNIS, Hon. D. (St. James South)
KELLMAN, Hon. D. St.E. (St. Lucy)
LASHLEY, Hon. S.A. (Christ Church West Central)
LOWE, Hon. Dr. D. (Christ Church East)
MARSHALL, Mr. D. (St. Joseph)
STUART, Hon. F.J. (St. Michael South)
SUTHERLAND, Mr. D. (St. George South)
SYMMONDS, Mr. K. D. (St. James Central)

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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. Missing takes, throughout. The source has placeholders where reporters' takes were to be inserted ('Insert s2 juliette', 'Insert s4 prince', 'Insert s5 Ricky', 'Insert s7 juliette', 'Insert s9 prince', 'Insert s10 ricky', 'Insert s12 juliette' to 'insert s15 ricky', and 'Insert s17 juliette' to 'Insert s20 ricky'). About fifteen takes are missing and are printed as placeholders, as in the source. Please supply them.

Q3. After the obituary notice (Insert s2). Because of the first gap the record goes from the Prime Minister's notice of the death of Sir Clifford Husbands straight into Committee of Supply, part-way through an exchange between Mr. K. D. Symmonds and the Chairman. The Order number, the title of the Supplementary Resolution, the going into Committee, the Head and amount for the St. John Polyclinic and the start of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce's speech are not in the source. The vote on that Head is also missing.

Q4. Committee of Supply, Mr. D. Sutherland. A point of order by Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, the Chairman's ruling and the next part of Mr. D. Sutherland's speech are typed as italic procedural lines ('Hon. J.D.E. BOYCE Mr. Speaker, on a point of order...'). Printed as in the source. Several speeches also begin with the marker '(Seq 5)', '(Seq 11)' or '(Seq 16)'.

Q5. Take-slips. Several take-slips read 'Tuesday, October 10, 2017' instead of October 17. Printed as in the source.

Q6. Papers. The Financial Services Commission financial statements are listed as 'for the year ended March 31, 2106 and ended Report 2015/2016'. Printed as in the source.

Q7. First Reading of Bills. No seconder is recorded for the first reading of the Criminal Records Rehabilitation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill, 2017. Printed as in the source.

Q8. Headings. Times in brackets are typed into the headings ('PAPERS (5:00)', 'FIRST READING OF

BILLS (6:27)', 'CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES (7:06)'). Printed as in the source.

DEBATE SUMMARY

(Editorial summary — not part of the record.)

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 17th October, 2017, with Mr. Speaker in the Chair; prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Ivan Harewood, and the Minutes of Tuesday, October 3, 2017 were confirmed. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce laid, for the Minister of Finance, the Duties, Taxes and Other Payment Exemption University of the West Indies Capstone Student Film Order, 2017 and the financial statements of the Financial Services Commission, and for the Minister of Agriculture the 23rd Annual Report and Accounts of the Barbados Agriculture Management Company Limited. Hon. Dr. D. Lowe laid a route optimisation study on solid waste collection. The Criminal Records Rehabilitation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was read a first time.

The Prime Minister, Hon. F. J. Stuart, asked the House to take formal notice of the death on the 11th of the month of the former Governor-General, Sir Clifford Straughn Husbands, the longest-serving Governor-General of Barbados, and announced a State Funeral at St. Lucy's Parish Church on Friday, November 3, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

The record then continues in Committee of Supply on a Supplementary Resolution for moneys to pay the contractors on the St. John Polyclinic. Hon. J. D. E. Boyce said that the Ministry of Finance had earlier been able to guarantee only \$2.5 million of a submission of about \$4.3 million or \$4.4 million. He said the Polyclinic saw some 1 100 patients a month and housed an Environmental Unit and a Welfare Office, and he called it a significant architectural statement. Mr. D. Sutherland asked for the project's final cost, said some \$33 million had been paid to ADC Builders, and claimed that only eight or nine patients a day were seen at the Glebe Polyclinic; on a point of order the Minister said 1 309 persons had been seen there in September.

Hon. D. St.E. Kellman supported the Supplementary, comparing the cost of the Polyclinic with the Greenland project, and Miss S. J. O. Bradshaw said this was not the first time the House had heard such an explanation. Hon. S. A. Lashley said the IMF had called the earlier growth unsustainable and described the facility's library, gym and constituency council office. Miss C. Y. Forde raised dental care and the closure of the Welfare Department at the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic. Mr. D. Marshall contrasted the

\$33 million or \$34 million spent at St. John with the condition of the Horse Hill clinic, and said Tamarind Hall's four facilities had cost \$17.5 million under a BOLT partnership. Hon. D. Inniss replied; the rest of the debate on this Head is not in the record.

Under Head 16, Ministry of Civil Service, the Prime Minister moved \$201 005 for salaries, acting and

entertainment and travelling allowances, and the Head was agreed. The Chairman reported the Money Resolution to the Deputy Speaker, and the Resolution was read a first, second and third time and agreed to. On the motion of Hon. J. D. E. Boyce, seconded by Hon. F. J. Stuart, the House was adjourned until Friday, October 20 at 10.00 a.m.