
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 - 81

THE SENATE

Wednesday, 16th April, 1980.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings, on Wednesday the 16th April, 1980, at 2.40 p.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir ARNOTT CATO, M.B., ChB., LL.D., (President); His Honour Senator the Rev. G. ANDREW HATCH, M.A., (Deputy President); Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, B. A., LL.B., (Minister of Information) (Leader of the Senate); Senator O'BRIEN TROTMAN, (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office); Senator Sir M. E. COX; Senator H. F. G. ROCHEFORD, B.A.; Senator K. E. HINDS; Senator Miss O. A. LYNCH, B.A., Dip. Ed.; Senator K. R. HEWITT, B.Sc., C.A.; Senator Mrs. E. M. LYNCH, B.A.; Senator Miss M. I. St.C. BLACKMAN; Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM; Senator D. H. G. HUNTE; Senator J. A. CONNELL, LL.B., Senator the Hon. D. G. BLACKMAN, (Minister of Labour and Community Services) and Senator R. E. BRATHWAITE.

ABSENT

Senators R. FIELD; A. TRUSS; H. R. LINTON; C. I. E. DEANE; and J. D. S. MACKENZIE.

PAPERS LAID

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg leave to lay the following:

1. Report and Statement of Accounts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados for the year 1978.

2. The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parks and Beaches Commission for the year 1976-77.
3. The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parks and Beaches Commission for the year 1977-78.
4. Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 29th February 1980.
5. The Economic Report 1979.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The First Order of the day was called - to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1980.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, what I wish to ask is that Order No. 2 be taken as the first order of the day. Unfortunately I have an inescapable commitment. I am going to be handling that Order and just for a short moment it requires my leaving the Chamber and returning. Order No. 1 will be the order following that. I am also going to ask permission of the Honourable Senate to deal with Orders Nos. 3 and 4 this afternoon.

In relation to Orders Nos. 3 and 4, Mr. President, the point is that if Members feel that we can proceed with them this afternoon if they have had time enough to study them, that is the circumstance in which we will ask permission to deal with them; so it is not a matter of trying to push anything through. In relation to Order No. 1, Senator the Hon. O'Brien Trotman is going to handle that item, and when we deal with Nos. 3 and 4 Senator the Hon. Dr. Blackman will be handling them.

Mr. PRESIDENT: For the moment I think we can leave the question of whether we will deal with Orders

Nos. 3 and 4, but when they arise we will test the feeling of the Senate as to whether they are willing to proceed with them in all their stages today. For the moment if there is no objection, Order No. 2 will be taken as Order No. 1 and that will be followed by what is on the Order Paper as Order No. 1. If there is no objection, Order No. 2.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GUARANTEE OF
REPAYMENT OF LOAN BY LIAT (1974)
LTD. TO CARIBBEAN DEVELOP-
MENT BANK**

Order No. 2 was called — to move the passing of a Resolution to approve of a guarantee to the Caribbean Development Bank for the repayment of a portion of a loan made by the Bank to LIAT (1974) Ltd.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I think that Members are fully aware that the policy of Government in regard to Civil Aviation may well have as a focus arrangements relating to international traffic.

But it is essential not only from the point of view of the development of the visitor industry from abroad but particularly because of the development of the visitor industry within the Caribbean and also because of the kind of contact which those of us who talk about a Caribbean community foster by travel. It is necessary therefore for a policy on civil Aviation to take account of arrangements for travel within the Caribbean area, and so while Government is busy negotiating for international carriers to come here it is also busy ensuring that the regional air services are properly developed. LIAT is of course a household word in the Caribbean. It is still a modest airline and successive governments of Barbados have done whatever they could in the interest of the continued development of that airline. It is therefore not a matter of surprise to us that when the airline needs assistance the Governments who are the shareholders should agree to guarantee a loan for the purchase of aircraft and that is what this Resolution is about because, as you know, Government's guarantee would not be valid unless it had parliamentary approval.

In May, 1978 the Board of Directors of LIAT 1974 concluded that in the interest of achieving financial viability the company had to replace aircrafts over a period of time and on a fast basis because of the age and condition of existing stock and the consequent high maintenance costs which this is incurring. Accordingly, the Board of Directors concluded a hire purchase agreement in December, 1978 for the purchase of an HS-748 and this is the aircraft they have decided they would continue to use. All of the shareholding Governments, as well as the Caribbean Development Bank approved of the entry into that hire purchase agreement; it was an agreement entered into on an

interim basis only, as a means of acquiring new plant for the peak winter season, on the understanding that a special loan from the United Kingdom through the Caribbean Development Bank would become available. The terms of the CDB loan are as follows: an amount not exceeding \$2.6 million from a United Kingdom Trust Fund administered by CDB and a further amount not exceeding the equivalent of US\$75,000 to be made from the resources of CDB. The loan is repayable in 40 semi-annual instalments on June 15 and December 15 each year commencing June 15, 1984 and terminating on December 15, 2003. Interest will be at the rate of 5% per annum and each member government of LIAT — this is a condition as regards security of the loan — shall guarantee the repayment of an amount equivalent to such portion of one-half of the loan as such member's equity in LIAT bears to the issued share capital and payment of interest on such portion. The amount which Barbados would need to guarantee is £268,966 plus US\$700,760. The loan would enable LIAT to get out of the onerous financial terms of the hire purchase agreement and is considered crucial to the viability and survival of the airline. What we are therefore asking is that the Senate agree to the Government of Barbados guaranteeing its portion of that loan that is reflected in its equity holdings. It is an amount which roughly translated would be of the order of 1.1 or 1.2 million dollars.

I beg to move that the Senate concur in this Resolution.

SENATOR G. ROCHEFORD: Mr. President, I would like to give praise to many aspects of LIAT's operation. The fact is that without LIAT much of the inter-Island communications could not exist. But I would also like to comment on some of the inefficiencies which are evident in the operations of LIAT throughout this area.

I have the fortunate or unfortunate responsibility of doing a lot of travelling on LIAT and in some of LIAT's offices it is amazing to see the inefficiency and slackness that occurs, and I am pretty sure that a great part of the lack of profitability of the airline is due in no small measure to the fact that the attitude of some of LIAT's personnel makes the airline's service a joke. I would like to think the management and administration of the airline would take a serious look at the operations in some of these offices in the various islands and do something in upgrading the standard of service which this airline gives to the public. If any of you have cause to travel to the islands I am sure you will be appalled at what goes on. Sometimes you are told that the aircraft is full, so they put you on stand by; and then you find that the aircraft is half-empty. I think that the management of the airline should look

at the airline's operation and try to upgrade the efficiency of the employees.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, the points made by Senator Rocheford were carefully noted, Sir.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

**CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL)
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER, 1980**

Item No. 1 was called — to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1980.

SENATOR O'BRIEN TROTMAN: Mr. President, the Order which we are reviewing this afternoon seeks to increase the number of persons serving in the Royal Barbados Police Force by some 69 bodies. In addition, it also seeks to upgrade the entire establishment of the Police Force including the abolition of the rank of Corporal to facilitate the upgrading.

At present, Sir, supporting the Commissioner of Police in the administration of the Police Force there is one Deputy Commissioner, two Assistants and two Superintendents and it is considered especially in the higher ranks in the Service that there is an immediate need for strengthening of the Administration and to that effect there is a proposal to have two Assistant Commissioners of Police added to the present establishment, one is in the present Order and one is proposed for next year.

Two Senior Superintendents will be established, one this afternoon and one sometime in the future, and we hope that in this way the Police will have more leadership and be better guided as law enforcement bodies in this country.

In addition to the 69 bodies that we are establishing this afternoon, we should note the fact that since the last Establishment Order dealing with the Police Force was passed, the question of the Writ Server has been taken from the Police although the post has remained and gone back to the Police Department so that the establishment of the Court Processing Office would strengthen the Police Department by some 52 bodies and in a few days time when the Immigration Department physically moves from Coleridge Street, there will be a further strengthening of the Police Department since those posts will now become vacant to the Policemen, some 50 posts or thereabouts so that there is, in fact, some strengthening of the Police Force in all ranks.

This has been brought about mainly because of the need to reconcile the Police Department into a 40-hour

five day week which came into effect in the Public Service in Barbados in 1973 or thereabouts. Since then, the Police have been working for longer hours than the rest of the Public Service and it is considered necessary to decrease the number of hours which the Policemen, work, Sir, even though, as I understand it, it would not be 40 hours per week.

It is considered that because of the growth of Tourism that some increase in crime will occur because there are more people who seem to have the methods of attracting attention to themselves because of the apparent affluence and the criminal elements that are attracted to the tourist and we are having some minor increase in crime around the Coast where tourists crowd the beaches, so that there will be a need for more Police patrol. There will be a need for more investigations to be done.

In addition to this, Sir, we have to note the fact that there is some increase in traffic and traffic offences, as a result, have been going up and there is need for more Policemen to supervise and control the traffic in this country.

As a result of the Order, Sir, there will be some allowances paid to the senior ranks of the Police Department to bring them in line with the Senior Officers in the Public Service, housing allowances, entertainment allowances and so on.

I beg to move that the Senate do now concur in the Resolution.

SENATOR ADEL LYNCH: Mr. President, I welcome any effort that is made to make the working opportunities and the working situations better for people and this measure is one of those but my main reason for speaking at all is to welcome or to say how pleased I am to see the disappearance of this post of Corporal.

I have been a bit puzzled at times to know exactly what the rank was there for. I have watched a number of people who are Corporals. I have a number of friends who have been made Corporals but it seems to me that it ought to have been a stepping stone to the rank of Sergeant. Indeed the Dictionary says that it is a non-commissioned officer who is just below the rank of Sergeant.

I have got the distinctive impression that sometimes people of real worth who have been doing a job which is unconceptually valuable have been pushed into this rank of Corporal and have been allowed to remain there so that the administration, the powers that be, can say, well, we have not refused to promote those persons. At the same time, many of those people are then left to languish in the limbo of Corporal-dom, as I would dare to call it.

I hope that these people who have been so treated, I hope that it is not deliberate, will see this opportunity as one chance for them to get ahead but that they will henceforth be aware and remember that it seems nowadays that the price of promotion is perpetual pushing.

This is not the only category in which we find workers nowadays who seem to be just left there. There are other areas which I would not mention at this moment but I am sure that these people who deserve, most of them, to have been promoted long before they are, by default, will do their best and many of them have been the sort of quiet contributors.

There are those people who are quietly efficient and there are others who catch the headlines for every little thing they do and I hope that this can be seen as a reward for some of those who have not been able to push ahead and make everything that they have done seem so very obvious.

We too often forget those persons on whom we can rely. We only realise the value of service of those people when they are not there and then we find out that what they did, without making a fuss, was really something we needed to have done. Thank you.

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: Mr. President, I welcome the increase which the introducer of the Resolution eluded to, that the Police Force will be increased by some 69 persons.

I cannot agree however, with the last Senator about the abolition entirely of the ranks of Corporal because I am at a little bit of a loss to find out if all the Corporals that they have now are going to be made Sergeants lock, stock and barrel, and whether the numbers which they have now will become Sergeants by a given date. I thought that the rank of Corporal was indeed a stepping stone from the rank of Constable before you move up to Sergeant and I believe that you are removing the incentive to the 680 Constables in the Force to make that step forward before they come to the full rank of Sergeant. They are increasing the Assistant Commissioner by one now, but I notice that within the last two weeks or so, Government has decided to opt for doing things in 1980 and 1981 and then the following year, they are doing two things at a time.

We are having one Assistant Commissioner this evening by this Order and a Senior Superintendent by this Order. There is no doubt that the administration in the Police Force is in need of strengthening. I believe that the Government should have a real serious look at this again and look at the question of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents and see, if in that area, you could have created more posts which would help to strengthen the supervisory management of the Force. I

believe that the Police Force has done a lot to preserve Law and Order in the country. I said this during the Debate on the Estimates. I am sorry that the Hon. Leader of the Senate is not in his place because when he replied during that Debate, he spoke with such venom when he came to the end of that Debate, particularly relating to one aspect, which I should have to mention and this was in connection with the Pele incident. I have never seen the Hon. Leader of the Senate in here, during the time that I was in here, in the kind of mood that he was in that afternoon. I do not know if that is why he asked Senator Trotman to deal with that matter this evening so that he would not get back in that same mood.

We all know that the Force has taken quite a licking recently. I wonder why the Government is hushing up the matters relating to the Force and why the Interim Report which the Malone Commission submitted, and which the Hon. Leader of the Senate indicated to us on the last occasion contained certain recommendations for disciplinary measures and things of that sort and for Court Proceedings against certain people — I cannot understand why the Government would not take the people of this country into their confidence and publish the Interim Report once and for all and stop a lot of the rumours that are going on in this country.

Rumour has it, Mr. President, that instructions have been issued to the Immigration Department at the Grantley Adams International Airport that certain policemen who have been involved in the Pele matters are not to leave this country and I have reason to believe that it is true. I understand that passports have been seized. I have not been able to get clarification on that, but there does appear to be some truth in the suggestions which we are hearing that certain policemen are not supposed to leave this country because of the Pele investigation and the Immigration Authorities at the Airport have a list, I understand, with the names of those officers who are not to leave. When we get those kinds of rumours which seem to be emanating in this country, then, the public will have less confidence in the Police Force.

There is a Sergeant who featured in the Police investigation, you took him from in the C.I.D. Section, you put him in the Traffic Division I understand, in District A and you tell him he is not to answer any calls, he is not to come into contact with the public and he is supposed to do file work. Mr. President, this kind of attitude of trying to hide people does not make sense. I think that we must accept and we must understand that the Force has had its licking. We would not like it to go back through that stage and the sooner the Government decides not to hide anything which Commissioner Malone may have recommended, but to publish the Report of the Malone Commission, so that people in the country, who have already formed

conclusions Mr. President — because the sittings of the Commission were public — they have already formed their conclusions and more and more rumours are going about the country, as far as this thing is concerned.

Senator Lynch talked about upgrading working conditions. There is nothing in this Sir, nothing in the upgrading of working conditions as such for the Police Force. I believe that Senator the Hon. Don Blackman, during his address in the Estimates Debate, spoke, according to the reports, about a new uniform for the Police Force and things of the sort. All of these things are good, we have no objection, but I believe the current uniform is serving them well. When you look at some of the young officers of the Force, they would wish that the Government kept the uniforms for a little longer and improve the living conditions at the various Police Stations before they bring the uniforms. The conditions inside the stations are such that they would like something done in there and they point to Hastings, which they tell me has an independent cubicle so that each policeman has his own little den. They would like that kind of improvement made as far as conditions are concerned. The uniforms could come later, but the Government must set its priorities and if the priorities of the Government are that we will have new uniforms before we get an upgrade in the living conditions, well, so be it.

There is also another problem, Mr. President, and now that we are dealing with Police, we might as well deal with it. Sometime ago, we read in the paper in this country where a young policeman reported that his kit was broken, money was stolen and things of that sort. This seems to be becoming rampant in the Police Force nowadays. Since the problems have surfaced, we might as well let them surface. If you get reports, and I understand there are many of them daily — I understand that many of the Officers are not prepared to give a statement, so they let it drop by the wayside — where policemen, when they put down their kits and things like that, they go back and find that money has been removed. Certainly, I do not think that the public has any access to the barracks and so on.

The question that we must ask is, who is the culprit and whether these people, the calibre of persons that we are attracting in the Police Force, are the right type of people. I believe a time was, when you believed that the Police Force was looking for rough people, but I do not believe that that is necessary now.

The Police has a Debating Society. I think the Ayatollah had started this, I believe that he is overseas now.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Who is the Ayatollah?

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: I beg your pardon. Sorry Sir, I cannot read what I have written here.

This Debating Society was started some time ago by a Senior Member of the Police Force and he thought that the opportunity should have been taken to bring the public more closely to the Police Force. We have not heard much more of this Society in recent times. I speak in this way because I think that it is about time the Public Relations arm of the Police Force do a lot more than they are doing now, in order to get the public fairly educated and understand what happens, as far as the Police is concerned.

One of the other problems too is that we are creating a situation where we are moving people from Corporals up to Sergeant. I have no objection, Mr. President. The fellows will get a little more money to take home and things of that sort, but there is a thing called promotion, and I wonder whether consideration has been given to whether all of those persons whom we might move lock, stock and barrel to the rank of sergeant are really the type of material, because in all situations you may find that somebody may be promoted today and then somebody else comes from lower down the rank and is promoted over and above the person which in my opinion in some instances is quite legitimate, because you do not find everybody accepting responsibility in the same way, and I believe that when people show that they have the aptitude to do a job that they should be given that opportunity to go ahead and do their work.

I think that more training is needed in the Police Force and the relationship between many of the senior officers and some of the constables leaves a lot to be desired in the Force. It seems, Mr. President, that when certain people move away and put on some khaki and things like that that they adopt a different attitude to the youngsters that they left in the Force, and I believe that the attitude of a lot of our senior officers would have to change considerably, change drastically if the young members of the Force are really to stay and to make some kind of effort at providing us with the kind of Police Force that we had years ago in this country, a Police Force that we were all proud of.

I welcome the increase in numbers because I think it is important. The question of the eight hour day which I understand is due to come about is another one which I gather is a difficult one to implement because of the numbers that you have in the Force. When the forty hour week was introduced naturally something had to be done to bring the Police Force in line and two days were granted to the policemen off, and I gather that that two days which were granted, perhaps we can look back and make some kind of corrective measures, but it has put

more pressure, as I understand it, on the Police Force, and sometimes when you get a call that is one of the reasons why you find that the responses from the police stations are so slow, because they do not have enough people who could police these reports.

Mr. President, it is a *fait accompli*, the Government has already decided to abolish the rank of corporal. I believe however that in time to come if you look at it, they will find that it is not the best decision, that they should look at the point of Station Sergeant up, Station Sergeant, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent, and I believe that within those three areas you should have been able to find enough people there that you could make your adjustments, but I personally feel that the rank of corporal should remain because it gives the young fellows, 680 of them, an opportunity to step one step forward before they move right up to the rank of sergeant.

SENATOR THE HON. D. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I had not intended to rise to speak on this Resolution which is a relatively non-controversial one, but in view of the fact that false attributions were made to me by Senator Hunte with respect to a speech which when made, as I recall, he admits he was absent, it is necessary for me to clear up the record.

We all know, Mr. President, as I admitted on that occasion that Senator Hunte is one of the most ingenious propagandist in this Senate, and we saw a brilliant demonstration again this afternoon when he took a statement allegedly made in a newspaper about a report of my speech, a report which I did not read, Mr. President, and then proceeded to construct an argument which implied that I argued that the Government was according priority to police uniforms in the restructuring.....

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: On a point of order, I certainly in my speech did not say that he was doing that. I said the Government must set their priorities and if their priorities are uniforms first and not living conditions, that is okay; but I did not say that Senator Blackman said that the Government was giving the uniforms priority treatment, and now according to what I read, new uniforms and an eight hour day were supposed to be introduced; three shifts per day. This is what I read in the newspaper. I did not say that he indicated that this was so; what I said was that I understand that new uniforms are coming and the eight hour day, but the youngsters would prefer the living conditions to be upgraded first. That is what I said.

SENATOR THE HON. D. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I was at pains to characterize my friend Senator Hunte as an ingenious propagandist, because if he had not interrupted, I would have made the point, Mr. President, that he had already constructed a number of escape

routes, one of which is that he was not present at the time of my speech, and secondly that he had read it from a newspaper report. (Asides) If the member wants to address you, Sir, I would give way.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish members would either address the Chair or not speak at all.

SENATOR THE HON. D. BLACKMAN: The fact of the matter is, Mr. President, that I made the point that the Police Force of Barbados like a multiplicity of sectors of the labour force in this country has been sadly neglected and the pace of development taking place in this country with such modernisation as it is called, that unforeseen needs of training arose not only in the Police Force but in the entire public service and many other areas within the private sector itself. And I went on to make the point that the absence of training particularly within the area of criminal investigation had led to some serious problems which resulted in the damaged credibility of the Police Force, and that the Government was according the utmost priority to beefing up the training programmes for persons within the Barbados Police Force. I then went on to state, Mr. President, that working conditions generally of the constabulary left much to be desired and among these working conditions were protracted working hours.

The honourable Senator said that he saw nothing with respect to working conditions in the proposed Resolution and that uniforms did not constitute working conditions. I recall the Introducer of this legislation specifically saying that the increase in staff would lead to a reduction in the number of hours now worked by members of the Police Force. Again I said, Mr. President, that the buildings themselves in which police officers had to spend a lot of time were to be renovated, new beds were to replace the old ones — some of these beds are not fit for human beings to lie in, and the general ambience in which a policeman functions would be upgraded. These are the things I said, Mr. President, and I find it difficult to see how any newspaper Reporter listening to what I said could have reported me as saying that the Government is according priority to changing police uniforms, and I think it is necessary for me to set the records straight and not to allow any snide, sly criticisms to go on to create false impressions in the minds of listeners. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: Sir, I wish merely to ask a question of the appropriate Minister. There is a persistent rumour that the Government proposes to substitute the Defence Force for the Police in carrying out the traditional police duties at election time. I have asked this Question because I have come to regard rumours of this nature as containing a significant element of veracity. You will recall.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just a minute. I am trying to think whether the question you have raised should not be raised instead as an independent question and whether it legitimately arises out of a Resolution dealing with the reorganization of the Police Force.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: In effect Sir, I am asking if the reorganization of the Police Force will extend to the point where they would be substituted by members of the Defence Force in matters of maintaining law and order in respect of general elections. I remember some time ago when the Senate was led by the Hon. Minister Mapp, I asked whether it was true that the Government intended to abolish the rank of corporal. The record will show that the then Leader of the Senate said he knew nothing about it. Today we are met to implement that. I am asking now whether it is true that the reorganization of the Police Force will extend to the point where the police will no longer carry out the duties of maintaining law and order at election time and that that duty will be performed by the Defence Force.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is a matter for the Minister or introducer of the motion when he comes to reply whether he wants to answer the question or not. My ruling is that if he does not want to answer he need not, and you would have to give notice of a particular question. Of course, if he thinks it is something he can answer now it is up to him.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: That applies to all Parliamentary Questions; if he does not feel to answer, nobody can compel him to answer.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am speaking of this particular question and the nature of the question in relation to the particular Resolution we are discussing.

SENATOR O'BRIEN TROTMAN: Mr. President, it is unfortunate that we find ourselves in a situation where people seek to tear down one another, where people try to spread rumours about other people and where people invent things and get them reported in order to cause mischief. Because of irresponsible political behaviour we have had to tolerate all sorts of rumours in this country. A member of the Other Place, if he were not a man of strong character might have collapsed by now. And now we are having another set of rumours starting; now we are having a situation where the Defence Force will be taking over the elections.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: If it is not so, all he has to do is to deny it. But up to now, he has not said it will not happen.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please do not interrupt like that Senator Connell. I have already given my ruling on this matter.

SENATOR O'BRIEN TROTMAN: We understand the interruption; it is to get sensation into the whole thing. So next week we will hear that the elections will be postponed or that half way through the counting the Defence Force will take over; that is planned. It is unfortunate that that sort of behaviour has moved from Independence Square or the Ivy on political platforms and brought to this place.

Senator Lynch raised the question about the duties of Police Corporals. There can be no mistake of the fact that Corporals do carry out important duties; but in the regrading which was sought by the Police Department it was realized after months of negotiations that there had to be changes made, and with the limited scope which was given, if there was not to be sizeable increases in the entire department then the rank of corporal would have to go. So it is not a question that government doubted the need to have corporals; it was a matter that in the upgrading sought by the Police Association it was not possible to upgrade the entire Force and maintain the post of Corporal. As to who gets promotion and how often, this is not a matter for any of us to decide, this is a matter for the Police Service Commission, and their actions are, as I understand it, above suspicion.

Senator Hunte raised the question of Police uniforms vis-a-vis Police accommodation. If Senator Hunte had an interest not only in Christ Church East but in the rest of Barbados he would have noticed that an entire new building is going up at Station Hill to accommodate the Police; he would know there is a plan to build a new Police Station at Oistin; he would have known that the District "B" Police Station is to be removed and expanded to accommodate policemen. If he had gone out of Christ Church East he would have known this, but that is not my problem that is his problem.

And then you get more rumours because an interim report is not made public. The persons who have to administer the Government sensibly and citizens who know better and are not interested in rumours will understand that if there are recommendations by the Commission and prosecutions to be carried out, the recommendations have first to be examined. Persons who understand the elements of Government in this country — and there is nothing magical in James Street and government — such people would know that the Director of Public Prosecutions has to make up his own mind whether he can get a conviction in court and they would know of the D.P.P.'s independence in this matter. But what can we expect?

Senator Hunte also seemed to question the calibre of persons appointed to the Police Force, but that is a matter for the Police Service Commission.

When the Police Service Commission recruit people, then they criticise them. They have to decide which side of the game they are going to play. One week it is the independence of the Civil Service and the Police Force and the next week it is interference and they have to decide which side of the game they are going to play. I cannot make that decision for them. They are slightly confused and this is their problem.

One valid point raised was whether or not those persons who are now Corporals would become Sergeants automatically. No, they will not become Sergeants automatically. The post of Sergeant for some time will be bracketed to the post of Corporal and there will be a phasing in of Sergeants and a phasing out of Corporals. That is the position as I understand it so that tomorrow we will not wake up and find all Corporals becoming Sergeants. There will be a phasing in process.

I beg to move, Sir, that the Senate do now concur in this Resolution.

SENATOR D. HUNTE: Mr. President, could I just speak on one question?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot speak after the Minister has rounded up his speech.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

GENOCIDE ACT, 1980

Item No. 3 was called — to move the First Reading of a Bill to implement the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let it be recorded in the Minutes that this Bill has been read a first time.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45 (2) be suspended so that the Bill be dealt with in all of its stages today.

Mr. PRESIDENT: My own attitude as members know to suspension of 45 (2) has always been that members should have ample opportunity to study the particular measure before it is dealt with in all its various stages. I am prepared to listen as it appears that there are some objections coming from this side of the Table. I am prepared to listen before I make any decision in putting this question.

SENATOR D. HUNTE: We have not had enough time to deal with it. This is not the first time and we can come back.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have no objection?

SENATOR THE HON. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn sine die.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just a minute, Sir, I gather from the statement of the Minister concerned that he is not prepared to press these measures in their further stages today.

I will ask the Clerk to call Order No. 4 so that it will be recorded as having been read the first time and it will be put on the Order Paper for a subsequent occasion.

FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARDS ACT, 1980

Order No. 4 was called — to move the First Reading of a Bill to give effect in Barbados to the New York Convention on the recognition and enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let it be recorded in the Minutes that this Bill has been read a first time.

Before the Minister moves the adjournment, I have received a Message which I shall read to Hon. members. It is from the Cabinet Secretary and it is to the effect that he is directed to inform me that consequent on the absence of some Ministers abroad, the Prime Minister has advised the Governor-General to appoint the following Senators to be temporarily Ministers for the periods indicated for the performance of the functions also indicated.

Senator O'Brien Trotman to be Minister without portfolio for the period 13th April to 6th May 1980, and to be responsible for Citizenship, Immigration and Passports.

Senator Sir Mencea Cox is to be Temporary Minister of Information for the period 21st April to 3rd June 1980 vice Senator The Hon. N. A. Barrow.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn sine die.

SENATOR J. CONNELL: I wanted to find out from the Leader of the Senate or the person acting in that capacity if and when this Honourable Chamber will have the opportunity to debate the Budgetary Proposals. As I recall, the last time an objection was taken to a Resolution tabled by me that since the document was not

itself a document of the Senate then I could not properly table a Resolution.

There was some discussion during the Estimates, I believe, of the possibility or probability of the Budgetary Proposals being discussed in this Honourable Chamber. I am wondering, Sir, whether we can have a statement or some indication from the Government as to whether it is proposed to table the Budget Speech or indeed, from you, Sir, whether it is possible for an individual Senator to make it a document of this Honourable Chamber to form the basis of a Resolution by him or herself to cause that speech to be debated in this Honourable Chamber, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will let the matter raised by the hon. member pass for the moment and merely draw his attention to Standing Order No. 9, but for the moment I will let that pass. If the Minister wishes to make any statement on this now, he can do so. Any definitive answer to that will have to await the presence of the Leader of Government Business.

I will ask the member just at his leisure to check on Standing Order No. 9.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly. 3.50 p.m.