
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

THE SENATE

Wednesday, 26th March, 1980.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings, on Wednesday the 26th March, 1980, at 10.10 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir ARNOTT CATO, M.B., Ch.B., 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 the Hon. Sir MENCEA COX; Senator H. F. G. ROCHEFORD, B.A.; Senator R. L. FIELD; Senator AARON TRUSS; Senator H. R. LINTON, LL.B.; Senator K. E. HINDS; Senator Miss O. A. LYNCH, B.A., Dip. Ed.; Senator C. I. E. DEANE; Senator K. R. HEWITT, B.Sc., C.A.; Senator Mrs. E. M. LYNCH, B.A.; Senator J. D. S. MACKENZIE; 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

Senator O'BRIEN TROTMAN.

EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE

Senator O'BRIEN TROTMAN.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR THE HON. Sir MENCEA COX: Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding Governor of Barbados in the person of the late Sir Alfred Savage. I am one of those members who was in the Lower House at the time who had the privilege of sitting on a Committee as a member under Sir Alfred.

I would like to say from the outset, that Sir Alfred was a most dedicated person. A man who was interested in assisting and promoting the welfare and well-being of the under privileged in this country. I had on several occasions met him in various areas with his wife, sometimes at night moving around the areas as it were, trying to gauge the situation as it existed among the poor people in this country.

Sir Alfred had at one time, brought an expert from England to go into the Sugar Industry and I remember, it was recommended that the factory owners could do with one pound less manufacturing cost and that that pound should be divided equally between the peasants and the workers in the sugar industry. He was also instrumental in assisting us in the production of bonus, which as you know Sir, after the crop had passed 130,000 tons, the production bonus would then start and as soon as the crop was over, the workers would get a bonus according to their pay packet so to speak. I cannot help remembering that in 1957, we had a bumper crop which produced over 204,000 tons of sugar and the workers got substantial amounts of production bonus. I would say that he actually engineered that. I want to say that during my time, everything that we put forward at any time that was in the interest no doubt, of the working people of this country and the country as a whole, he gave it his wholehearted support. I regret his loss.

In my opinion, he is the best Governor that has ever set foot on the soil of this country. I am satisfied Sir, that in many respects and many other ways which I would not tire this Hon. Senate with, that he did a remarkably good job for this country when he was Governor.

It is my desire at this stage to express, on behalf of this Hon. Senate, our deep sympathy at the loss of so outstanding a person who was the Governor of this

country at one time and I hope that a letter of condolence would be sent to his bereaved family.

SENATOR THE HON. D. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, there are men who, when they live their lives, go down immortally in the chronicles of history. There are other men who, when they pass away, are soon forgotten by the majority of mankind and they pass into a state of oblivion.

I hope that the records of our Hansard will rescue a recently departed gentleman from such a tragic and undeserved fate. I refer to the passing of Beresford Leon Connell who was the father of Senator John Connell. Beresford Leon Connell was a man whom I knew almost from the time that I was conscious of the existence of human beings other than myself.

He was a carpenter by profession, and in the hierarchy of jobs it was considered a profession that did not benefit from the prestige of other professions. Those of us who are aware of the problems in our Development Plans today are clearly in a position to recognise the pivotal role that carpenters have historically played in the development of this country. Moreover the populous stereotype of a carpenter as a man who chops wood but is capable of little thought. Whenever I think of the profession of carpentry and the heights to which persons called to that profession might aspire and scale, I remember Beresford Leon Connell, because Beresford Leon Connell deviated sharply from the stereotype of a carpenter as a brutal man who could cut wood and nothing else.

The most enduring facet of this man's personality as I recall it is his towering dignity and stoical calm. He was the first man I know who so perfectly synthesised a life of activity and a life of thought, for he thought, he acted like a man of thought and thought like a man of action, and it is a rare combination for individuals to achieve this particular synthesis. He was a man who was a prodigious reader and had the aptitude for summing up a situation in a few words with a profound and pithy statement. To know and to understand Senator Connell is to get albeit a small glimpse of the qualities of his father, some of the qualities which he inherited and which his father unfortunately in the restricted opportunities available to persons like himself at that time could not develop. Barbados is very much the poorer for it.

E. Franklyn Fraser, the Afro-American sociologist surveying the widespread disintegration of the Black American family offered the thesis that the most important contribution that a Black man or a Black woman could make to their race in the United States of America was to raise intelligent, independent and healthy children. In a society such as Barbados where our family units deformed as many of them may be, have not suffered

from the ravages of the Black American family. The question of competent parenthood is something that is taken for granted. The many things that go into moulding the personality particularly the question of parentage which relates to exemplification are things which in Barbados we do not comment about. We take it as a commonplace that people ought to be responsible as parents for producing intelligent, healthy and independent children. The extent to which some of us succeed and others fail is determined by the kind of people our children are, and one concrete manifestation of the contribution that Beresford Leon Connell has made to this society is the kind of social and public service that his son, Senator John Connell has rendered and is rendering with the objective of creating a better Barbadian society.

Mr. President, I can say much more about this gentleman, particularly his feats of enduring physical stamina which have etched themselves on my mind. Frail though he appeared to be, I well recall some day, I think it was around 1950, when he rode a bicycle from his home in the Ivy to Martins Bay in St. John because he thought his family had gone to an excursion there only to find out that they were in River Bay, St. Lucy, and then riding through this driving rain to River Bay, St. Lucy, and I well remember as the buses passed him by seeing him without protection plodding his way back on the small bicycle to his village in the Ivy. It is this pertinacity, this courage and executed in a way that is unobtrusive quiet that were the hallmark of this man's life. I myself owe him a debt of gratitude for the many lectures and friendly words of advice which he proffered me unsolicited on many an occasion, and I have benefited immensely from the fact that I too grew up in a village where you had adults of the calibre of this man.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Government I would like to express my condolence to Senator Connell and his family in this hour of bereavement. Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Hon. Senators, as President, I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the two Senators who spoke in respect of the deaths of Sir Alfred and Mr. Connell. In the case of Sir Alfred Savage I happen to have known him very well. Indeed he was responsible for my nomination to the Legislative Council in 1951. He was a great Christian gentleman. He was a man of immense personal integrity.

He was an expert in economics and in finances, and he did a great deal to chart a proper financial course for this country. But what I remember most about his achievements during the short years he was here as Governor was what he did for the training of local people to become Heads and Deputy Heads and so on in various ranks of the Civil Service. He was a most approachable man, and all requests for training met with an immediate

response — clerical officers, nurses, teachers, policemen — everyone.

A lot of the things that people take for granted nowadays had to be fought for, and it was because of people like Sir Alfred that we were able in those days to develop the training and the courses which set a lot of our public servants on the road to success in their various departments. It was a day when the Governor had a considerable amount of power, and Sir Alfred used his powers to the great advantage of the people of this country.

He also came in at a time when the Bushe Experiment was leading towards ministerial status, and he gave impetus and momentum to that movement, and we know how much we owe to that situation today.

In respect of Mr. Connell, I really cannot add anything to what Senator Blackman has said, because I did not have the pleasure of knowing this gentleman, but I feel sure that our colleague, Senator Connell, will take great satisfaction from the remarkable tribute which has been paid here today to his father, and he will know that his fellow Senators share his sorrow in this moment.

I will direct the Clerk to write the usual letters to Sir Alfred's widow and to Senator Connell's relatives, and I will ask Senators to stand and observe a few moments' silence as a mark of respect to the passing of these two gentlemen.

(Hon. Senators stood in their places in silence for one minute).

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I have the honour to lay before the Hon. Senate the following documents:

- (1) The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1980.
- (2) Draft Estimates for 1980-81.
- (3) Annual Report of the Welfare Department for the year January to December, 1978.
- (4) Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Barbados Housing Authority and the National Housing Corporation for the period April 1969 to August 1976.
- (5) Report and Financial Statements for the Caves Authority for the year ended 31st March, 1979.

- (6) Report of the National Assistance Board for the years 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77.
- (7) The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1980.
- (8) The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Order, 1980.
- (9) The Annual Report of the Barbados National Standards Institution for the year 1978-79.
- (10) The Auditors' Report on the Financial Statements of the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation for the years ended June 1977 and June 1978, along with the Chairman's Report.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following:

- (1) A Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1980.
- (2) To give notice and move the first reading of the following:
 - (i) A Bill to grant a sum of money from the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of this island for the year ending 31st March, 1981.
 - (ii) A Bill to validate certain matters relating to land tax.
 - (iii) A Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73.
 - (iv) A Bill to amend the Customs Act, Cap. 66.
 - (v) A Bill to amend the Consumption Tax Act, Cap. 63.
 - (vi) A Bill to provide for the membership of Barbados in the International Corporation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let it be recorded in the Minutes that these Bills have been read a first time.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Hon. members have been put on notice that in view of the time factor we would wish to do what in fact is the principal Item for the day, and which is an Item which has to be passed before the 31st March in its remaining stages, that is to say, the Appropriation Bill.

There are a couple of Items which can be done without any suspension of Standing Orders – Items 2 and 3 – in that they have already been given their first readings, but from Item 6 to Item 9, inclusive, we find a number of measures which it is also essential that we treat with urgency. One of them in particular, Sir, I think Senator Hewitt has a particular interest in, in that if that income tax amendment legislation is not dealt with rather speedily there will be a lot of obstacles in the way of those who seek to meet the deadlines for the presentation of their income tax returns. I believe that is true, Sir. It means therefore that there is only one Item, No. 5, which does not fall into the category of either having been read a first time or having the same urgency.

Fortunately for us that is a minor item, a matter of validation which we can deal with when we get to it. For that reason I am asking hon. Senators to agree to the suspension of Standing Order 45(2) so that in this sitting we may deal with all of these items which appear before us.

I believe I should at this stage also state that what we are going to ask hon. Senators to put up with is that the Session go through from now until 1 o'clock to lunch, and after lunch straight through until dinner time. We do not intend to resume after dinner because we would have had a sitting of eight intensive hours leaving out the hour for lunch. In case we do not finish our business by that time we will return tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order 45(2) be suspended for the Sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

BILL TO GRANT SUM OF MONEY FROM CONSOLIDATED FUND

The first Order was called – to move the First Reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money from the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of this Island for the year ending on 31st March, 1981.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, as is our custom in this Chamber, the form of debate on the Estimates will not take the same form as the debate did in the Other Place, for the obvious reason that since we have only a delaying power in respect of money Bills there is no point in treating this matter differently from usual. Therefore we will continue to have second reading speeches and treat the Estimates as a Schedule to the Appropriation Bill, as in fact what they are. Also, as in previous years, I am sure hon. Senators will take the opportunity which this overview of the Government's

programme and expenditure provides to comment and seek information on the whole area of Government's activity. To facilitate a better supply of information from this side we have reached a division of Labour which I trust is a reasonable and fair one in that in the replies one Minister will deal with matters relating to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, with matters relating to the Ministry of Communications and Works and the Environment; Senator Sir Mencea Cox will deal with these areas. Senator Dr. Donald Blackman will deal with areas. Senator Dr. Donald Blackman will deal with matters relating to the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of External Affairs, matters relating to the Ministry of Education and Culture and matters relating to the Ministry of Health and National Insurance. The others, save Labour and Community affairs – since I believe that forms part of the portfolio of Dr. Blackman – will be dealt with by me. We hope this arrangement will enable a greater flow of information than is possible where one person seeks to answer all the questions raised.

Mr. President, the Appropriation Bill concerns the sum of \$387,657,631 a grant out of the Treasury for the provision of goods and services and the management of the affairs of this country. In the new form in which the Estimates are now prepared I believe it is now much easier to get an overview of what is happening and also by the provision of a table of Roman numerals coming immediately before the Estimates of current and capital expenditure to see an analysis of Government expenditure either across the line so that we can see how much is taken up by any one service or by going down the line to see what expenditure results from individual items. And if you look at any particular Head you will see that they have been re-organized so that the Heads now reflect the particulars of the services which they should reflect, rather than having a whole multiplicity of sub-Heads in which it is often difficult to find what items you are looking for. It means that there is not the same detailed notation within the pages of the Estimates themselves to which one has grown accustomed and which makes it easy – once one can locate the item – to see precisely what it is to be spent on. But if you go to Appendix F in the back, you will see a classification of items of expenditure by objects and there it spells out what a particular item voted on can be applied to, so that it is not possible to determine that just because one sees something called "supplies of materials" that the money can be spent on anything. Rather it tells you that you are referring to "consumerable, shortlife supplies and materials not elsewhere specifically described"; that it includes stationery, registers and office expenses, printing supplies for production, foodstuffs, provisions and groceries, and so on.

So that instead of having on each item as it used to be this sort of detail, the Items are given a general meaning and there is an explanatory section found at

Appendix "F". As we become more accustomed to this new form of presentation of the Estimates, I think, Sir, that members will find that indeed it will be easier to follow what is between these pages and to that extent, therefore, the document will in fact be more informative.

In relation to this year's Estimates, there are one or two things which will have to be brought specifically to members' attention in that they provide either the removal of a particular service from one area and its placement in another and unless it is therefore brought specifically to your attention, it might appear to be a distortion in the Estimates in that members will say perhaps I cannot believe that whereas last year we spent \$800,000 in this area and that you are only going to spend \$500,000 in this area this year and we find, for example, that whereas you had a separate Training provision in the Estimates previously, now there is some rationalisation in those Departments coming under the office of the Prime Minister.

Training is now located with the Establishments Division of the Prime Minister's Office and this results in that Division showing a provision for Training and therefore appears to have a slightly bigger slice than it otherwise would have had.

Statutory travel which used to be administered by the Establishments Division of the Prime Minister's Office is now administered by the Services Commission so you will see what would appear to be an Item missing down there but in fact, because of its transfer, it now would certainly be fully accounted for elsewhere.

There are one or two other things such as the new Maintenance Unit at the Grantley Adams International Airport. The new Maintenance Unit for example, took over the responsibility for the cleaning of the Airport. The President has said "will take over." The correct statement would be that it has taken it over and it is my information that since this has taken place for the first time, certainly in a long time, complimentary comments are now being made about how the Airport is being kept. Certainly yesterday when I was up there on a completely different mission, I noticed that the place looked very clean indeed and that is something which I do not believe could be claimed in previous years when the cleaning was done by private contract.

This represents one of the areas where under the umbrella of the Public Service there has certainly been better performance than previously when it was done by private persons. The Maintenance and Development Unit includes among its functions radar and all electronic system. To members, Sir, this is an area which was operated under contract by the Space Research Corporation which was run by people who now seem to be facing the jail cells of North America with some

trepidation. At least which one believes, with some trepidation. That group of people were given and virtually put on notice and it would have been a matter of taking over sooner or later anyhow the other functions which they performed.

The other functions, were the general cleaning of the former and the new Air Terminal Building, the air-conditioning system, badly channelling systems, landscaping supervision, and the public address systems. This, Sir, will appear as a new and significant item in the Estimates this year.

I should add, Sir, that in a country where the Visitor Industry is of such great importance and where the 1979 figures represent something of the order of 370,000 or 17% or an 18% increase over the 1978 figures and where, if the current trends continue we should also be able to look forward to a considerable increase in 1980. It is extremely important that great care and attention be paid to matters relating to the Airport. That is the gateway through which over 90% of the visitors to this country come.

The Airport, Sir, is not like the beaches where we live and beaches ought to be made in the first place for the people who live and have their being totally in this country even though we share those facilities with others. The Airport, indeed, is an important instrument in the development of the Visitor Industry.

Also, Sir, in the Estimates you will find a great deal to reflect the goals which the Government has set itself. Since I have mentioned the Airport, I may as well at this stage just look generally at the area of Civil Aviation and also at the general development within the Tourist Industry.

We are looking Sir, at an area which is a money spinner. I mentioned before that the way how we treat our airport ought to have a direct bearing on what happens to this particular industry. A great deal of time has been put into an analysis for the need for a cargo carrier. There was something called a cargo carrier but one has to recognise that in terms of carriage of air traffic, it has not and can never be enough to be encouraged for the approach which has been exemplified in the operation of Carib West Airways whether or not it is being encouraged at a financial loss to the taxpayers of the country. I am not interested, for the purpose of this point, in the fact that taxpayers are probably losing money through it. The point I am getting at is that justification for an air cargo service has to lie in the demand which exists, and the potential demand, as a result of the business activity.

We would like to think that it is export business activity but I am sure that we must also recognise that

since we are a country that has to import a lot, if it can be organised that a number of areas of imports have to be got here quickly and cheaply, that has also a cost benefit to the people of this country. What I am contending Sir, is that it does not appear as though enough has been put into a study of our requirements in terms of air cargo and air cargo service and therefore the planning and development of the kind of cargo service that could operate to the benefit of the country. Sir, I am deliberately not going any further in my statement on that because I do not believe it is necessary for me to go further and make a statement which could merely result in acrimony.

It is for this reason, Sir, that negotiations took place, that led to the formation of the Air Cargo Company with Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago. It is recognised that export oriented industries will have a very difficult time indeed unless there is an efficient cargo service operating. In the same way, Sir, when it comes to passenger service, a great deal of effort is directed specifically to ensuring that there is good inter-island transport. This is why this Government and other Caribbean Governments of course, have paid very close attention to the development and continued operation of LIAT 74 because it is fool hardy Sir, to believe that we can think only in terms of the negotiations of bilaterals and bringing traffic in from North America, or Europe, or what have you without recognising the importance of travelling within the Caribbean itself. I should add, that in terms of Caribbean travel, there are and there will always be, I hope, people like myself and yourself Sir, who place a great deal of emphasis on the warmth of the Caribbean people and therefore on the need for new links to be forged and existing links to be strengthened. This can only be done by viable machinery for communication.

In addition to this, I believe that when Senator Field speaks, we may get something of an insight as to how the tourism efforts of one Caribbean country relate to the efforts of others, and therefore why it is extremely important not only to have passengers brought in from outside the region, but that provision be made for movement around the region and within the region. What this Government is therefore trying to do over and over, in addition to what I have mentioned is that, in negotiating bilaterals, to try to match the rights enjoyed by other countries by reciprocal arrangements to the benefit of Barbados.

I think Sir that once one looks at the passenger seats which were available over the period 1977 to 1979, it will give one a little idea of what is happening in relation to who is coming into the market and how. The figure for availability of passenger seats for North America was Canada 77,431 for 1977; 197,349 for 1978; then a slight decline by 5½% to 186,844 in 1979. Miami

was 70,408 for all three years, San Juan 38,978 for all three years, New York was 44,277 for 1977; 61,880 for 1978 and 87,226 for 1979. This is an area of growth where passenger seats available have increased by some 41% over that period of time.

In the European figures you find what has been established as the Copenhagen and Zurich as the main study 7,320. There was a slight increase of the London and Luxembourg. In fact, not so slight; it is approaching 20%; 97,240 in 1977, 101, 103 in 1978 and 119,060 in 1979. When I give a percentage change, I am really referring just to the last two years. Taking a break between the first and third year might indeed be much much more. The new service reflected in the figures at Frankfurt 4,988 in 1978 and 10, 479 in 1979. This is a new service that I suppose one could still compute a percentage increase which is about 110%, but I believe that where there is a new service like that, percentage figures can't mean all that. That is something like if you are paying a man \$10 and you paid him \$20; the nearest wages to him in the society was probably \$200 and you say you gave him 100% increase; so the new service will obviously grow faster initially than other old and established services, whereas you get a substantial visitor trade with Canada and you get a slight decrease in one year, because a slight recession in the economy or something and you get a slight decrease.

The point, Sir, is that the efforts of the Ministry and of the Board evidently are paying off because they are obviously able to diversify the market from which they are attracting visitors. Another allocation in the Estimates too will indicate a great deal of activity in other areas within the Ministry of Trade and Industry, where the Deputy Prime Minister has a portfolio that spans at least two Ministries. Civil Aviation and Tourism cannot be regarded as one; it cannot be less than one, and then Trade and Industry and Caribbean Affairs certainly can't be less than one either. Indeed the other day I saw an advertisement purporting to come from the Democratic Labour Party talking about the number of Ministries, and in the usual facile manner in which these things are put out in the hope that they would be visited upon a gullible public who will accept them for what they appear to be saying rather than for what they are worth, there seems to be some comparison between the number of Ministries and what not, and I could not help remembering, Sir, that there was a time when the Ministry of Caribbean Affairs was, I believe, a full Ministry. As I said the present incumbent is able to deal with this and to produce a great deal in relation to servicing our Caricom connection, because whereas I believe that the Minister responsible prior to September 2, 1976, did not appear to be hyper-active, the Minister now responsible for this area has been

a leading light not only on the Lome front but also within the Caribbean Caricom meetings. This Ministry also has responsibility for matters relating to energy and such information as is available indicates a remarkable amount of activity particularly in the areas of survey work.

A great deal of geological survey activity, the mapping and evaluation of the Scotland district, the limestone areas of the Island; there is also collaboration going on with UNDB group and other advisers on the petroleum geology of the Woodbourne field. Shortly the Ministry expects to get out some geological maps to have a paper which will be ready for the Ninth Caribbean Conference in the Dominican Republic in August 1980. All of the serious work which is necessary for what fuel resource we have in relation to fossil fuels is to be developed. This is work which represents a major on-going concern of that Ministry.

As you know, Sir, there is a National Scientific Committee which as we are doing a great deal of research work in the area of energy in terms of alternative sources, and Government has in more ways than one shown its confidence in their search for alternative sources, the biggest demonstration of this being the investment which is an investment directly in the research activity by installing the solar cooling system in the Ministry of Agriculture's new headquarters at Graeme Hall.

Sir, I mentioned energy on the way because as I said such information as one may wish, then I trust that I will be able to give it in the course of debate; but I am spending a great deal on this particular Ministry because I believe, Sir, that one has to look at that Ministry as it were as the Ministry at the core of the economic activity in this country. It is indeed an area in which one can see or rather one has to judge by the performance in that area whether we rise or we fall in economic terms. This Ministry has been involved in a number of Caricom meetings, meetings directed to the consolidation of the regional integration exercise, meetings attempting to deal with the more immediate and difficult problems like balance of payments and the imposition of quantitative import restrictions on regional trade by certain member States. It is to this Ministry that when people want to export clothing and they can't export to Jamaica, that they go and complain.

It is this Ministry that has to go and try to negotiate with the Government of Jamaica, whether directly or through the CARICOM machinery, to see what can be done about trying to get our exports into Jamaica. When it looked as though there would have been some easing and Barbadian manufacturers would have been able to get

into the Jamaica market, this assurance came because of the efforts of this Ministry.

This is a Ministry that has been in the forefront of the negotiations for a common external tariff for CARICOM, a decision which has been reached, and a decision which we hope will shortly be implemented. I think that LDC's are having a little bit of trouble implementing it. The CARICOM trade, as well as international trade, the difficult negotiations for Lome Convention where Mr. St. John was spearheading the negotiations as President of the ACP Council of Ministers, a number of significant advances were made even though of course there was some hard feeling at not having got particularly all the things they wanted, things like special treatment for island developing countries such as Barbados, the strengthening role for the EDF and the European Investment Bank in project financing, new areas of co-operation in energy and transport development. There is a whole long list of things to which one might refer.

One of the reasons, Sir, I am also emphasising the work of this Ministry where the results were outstanding and where the efforts of the Industrial Development Corporation are producing a significant contribution in terms of jobs for the population, that also is an arm of this Ministry, and if I cannot find a note which I have here relating to some specific information on the IDC now, I shall certainly be able to find it, should it be necessary to give any further information a little later.

There is one particular statistic which I was trying to find. Yes, as at 1980, February 29, the end of February 1980, the IDC in the financial year 1979-80 had approved and gazetted 19 applications for fiscal incentives, some 12 enterprises had actually commenced operations, and these represent an investment of over \$6 million, providing some 1,469 jobs. During this same period there has been a significant expansion of factory space, and the handicraft development programme also continued to show significant results. In other words, the hub of economic activity in the Government of Barbados is to be found in that collection of Ministries - Trade and Industry and Tourism, Civil Aviation, Caribbean Affairs and Energy - and as you look at it there is on every front a performance which is extremely strong.

Sir, it also happens that this outside of the Ministry of External Affairs, is the Ministry which uses up the greatest part of the vote for Conferences and Delegations, and I want to refer fairly specifically to that vote, because it is fashionable in some quarters to look at a vote like that and to try to compare in absolute terms what was spent at one time and what was spent at another time. I think that it is important for a couple of points, which are not lengthy points, but they are important point in my view, to be made for this reason.

In the first place, both public officers and politicians travel under the Conferences and Delegations vote, and they can only travel after a good case has been put up to the Cabinet, and approved by Cabinet. That is the first point I wish to make. In the second case, there is a relationship between the travel and the governmental results. Mr. St. John could not have stayed here and concluded a successful negotiation of the Lome Agreement which at points had to have a number of meetings between himself and the Irish Cabinet Minister – I think his name is Kenney – who is the President of the EEC Council of Ministers.

In addition, the various Ministries which benefit by technical assistance, which can all be computed, whether it is from FAO, UNESCO, CTFC, the various benefits which technical assistance has brought far exceeds the amount spent in travel.

And thirdly, Sir, not even the Government of Barbados, which I think has justly earned a reputation for cheapness in public expenditure – it is called thrift, but I know the Minister of Finance tells you very straight, “they say I cheap and I don’t deny it” – so what I am saying, Sir, is that people who have earned that reputation, not even the Ministry of Finance, or the Minister of Finance if it should come to that, can reduce the vote or keep it down, when an important element in that vote is air fares and hotel prices, which all over the world are rising. It is an unfortunate fact of life that much as you would like to pay Barbados’ prices in New York you would not be able to pay them and find a hotel to stay in, and you cannot pay the air fare price to Trinidad and get to New York or London, or wherever you have to go, on it either.

You are dealing at a time when prices are rising; you have to understand that the travel vote is going to rise with the rise in prices in the travel industry.

Mr. President, we have spent what I think is a great deal of time on what I would call a collection of Ministries, and there are just one or two other points which at this stage I would like to mention, reserving the rest of my points in the event they should be necessary at the reply stage. In the Ministry of Information under which comes the Library I want to draw attention to an allocation for the preservation of newspapers. All of us, but none more so than Senator Wickham, have a deep and abiding concern about what was allowed to happen to some valuable documents in the Public Library, and I believe that Senator Wickham will be pleased to see that there is some start being made to try to arrest what appears likely to be lost otherwise; and the figure which appears in the Estimates to deal with the restoration of newspapers is a figure which has been worked in relation to how many of these news-

papers it will be possible to restore over the period of the financial year, in relation to the storing of materials in a way which would permit of their being held for use by the people of this country and not simply suffer the ravages of time. In the same way we are putting in this financial year a great deal of emphasis on construction of facilities for housing a microfilm unit and with the equipping of this unit. Incidentally, that also has a side advantage in that if you do not put some things on microfilm it means that Government will forever have to be producing more money to buy more filing cabinets, because I think it is fairly easy to recognise that it is not possible to throw out things lock, stock and barrel. One of the advantages of the microfilm centre is that it will tie in with what we hope will be the outcome of a policy decision taken within my Ministry, namely, the establishment of a National Information System, and I think that shortly we will inaugurate a Council which is working on its establishment. It is of course not wise to anticipate the outcome of the Council’s deliberations, but clearly any move to make a substantial provision for the storage of the materials so that they can more easily be available will be a move which will benefit the creation of a modern information system.

In relation to a question posed to me before we started this sub-Head 6, “Ministry of Information – Grants and Subventions” Censorship Board \$23,440, Barbados Museum \$50,000 and grants to the Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic denominations \$62,500 – I wish to make the point in passing about the Museum. We are trying by way of cooperation with the Council of the Museum to develop a policy on a national museum, the point being that the present museum was very kindly established as a result of donations from those who could afford it and those who considered that there should be some considered preservation of valuable things; and the Museum in its present form has a great deal of valuable stuff. Unfortunately however, there are very significant gaps which while they exist do not allow the museum to reflect the way of life and history of the people whose museum it is supposed to be. I think it would be true to say that a great deal of what the museum faithfully represent would be a life style not only long gone but which no one would wish to afford in the modern society. And so working hand in hand with the Council it is our desire to develop a policy for a National Museum.

I thought all along and having heard before decided that I should advent to a Bill to establish an Independent Broadcasting Authority which is legislation in its draft form which will, in the near future, be coming to Parliament and I thought I might as well refer to it because we may as well be prepared in this country for the fact that not only the gains in terms of greater freedom

in the media must be preserved but that there must be even greater freedom by the continuous encouragement of expansion of the indigenous media.

These Estimates, Sir, would not at present reflect my Ministry's concern also on the Newspaper front but I must state that I continue to be concerned that the only daily Newspaper in this country should be an organ that is not owned by anybody Barbadian or West Indian. In the same way that Barbados Rediffusion had to be nudged in the right direction so that it is now a locally owned Company and as a locally owned Company qualified within the policy of the Ministry of Information for the grant of a Broadcast Licence, in that same way the people who operate what used to be at 34 Broad Street which is now somewhere at Fontabelle, must understand that it is not healthy for the society to have the only daily Newspaper controlled totally from outside.

It is a significant fact that like the old Rediffusion owners, the present Advocate owners do not even seem to believe in any admission whatsoever of a quality or quantity of local participation and we cannot anymore than we can continue in a society like ours to have large combines operating under the Companies Act as Private Companies. The same way as the Minister of Finance has had to nudge those people to go public and by going public to open to the country for ownership of the economy for a broader base, we cannot unless we are a mass of contradictions ourselves, continue to tolerate a situation where the *Advocate Newspaper* is totally owned from somewhere in North America.

The present Newspaper Act is in a very unsatisfactory state. If I could put my hand on my notes I would probably have a photostat of it. It is a short Act which says as much as it is long. All it does is to give a general exemption to Joint Stock Companies.

It is not the wish of this Government and it is not the policy of this Minister to be in anyway restrictive of communications which is a business of the people most directly affected by it and for all those who feared that by making the communication system locally owned we would have lost something, who does not feel that we are breathing healthier air with Rediffusion being locally owned. If we fear local ownership, we fear ourselves and it is my view, Sir, that just as Rediffusion has come into the local market, the *Advocate* must and must very soon come into the local market.

For my part, what is in that area of communication is not that kind of communication. When we talk about the media what is not owned by Barbadians must all be owned by Barbadians and other West Indians. It is the only acceptable formula.

It is because we have policies like these that it is important that such legislation as the Broadcast Bill

should come to Parliament because while Government was in a position to determine that the only wireless operation would be the State owned Corporation, then they could continue with a situation perhaps although I have never found it, that was the best situation where the Minister responsible for the Broadcasting Station was really the broadcasting authority, but that was the situation which one would find tenable as soon as one has to deal with more than just a State owned media.

In keeping our Election Manifesto promise and in keeping with the principles of freedom of which we adhere to so strongly, the whole area of broadcasting has received the kind of beneficial treatment which the licensing of a private broadcast media means. It means when you turn on your radio you do not have to worry about the kind of thing that used to happen in the old days. You know for a fact that what is free on the radio is indeed free and unless there is some powerful criteria which militate against any further Wireless Licence being issued, there is no reason to fear that the Licence to Barbados Rediffusion will be the last either.

Mr. President, Sir, a great deal has been said during the Debate of the Estimates in the Other Place in relation to Defence and Security. At least a great deal was reported in the Press and what is reflected in the Estimates in relation to this Ministry is the continual training and increased recruitment of Security Guards, particularly for Government buildings, the provision for policing of the Economic Zone and I read recently in some Newspaper report, I think coming out of the other debate of the purchase of equipment.

The officials and so on who are concerned with this Ministry and for a long time been studying what the real needs are and have taken advice from a number of people including a British Mission and it is now beginning to emerge with the sort of hardware the Ministry of Defence and Security is going to require. It is hoped that that approach, a very thoughtful approach, would prevent an accusation such as one that was made for the Coast Guard some years ago and which has not turned out to be a resounding success.

I believe, Sir, that in the Estimates relating to the Chief Electoral Office we find that there is some decrease resulting from the fact that the registration exercise is shortly to come to an end.

I notice Sir, that there have been complaints, at least from the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition that the enumerator did not visit him and I have been wondering Sir, if there is something in the name Barrow, because the enumerator has not visited me yet either.

I have to remind myself that I have a couple more days in which I better get across to the National

Insurance Building and get registered. If there are any political motivations, it looks as if we have two types of enumerators because at least, they should have registered me. I have managed to go pretty close to the 31st March without seeing an enumerator and I cannot risk to go any closer.

I believe that Hon. Senators are well aware of the benefits which a single system is supposed to bring and if specific questions are raised in relation to the registration exercise which has only one aspect of it, the registration of electors, then, I would be prepared to elaborate. I believe that we are all quite familiar with the things which we are supposed to be dealing with when we talk about the registration system.

It might be a bit unusual Sir to have a presentation which is a focus on what one might call the money spinning ministry. I am trying to use that to move from that point to indicate why Government expenditure has to be at the level stated here in the Estimates. I just wish to make a couple of brief references to other matters because in a sense, there is very little you can do about the Recurrent expenditure and therefore what tends to attract a great deal of interest is more often what is to be found in capital. I am not making any distinction between the two because I think we have to see the programme as an overall thing and recognise that while the presentation of Capital Estimates, which is what is reflected here, gives you some clear idea of what is spent on a project, there is always the overlap which would help to indicate why the recurrent is at certain levels. There are a number of significant policies which are also going on in other Ministries, other than where I have focus and which, when we seek information, I am sure we will get replies on, as we continue to debate.

I think it is significant Sir, that bold and imaginative policies are now being brought to bear in the area of transport because I believe it is often overlooked that the scale of planning and the extent of management required to run a taxi business of 60 or 70 taxis is not the same as that required to run a public transport system with hundreds of buses. I think Sir, that something of the kind of approach which has had to be adopted in developed countries, dealing with nationalised industries which have significant importance across the Board, has to be adopted in that we probably need to emancipate ourselves from thinking that the structure and level of enumeration of running a certain kind of enterprise must be related very closely to the public service structure and the public service level of enumeration.

It is important that one recognises the level of skills needed for a particular activity and the days are long past when it might have been thought that if you took over a few buses, you could run them in the same way as the small units that used to operate the bus

service could run them. The management of the Transport Board is of great complexity, running a public transport service is a very complex matter. I am glad to see that full recognition has been given to that and to see that a device has been found for the policy which we declared and which I think was forecast in last year's Budget as to how long it should take us to get water in every home. This is a country in which services have been expanded fairly rapidly because you hardly find a home without water and electricity. We forget that there are such homes. In other words, where a lot of us go, there is electricity and water.

In other words, where a lot of us hope there is electricity and there is water, and if there are 65,000 homes in the country and 60,000 have water, then we begin to talk as though everybody has water. Of course it is probably a good 8% that do not have water and the circumstances relating to their not having water will almost certainly be economic circumstances. In one or two instances of course I presume there will be difficulty of terrain, problems of that sort, but generally speaking I believe it can only be economic circumstances. Therefore I regard as extremely important and as perhaps the only way in which this objective would have been realised, the decision that by using the system of deposit and paying off over a period of time, the Waterworks Department and the Ministry of Communications and Works will be able to bring water to the houses that still do not have it.

In that connection it is also a source of pleasure to me that in areas like Jordans Village — you see a sign at the bottom of Workmans saying Jericho in St. George — it looked as if Jericho, and you go through a very bad road in Jordans Village and you go up by Jordans Plantation and turn right, areas like that that seemed for a long time as though they would not get electricity, that the recent assistance to the Light & Power Company is being used as a means to bring electricity to those areas. These are important, Sir, because while initially one talks about the Ministries, the hub of the economic activity of a country, talks about the performance of these Ministries, and therefore I believe can assist in letting people see how it is that the money is being spent and what one hopes to get by spending this money. One forgets quite often that there is a job of human significance to be done. One seldom worries to look at the human faces of the Government, and to recognise the significance of getting these services which everybody else have been enjoying and which only a few have had to do without. One tends to overlook the significance of a carefully devised plan for the care of the aged or the significance of the training of the young or the retraining of the not so young, because the training of the young and the retraining of the not so young do not only fit them for jobs in the economy but also rescues them from that hopelessness and despair which in my view is one of the

most serious aspects of unemployment. Therefore we have to look at what I call the human faces of the Government, the way in which we care for those who are sick and who are poor, the way in which we recognise that those who have made their contribution already must be looked after as a prime responsibility of the State. So you will find that in the Ministry of Labour a number of projects, a number of plans will have this kind of input, this kind of quality no less than it is so obvious in the devising of a programme like the National Health Scheme. Where we tend indeed to see this kind of activity is when we do a separation in our minds between the service areas of Government, the productive areas of Government and so on, and where we see the performance of the Ministry of Housing which has been going great guns. It has a most impressive housing programme on at the moment; but these are all the small things which are done which in my view tell sometimes a more important story, because it tells a story as to how much you care, and that after all is an important aspect of Government, important particularly in a country where there is no system of Local Government and the full weight of Government at all levels falls on the shoulders of those who operate at the national level.

Mr. President, I believe that in a matter of this sort it is possible to keep turning the page and to talk on and to find areas of specific interest and to expand and to elucidate until 7 o'clock this evening, we go into dinner and find there has only been one batsman for the whole day, and worse yet while the crease has been occupied a lot of runs have not been scored, and therefore I wish at this stage to give way to those of more robust physique, with more artistic grace and greater mental agility.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

SENATOR JOHN WICKHAM: Mr. President, let it never be said that I did not want to bat. There are just a few questions which I would like to put and a few comments on the Estimates before us. I am very grateful of course to see the provision made for the preservation of documents, and I hope that this is the first step in a programme which will not only preserve them, but bring them more to the attention of especially the children. In this context and in the context adjoining it to the remarks which the Leader of the Senate made in his comments on the need for nationally owned organisations, it is pretty significant that one organ of our press is devoting considerable energies to the education in the broadest sense of the children of the nation, and although I myself have some connection with that organ, I think it would be unduly modest of me not to claim that this is a significant step in the right direction.

There is some connection too between the preservation of documents and the preservation of our architec-

ture, and our national heritage, and there are two points I want to make about this. One is in the shape of a question which I hope will be answered.

In the Estimates of last year one noted a provisional allocation for the restoration of Ilaro Court of \$100. I have not been able to find any continuing provision for that work and I should like to be elucidated on that score.

The second point about this preservation of our national heritage refers to the continuing need for some form of statutory legislation, statutory provision, statutory compulsion to prevent the continuing and rapid exodus of our antiques. I believe that legislation is being prepared for that end and I would certainly urge that it be hastened. Day after day, auction sale after auction sale, the work of Barbadian craftsmen is being exported at highly inflated prices at the expense of the education of our young who have no idea at all of what used to be done by the hands of their ancestors, and therefore they lack encouragement to continue with those works of craft and art which continue to bring credit to the name of Barbadian craftsmen.

My next point concerns the contributions to regional organisations. Under the Head of External Affairs we see a lump figure which just says "Contributions to Regional Organisations" and this year one notices a decrease. It would be interesting to see why there has been a decrease, or if this is a particular deployment of the figures themselves which makes it appear as if it is a decrease. What is more, I think that certainly Senators, and certainly people in public life, ought to know how much money Barbados contributes to the various organisations of which it is a member.

The next point I would like to draw attention to is to commend the Government for its substantial contributions to the preparations for CARIFESTA in 1981. The Capital provision for that runs into millions of dollars, and I for one am very encouraged by this contribution. Two things that contribution says, one is that gradually we are seeing the emergence of a sense of importance attaching to things of culture and the arts, and two, the demonstration of the importance of belonging into international organisations, because much of that money is going to come from our partnership of UNESCO, and possibly the OAS, but capital provision is not enough, intelligent application of that money has to be made, and it has to be made by the total mobilisation of all the creative energies which exist in the country, not some of them, all of them, and I hope that when the time comes for the work to be done that the people who are really contributing to the cultural and artistic manifestations in the country will be given a chance to show what they can do and not to let a national chauvinism or flag waving overtake genuine artistic and cultural response.

My last point may seem lighthearted, but if you look at the Schedules for Personal Emoluments on page 2, Item 2, you will see Other Personal Emoluments and under Chaplain for the House and Senate you will see that spelling is "Chaplin". That is Charlie the comedian, not the clergyman, and I wonder whether that was a kind of Freudian mistake.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR MRS. E. LYNCH: Mr. President, I am sure that all fair minded persons, and especially those interested in the young people of this country, will be pleased with the efforts which have been made by this Government to improve primary schools, which are a vital area of education, the most vital, I believe. I must, however, express disappointment that there does not seem to be any provision for an increase in the number of School Attendance Officers. I have looked very diligently in the notes and I do not see any mention of what I consider to be a very necessary improvement.

We have heard a lot of comments about juvenile delinquency, and I have been closely associated with the Government Industrial Schools for the past 30 years, and I would like to point out that wandering is the first offence of nearly all children who subsequently get into more serious trouble. This wandering is closely associated with truancy and with children who are ill-supervised and perhaps not well fed, foraging during the hours when they ought to be in school. I asked a Question about this some time ago, the questions were not answered, and I can only assume that they were lost, because they were asked near the end of a Session.

But every year is the year of the child, and one of the statements in the United Nations document on the rights of the child mentions that education should be compulsory for all children, at least to the primary stage, and it is a little surprising that although we have a fairly high level of school registration that we do not seem to be taking enough trouble to ensure that children and young persons are using the opportunities available to them. The opportunities are being provided, but I happen to know that there are many children and young persons who are not making use of those facilities.

I had hoped that we would have seen the measure for compulsory education appearing even if we did not have to wait for the whole Education Act to be revised. That Act, of course, was passed in 1975 but not proclaimed. Certain bits of it have been implemented, and I had hoped that we would have seen fit to implement that part of it which makes education compulsory up to some age, the age of course would have to be determined according to our local circumstances.

But failing this, I am even more surprised that the number of school attendance officers has remained the same. I think they are three, and we can see them as quite inadequate for the size of our school community. There has been a reorganization of areas of education, and the loss of the all-age primary school — necessary perhaps — does leave a significant social vacuum which does not seem to be realized. Children are transferred from the village school where they are well known and go on to very large schools. This means that there will be concentrated in one large school the problems which were scattered throughout a number of smaller schools at the primary level. These schools therefore need special ancillary services. I know that education is an expensive business and that there is never enough money to do all the things which are necessary, but it would be a pity if after spending a great deal of money we failed to achieve our purposes because we would not spend just a little bit more in some particular direction.

I think that we all know that one of the ancillary services which these schools ought to have is the provision of a good counselling service. I do not think it is enough to provide one counsellor or even a small counselling team; I think the authority should try to see that the basic concepts of counselling are part of the training given at Erdiston and in the provision of the training of secondary teachers, so that every teacher who has to deal with the child and who at some time will be a form mistress or form master will have the necessary equipment for determining at an early stage the signals which children send us when they are in some kind of emotional trouble. This is the only way I think in which we can tackle our disciplinary problems quickly enough and successfully, that is, every teacher having the basic training necessary for counselling children at an early stage so that we do not waste our specialist service. When counsellors are put in a school there is a tendency among teachers to pass problems too quickly to the counsellors.

In the reorganization plan some buildings will of course be vacated and I hope these will go to provide accommodation for youth clubs and other organizations. When I speak of youth clubs I know that one of the serious problems is finding a place for youth clubs to meet and store their little possessions. I also trust that this reorganization, the amalgamation of various schools, will not be a purely mechanical exercise, because the ethos of a school is an important factor in maintaining discipline, and when schools are put together they should not be treated merely as an administrative convenience but special care should be taken that the ethos of the school is not destroyed and then we find that we have created problems that did not exist before.

I want to draw attention too to the fact that many people seemed concerned about certain problems which

seem to be arising in the community. These things always happen gradually; you cannot say that in any one year delinquency increased or that divorce increased; these things are usually a gradual process. But the kind of problems we are seeing today do, to my mind, have some bearing on what takes place in the school. The inner life of the school needs to have greater attention paid to it. It is the quality of relationships within the school which will determine whether we produce people who are oriented and drift out of school quickly and who at the least disturbance at home decide they will go and join a group where they will not be under any control and whose children at as early an age as ten are said by their parents to be beyond control. It also happens that when a community has decayed, a whole civilization has disappeared and it is possible to look back and see the point at which disaster could have been averted if action had been taken. I feel that with all the disruption going on in the world around us, all the violence and the fact that our community, like other communities, will be becoming more permissive and that people will be expected to make their own decision and to be responsible for making their own choice without the help of convention, we must see that the necessary preparation is given to fit young people for taking their place in society and for helping older people to make the adjustments necessary as the community changes. It is a strange paradox that with increased economic development in most countries this increase in economic development is coupled with an increase in crime and other undesirable features. We are apt to think that poverty is a great handicap, yet the problems of the rich countries seem to be as great as or greater than the problems of the poorer countries.

As we move forward in the economic development, let us not include the human side not in a merely physical sense but in values. I think that just as we set up the undisciplined group in the Year of the Child to look at all of the services available for children and for making the necessary improvements these should be continuous. As I said at the beginning, every year is the Year of the Child. We should be looking also at signs in the society about which many people are unhappy.

I do not believe in just going around and wringing your hands and saying that the community is more divided and that politics is divided or that the community is integrating or that the community is decaying and things of this sort. I think that we ought to move a little away from being so highly departmentalised and should perhaps have also an interdisciplinary group which looks at the society and which tries to come to grips with the beginnings of the problems that you see.

For example, there is a ruthlessness of new housing developments. These are not only confined to Govern-

ment Housing Schemes in some of which there are some serious problems but they also apply to other developments, private developments, where putting the two together we are losing the sense of neighbourhood and this is coupled with the other lack that the disappearance of Local Government has made it more difficult for ordinary people to participate in the development of their country.

We should be looking at things like the safety, the fact that children cannot have inter-school sports there because of the fear of intrusion of outsiders. We ourselves might not be satisfied with the general conduct of the children themselves at things like big inter-school meetings and at public performances. I hope that when Mr. Wickham is hosting his guests at CARIFESTA that the standards of conduct at those public entertainments would not cause us to hang our heads in shame.

There is difficulty even in things like queueing for buses and our Minister of Health has shown a lot of courage in tackling persistently the simple matter of disposal of refuse. Now these are simple matters but I do feel that we should not be just making comments about them but since we have a Social Science Faculty at our University, there are many more sociologists abroad in our society.

Somehow we do not seem to be getting the input that we ought to have where we have a knowledgeable group of persons interested in the society able to read and interpret the statistics and see the first signs of certain trends and doing their best to draw to the attention of Government ways and means of dealing with anything which looks like a decline in the society.

This is a wonderful community. We believe in it and when we look around at other communities we should not only have the self righteous attitude and feel that this, that and the other cannot happen here. Whatever has happened in any other West Indian community can happen here and I hope, or as Mr. Cox says, not only West Indian but those are the ones that are nearest to us and that we can see, but I do feel that with all of the money that is being spent, with all the care that is being taken, with all the facilities that are being provided, we need to have a strategy for social goals and for the improvement of the quality of life as distinct as merely from material advancement.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If hon. members are not willing to speak I would have to put the question. I made it as a gesture but I am serious now.

SENATOR R. E. BRATHWAITE: Mr. President, I would like to commend the Government of this Island for

the honourable stand on Agriculture. As a small farmer from time to time in this place there are some people who give the impression that the Government has no use for the small people. I cannot say that. As I think, Mr. President, of 1974 when this Island should have been a very rich Island with the wonderful sugar price, that we, the small farmers like myself, had to give it up because it was useless. The more you worked for the less you got.

For 15 long years, as far as the small farmers were concerned, it was a kind of wastefulness. I remember that during the 1961 regime we had a scheme there for small farmers such as free feeds for pigs and things like that. Since the members of the last regime came into existence they stopped that feed scheme so it caused small farmers with pigs and so on to become disinterested and things like that. I remember in 1974 that it was a very interesting sugar year when very few of us had our lands worked up.

I would like to let this Hon. Senate know today Mr. President, that in my district where I farm, during 1974-75 there were approximately eleven plantations out there which were out of existence and now, I would like to report to you that we have only one. I would like to let you know the progress of agriculture in the North since 1976 and up to 1980. Between 1974 and 1975 and up to the 2nd September 1976, we had three poultry farms in St. Lucy. From 1976 and up to today we have 13, so you can see the interest that the folk of the North are taking in agriculture. I remember that in 1975 we had to import sweet potatoes from St. Vincent and they used to sell at 80 cents per pound. Since the Barbados Labour Party came into power, things like that are over. I am sure that we have things under control in such a manner that all the estates around now have potatoes and yams in great supply. I am sure that last year I had to give away yams. We did not have any sale for them, there were too many yams in Barbados.

I am very happy Mr. President, to stand to back a Government such as this. When you think about the vegetable market, you have vegetables sometimes and nowhere to send them. Nowadays, the Barbados Marketing Corporation van comes all through my parish and asks if anybody has any vegetables to send to the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Mr. President, this was a very sad affair, there were people all around who had bull cows and could not get any sale for them because they had some kind of foreign meat that used to come in. Since this Government came into power, people from the Barbados Marketing Corporation come and ask if anybody down there has bull cows or anything like that to sell. I am very glad Mr. President, to have such a Government in the interest of the small man.

I would like to talk a little about fish. I remember my colleague who said that there was a project on fishing

which used to give the fishermen the privilege of borrowing money for fishing boats. As soon as 1961 came and the change of Government, that was finished, the small man could not borrow money any more. Mr. President, we like to buy things cheap, everybody likes that, but it grieves me at times to know that I have a few fishermen friends and at nights a fisherman would come and say "Braf, I went out the whole day and caught a boat load of fish and had to dump them back out to sea." I remember that in 1961, the Barbados Marketing Corporation was turned into the shrimp industry, which was good. I do not have anything against the shrimp industry because it employed people, but then you brought in an industry and destroyed the small man there again. In that case, fishing went out of existence again. My colleagues told me that there is a division at the Barbados Marketing Corporation to take care of any amount of fish which the small man has, so I am very happy about that.

As far as chicken is concerned, there is a demand for chicken in Barbados. Senator Hunte, I can tell you for sure, that in my district, they are begging all day long in the supermarkets and all these places for chicken meat. I am sure that as a member of the Agricultural Credit Bank, there was a time when we ran out of customers. We did not have anyone who would apply for loans because we dealt with those loans at such speed that we encouraged more people to go into chicken rearing because the demands are there.

I am happy to associate myself and see the progress that has been going on for the last three and a half years and would like to encourage them to do much more. I would like to give you a note also as a peasant proposal. They used to be so much trouble with canes when we go to the factory, a truck would unload three loads for a whole week. Nowadays, we have the same rights as the biggest plantation. We co-operate so well, that if we see burnt canes around, we try to give in. As far as agriculture and fisheries are concerned, we are all planning to go from strength to strength in this country. I thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION

Mr. PRESIDENT: It would be a pity to break into any Honourable Senator's contribution, therefore, I think it would be a convenient time to suspend the sitting. The sitting would be suspended for 45 minutes.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

SENATOR J. D. S. MACKENZIE: Mr. President, in reviewing these Estimates, let me start off by saying that I am very pleased to see that for the second year running the Estimates laid before us plan for a surplus

of some \$23,691 million on current account, that is, an excess on current revenue over current expenditure. As I have said on previous occasions in this Honourable Senate, economic reality dictates that neither an individual nor a Government nor a country can continue to live indefinitely beyond their means, and to try to do so is irresponsibility of the highest order.

In our fervour and eagerness to advance and develop our country however, and we all I think around this table realise the pressures that are brought to bear on the political directorate always to do this, we must not lose sight of the fact that although we have a surplus on current account, if this surplus is not large enough to cover a substantial portion of our capital expenditure, we will still have to go out and borrow money both in the local market and from foreign sources. We will have to do this in order to carry out our capital development.

Now in these Estimates, Mr. President, we plan for a surplus on account of some \$23.691 million while we plan to spend some \$162.5 million in capital expenditure. This means that we will have to go out and borrow the difference between the \$162.5 million and the \$23 million in order to carry out our capital plans.

On page 22 of the Estimates, Mr. President, we see here at the bottom how the Government intends to secure these loans. The Canadian External Aid Assistance \$7.776 million, Caribbean Development Bank \$11.701 million and so on down that table. But the long and short of it is, Mr. President, that from foreign sources we are securing or have secured loans to the value of \$75.187 million. From local sources we have got \$35 million and at the bottom loans to be raised which have not yet been secured may or may not further add to the foreign source of loans when they are made. Now when you borrow money you have to repay this money. As far as the repayment of the sum of local borrowings is concerned, that is not a difficult thing because merely all you do is to turn the money around within the community. That is, right now the Government raised money by debentures and treasury bills and what they can do is to issue more treasury bills to get in the money in order to meet the payment of other treasury bills. But it is a little bit different in the case of paying off the loans that come from external or foreign sources. These loans and these repayments as we make them make a greater demand on us as a country and on our foreign reserves, and they continue to do this some time in the future.

Now as long as we continue to earn foreign exchange at the levels that we are currently earning foreign exchange, all will be well and there will be no problems, but woe betide us, Mr. President, if the level of foreign exchange should fall for some reason and if it does fall, all of it falls outside our ability to do anything about it. Now in

order then if this should happen to continue to meet our commitments for foreign loan repayments, we would have to make grave sacrifices with the limited foreign reserves that we have to make these repayments and the importation of our everyday requirements, and we must bear in mind that we are an open economy, that means we import to a large extent most of the things that we require, and we would have to make a great sacrifice and cut down on those things that we require to import, because we would not have the foreign exchange available to do this with.

I know that some unappreciative and short-sighted people may say that that in itself would not be a bad thing. They would argue the case that it would make it become more self-supporting and more self-reliant in the area of food, clothing and other manufacture because we are able to go in for our own market. But the point I would like to make, Mr. President, is that with a substantially reduced level of imports, then I think we must all realise that we would automatically get into a situation of relatively high unemployment because if in the commercial sector which is geared to the importation of goods and commodities they could not continue to maintain their levels of sales based on the sales which they are now making, they would not require the number of people that they now employ to handle the level of sales they now make, and as a result we would have a high degree of unemployment, and I think that we are all aware in this Senate of the social problems that would be caused by any level or any unacceptably high level of unemployment.

Now if I may, I would just like to refer to page 60 of this document which is the economic and financial statistics as published by the Central Bank of Barbados for February 1980. We see that we have a national debt in total as at the end of 1979 of \$426.3 million, of which \$314.2 million is the domestic content and the foreign is \$112.1 million. Now the only thing that perturbs me or the major thing that causes me some concern in these Estimates, Mr. President, is the component that is embodied within these Estimates that we are already adding to the \$112.1 million in foreign debt, and we are adding a further \$75.1 million for the year 1980-81, which in proportion to the total foreign debt of \$112.1 million is exceptionally high.

I personally feel that it is much too high for any one year, and I sincerely hope that the projects for which these funds have been obtained will spill over into the subsequent years and that we will not have to get to this sort of level in any one year again. I know that it has been reported by the Prime Minister that their foreign debts in relation to Barbados is not considered amongst other countries to be a very high one, but I still think that it is critical, and we must maintain a balance with regard on the one hand to the rate at which we would

like to develop our society and our country, and on the other hand to do so within the realm that we leave a margin of safety if circumstances over which we have no control should occur.

I remember during the debates last year that one Senator asked the question, "what are we looking at, figures or our ability to upgrade the standard of living of Barbadians?" I humbly suggest, Mr. President, that the two must of necessity go hand in hand. You cannot upgrade the standard of living for Barbadians without first having the money to do so, and if money at any time is raised without great thought and without great care, the long term effect could very well be not to upgrade the standard of living at all, but to downgrade it, because if economic circumstances catch you out on a limb then everyone will suffer, and this is the balance that I am trying to talk about, to maintain a balance that we do not get caught at any time out on a limb.

I strongly feel that very great discretion should be exercised, particularly in raising loans from foreign sources, because of necessity I think everyone will see that the foreign debt position is critical. I feel that \$75.1 million in relation to the total of \$112.1 million is very high, and in fact too high.

Now, Mr. President, on previous occasions I have said, and I think it is true, that everyone generally recognises and accepts that the most importance areas for the creation of job opportunities and the earning of foreign exchange lie mainly in three areas of endeavour and in three sectors. Firstly, Mr. President, in the area of agriculture where sugar is an export and so earns foreign exchange, and so does rum, and where we grow, or hope to grow as time goes on, more and more of the food that we require. The other area is tourism, and the third area is our industrial development.

I do not propose really to say very much on agriculture. I will leave that for my colleague who is in agriculture to make what points he would like on that aspect, but under the heading of the Ministry of Agriculture I would like just to make one comment concerning the Barbados Marketing Corporation. To me, Sir, all politicians seem often to be guilty of the same ailment, they always seem to deal for the most part in the realm of what I would call emotionalism, and rarely seem able to come to terms with economic facts and with economic reality, and so it has been with the BMC by successive administrations.

The BMC was conceptualised originally, as I understand it, and formed initially to deal with the storage, the marketing and the stabilising of prices for agricultural products, market gardening products and fish. In other words, it was established to encourage and promote

the viability of market gardening and of fishing, and to make the island more self-supporting in food and protein through these endeavours, and also to encourage further activity by a greater number of people in these two areas.

Now, if the BMC had stuck, in my opinion, to this role only and geared its operation to this level only, I believe that it would have been successful and would have attracted the assistance and the support of all the private sector food outlets. But no, Mr. President, the BMC had to alienate this assistance and support by having a corporate structure or a corporate function which made it into a type of governmental import agency that could import from a pin to a motor car, and thus made it a direct competitor, particularly in the area of food, with the private sector food outlets.

Now, let us look at it without any emotion. Over the years this organisation has obviously failed abysmally and it has failed to carry out its functions, and it has failed economically, and it has failed under both administrations; not one, but both. It has cost the taxpayers of this country a fortune which could have been put to far better use in some other productive area. Complaints are levelled against it by every successive Opposition party that it does not fulfil the role, and if we must believe them, then it does not fulfil the role that it was intended to do.

I believe that the present Chairman and his Board are doing their very best to make this organisation as economically viable as possible. I equally believe that the last administration used some of the best brains that they had in their administration to make the Barbados Marketing Corporation economically viable as well, but they have also failed, and I have been led to understand that under the existing Chairman and his Board there has been a reduction in the annual losses of this organisation, but the point that I wish to make, Mr. President, is not whether or not the people from the different administrations did their best or did not do their best, they have all failed, and it seems to me that successive administrations seem to glory in this expense of the taxpayer and treat the BMC as some special case of a challenge.

The BMC over the years, Mr. President, has brought the name of our Government, of our country, into what I would call disrepute by their inability on several occasions due to a lack of funds to be able to make payment for goods that they had imported, and their inability to clear those goods through the Port. The organisation, in order to make it viable, has been given monopoly status, they are sole importers of various items of food, they purchase direct from suppliers, but not always is this purchase made at the best prices

because they do not invite tenders for people who deal in similar commodities and represent houses that supply similar commodities, so when they make their purchase they do not know if they are making it at the best price. Through what I would have to term as bad management they have had from time to time to dump an enormous quantity of goods. We have seen pictures of this in the newspaper where they go out with all the goods that have perished, so I am not saying anything that everyone does not know.

In spite of all this, what worries me is that no one so far has said let us put a stop to all of this nonsense, all this gross injustice that is going on with regards to the taxpayers of this country. No one has said let us review the direction of the operation and function of this organization so that it can carry out what was designed as its role and function, that is, to give price stabilization to fish and crops and to market them. I think that the Corporation could solicit the assistance of the private sector in this distribution. But what again worries me is that here in these Estimates the taxpayers are being asked to put up another \$7.286 million to give new life to an organization that has been for years and years a total economic failure under both administrations and a burden on the resources of the country and has failed to justify its existence. This is why I ask the question "Will politicians never accept economic reality?" How long must this go on? How long can we afford in this day and age situations like this? I do not believe that the BMC should be closed entirely; it does have a role to play, and it can be of importance in the community and can help people to get involved in market gardening and the marketing of fish and vegetables. It can play a useful role, but I think the operation must be wound down; they are putting more and more things on it that have no right to be on it.

Mr. President, if I may move on to the second point, which I think is the second important area that I mentioned, which was tourism. Again let me say that I am extremely pleased to see the continued growth that is taking place in this area. This sector is by far and beyond a shadow of doubt our number one industry. I think hon. Senators will remember that it was estimated last year that the revenue from tourism would approximate \$255-260 million; it turned out a natural fact to be \$271 million. Tourist revenue for 1979 is estimated at \$350 million, while the total domestic exports for the same year, including sugar, rum and all manufactured goods, is estimated to be \$261 million. Tourism has again come up with some 35% more revenue than the endeavours of all the other sectors put together. I am glad to see that the sum of money that will be voted for the promotion of tourism has increased from \$5.2 million to \$6 million. It is not a large increase, not as much as the industry would justify, but because it is doing as well as it is I

feel that in the order of priorities it is an acceptable amount. I feel that all of us must be grateful to the people in the Tourist Board and to all those who were engaged in the promotion of tourism and who are obviously doing an exceptionally good job; I think they are deserving of our appreciation and thanks for the job they are doing. I would say that the investment we made last year of \$5.2 million in the promotion of tourism to attract 371,000 tourists in an excellent investment though it could be better. I am also glad to see that the occupancy of hotels has also increased from 58½% on a year round average to 74.7%. I am told those are the figures for the ten months period January to October; that was the latest figure I was able to get. I think this is a commendable performance and I think that those people who have made their investment into tourism and have taken their money and have put into it must be very gratified to see that the degree of occupancy is where it is at the present time.

The third area that I would like to make some comment on is the industrial development area because this too is a very rapidly growing area, like tourism, that can produce both foreign exchange and a good number of jobs for the people of this country. I am glad to see that recognition of this has been given and that the capital expended for office and factory accommodation will amount not to \$5.74 million as last year but to \$7 million. Now just from a statistics point of view you will recall that in 1977 the IDC reported ten new industries with capital of \$17 million, of which just over half million dollars was from local sources. In 1978 the IDC reported twelve new industries with investment capital of \$8.2 million of which only \$700,000 was from local sources. In 1979 the IDC has reported twelve new industries having an investment capital of just over \$6 million of which \$1.871 million is local or domestic, the rest foreign. The point I would like to make is that I still consider that the relationship between the money raised from local sources as opposed to money from foreign sources is still too small and the disparity too great. It is not to say that we cannot do better or that we do not have the money, because if I may again refer to this economic and statistics report for February and we look at page 24 we see the total deposits in commercial banks in Barbados and notice that they have risen from \$520 million in December, 1978 to \$642 million in December 1979; and when we take a closer look at these deposits, of the \$642 million that was in the commercial banks at the end of December 1979, private individuals' deposits accounted for \$361.5 million, which is some 56% of the total deposits.

As a result, Mr. President, I think that really shows that there is money in Barbados that can be utilised for the development of Industrial Projects and I still contend that enough effort and attention is still not being paid

to ascertain why more individuals are not investing or given the opportunity to invest in new industries on a Joint-Venture basis.

I think it would be worthwhile to bear in mind that the more you have foreign content in the capital equity in new Industries the greater the trend will be on our foreign reserves due to the repatriation of dividends which is the criteria that is usually allowed when people are making their investment in the first place and I truly consider that it would be well worth the while to seriously examine this question. Again, undoubtedly greater local participation will also ensure the stability and security of the new enterprises remaining in Barbados which from an employment point of view are very important.

Mr. President, I would now just like to make a couple more comments and these are in a different area. I would like to make a few comments with regard to the Ministry of Communications and Works. I will only make a passing remark concerning the shocking conditions of the roads of this Island but enough people have been talking about this that I think the message has got through because I particularly looked into the the Estimates to see what would be done in relation to this area and I am very pleased to see that we have a sum of money in here of \$13.717 million for new roads and drainage and \$12.143 million for the repair and maintenance of existing roads.

I am happy to see that because I think it is long overdue and with roads the longer you wait the more money you have to spend to repair them but I would like to make one further comment and that is that it is my opinion, Mr. President, that gross advantage is being taken of the Government by the people who are employed ostensibly to work on the repair of roads, not at the administrative level nor at the supervisory level but the productivity of the people who perform the work is abysmally low and if we were to take a measurement of the quantum of work produced in relation to the wages paid for that work, we must in Barbados have some of the most expensive roads in the world. Not cheap, but expensive.

The time, I think, has come and the Government is well aware of it, where some form of paying on the basis of productivity or measurement will have to be introduced and also in some areas I think we will have to go out, perhaps, it would be wise, to go out and tender for the repair of some of the roads as well.

Under the Ministry of Finance and Planning I would just like to make a few passing remarks about the Central Purchasing Department because on page 5 of the Estimates, I notice that \$900,000 has been

provided for the construction of a Warehouse and an Administration Building for Central Purchasing.

Now, Mr. President, this Department comes in for a great deal of criticism. I have heard many, many criticisms made over the years about this body. Some of the criticisms have merit, in my opinion, but I feel that most of them are unfair and therefore are made because of the misunderstanding between a Government Department and the people involved and also, I think, that the remark sometimes emanates from the fact that various Government officers in various Departments feel that they should be able to place their own orders for what they want and that it need not be done through Central Purchasing.

As far as the private sector is concerned with regard to Central Purchasing, criticisms from time to time have arisen where they have failed within the normal 30 day period after the date of delivery of the goods to make payment for the goods that they have received and supplied to various other Ministries and I have found that in fact the blame cannot really and truly be attached to the people who work in the Price Control Division but what happens is that the money that has been voted to the various Ministries, the people who administer the repayment of that money to the Central Purchasing for goods that they have purchased on behalf of the Department take a very long time and through bureaucracy fashion they come through long after they are supposed to come through and this causes a great deal of problems for Central Purchasing because the money float that they have been given is not enough to be able to act as a buffer when there is delinquency of payments for goods received for various Ministries.

I would not for all the money ever want to have the job of the Chief Purchasing Officer in the Central Purchasing Department. I think he has a great deal of frustrations. I think that basically, and I speak of this because I support the concept of having a Central Purchasing Department. I do feel that it does effect economies of the Government in purchasing and it performs an important role and in my opinion it performs relatively well.

Just one quick remark, Mr. President, and it concerns the registration of self-employed persons. It really lies in the area of vendors. In the City of Bridgetown vendors are causing a great deal of problems and all vendors are supposed to register as self-employed persons and as I understand it, they may sell their wares if they go into the markets that have been provided. If they are to sell elsewhere, I understand that permission must be given by the Supervisor of Markets to permit this. This is my understanding of the situation.

Now I know that the problem exists. I think we all know that the problem exists. We all know that the Police from time to time have been picking up people who may or may be not registered, I am not sure, and telling them to move on but we know as soon as the Police moves off, back they go again.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Barbados Development Bank a suggestion was put forward to relocate those people or to make some place available for them in the various, what was called alley-ways or small streets, that lead off from Broad Street. Personally, I do not think that that suggestion is a good one for the simple reason that if you congest those areas, it is in those side streets that delivery to and from many of the stores are made. They are not made on Broad Street.

Also, if we erect things or permit them to erect things and we should have a fire, I think it would be disastrous because the fire tender would be unable to go down those streets and if they did it would do a great deal of damage both to themselves and to others.

I think that perhaps it would be a wise move, just as it occurred in the past, when we had the same sort of instances created by what was then termed the hawkers. The Government took the bull by the horns by providing two markets for these people to go into, where they could sell their wares and took them off the streets from meandering all over the place.

I think we had a problem at the Port, where people were selling things to the tourists and they had no proper facilities there. I believe that the Government provided such a facility. There is a need for more space to be provided, or a new location to be provided for these people because evidently, we have more self-employed people of the vendor type who require space, who obviously cannot get it and are therefore going into areas, which is causing great disruption and problems. I would like to think that again the Government would take the bull by the horns and solve the problems in the right way, that is, to provide a place for these people because obviously, the amount of space now available for the amount of people selling things is no longer enough. I think that until that is done and you put them into the place you have provided, as was done with fish markets over the years — the other administration has done so little — so let us do it again rather than go on with the situation that we are having at this point in time.

In general, Mr. President, with the exception of the levels of the foreign loans that we have been able to secure and our foreign debt, I am not unhappy with the economic position of the country as I see it, neither am

I unhappy with anything that I see reflected in the Estimates in a general way. I think that credit is due to the Government for handling the affairs of the country in a very good manner and I cannot see that there is need for any criticism, except in that one small area, and I am putting in a plea. Before this Barbados Marketing Corporation becomes some monster, I would like to think that somewhere along the lines, we take a look at it instead of just going ahead blindly to continue to support and extend an organisation that is an absolute economic failure. Let us turn it around where it will fulfil the functions that Senator Brathwaite was talking about earlier today, where they will guarantee stable prices for fish when they are caught in times of glut and the people who have made the investment in fishing boats, which is considerable in these days, will stand a chance of being able to pay back for those boats in an easier way because in fishing, there is a glut and there is a famine. If you reduce the glut prices, they do not earn enough money to honour their debts. Also, the promotion of the small, medium sized or large market gardening operations. I am talking about the Marketing of vegetables, the recruitment, assistance and help for the private sector outlets, rather than being a competitor and tend to alienate the assistance which you can get. It is an important organisation and it should not get out of hand again. It has never justified its existence and if it has to continue where it does not justify its existence, then at least, the losses should be within an ambient that the community can reasonably bear for the services that they are to provide within the community.

SENATOR C. DEANE: Mr. President, first of all, let me say Sir that I should like to add my congratulations to the Government for the wonderful job that it has done, to budget for a surplus again this year. I was delighted last year and I am more delighted this year.

There is one thing that I should like to deal with first. In my colleague's remark, he said that he was very concerned about the foreign debt of the Government. Now, that may be so Sir, but there is the old saying, "Make hay while the sun shines." Tourist wise and sugar wise this year, the sun is shining. In the same way that local people can run the risk of borrowing money, why should the Government not borrow, even on a larger scale, provided they know that they have the prospects of repaying this money. I was a little concerned when it was mentioned. The stabilisation, or the advance towards the stabilisation of the economy of this island is most marked.

Sir, to me, there are four classes of countries; undeveloped countries, developing countries, rapidly developing countries, Barbados comes under that category, and then developed countries.

I also heard the Hon. Leader of the Senate say this morning, that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has no objection whatever of being referred to as getting things cheap, neither do I Sir, I have no objection at all of being referred to as getting things cheap. The only thing that I see cheap, with respect, I am referring to you Sir, it is your personal emolument. I mentioned this on another occasion and I thought that by now it would have been rectified. This is the only thing that I can refer to as cheap because Sir, I am not flattering you or anything, but I think it is completely ridiculous in comparison with the others.

If we look back for a moment Sir and take all that the Government has been going through, the tribulation of cane fires, the fuel prices which remain operative now and have been remaining operative for many years. You remember Sir, at the beginning of this regime the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister said that it would be necessary for everyone to draw in his belt if we want to stabilise the economy of this country. He said that some of these measures would be unpalatable, so they have been. Take for example, the restriction on the importation of motor cars. Suppose some restriction had not been exercised, what would the streets and the highways of Barbados be like today? I have driven from the Empire Theatre almost up to Oistin bumper to bumper in a line of cars. Financially, it does not suit me at all, but nonetheless, what could he do?

The real point with me, is the Employment Levy. I could never agree with him on that where the sugar industry is concerned. I will tell you why. Last year, we wanted workers in the sugar industry but we still had to pay the Employment Levy.

Here it is this year there is a strong possibility, in fact I do know for sure that foreign workers will be brought in although jobs have been offered by the sugar industry and have not been taken up. That brings me, Sir, I think I had better deal with this now, to the point of education, the Ministry of Education and Culture. We are proud to think that Barbados has the highest percentage of literacy of any country in the world. That is so, Sir, but still it can backfire sometimes because when somebody is highly educated he does not want to do a job. He leaves his educational time with the understanding that he wants such and such a job, and when he does not get such and such a job he feels frustrated.

Now you will remember that Mr. Kipling said: "Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders, If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders: And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden, You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden."

And the garden being Barbados.

However, Sir, the Government is not viewing agriculture lightly. They had a commission the other day and the McGregor Report was the outcome. Now I would not like would-be-politicians to jump into mine and try to force on what the Government is doing. I am speaking as an independent Senator, Sir, with complete loyalty to a Government that has done exceedingly well. That is what I am speaking as. Here, Sir, the Government called a tripartite Committee, that was, the sugar industry, the Barbados Workers' Union and members of the Government, and here is a list of their priorities. I need not go through all of them, but it begins with (1) a rationalisation of existing levies and funds, distinguishing between those dedicated to social welfare purposes and investment funds intended to maintain the viability of the sugar industry. Moreover, Sir, it says further down the line, the orderly and efficient introduction of harvest mechanisation. Now if Barbados does not mechanise, where would it be sugar industry-wise in the next I don't know how many years?

Now, Sir, I have the highest respect for the contribution that is made by tourism, and all honour to those who have promoted tourism, but do you not think that if we could integrate the question of tourism with agriculture on the whole, the sugar industry included, that the whole set up would be for the very best?

Now, Sir, with regard to market gardening, I think we should be careful about that because if irrigation is lavishly extended you might reach the case where there is too much market gardening, and that would have to be controlled. Mind you if you can preserve the produce, all well and good. That is one thing, but if you can't, then you can quite see what would happen. We would have gluts to throw away. Now, Sir, I am not blaming the Government for this because I probably overdid a good thing, but last year we gave away acres of yams because there was no sale for them; and what Senator MacKenzie said was quite true. I do not think the BMC filled its role in that case.

Still on agriculture, Sir, the ADC — you will remember at the last Estimates I quoted what I had heard otherwise but I agreed with it entirely. The ADC is a disaster and the reason was quite obvious. All our forces and monies were put into the idea of experimentation without the slightest idea of anything coming in as revenue. That was the basis of their trouble and it was suggested by the old SIAB that they should at least plant some of their lands in canes bringing some revenue, but they have all be in experiments and all was lost. Anyhow they are greatly improved and I am going to call the name of Mr. Noel Symmonds at the Agricultural Division of the Barbados National Bank who has been advising them and rather reconstructing them, and the change is very very obvious where the ADC is concerned.

Now, Sir, with regard to the Agricultural Credit Bank, I know that a lot of people contrary to what Senator Brathwaite said this morning feel that there is no help for the small farmer, and I think I should like to remind Senator Brathwaite at this point in time that "peasant" is a bad word; it is small farmer. Now the small farmer has been having credit from the Agricultural Credit Bank in the old days, but I do not think those loans were properly monitored, and when the Agricultural Credit Bank portfolio was offered to the Barbados National Bank, the Agricultural Division, they went through and found that there were so many uncollectable loans that they asked to be relieved of the responsibility, and as you know, Sir, at our last session here the Government itself took over the Agricultural Credit Bank affairs. The Agricultural Division of the Barbados National Bank will still continue to collect the collectable loans and all those small farmers that wish to get money for agriculture will get money for agriculture, but it has got to be agriculture, because that is where the supervision comes in. If you want to borrow money to buy a cow or poultry or whatever it has got to be to buy a cow or for poultry, not to do something else, and I am suspicious of the fact that that was the danger with the Agricultural Credit Bank.

The same thing refers in another degree to the Barbados Development Bank. You know accusations are made that the quantum of loans to the small man in comparison with the quantum to the big man was quite out of proportion, but good dear, Mr. President, if I want to borrow money to operate ten acres and you want to borrow money to operate 1,000 acres, you tell me which loan you should be making up. It was the same thing with the Barbados Development Bank with the question of colossal loans in some cases and very small loans in other cases, but it all depended on the size of the enterprise and nothing else.

Now, Sir, with regard to one thing that Senator Brathwaite said this morning, I don't think I can allow the Government to take credit for that. What he said was that before people were weeks getting in their canes or a long time in getting in their canes. Now their canes are reaped with the greatest rapidity at each factory. Now I want to say this, Sir; the Barbados Sugar Factories Ltd. of which I have the honour to be a member in their anxiety to cooperate with the Government have sent down an edit that all small farmers' canes must be reaped in the first twelve weeks of every crop.

Notwithstanding that the estimate for this crop is 21 weeks, in 12 weeks all small farmers get, but I must say it was in collaboration with the Government, but I cannot let the Government take all the credit for that.

Now, Sir, I also see in the Estimates under the Agricultural Ministry we have here the re-establishment of wells. What does it say? "The functions of this

Subhead are concerned with the research and development activities associated with planned irrigation expansion, including maintenance of a complete network of bore holes and wells throughout the island." Now, Sir, that would be a very good thing, because I do not think that when we have these big rains so much water just runs into the sea, if it would run into the earth it would be a so much better thing, especially when we know what trouble some countries have with water supplies, but apart from that it will help the Ministry of Communications and Works, because it has been a long, long time now since we have had rains of the nature of the rains of 1979, and when those rains come down like that and the water runs down the hills, there are no wells that are going to stop it before it gets over the hills, and when it runs into those roads it makes ruts all over the place, and little holes that size become that size in one flood rain. That is acceptable, everybody knows that, so therefore I do not think we can be too hard.

Mind you, there is a lot left to be desired, but then I am not an engineer, I don't know what the foundation of those roads happen to be, I do not know how strong the foundation is, I do not know if it is the foundation that is responsible for their present condition. I can't tell nor do I know who is responsible for the foundation.

Now, Sir, as I think it was the Leader of the Senate who correctly said that the airport is the gateway to Barbados. I think that was beautifully put, Sir, and the airport is a most beautiful gateway to Barbados. He mentioned the new look that it has since the Government has taken up the condition of it, and so forth, and I think he is quite right, Sir, but also, the Attendants at the airport, I do think something is left to be desired. Sometimes I see them treating some of the tourists in a way that is not exactly courteous, and I would draw that to the Leader's notice, I am sure he would like me to if I have noticed it, and that could easily be fixed.

Now, Sir, with regards to poultry farmers, as Senator Brathwaite very wisely said, the number of poultry farmers has increased by a great many — he has the figures, but I know it has increased by a very great many — but in the old days there was a great difficulty with some company called Bold Hill Farms or something, and they did storage, and it was most inappropriate and insufficient and a lot of people had to keep their poultry far beyond the time they would have kept them, and all that extra time was a loss of money. Well, I think that is greatly corrected now, and I would like also to say that the Government through the Barbados National Bank has had a very large hand in this. I can speak with first hand information on this

because it has worried us a great deal, and I am going to call a name. Mr. Rudolph Hinkson, who used to be a member of the Bank, he has been agitating about this for the longest possible time on behalf of the poultry keepers of Barbados.

Now, Sir, we come to the Ministry of Communications and Works. Now, I have told this Senate before, but it can bear telling again. Not now, there is a great improvement now, anybody will say so — they even had a row the other day over productivity, not too long ago — but anyway, one day I was driving down the Pine Road and there was a sign there with a man and a shovel, and the sign said "Men at work"; notice, Sir, "Men at work". When I got to the other side the men were standing up and milling around the shovel discussing cricket or something, so I stopped. I said, "you know, boys, it strikes me that the only one here working is the one on the sign" and I was taken by surprise by a roar of laughter. Well, I said to myself, "little Colin, you had better move on before they change their minds," and I did.

However, that is the kind of thing that existed, but I must say I have noticed a great improvement. It is not 100% like Senator MacKenzie said, and he is right, the productivity is still too low, but it has greatly improved.

Now, Sir, with regards the Ministry of Education and Culture, like I said, people should come out prepared to take whatever job they can get until the job that they do want comes along, but there are certain things that I do not think contribute to the culture of Barbados, and I refer specifically to the burning of Mr. Harding. I think it is a retrograde step. Moreover, I spoke with the Minister of Education and he told me that it signified the end of hard times, but I have been a planter all my life and I know that everybody in the plantation referred to two seasons, the crop season and the hard time, and the hard time was after the crop, and the crop is over, so it would not be the end of hard times, that is impossible. I do think, Sir, and I am sure Mr. Tull is considering it very seriously.

Moreover, I do not know if the ladies and gentlemen around this table are aware of it, but on the last occasion of the march, or whatever it was up Bush Hill to the Garrison, a lot of things happened which should not happen at all. Those that do not know I would not tell about it, but I think most of you know. Further, and to crown the proceedings, when they went up to the Garrison one of the fire tenders had to be there and it was actually damaged by the crowd. I do not know if they did not want it to put out Mr. Harding or what, but I do know it was damaged by the crowd. They should think of something else that would make

a far better grand finale than the burning of Mr. Harding. Moreover, look at all the fires we have with the burning of the canes, you want to have more fires by burning Mr. Harding? (ASIDE). I do not object to any reason that is advancing, not regressing.

Now, Sir, on Culture. With regard to school fees, according to the income tax blue paper, it says that only children who go to approved schools will have their school fees tax allowable.

Now I know one person with three children, who has just left for Canada; because of the cost of the education of these three children he no longer finds his salary capable of keeping them in Barbados. Now that needs looking into.

I am not going to fool you or anybody that I do not already know what the Government's views — especially the Prime Minister's are — on the tax situation, and he signified that quite clearly in the recent reduction of PAYE to be taken from the sugar workers. Those people work in the crop season for big pay and in the outer crop season for smaller pay, but in the crop season the PAYE is taken in respect of earnings for that week, with the result that large refunds were due to these workers; and you know Sir, the Income Tax Department is a busy office — thousands of people to accommodate — and you know how late those refunds are sometimes in coming back; and the Prime Minister knows this. But there is another thing: If all those people who should pay income tax did pay then those that are heavily burdened would be greatly relieved; that is my opinion. If you want X dollars and you are getting \$5,000 from the President — may I have your excuse Sir — and nothing from me, and then you start to get \$2,500 from me then the President only has to pay \$2,500; it is simple arithmetic. Mind you, Mr. President, there was a very well thought of attorney-at-law in Barbados and he told me once that it was a most laudible thing to avoid income tax but for God's sake never try to evade it. I agree with him.

Now about foreign workers. We are going to have to bring in foreign workers — a small number. But what a paradox, because everybody is talking about unemployment and yet you have to bring in foreign workers to cut the canes. That is money going out of the Island. There are mostly women working on the roads, now, but when you had men working on the roads, — especially in the dry season — those same men used to cut canes before; but they are getting paid by the Government for doing nothing and money for cutting canes is going out of the Island. Do you want a bigger paradox than that? However, the situation is greatly improved now, and I say with all due respect to Senator Dr. Blackman that there is a great change in the whole

outlook all over the place. And again if you are talking about mechanization in the sugar industry, I think his move with this training school is a very good idea. Mind you, if you are going to buy a chopper harvester you do not want somebody who can only drive a motor car; and as you know Sir, we are getting to chopper harvesters fast; those who can afford to are already there.

That brings me to another point: If the Government wants the sugar industry to continue to exist, I think the time has come when they must pay a great deal of attention to the financing of the sugar industry. The sugar industry has had ten really bad years, as witnessed by the lockups in the commercial banks and at the Agricultural Division of the Barbados National Bank. But this is a hopeful year. For some people the loan stock of the sugar factories is paid off and this went a long way towards paying off the lockups, but there are still lots of lockups there. But if the industry has not got the money to finance these very expensive harvesters, then I think it is high time that the Government take a serious look at the situation. I know this is going the whole hog, as one says, for this must not be as a loan but as a grant; we would never have enough cash flow to pay back that loan and still operate under present conditions because, all honour to Mr. Bree St. John, he did a wonderful job at Lome. But there it is — we have to beg for a price for sugar, we do not know what we are going to get for it, we only have to hope. But that new price does not operate until the 1st July so we have to be very careful to ship before the month of July or we run the risk of leaving it at the store house of the Deep Water Harbour and it deteriorates. Last year we had to get it out in a hurry because the colour had deteriorated to such an extent that we were reaching the point where the buyers might not have wanted to take it. So there are all sorts of vicissitudes — cane fires, shortage of labour — but we still try to keep our chins up.

On the question of the tax structure. This is no secret to anybody. Everybody knows that the tax structure needs changing, and the Prime Minister knows it but he has not got enough ammunition. He can only do little things at the moment. But you cannot expect the man to shoot down people without a gun, and he does not have the gun at the moment. And I repeat that Mr. Tull should really think of something else as the grande finale of the Crop Over. We cooperate gladly but we hate to see something done that is detrimental.

As regards the Fire Service. I am delighted to see that the Fire Service has greatly improved in its approach to everything. In the last regime, one day a fire tender came to a house fire without any water and when they went down to the hydrant they were all blocked up and they could not get any. That happened in 1975. However,

there is a great difference now between the Fire Service now and what it was then.

The less I say about the Police Force the better; I have nothing to say.

Now another thing, Mr. Chairman, it is very important and will be very satisfying to Senator Brathwaite that the Sugar Producers' Association for years have been pressing, as a matter of fact, when the Barbados Sugar Factory started, they even offered the Government to buy shares on behalf of the small holders. I suppose, Sir, that Mr. Brathwaite is aware of that. The offer was declined. Since then we have been trying our best but the difficulty is that Mr. Jeffrey Armstrong, who is the President, he is working very hard on this to form Co-operatives with the small farmers and let them have representation.

I should mention that the ADC as such as representation because it has registered its suppliers so as far as the Government is concerned, they have their representation but nothing more as far as the small farmers are concerned and that should be established. Anyhow, Sir, Mr. President, I can only give the Senator my assurance that I am doing my best that this be established. You want the Industry represented as a whole, not in pieces obviously.

I think I will close now with two little remarks. Firstly, I am quite happy with the Estimates in total except for this remuneration business of the President of the Senate. I am completely unhappy about that and will remain so until it is fixed.

I will close on this note now, Sir, and I speak as an independent Senator. I do not care which Government it is, I am going to say what I really think and I have done that but I shall admit that just at this moment, three cheers for the Government that is in. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR R. L. FIELD: Mr. President, I would first like to make reference to a few of the remarks made by Senator MacKenzie about the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I think he was not fair in dealing with the BMC when he referred to being importers and that the BMC should be able to compete with other food distributors.

I am sure that he is aware of the fact that since the BMC was established, there was that removing of the middle man. It is because of the middle man in the Import Industry, the cost of food was higher than it should be at that time and with the advent of the Marketing Corporation, we have gradually seen over the years the removal of the middle man.

I am sure he will agree that the Corporation is now in a position to get prices down at a level that the other

competitors would have been, I would not say profiteering but carrying very high mark-ups for the people of this country and there we saw the benefit of having a Marketing Corporation.

It is true that the Barbados Marketing Corporation in the past has had a very bad reputation. We have had people in high places who for sometime have been accused of removing the things that did not concern them. With the coming of the Barbados Labour Party in power in 1976, we have seen a completely different Marketing Corporation. He himself has admitted that the losses have been reduced and it would take something before this Party put the Marketing Corporation on its true keel but this is being done. As he himself has admitted greater efforts are being made by the Chairman and the members of his staff.

He did refer to the expenditure of \$7.2 million as an expense to the taxpayers but he did not state that that was Capital Expenditure. This is a Capital Investment by the Government of \$7.2 million to set up new Headquarters, a place of business for the BMC and that can be regarded as a Capital Investment. It has nothing to do with the losses incurred by the Marketing Corporation in the past and right now we have been able to reduce those losses to a great extent so that the \$7.2 million is really a Capital Investment and he should have made it clear and not made us believe that it was because of the losses incurred that the taxpayers will be pulling \$7.2 million from their own pockets.

I am glad that he did make reference to the vendors, particularly in Broad Street. I, myself, have had occasion to wonder if the Government is not aware of the fact that these vendors have created quite a havoc among the people and particularly the visitors coming to the Island and I think it is time that something should be done for those vendors.

I agree with Senator MacKenzie when he said that there should not be stores or little villages set up in the alleyways of the Broad Street area. It certainly would not do this Island any good to see a number of little shops set up around Broad Street because I can remember seeing Trinidad, along Market Square and it is a disgraceful thing to see those people along the street and I hope not to see Barbados in the same position.

As a matter of fact, the Government of Trinidad has recently removed these people from there and found somewhere for them to peddle their wares and I hope that we would not come to that position in Barbados where our streets would be taken up by peddlers all along the road. I think it is time that something should be done about these vendors.

Now he did speak a little on Tourism and he had much praise for Tourism but there is no doubt that since

this Government has come into power in 1976, we have had tremendous strides in Tourism.

The Government has put great emphasis on the Tourism Industry because for the past successive years, the Tourism sectors have made a relative contribution to the Gross Domestic Product which increased from 10.3% in 1976 to 11.8% in 1979. That is because of the emphasis placed on Tourism by this Government in those three years.

The Per Capita Expenditure of long stay visitors increased from \$704.00 in 1976 to \$917.00 in 1979. The significance of tourism to export earnings may be seen in terms of those for merchandise exports. I think that that point was raised by Senator McKenzie. In 1979, the gross tourists receipts are estimated to have exceeded visible domestic exports by about 34%. I think that that is the point which Senator McKenzie was making when he referred to the gross revenue of tourism business. The Fiscal receipts from the hotels and Restaurants Sales Tax are estimated to have increased from \$4.2 million in 1976 to \$12.5 million in 1979. There is an indication of the boom in the Tourist Industry and the benefits which the hotels are getting because of the increase in tourists coming to this island.

The direct and indirect employment in the tourist sector is in excess of 15,000 persons and that is because this Government has seen and invested heavily, although, as Senator McKenzie pointed out, the increase of \$800,000 over last year's Budget, is certainly not a great increase and I am sure that the promotions by the Barbados Board of Tourism have brought this country a substantial increase in visitors over the past three years.

LONG STAY VISITORS

Long stay visitors arrivals total 370,916 in 1979. This represents an increase over the previous year of 54,000 persons or, 17.1% which is an average increase per year from 1976 to 1979. With regard to long stay visitors, all markets showed positive growth with the largest numbers coming from Canada. I think that that point was made by Senator the Hon. Nigel Barrow in his opening remarks. The amount of visitors from Canada to Barbados was 92,745 in 1979. Significantly, the Commonwealth Caribbean contributed 76,000 persons reflecting a 1979 growth rate of 37% and right now, the Caribbean is producing for the Tourism Industry, surprisingly from Trinidad and Venezuela an increase of 77% since 1976. One of the most significant features of the 1979 demand was the strong market diversification and the marked absence of dependence on any single market source. We have been able because of our promotions in Western Germany, the United Kingdom, and continued promotions in the Western United States of America, not only to depend on the North American situation as in the past,

but we have had substantial increases from Western Germany and other areas of Europe. These reflect very strong growth from the United Kingdom, Europe and the Caribbean over the last three years compared with elsewhere, the rate from the traditional sources of Canada and the United States of America.

Our table of visitors shows that in 1976 we had 224,314 as against 370,916 in 1979 an increase of 17.1% of course, I must say at this point Mr. President, that the Government planners are gearing themselves for the decade of the 80s. With our healthy arrival figures in 1979 of 370,000 and earnings of \$350 million in revenue, our planners have geared themselves for the demand in the three major areas of physical super structure, of trained labour and diversity of attractions. Those are the three areas on which emphasis is being placed in the 1980s. As far as trained labour is concerned, the Government included, in the Barbados Community College in 1979, a Division of Hospitality Service and already we have had both full time and part time students, a total of 400 registered. At the end of this course, we would be able to provide the industry with trained persons, not only as waiters and chefs but also in the areas of, middle management. It is hoped to train many of the personnel in middle management.

There is great expansion in the hotel area both in the public and the private sector. Last year we had 5,992 rooms or 11,884 beds. The year 1980 marks the beginning of the 1981 season and an additional 635 rooms or 1,264 beds for a projected 400,000 visitors in 1980. All of these projects can be broadly categorised into conventional labour intensive hotels, apartment hotels and condominiums. We find that most of these have been concentrated on apartment hotels mainly because overheads are lower and it is within the reach of most Barbadians to be able to afford to develop apartment hotels, rather than the large hotels that we probably looked for from the International Organisations. Hence, we have more development in the area of apartment hotels and they form the bulk of the additional rooms.

Just last month we opened the Sandy Beach Resort and that is in Worthing. We all know of that new opening. That has given us 38/50 with 89 self-contained units; fifty with two bedrooms and 38 with one bedroom and one studio, making a total of 278 beds. It has come on stream already for 1980. We will soon have the Worthing Court Apartments scheduled to open in December 1980 with another 46 units. A multi-million dollar extension programme is being undertaken at one of the Island's oldest hotels, that is the Paradise Beach Hotel. We will have 45 new bedrooms expected to be attached by the end of the first year of the decade. A total re-vamping of the Paradise Beach Hotel to provide it with a mediterranean flavour is also in the works for 1980.

There are other additional labour intensive hotels that are being boosted in its room capacity in 1980. Take Sam Lords Castle; they are also carrying out heavy development in 1980. On the coast, St. James, two creative condominium schemes are on stream to be completed by the end of the year. The St. James Beach Club comprising 78 apartments is also on stream. So we have got to be able to train staff at the Community College and the Hotel School to meet the great demands coming in the Eighties.

This is nothing to do with our new underwater park at Folkestone in 1980. That should be completed around October this year. In that underwater park you will have sundry forms of sea life protected from man which will be opened for viewing and experience. We have also coming on stream some time this year, I believe towards the end of the year, the most beautiful cave in the world. We have been told by the speleologist at present working on the project who have probably seen most of the caves in the world that when completed it will be the best show-case seen any part of the world. The stalagmites and stalactites I do not believe can be matched by any individual cave in the world, and we will have that as one of our major attractions coming on later this year; and that is in St. Thomas, Mr. President. I heard Senator Hunte asking if in St. Thomas. That is the Prime Minister's constituency and will be for a long time too.

The Board is actively playing its role because we have other problems facing our industry. Our one major problem I believe is crime. It is hoped that some effort be made, and I believe the only people who can take the initiative right now is our Government, because crime is increasing, and we are hearing this all over wherever you go in the United States of America; you go to Germany, you go to the United Kingdom and all around you hear what about the crime in Barbados. We know that crime is on the increase and we have got to do something about it, and I hope that after the strengthening and reorganisation of the Police Force we will be able to meet all the demands required of us in keeping law and order within certain limits.

Some time ago we also had some examples of pictures shown in the newspaper about nudity on our beaches. The Board is taking every possible step to keep this from becoming more prevalent on our beaches. However, I am not convinced that the pictures taken at that time were actually taken by chance, but rather I believe that they have been pictures posed for. I know another media or two have been patrolling for weeks trying to get a picture and so far has been unsuccessful, and it is surprising that one paper can come up with a posed picture. We know there is a little nudity existing in Barbados, but it is not to the extent that was expressed

in a particular paper. I know we are going to tackle it and the Board is tackling the whole problem.

We have just issued thousands of posters to the effect to put into hotels and various places of entertainment, airports and the stores where visitors go asking that they dress in a more conservative manner along our public places and on our beaches. We do not accept nudity in Barbados. This comes mainly from people in Europe. You would not find a North American practising these things, but Europe does have the tendency to practice a little bit of nudity, and we are not really accustomed to that in Barbados, and I am sure that good Barbadians will object to it, and where possible call the Police Force. I believe it is a police matter and I hope that Barbadians will react when they see people on the beach not really in the appropriate way and call the police, and as soon as we apprehend a few, I believe the whole idea will change. Some of our local boys are doing it, we know, and we have got to get a few put away before we can really solve the problem.

I would also like to refer as far as tourism is concerned, Mr. President, to the investment of \$6 million which is the allocation for the Board this year, only an increase of \$800,000, and I would like to point out that the Bahamas' budget for 1979 was \$US13.5 million. We are talking about Barbados dollars here, Mr. President, of \$6million, but the Bahamas was \$US13.5 million with a cost factor per visitor of \$US11.48 as against Barbados with a budget of \$2.41 million US for 1979 with a cost of \$7.29. We are getting more for our money than the Bahamas by far when they invest \$US13.5 million and it costs them \$US11.48 per visitor whereas it costs us \$7.29 per visitor with an investment of \$US2.3 million.

You can see that Barbados not only is spending its money well, getting more for its money, but Barbados in itself is a destination where people all over the world would like to spend their vacation. Our cost per visitor, Mr. President, in 1976 was \$15.60 and in 1979 it has been reduced to \$14.29. The cost to us has been reduced from 1976 to 1979, from \$15.60 to \$14.29, so the money spent on tourism is bringing great returns to Barbados, with a revenue of \$350 million in 1979.

As some times on promotional tours you have to speak to travel agents, tour operators, you have to impress upon them what a beautiful place Barbados is. We ourselves know that it is a paradise, but we have to make them understand it is a paradise. As I remember telling one group recently in the United Kingdom, that when Peter was admitting the people into Heaven, into Paradise, a group when entering asked Peter who were those over there in chains. He said they were Barbadians, and that if you let them go they would go back to their paradise, Barbados, so that is an indication of how

beautiful Barbados is, and I know we are the number one destination today in the Caribbean. I only hope that the people of Barbados continue to keep it in such a manner that it will always be the number one destination in the world.

Senator Deane spoke about the Attendants at the Airport, but that too has been attracting the attention of the Board of Tourism for some time, and the Board has already put into motion through its local awareness programme, and a number of discussions and seminars will be held shortly with the Attendants, Customs Guards, people who work at the airport, taxi drivers, people of the like, those involved in the industry in some way or another, to be able to make them aware of the need for tourism in this country. We are selling a produce, we have to sell a good product and we have to keep it good at this end before we sell it, and I think that with the local awareness programme by the Board of Tourism we will be able to keep our people in line, and we hope that they will continue, as I said before, to keep Barbados as a place desired by the people.

His reference to the march on our Crop-Over Day. I would like Senator Deane to know it is the people's day, Kadooment Day, and we hope it will always remain with us. It is a very great attraction. Surprisingly, throughout our tours we have had people enquiring about our Carnival, but I say it is not a Carnival, we do not copy Trinidad this is Barbadian, it is a Crop-Over Festival, and I hope that we keep it up, because quite a number of people have been coming and asking about the Crop-Over Festival.

SENATOR C. I. DEANE: On a point of elucidation, Mr. President. I have no objection to the Crop-Over, or Kadooment, but is the Senator telling me then that the burning of Mr. Harding is a part of the Kadooment? Could they not find another grand finale instead of that? Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR R. L. FIELD: Mr. President, another area that I would like to probably say little on, not very much, because I think our Opposition Senator, Senator Hunte, would agree with me — I say so because I know it is an area he was very interested in when his party was holding the reins of Government and he was very familiar with sports — and I know he will agree with me that the National Sports Council over the past year has performed remarkably well. In the light of the fact that with a small budget of \$900,000 we were able to do so much with so little is a credit to the National Sports Council. (ASIDE). Take a look at the playing fields around, the pavilions, and I am sure that the people in the Pine, the people in Wildey — you do not have to go very far, just in Wildey, where Senator Connell, I am sure, must have taken a look, I do not know if that is the reason why he is not in Wildey any more — but we are all sure that the Council has provided the people of this country in one year with what the Democratic Labour Party has taken 15 years to provide.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE REV. A. HATCH: Mr. President, one cannot but enjoy some of the more philosophical points that are made in the Senate from time to time, and I was duly impressed this morning when the Leader of the Senate said that how much you care is an important aspect of Government and went on to emphasise that with the demise of the Local Government structure this is even more important as we now have a centralised system. How much you care is an important aspect of Government.

And then Senator Enid Lynch made also a philosophical point worth noting when she said that in retrospect one sees that certain points have been turning points and consequences often inevitable could have been avoided if such turning points were noted in good time and remedial action attempted.

And so when the last Senator referred to Paradise, my mind became somewhat philosophical and hoped that it would not be the kind of turning point to which Senator Enid Lynch referred, and that we would not have a paradise lost.

It must be obvious that the main industry of any country, and we even refer to it, Sir, as the mainstay of the economy or the society or the country, the primary industry affects and determines the style of life and the lifestyle of a society.

For example, in the Grenadines, because their livelihood is from the sea, such things as boat building, fishing, the making of nets and so on determine the character of the people of Bequia and the Southern Grenadines. It is clear that the gold mining activities in South Africa and the consequent separation of men from their families on the Bantustans determine the lifestyles for them, as one imagines as does coal mining in those parts of the world where this industry is a primary one. So it is obvious that sugar as the mainstay of Barbados from its settlement until comparatively recently has shaped Barbados and all of us who are Barbadians. When, for example, you fly over Barbados, in contrast with any of the neighbouring mountainous islands, one is immediately impressed with the agriculture of the Island, which is so neat, almost like a front garden, in stark contrast with the Windward Islands.

The development of the chattel house in Barbados is a result of the sugar industry when the land was aggregated in large plantations and so people's homes had to be moveable. Even the road system, I understand, was largely determined by the needs of the plantocracy in getting the canes from their fields to the factories. And I suppose that is not hard to understand when the plantocracy dominated the Vestry system until com-

paratively recently. And the system of Local Government through the vestry again indicated the primary industry of Barbados, the priority of sugar agriculture. So that now, as it is being hailed, tourism becomes the number one industry and one imagines the mainstay of the economy, it will in turn shape or misshape Barbados.

And so what I have to say under the head of Religion, even though it is only \$61,000 out of a Budget of nearly \$400 million — because I take it that any intelligent Christian today is concerned with the whole human development and not only with how a person says his prayers, I am therefore delighted to recognize the positive contribution of our now primary industry to the country. Even using the same indicators I chose above — the environment — one sees how people's homes and businesses have improved with the increase of jobs and money in the country. I would not say the roads have improved but I gather that it is the intention to improve the roads. And certainly within the education system, especially at the CXC level, tourism studies are to be a part of the social studies course offered, so one begins to see some of the ways in which tourism is affecting or beginning to shape us.

But I want to refer to some of the negative fallout of tourism, the minus factors. It is clear that our ethics are changing, sometimes without the need for changing. The promoters of tourism tell us of alternative attractions, things for people to do when they are bored with the beach, and one of the three foci of the Barbados Board of Tourism this year was gambling as a necessary part of this entertainment.

SENATOR R. L. FIELD: On a point of elucidation, Mr. President. I must stress that gambling was not a part of the Board's interests as one of the tourist attractions. The attractions referred by the Board of Tourism were definitely not gambling, and I therefore hope that the hon. Senator would refrain from using gambling in the context of what was meant by the Barbados Board of Tourism.

SENATOR THE REV. A. HATCH: I am very happy to acknowledge that, and it was not my intention to imply that the Barbados Board of Tourism was promoting gambling as a tourist attraction. But it is generally regarded in the tourist industry from which the idea most strongly comes that it is a necessary attraction for tourist. I don't think anybody can deny that, despite the fact that many Barbadians gamble too, but the latest European demand study, a study of what Europeans come to this area for, places gambling at No. 7 in their list of priorities; so that we must not be misled by misinformation and believe that our ethical standards have to change in order to promote the new industry and that part of this promotion necessitates gambling; it does not.

The last three admirers of tourism — among them Senator Field — have spoken about the dress — or more

accurately the undress — of many of our visitors. And if you turn to the morals here — which you would expect me to speak about — I do not think we are the most moral people in the world, but the development of the beach boy business is a direct result of the development of the No. 1 industry in the country. And it is too early to assess what the impact of tourism is on our agriculture in the narrow or the widest sense, but it is clear that there are impacts. It may be that in the short run drama and dance and painting have an audience which we cannot normally afford here and therefore the advent of tourism gives a positive impact. On the other hand, I think there are times that we can prostitute our culture in the interest of tourism, but perhaps it is too early to be able to demonstrate this.

I was interested yesterday to see that the panel which I think the Barbados Hotel Association has working on energy in the tourist industry considered it important to point out that it was not only necessary to explore alternate energy sources but that the Hotel industry should be encouraged to save energy traditionally generated by gas or electricity. I think we overlooked the point that when hotels pay for energy that is not the total cost because it is a loss of foreign exchange for the country as a whole when electricity has to be generated by the importation of oil.

Then perhaps the last of the very few areas of concern which one would mention and I think one has few compliments for and it is the area of crime. As I think Senator Field has said before if you have to sell something you indicate its best points, not its negative ones.

On the other hand, I think the public is getting the impression that in order to promote Tourism it becomes necessary to down play the increase of crime in the country. Now, if we were assured that Government is going to deal with the increase of crime in the country, I would agree that we do not need to plaster it all over our Press and the International Press but we do need the assurance that Government is dealing seriously and effectively with the increase of crime in the country which, for the most part, the population is not being told of.

Now, I am extremely well aware even before today of the contribution of Tourism to Barbados from an annual arrival figure in the vicinity of 250,000 per annum over several years. We moved in 1977, subject to correction of the details, I think to 317,000 and in 1978 to a figure of 370,000 visitors and in 1980 it is confidently predicted that the number of tourist arrivals would be in excess of 400,000 people.

I had on my sheet before me the indication that 12,000 direct jobs were provided by the Tourist Industry.

Senator Field informs me that it is over 15,000 jobs. I had in my source of information that the estimated revenue from Tourism in 1979 was \$317 million, today both Senator MacKenzie and Senator Field indicated that it is probably \$350 million.

One just has to stop a little to recognise what the Sociologists referred to as demand pull of tourists and that without the Tourist Industry we would, for example, be unable to afford the splendid new Airport that we have and very many other facilities. There would not be so many airplanes coming into the Island so that our communications in terms of aircraft or perhaps even telecommunications or even the telephone would not be as modern and effective as they are.

Without the demand pull of Tourism there would not be the money in the economy that would improve the roads and the parks. There would not be the spin-off in the production of eggs, meat, or vegetables and the whole rest so that one is aware that beside the estimated \$350 million of revenue in one year alone there are extensive repercussions in the economy from the now primary industry.

What concerns me is what happens if Paradise gets lost. The facilities on the North Coast of Jamaica are in every respect equalled to those in Barbados, I believe. The Hotel infra-structure is first class. The beaches and the sea were first class. They had effective communications 90 miles from Miami. They had a trained Hotel Industry and a sophisticated society. They used to think of it as much more advanced than Barbados.

Generally, it was agreed that there was a loss of 80% of the National Economy of Jamaica when Tourism turned sour in that country during the 60's and the 70's.

Now, if the estimated Tourism Income last year was \$350 million and if perchance Paradise were lost and Tourism turned sour, not entirely, of course, but suppose we have the same fall-off as Jamaica, then there would be a loss of 80% of \$350 million which is \$290 million to the National Economy. It would obviously mean that Schools, Polyclinics and the whole Development Plan of Barbados including Senator Blackman's Skills Training would be quite unnecessary because, construction, particularly in the Tourist Industry, would dry up immediately so what caused the 80% fall-off in Tourism in Jamaica? One single factor — the attitude of Jamaican people to visitors. That is worth 80% of the investment in the Industry.

It is not inconceivable if we are not very careful that the attitude of Barbadians to visitors could change, hopefully not in the same proportions. I see already that there are signs and this is why I made reference to Senator Enid Lynch's comment about turning points.

There are signs that the attitude of Barbadians to tourists are indeed changing and of the \$6 million that the Government has allocated to the Barbados Board of Tourism, the majority of that, and here I stand subject to correction, the majority of that over and above the administrative cost will be spent on the Promotion of Tourism to bring, if possible, even more that the 400,000 to Paradise.

I believe that precious little is being done either by the Barbados Board of Tourism or the Government, or the Church, for that matter, to maintain and if possible to improve the social climate on which a successful Tourist Industry depends. For example, how many Studies, I know that there is at least one, but how many Studies are being done of the beach boy problem? How many Studies are being done about the problem of access to the beaches?

I understand that there is, excuse me if I get the title wrong, an Advisory Council of some kind in the Island on which the Barbados Board of Tourism is represented and for my information I must give credit to the Chairman of the Board who tells me that it has not met since 1977. I did not intend to use it against Senator Field but he happened to convey that helpful piece of information to me.

I know of at least one Hotel which has a share participation scheme for its staff but I only know of one group that has such a scheme and I stand glad to be corrected. The artists, even within the last few months were on the verge of a strike before the opening of the Tourist Season because they felt unfairly by some of the conditions and remunerations in the entertainment field of the Tourist Industry.

One would ask such questions as to how many Industrial Relation Experts do the Tourist Industry employ? I think the answer is probably none. How many social and beneficial projects such as Scholarships have been created for the children of those involved in Tourism? The point I am making, Sir, is that in spite of the contribution of Tourism estimated at \$350 million, 80% of which could be lost if the social situation turns sour.

We seemed to be doing almost nothing to maintain the social climate in a positive sense. I believe that the opinion of an increasing number of people is that we should determine the optimum number of visitors which Barbados can deal with in the best sense of that term, in giving to them what they are paying for and not infringing our rights and privileges. We have to decide not what is the maximum number of tourists that the Barbados Board of Tourism, with \$6 million to spend can encourage to come to the island, but what is the

optimum that this island can entertain with due regard to this and to ourselves. This is a political decision and what I hope that an increasing number of people will require that we do, is not simply promote the objective more and more, but that we control the objective of tourism functioning at the optimum level rather than the maximum level. In another forum, I have raised a few of my pet concerns, all of which related to tourism, the primary industry and if you have gone along with me, the main stay of the economy would shape the economy. We should be concerned with the shape which tourism is imposing on us.

On my left, Senator Wickham refers to his concern for the export of antique mahogany furniture from the island. We understand that the Government will soon be ready to introduce legislation for the control of the export of antique furniture from Barbados.

One is quite disgusted and that is not too strong a word to use, to see some of the construction which is being erected and which has been erected in recent years for the tourist industry. The Town and Country Development Act, accords to the Town Planner no control of the artistic or aesthetic aspects of the building, so long as the building conforms to certain health, sanitation and safety requirements. The Act does not give the Town Planner the right to have any input into the design and the facade of the aesthetics of tourism development. You can see what has happened for example, in Holetown, and there are many other crude and quite disgusting tourism constructions in many parts of the island. It seems essentially, that the Town and Country Planning Development Act needs to be strengthened to require conformity to certain aesthetic criteria. An increasing amount of land is passing out of the control of Barbadians. I am not happy, as the Leader of the Senate said he was this morning, when insisting that the local newspapers should not be foreign owned, to think that they may be Trinidadian owned, this is only a little bit better than bad. It is important that they should be Bajan owned. By the same token, I do not think that the land should be alienated and probably never again come within the pockets of Barbadians to repurchase, other than a rather limited number of Barbadians.

The last points which come out of that, is that much of the prime land — perhaps Senator Deane can give us the information — but as far as one has heard, while our most powerful neighbours move into commerce and industry in Barbados. I have not heard of them moving into agriculture, at least on the plantation level. They are moving into a beach front property and into tourism facilities of one kind or another. I do not regard it as being any better to be taken over by Trinidad than to be taken over by Canada, or the United Kingdom, or anywhere else in the world. The question of what is happening along our coast, the alienation of property to

non nationals, or expatriate aliens. The development of most of these windows to the sea for tourism development and facilities is an extremely worrying phenomenon which is escalating at an enormous speed. One does not know, and the law does not give one the right to know when a site is going to be developed for tourism until one sees the building going up. I know, that one has the right to go to the Town and Country Planning Development Office and be informed of what applications are submitted. The Advisory Committee to the Ministry in charge of the Town and Country Planning Development Department recommended — and one is surprised that he has not taken the advice — that all applications of any significance such as tourism development should be required by law to be published in the daily Press and not only in the Gazette, at least, for those of us who are not energetic enough and for whom it is not our business, unless we have a specific business to go to that department and find out what applications are in. What I hasten to say is, that it is our right to do and I have done it on occasions. It would be better for the public if the major development plans in the tourism sector are published in the newspaper.

A group of some eight of us have in the last three years, looked at this problem and decided that first of all, information was required and therefore a survey should be made of the remainder of the existing open windows to the sea and I wish to define the way that I use this term. We are no longer discussing access to the beach, that is a little better than bad. A hotelier told me only this week that they were concerned with access to the beach and when they built their hotel, they gave a two-foot right of way to the sea. It is next to a culvert, a drain which stinks and if you pass anyone on the two-foot right of way you have to turn broad side to get pass; We are no longer discussing access to the beach, we are discussing the retention of all the existing open land on the seaside of the highway for at least 300 feet from high water mark. Building should be prohibited on all the open spots. A study was made some 18 months ago which is going to be published today week entitled, "Windows to the Sea." It is now a disappointment within the 18 months in which the study was made to the time that it will be published next week, to read of the numbers of existing openings which have been closed off by tourism developments of one sort or another, and because one has to plan for any objective. The citizens of Paynes Bay have grouped themselves together to acquire at least one window to the sea in Paynes Bay.

In the short time that this group has been meeting we have discovered that the two remaining open lots in Paynes Bay are both the subject of applications to the current Town and Country Planning Development Planning Department for tourism facilities. One indeed has received planning permission and the other one, as I say,

is the subject of an application. We are not deterred; we believe that the common good should take priority over individual gain, and we are attempting to do two things, to stir up community opinion and awareness of the turning point which it seems to some of us has come in Barbados and further, the use the hackneyed phrase, to put our money where our mouth is, and having done what we can to make the community aware of the problem and also to contribute towards the response to that problem, that we should approach Government to tackle the problem. It is purely a strategic device to aim at the one opening in Paynes Bay first of all.

What we are in fact concerned with is that there should be a total embargo for the foreseeable future on all building on the sea coast on the south and west coasts as we understand already to have been imposed on building on the seaside of the East Coast Road. One does not expect the impossible and is aware that land in St. James is worth between \$10 and \$12.50 a square foot, and it would be a very impractical person who anticipated that Government would take on to acquire and of course we are discussing the acquisition by purchase, not the expropriation of land — I want to make that clear, at least I am, for now. There must be methods which we can conceive by which these lands can be acquired. There are obvious mechanisms. The price can be pegged at today's value; it can be made clear that permission to develop for tourism is not available. If this requires a change in the Act, let us change the Act. The lands can be purchased totally in bonds or partly in bonds and partly in cash. After all National Bonds are extremely good investment at the moment.

We have sent abroad to Canada where there is a 5% levy on the value of any land used for tourism development and the 5% levy is used for environmental improvement. Such legislation as this could be instituted in Barbados. Of course the percentage ought to be higher than 5%. I raise these issues because, as I say, I think to determine the optimum level of tourism is a political decision; it is not to say that one would have a fixed optimum forever. The optimum might well change over the years given changing circumstances, but if Government can be expected to attempt to determine the optimum level at which tourism should function in the country, then public opinion would need to be prepared for such a process and such a decision, and the best process of preparation of the public for such a decision, the optimum level of our tourist product, is the development of an awareness within the society of the speed, the rapidity with which the windows to the sea are being closed off and the easy access to the sea inhibited, and that if citizens' groups in one village after another hopefully encouraged by the success that those in Paynes Bay pray for and hope for, that other community groups around the Island will organise themselves also to retain whatever existing open windows remain in their community, so that in the future

Government would be able to act with the confidence that the community has made its mind up on this controversial and political issue.

I would like to end on the note on which I started which came out of the Leader's comment that how much you care is an important aspect of Government especially since the demise of the Local Government structure. Such community citizens' groups might very well be the renewal of more people's participation in the process of Government and the society and the community life in general, and this is the objective which everyone of us should be committed to and make every attempt to support.

SENATOR H. F. G. ROCHEFORD: Mr. President, one of the problems which face members of the Senate in debating the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates is that we have a difficulty in not being repetitious but there are certainly four areas of Government activity on which I should like to comment, and perhaps though I did not have it noted, to talk first on tourism since Senator Hatch has just finished on that topic, it might be better for me to continue where he left off, because though there has been such lavish praise about tourism which has come from the Chairman of the Board of Tourism, I myself would like to express my concern about the whole aspect of tourism in Barbados. For me, thinking of 400,000 coming into Barbados, I believe we have reached saturation point and that level of visitors coming into Barbados must have serious effects on all aspects of Barbadian life, and while it sounds good and nice to be able to record tourist revenue presenting such a large percentage of the gross domestic product of Barbados, yet I view with concern the willynilly expansion of tourism in Barbados where we have already seen disturbing aspects of the whole tourist industry in this country, and on the question of attitudes which Senator Hatch spoke about especially in these days where we are being bombarded with anti-North American sentiments and a lot of our rhetoric has so great racial overtones, I cannot see but danger ahead of the whole Barbados social situation where we continue to think about expansion of this one industry and lauding it as high as to the exclusion of everything, and I would like to express my concern about this.

I feel it is high time that the Government review its whole concept of aid to the hotel industry. It is about time that we stop giving all these incentives because I think a lot of the expansion has been because of the incentives that have been given by Government, and if you get incentives and you build more hotel rooms, then you have to do something to bring more people to fill those hotel rooms. I would like to think that we are going to have a serious look at how far we want our expansion of tourism to go. Already, Mr. President, the President of the Hotel Association has indicated

that the Barbadian hoteliers are pricing themselves out of the tourist market, so that it may not be far distant before the situation envisaged by Senator Hatch of a loss of reputation as being the ideal place for vacationing tourists may come about.

I venture to suggest that we have to re-look the whole question of tourism in these lights. On the question of the ownership of land and the ownership of a lot of our valuables which are being exported, the temptation which presents itself to most of our people to get easy money for something which we do not see any value in ourselves is very great. On the question of antiques there are a lot of our people as was suggested to me who prefer the boxwood upholstered modern furniture to the beautiful antique mahogany furniture. You can't force them not to sell their beautiful mahogany couches and things like that especially when they see good money coming in; so we definitely have to look at some of the incentives which make people go into these fields. That is my view about tourism, and I am certainly concerned, have been concerned for a long time, that tourism unfettered and uncontrolled and unlooked at carefully will cause more social unrest and social dislocation in this country than we have seen up to now.

The other area of Government activity where I would like to make comments on, and it would appear as though I am going to be a little critical in some of my comments really, is in agriculture, because we have for a long time been paying lip service to agriculture, but what we have been doing does not really measure up to what we have been saying. Our talk is not followed up by action. I have in recent weeks had cause to visit some of the agricultural activity that is going on in Barbados because I work with an organisation which provides some manpower in agricultural areas, and I have been able to see at first hand some of the concerns that people must express on what is going on. Research for instance: there is a very serious unconcern in the Ministry of Agriculture about proper research, and though they talk about it, nothing is really being done about it. For instance, you will have at the station in St. Andrew where we have been doing some research on mangoes and productivity of varieties, the situation where people there are not able to monitor the research because of the larceny of the fruit, and this could be corrected by the erection of some fences for which money I understand was voted, but nothing was done about it because this part of the activity of the station does not seem to concern anybody in authority.

I have seen where they have put out field trials on cherry trees and after the first year they don't bother with them; they are just there; there is no concern about that. I saw in the news I think it is today or yesterday

that they have cotton planted but they can't get the cotton reaped because they have not got the labour, yet I understand they had research on the reaping and harvesting of cotton by machines and there are actually machines available to reap the cotton, but for a while the machines are lying down and areas of cotton have been planted and not being harvested. Something seems to be wrong with the movement from the office into the workplace, and I would like to feel that more interest is being taken in the actual application of work in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The sheep station at Greenland, a beautiful idea about the development of black belly sheep and all that sort of thing, but no serious concern is paid to this thing at all. Mr. President, I feel that some concern must be expressed about these things and that we would like to see action taken to rectify some of these things.

I would like to make one appeal when it comes to education. We are moving into the area of special education and to a large measure in recent times and a lot of it has been done at a voluntary level, and I think praise is due particularly in the area of mental retardation, the Association for the Mentally Retarded Children out-running the Challenor School. Now these voluntary activities as you can appreciate in Barbados run into a lot of financial problems, and I know that the Challenor School at the moment is greatly in need of trained teachers. The teachers that they have are doing a good job without having been trained, but the problem is the question of finance. I have made a suggestion already which does not seem to have been taken seriously. The Government is in the case of approved schools willing to pay the salary of some of the staff of those approved schools, one teacher for every 100 pupils in some of these schools. I would like to suggest that the Government could perhaps pay the salary of one trained teacher to assist the efforts of the Association in running that Challenor School as they are doing a tremendous job in difficult conditions and no assistance is given. They do give them a subvention of \$55,000 a year, but I think that they could have a trained teacher, because the salary of a trained teacher in these days is fairly high, and with that assistance I believe that a greater intake of children who are on the waiting list now could be definitely assisted.

The last area I would like to talk about, Mr. President, is the question of welfare. We have grown in Barbados to expect Government to do everything. It seems to be the attitude of everybody that Government should do everything in every area, and I would like to see where the Welfare Department can try to stimulate some voluntary activity. There are a lot of areas in the community life in Barbados where I think voluntary

activity can be of great assistance. We have a lot of old people who can benefit from somebody going in and spending a few minutes with them any one day. It takes a little organisation to get something like this done, and if we could suggest that voluntary activity in these areas can be coordinated by the Welfare Department, some look at some of these aspects of voluntary activity can be done, then I think some of the problems which some of our citizens face in this country might be eased.

And on that point I notice that we still have a subvention going to the Barbados Legion of Empire League which I haven't heard about for some time, and I wonder if it is active in Barbados what is it doing.

SENATOR K. R. HEWITT: Mr. President, by way of introduction I would probably refer to the Leader of the Senate's comment with regard to comparison of one year's figures with another. He had taken pains in some areas to indicate why there might have been ostensibly large variances, so that I guess if one was attempting to compare the figures, they would be comparing like with like. But I have a particular difficulty in effecting any comparison of figures in the Estimates because from what I could see we are given the absolute amounts of one year as opposed to another year, but from the point of view of accountability really perusal of the Estimates will not enable one to give any idea as to the meaningfulness of comparing two figures. By way of example, for argument sake, in one year an estimate of expenditure might have been made for say \$100,000, and coming the following year one would see the actual amount spent, \$70,000. Whether the \$70,000 achieved 50% of what the \$100,000 was supposed to achieve or whether it achieved 70% or 100%, no one knows; so that from year to year one seems to talk about the level of expenditure or expenditure in a particular area; but coming back to the following year there is nothing by which one can really attempt to monitor the situation so to speak. So even when Senator Barrow indicated various changes, to me it wasn't that meaningful in that still one is not able to make these comparisons meaningfully.

Now last year a lot was made of the question of surplus on current account. I think that was the sort of general subject which held sway and I was a little surprised this year that very little was said or reported in the press vis-a-vis the pros and cons of having a surplus on current account. Senator MacKenzie however alluded to the situation and he was very pleased to see that for the second consecutive year there was a surplus on current account, because in his own words it obviously would be economic madness to expect a country or individual to live beyond their or its means.

Looking at the situation though, and I can give a little statistical information, 1979-80 the estimated sur-

plus on current account was \$20 million and at that time when the Estimates were done that represented approximately 18% of the projected capital expenditure of \$116 million. The revised 1979-80 surplus is approximately \$20 million still, but that \$20 million in fact represents approximately 24% of the revised estimated figure of the capital expenditure. For 1980-81 the projected surplus is \$23.6 and that represents 14.67% of the estimated capital expenditure of \$162 million. Now these are a lot of figures, but the question that I want to pose is that I am really wondering whether the figures or the percentages of between 15% and 25% surplus vis-a-vis the capital expenditure where that estimate is more or less the indicated Government policy; in fact whether Government sees it as desirable that from year to year the surplus on current account should represent in the vicinity of 15% to 25%.

Now, whereas I would accept Senator MacKenzie's point that one must tend not to live beyond one's means, yet I would follow him in using the analogy of the individual, and in the same way that I see that the individual would hardly be able to accumulate much if that individual only spent year by year what he had cash to spend on, let me put it like that, then very little would be accumulated. In other words, when one comes to Capital Expenditure which would last for many years, then obviously one is looking at a time frame of repaying that Capital Expenditure, and I am really wondering whether in fact 20 to 25% financing of Capital Expenditure out of Current Revenue is not really being a bit of a burden.

In the Current Expenditure, already the Current Revenue has to take care of interest on past debt, and similarly on the amortisation of the repayment of that debt, so in a sense within the Current Expenditure, especially for 1980-81, there is a large amount — I think of about \$50 million — which in fact pertains to the servicing of previous Capital Expenditure, if you want to put it like that, in that it is repaying debt which was used for Capital projects. So the gist of what I am trying to say is I am really hoping that there is not too much emphasis on realising a large surplus on Current Account, because I really feel that Capital Expenditure by and large must be financed through loans over a long period of time, and the only way that this surplus is really being realised is through direct or indirect taxation, and I feel it could be somewhat of a burden if too large a percentage of the Capital Expenditure is being financed out of Current Revenue.

Sort of going on from there would be the question of the rising debt. It is all right to talk about borrowing to take care of Capital Expenditure, but obviously it has to be repaid in future generations, etc. and whether the debt is financed or borrowed locally or overseas I guess is a moot point. I think Senator MacKenzie again was a

bit disturbed by the rising foreign debt or debt to external sources, and his concern stemmed from his concern over our ability in the future to raise the foreign exchange to repay that debt. The thing to note here though is that much of the Capital Expenditure being undergone, whether that Capital Expenditure is for roads, schools, polytechnics or factory buildings, much of that expenditure is made on materials from foreign countries. In other words, to get the projects going, one in fact needs foreign exchange, so that in borrowing from external sources at that point in time one is more or less killing two birds with one stone. You are getting a loan to finance the project, and you are getting the foreign exchange at the same time to take care of the foreign exchange needed to purchase the materials and so on, so the concern is not so much that you are borrowing X dollars from outside, but really in my opinion should be placed on whether those funds are being used on projects which in themselves would be able to generate in future the foreign exchange to service the debt, and whether those projects, in other words, if there are roads which would facilitate the infrastructure, the travel, etc. whether they are tourists or whether it is communications for the industrial sector, whether it is the polytechnic to turn out trained personnel and so on, the question here is whether the loans from outside are really being used to finance those projects which in turn would be able to generate foreign exchange in future to service the debt. So my query would not be so much the level of the debt, so much as some assurance that the funds would be effectively spent on projects which in fact would be self-financing. A perusal of the planned projects would indicate that by and large the suggestion there is that most of these projects should and would in future, all things being the same, be able to finance both the interest on the loans and also the amortisation of those loans.

Moving on from there, Sir, the thing that caught my eye, and really caught it, was the absolute level of the estimated Capital Expenditure. The estimated Capital Expenditure for 1980-81 is something like \$163 million, and this is almost double that of 1979-80, and in fact is more than the total of any two previous years. To my mind it is a bit ambitious to be contemplating this large expenditure of \$163 million. It is not that I am not mindful of the various projects and the need obviously to improve schools, roads, factory buildings, etc., it is not that I am unmindful of that need and the benefits that would flow from that expenditure, but the question I would have would be the capacity of our economy really to spend \$163 million effectively, especially taking into consideration the past experience.

Last year we had, I think, estimated \$116 million, and now the Revised Estimate is \$83 million, and when we look and compare the Capital Expenditure programme over the past ten years, one must wonder at our ability and capacity to spend the \$163 million in one year. As I

said, it is twice as much as any previous year, and I think we will have to watch that very carefully. The type of pressure that that is putting on our skilled people is pretty evident to anyone who even takes a casual look into the daily newspapers. There you will find advertisements for all categories of skilled staff, whether it be carpenters, masons, etc. for the building industry, or at another level where it may be management accountants, statisticians, etc., and this obvious demand of skills which are extremely scarce in Barbados is something which one has to look at very carefully. Export Promotion is advertising for about eight or ten pretty skilled individuals. In the past three months I would say every accounting firm in town has been advertising for accountants. BDB is advertising for skilled personnel, whether it be accountants or loan analysts or what have you, and so the story goes. Every day you look into that paper there is the demand for these people, and the question is, where are they going to come from? They are definitely not here right now, and it is either one of two things, either that you really put people in positions and then label them according to the position, or that you really have to bring them from outside.

Now, when we come to certain skills we know that a recent training programme has been effected, and hopefully this training programme would in the fulness of time help to meet the demands at that level, but I am not aware that the same sense of urgency, or even recognition, has been given to the fact that there is as great a problem at other levels of skills, and it is not so easy any more to import those skills.

The question of importing skills would be a thing of categories; either try to get some nationals from overseas or bring in non-nationals for short periods of time. Here again recruitment is becoming extremely difficult and one of the main obstacles in the recruitment process is the burden of the tax structure. I don't want to get too involved in income taxes now since we are shortly going to be debating an amendment to the Income Tax Act; but one has to mention the fact that the incidence of taxation at certain levels is such that it is becoming extremely difficult, if not impossible, to recruit people, and having recruited them to keep them; because what may sound at first as a quite attractive gross salary situation, when reduced to take home pay is quite a different story; and as I said, without going into too many details, I would just like to make a short comparison with the Trinidad situation. According to my information, the marginal rate of 40% in Trinidad is effective between \$20,000 and \$25,000 taxable income, whereas the comparable rate in Barbados is \$10,000 — \$12,000; in other words, taxable income between \$10,000 and \$12,000 in Barbados is taxed at 40%; that 40% in Trinidad is applicable to \$20,000 to \$25,000. In Barbados the 50% range is between \$12,000 and

\$16,000; the comparative range in Trinidad is \$30,000 to \$40,000. Obviously we do not want to make a direct comparison to Trinidad as we do not expect the same levels to obtain in that money in Trinidad may have a slightly different value than in Barbados; but still the contrast is such that I think the point about the negative effect of the incidence of taxation poses a stricture, creating a problem in the recruitment of much needed personnel. I think that has to be emphasised and in my opinion should be looked at with some sense of urgency.

Now apart from the actual importing of skills at certain levels, I think that again some programme should be affected or an analysis done to try to ascertain the needs in the near future. For the longest time we have been talking about manpower surveys and I am not sure how far we have got and whether we have identified the needs and what we are doing to supply the skills needed. The idea of sending two or three people out on scholarships is good up to a certain point, but one has to look at the reverse, that is, bringing two or three people here to deal with twenty or twenty five, together with certain teaching aids and so on, and try to create or supply the skills we need at middle and top management level. In other words, we have to approach this subject with a similar urgency with which we approached the lack of skills at another level in creating the skills training programme in the Ministry of Labour. Sometimes I think we leave it to the private sector to push out certain categories of skilled people, but in my opinion when we come to certain management levels and certain accounting and marketing skills and so on, I do not think you can leave it to the private sector much longer. We have to regard the situation as urgent, and, believe me the situation is urgent.

Mr. President, there is perhaps just one other area I would like to allude to. Under the Ministry of Agriculture there is a small vote for the Public Utilities Board, \$73,000. It is not the \$73,000 I am really dealing with but I am using its presence in the Estimates to make a point. In recent times there has been a lot of publicity given to Public Utilities rate hearings. The procedure in summary is that the Utility would make a request for an increase in rates the consumers would object, a public hearing would follow and then the Public Utilities Board would give its decision. It is my opinion that the whole process is fast becoming a great waste of time and energy. The whole procedure more or less takes place in a somewhat adversary type of climate and the ability of objectors really to analyse the situation or come to grips with the situation is an enormous one, enormous because probably no one objector would have the combined skills to do a thorough job; secondly, the time is not there to do the job and thirdly the information is not there for the job to be done. The objectors normally react to information given; in other words, they look for loop holes

in the information given, because without a thorough knowledge of the utility it is difficult to know their weak areas and where they are over charging, and so on, and this sort of reaction process and the attempt to obtain information is very time consuming, and when you add the man hours of the staff of the utility to the time spent by the objectors and so on and that in most cases the decision is one which pleases neither A nor B, it will be seen that the whole procedure really needs revamping. I believe the Public Utilities Act empowers the Board to obtain experts to make analyses and so on, but I believe that the time is coming when rate changes should be effected after a valuation and assessment by an independent group of experts with the combined skills of engineering, economics, accounting, etc.

When, based on that analysis these Experts would have free access to all the information and so on and it would not be a question to score a point against another Industry but, in fact, looking objectively at the total operation of the particular utility and then coming up and indicating to the Board or whatever Organisation there is whatever recommendations there be, recommendations for improvement because the value of such an investment may be that one would not be looking at a justification for rates but for improvement of efficiency and so on.

It is true that the present system does, with its public hearing, more or less make things open so to speak but it is only opened to a little extent in that we react to information given and one does not have the *carte blanche* access to all that there is and even if one did have the access I would venture to say that no one individual would possess the combined skills to do an effective job.

That is not in anyway to suggest that the objectors over the period have not in themselves done a pretty good job given the constraints under which they worked and I would say one particular objector or I would say one objector in particular probably deserves quite a great deal of praise for his community effort and the effort that he really puts into this thing for the benefit of the community but still I believe that effort could be best spent with a different approach to the whole system of rate increases of the PUB and particularly this Board.

Mr. President, Sir, just one passing comment on Education generally and perhaps it is just a repeat of what might have been said. Like everything else, if we did not know it before, we know it now that we are very often in the paradoxical situation of having jobs available and secondly, either having people out of work who are not capable of performing those jobs or who for one reason or another do not want to perform those jobs.

This paradox exists as Senator Deane would indicate whether it is in the Sugar Industry where you can

have able bodied people not working and yet you import labour and the paradox also exists at other levels where there are vacancies of various sorts. Although we have individuals we do not have those individuals with the skills to fill the vacancies.

This, obviously, is a commentary of the Education System over the years where we have concentrated in certain particular areas and more or less have produced people who are capable of filling certain typed jobs but they obviously have not focussed enough on turning out the quantity and quality of people to meet the various needs of the type of society that we have at present.

Now, to say that is not to say that we do not believe that this is easily recognised by the powers that be and that things may not be happening to help change it but we do feel that the problems are particularly present and well worth some comment on my part.

As I said, Mr. President, I would not get into Income Tax *per se* in that we would have that opportunity a little later on but I would just like to mention two things, looking at the breakdown of revenue and one is to draw the attention, although I do not know if it needs attention to be drawn to it, but the estimated amount of Income Tax which is from individuals is something like \$100 million which is a sizeable portion of the total expected revenue and at the risk of being alluded to as being unpatriotic, as has happened on a previous occasion, I would like to suggest that this incidence of taxation is particularly great and secondly, that obviously there has to be some moving away from the direct taxation to more indirect taxation.

Again, I must allude to the comment that indirect taxation is regressive in that it treats rich and poor alike. I would refer to a particular Senator who made this comment last year to just one Heading to prove my point and that Heading is the Restaurant and Hotel Sales Tax. Revenue from that element of taxation has increased in 1977/78 from \$7.2 million to a new estimated \$16 million for 1980/81 and there is no way that anyone can indicate to me how that indirect taxation affects rich and poor alike.

Obviously, there are certain bits of indirect taxation which would do this but with some imagination of limits and exemptions and so on, it need not and, in fact, it will not affect rich and poor alike. Thank you.

SENATOR K. E. HINDS: Mr. President, I would like to take a brief look at the Head which deals with the Ministry of Health. There is just one area under that Head which has to do with the implementation of the National Drug Plan.

Now, it is pretty clear, Sir, that the Barbados Labour Party has always been concerned about the Health of the people, and in this community, because as far back as in the 1940's the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party would have mentioned something about a Plan for Health and for the improvement of the health of Barbadians.

In the 1976 Manifesto, there is mention of a free National Health Service, of which this Drug Plan forms a part. We see in the Estimates, that this very year will see the implementation of such a Drug Plan. Now, Mr. President, this is very much needed and I think it is something that merits some comment. I do not want to say that I would like to congratulate the Government like previous Senators said because that sounds like self praise but I am indeed heartened to see that even though it has taken some time, some hard work and research that we are getting nearer to the implementation of the free National Health Service, even if we have to do it in parts. I am hoping that this Drug Plan would not be limited only to a narrow section of drugs, but would include the much needed vitamins and minerals which the poorer people of this society cannot afford to purchase.

Within recent times, there has been a upsurge in the sale of health foods in this country. There are quite a number of things which are necessary for the maintenance of good health that are becoming more and more available, but when you walk into the health food store and look at the price, you think it is the serial number of the particular drug or food because it is from \$12.00 and up to \$20.00, the kind of money which persons in the lower bracket cannot afford to pay for the much needed vitamins and minerals. I am hoping that this Drug Plan will include vitamins and minerals, so that the poor people can improve their health. This prescription Health Drug Plan states:

"The Barbados Prescription Drug Plan is a management and service system organised to reduce the cost of prescription drugs to the Barbados public."

I would like to say again that I welcome this very much and I hope that it would be implemented as predicted.

I would like to continue on health Sir and say a word about the Mental Hospital. I know that the Ministry of Health is doing all it can, but there are certain areas which strike me as lagging a bit and I am hoping that the plans would be set that you can see some activity in this area in the not too distant future. I am talking about the Sheltered Workshop at the Psychiatric Hospital. I have visited there for more than one reason from time to time, I have spent time looking around at the work that was being done and I can see that there is room for improve-

ment. For instance, there is printing and it makes one feel good when one walks into such a hospital and see the patients actively engaged in work where you can see skill and productivity. They are not wasting their time in this institution but when you look at the facilities, they are not up to the standard that one would like to see. The Sheltered Workshop can do with help.

I buy suckers from the Agricultural Section and I would like to encourage those who keep gardens at home to go down there some time. They have lettuce and cabbage from time to time and I have had 100% growth from all that I have bought from the Agricultural Section. I have never lost any of the plants, so that say something for the way these things are hatched. If you are the best planter in the world, and there is something wrong with the seeds or the suckers you plant, then you cannot get the results you want, so I think you have to give a word of praise to those who did the hatching in the first place and cared for these little plants before they were sold to you to take home to your garden. I am hoping that when the appropriate Hon. Minister replies he would be able to say that there is some plan to lend more assistance to this section of the Psychiatric Hospital.

I have been told in the past, that the reason why they do not advertise is because when they do, they get an influx of work and they cannot handle it. There is a heavy demand for printing dance tickets and other things and they tell me that when they advertise, people bring in the work and they cannot handle it. This tells me that the facilities are a bit under what they should be. If they have improved facilities, then they can increase the production. I am hoping that in the not too distant future, we will see this Section of the Psychiatric Hospital improved and like I stated on the Drug Plan to prove that the Government is well on its way towards the implementation of this National Health Service, if you check the Development Plan under Health, Family Planning and National Insurance, you will see that the opening paragraph says:

"The Government of Barbados strongly supports the view that health is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important social goal."

Mr. President, I am happy to see that the Government is taking a firm step in this area and I wish them all success in seeing this Plan implemented before 1981.

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: Mr. President, during the last few years, when this measure was debated in here, it is customary for me to reserve my contribution to day two and since I have to start at this somewhat late hour and break at 7 o'clock until tomorrow, it means

that I can say some of what I have to say tonight because I feel better speaking at the beginning of day two.

Mr. President, I want to start first of all with Parliament. This is about the fourth set of Estimates we have debated since the Administration changed and we have not yet had the opportunity of seeing one of the Estimates Debates published by the Government Printery. During the Administration of the last Government, quite a lot was said by the present Administration about the lateness in the production of Debates.

The suggestion was made at one time that what was necessary was that you should have a printing office set up there in order that the debates of Parliament could be produced for members' perusal much quicker than they are being produced, now, but after at least three years of BLP administration we seem, Mr. President, to be far away from that day when members of the Chambers can have the opportunity of looking over what they have said and becoming up to date before they get into something new.

I do not know, I understand that the staff of Parliament have had the debates up to date and ready, but the problem seems to lie with the Government Printing Department. I understand there are measures afoot to provide them with new machinery, but this is what we were hearing all along, and I am hopeful that it would not be too long before members of this Chamber would have the opportunity of seeing these debates much quicker than they see them now.

I called some time ago, Mr. President, for a report of the Debates Committee to be made available to this Chamber and was told by the Leader that the reports of the Debates Committee are circulated. This is about two years ago, and I have checked with colleagues of mine and they have not seen, and indeed they confirm that they never receive any reports of the Debates Committee when they meet, what transpires I think that if we are all members of Parliament, that it is necessary that Committees of this Parliament when they meet and transact business should send us some kind of note indicating what went on, what decisions were taken, so that we can know.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, for instance, Mr. President, we get circulars from time to time inviting us to indicate if we are interested in participating in seminars overseas, then members are selected, you never get any indication, as far as I am aware, to tell you who are selected, and then you only read in the papers some time that A, B or C is going to X or Y to represent the CPA of this country, or has gone, and I think the time has come, Mr. President, when we must be treated in a different light. If you apply, or even if you do not apply once you had an invitation asking you if you are

interested, then I think we could be told that something was happening.

There was recently a delegation that went up to Cuba and we read about this in the Press. The Deputy President of this Chamber on his return sought to allay the fears of many people, I think it was on Rediffusion, as to the nature of the visit and how it was all arranged. Of course it could not have been the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, because Cuba does not belong to that body, but I believe, Mr. President, that these visits — and a secret visit like that, and I think one would have to classify it as a secret visit, because when members of your own Parliament are not aware of what is happening, then I think, despite what the Deputy President indicated, that it would have to be secret.

I do not see anything secret about it, I myself went to Cuba in 1972. They invited the Ministry of Education and Culture to send two members, and Senator Wickham and I went to Cuba and we spend about 10 days in Cuba to observe a festival which they had on at that time, and I think as a result of that we were able to forge links with certain cultural artistes in Cuba, and when we had CARIFESTA in Jamaica I think that we were able to further those bonds of friendship, but there is no point in us trying to be secretive about these things, I think that time has come, in the light of the open Government which was promised by the administration, that we should have information beforehand.

The question of which one is to deal with tonight comes to mind, and I want to ask a question pertaining to the Governor General. The present incumbent was in office now for about three years, I believe, and I have not seen, nor have I heard of him being outfitted yet with ceremonial wear, and I would like to get a statement from the Government as to what is the position with regard to this. The first Governor General, Mr. President, certainly had his uniform, and I think it is time that the Government makes it clear whether they want to continue with this practice or whether they prefer the present Governor General to use his three piece suit and things like that. I am not a ceremonial man, but when I perused the Estimates I saw where quite a lot of money is being used under Defence and Security to buy uniforms and ceremonial wear and that kind of thing for the Defence Force, and I believe that there are certain occasions when the Governor General should certainly be attired in ceremonial wear.

I raised this question with one member of the governing party, and I would not on the floor of this Chamber, Mr. President, indicate the reason which he advanced to me for the delay in outfitting the present incumbent with ceremonial wear. I would not even mention it privately to anybody if they ask me why, but

following on from that, what I would say, Mr. President, is that enough time has elapsed, I believe, that all can see what progress has been made, and the time has come when the decision should be taken. If we are not going to have it, then we are not going to have it, but on occasions like a ceremonial parade on Independence Day — and I think when the Queen came during her Silver Jubilee she was attired when she opened Parliament, and I think her representative should really cut a little better show than we find at present.

Defence and Security, Mr. President, is one of the matters in this year's Estimates that will take up a little time, and when I turn to page 12 and look at the notes opposite under General Administration, the functions of this Subhead include administering the security aspects of the country, that is, checking on various foreigners visiting and living in the island, screening of prospective emigrants for foreign Governments, screening of applicants seeking employment in the Civil Service. I had to underline this and re-read it and re-read it again because I was not certain what new concept we were coming in to, and if this is really what the Defence and Security Division was responsible for. But the one that really bothered me was the screening of prospective emigrants for foreign Government, and I wonder if the Minister in his reply would be able to throw some light on that particular aspect of the duties of the Defence Force.

The Services Commissions, as far as I am aware, is certainly responsible for recruitment of persons in the Public Service, but now we see the Defence Department having another duty to perform, and that is to screen all applicants seeking employment in the Civil Service. It appears to me, Mr. President, that we have reached a new height in this community. I don't know if it is because of the fear of the Government, but it seems to me that this is going a bit far. I really find it a bit difficult to accept and understand why it is that there is so much screening, and I would like to know from the Minister if he can give me some idea as to the type of screening that is referred to, whether these persons, would-be Civil Servants, are aware themselves what checks are being made on them.

I believe that if you want to screen people you should start screening some of those you have in the present Service, because there are certain Departments where I understand from talking to people, there are certain individuals who might be considered security risks, and there are certain people who cannot find any resting place in any one section of the Government Service, because as soon as you go into one section for two months the Permanent Secretary gets you out, and they send you from one Department to another Department.

Under the Defence Force on this page, the functions of the Defence Force under (a) and (b) includes defend-

ing the country from foreign invasion and attack and patrolling the coastline from smugglers and other illicit activities. But I believe hon. Senators will realize that something is missing if we accept that performance of the Defence Force to date and the statement by the hon. Prime Minister in the Other Place during the discussion on these Estimates when he said that the Defence Force of this country would be available to any legally constituted Government in the Caribbean if they wanted it. That to my mind can only exclude the Peoples Revolutionary Government in Grenada since you cannot consider that government to be legally constituted. So (c) is left vacant and I believe the Minister who is going to respond will probably indicate in his reply what could possibly be put under (c). But I venture to say this that what should be put there is "to interfere" — he would not like to use that word, perhaps that is why he said to be available to defend other Caribbean governments from insurgents — because that seems to be one of the functions of the Defence Force of this country.

But we seem to be having problems within the Defence Force and I thought the Minister would have alluded to this when he spoke this evening. It was his first presentation of Estimates as Leader of this Chamber — my colleague tells me it will also probably be his last — but it has surfaced where there is a rift in the Defence Force here. This rift has been going on for quite some time and I am advised that when the Defence Force went to St. Vincent, whenever the Chief of Staff arrived his Deputy would leave and vice versa, because the two men were not seeing eye to eye on certain matters. I remember that when we were about to debate the Defence Force Act, Senator Marjorie Blackman asked me outside about Sandhurst people and said some people are worried about people who have been trained at Sandhurst, because the revolutions which we had in Africa and the attempted one in Trinidad were led by people trained at Sandhurst and they are the people who create all kind of problems. Luckily the problems they create are with their own people who appointed them. But there are problems in the Defence Force and Government had better get them right before long. I understand that there are certain people who when they are speaking like to hit their chest and tell you that they were trained at Sandhurst.

The Chief of Staff who has just submitted his resignation has been one of the outstanding soldiers in Barbados over the years. We must expect that there will be bright young men who will come along and will want to reach the top a little quicker than they ought to so we get these problems. But it seems there is some undermining of the authority of the present Chief of Staff, and certain persons in authority are listening to the advice coming from the Deputy Chief of Staff and not to the Chief. Now if you get problems within the Defence Force — and I heard on the radio yesterday evening and I believe that it was an attempt to cushion the effect of any debate in this

Chamber — where the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and Security said that it was not a shut case, the Defence Board had to see the resignation and then decide. I cannot see that. If a man resigns he has resigned; and in an area as sensitive as defence I would think that if a man submits his resignation the Defence Board should accept it rather than allow the individual to go back into a situation where.....

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. President. I am sure the hon. Senator is not deliberately misleading the Chamber, but to resign has a totally different connotation than to retire. When one has reached retirement age and wants to retire it should not be regarded as a resignation.

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: I accept that, but the hon. Minister should tell me what the Permanent Secretary meant by saying it was not a shut case. If it is retirement, it is retirement; but if the Permanent Secretary for Defence and Security is going to tell you that the matter has not reached the Defence Board yet, then would it not be fair to draw the inference that the matter is not closed and that Colonel Banfield's retirement or resignation might not go through?

I supported the Defence Act because I felt the country needed a Defence Force. But when you get this kind of problem and unrest in an army, that is the beginning of trouble in the country.

Under the Capital Estimates of this same Head, Sir, I see under Sub-Head 2 that the provision of this sub-Head includes the construction of a hospital and women's quarters. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether this is to be really a hospital or a sick bay. I really don't understand. When they say hospital, are they serious about spending money on setting up an army hospital? I do not know that we have to follow the styles of other countries and set up a hospital when we are ten minutes away from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I believe that the money to be spent on an army hospital could better be spent on upgrading the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Perhaps in large countries where you get a defence force out in the hills or in the interior it might be necessary to have a hospital set up within the army compound; but certainly in a place like Barbados I am at a loss to find out whether this is to be a full fledged hospital or rather a sick bay. The hon. Prime Minister in the 1976 Estimates, as then Leader of the Opposition, when \$200,000 was allocated for arms said that it appeared that the government was going to buy \$200,000 in arms and that it was a large amount of money to spend on arms in Barbados. Sub-Head 2 under this Plan indicates a problem of allowing a foolish plan, because we are spending a lot of money that could be spent on other areas. And every time you talk about Defence and Security the only thing bugging the

Barbados Labour Party is Sydney Alleyne, Sydney Alleyne, Sydney Alleyne.

In the Estimates it says for the purpose of arms, furniture and other equipment. I wonder if the Minister could give us some idea as to how much of this is going to be spent on arms because \$200,000 in 1976 was a large sum according to the present Minister of Defence but now we are told that we have \$3.906 million out of a total vote of \$5.624 million.

It was reported in Sunday's *Advocate* that we are buying an airplane. I think the figure mentioned was something like \$600,000. A token vote of \$1, I think it was put into the Estimates last year as token provision and I see where he indicated that he is trying to pay for it before the end of the Financial Year. The pilot has been selected to go down and bring up the aircraft.

I also understand that some mention was made of a ship and I heard somewhere along the lines of \$11 million, which I could not believe was mentioned. I would like some information from the Leader of the Senate as to whether this is true. How much money are we spending on buying this ship and I would further like a statement to indicate what else they consider absolutely necessary for the defence of this country and how much more expenditure do they envisage during the remaining life of this administration that they will have to spend on arms and equipment.

I understand that they have got the services of two Police Officers in Defence and Security. One of them is called a Special Assignments Officer and the other one, I believe, has gone into the Department and has instituted a Training Programme for the Security Guards. No name has been mentioned in the Other Place and that is a function for the Government to do.

I want to know what is the function of the Special Assignments Officer in the Ministry of Defence and Security? What duties are attached to the post up there and what is the Officer required to do and whether it is really true that there are two persons attached to that Section up there. I am not making any big fuss about it, Mr. President, but I will certainly like to get the information from the Minister and I believe he will be courteous enough to supply that information when he replies sometime tomorrow night to this debate.

The other area, Mr. President, is the Prime Minister's Official Residence and I must ask him a question. I think Culloden farm is still referred to by Barbadians as the Prime Minister's Official Residence. Could the Minister tell me whether the reference, opposite page 10, Subhead 3, refers to Culloden Farm because on page 74, Head 37, reference is made to Ilaro Court. I do not think that any statement has been made

yet by the Government of the uses that Ilaro Court are going to be put to.

I have not heard the conservationists in our country cry out yet. I do not know if they can see when they pass there how they have raided the mahogany trees that adorned that place up there. It is shameful, Mr. President, to see the large number of mahogany trees. They might not have been big mahogany trees that would be worth anything but I think those persons who were responsible for pruning Ilaro Court made a big mistake in taking out the bulk of those mahogany trees from inside that place.

I would like to have some statement as to what is going to happen to Ilaro Court. Can I tie it in to the fact that the Prime Minister is going to take up residence at Ilaro Court, and if so, when is he likely to take up residence at Ilaro Court? You see, Mr. President, I think it was purchased and intended to be used by the previous administration to do with the Barbados/Venezuela Institute Cultural Project that was to be undertaken.

As we went along we heard certain statements being made that Ilaro Court was to be the Prime Minister's residence and I believe that when he opened Nicholas Abbey in St. Peter he said that Ilaro Court would be opened to the public although it would not be opened on the same basis as Nicholas Abbey was opened.

I do not believe that the Prime Minister is going to live there. He did not opt to live at Culloden Farm which was the Official Residence of the Prime Minister. We have had, from my understanding, various occupants of Culloden Farm since 1976 including Sir Herbert Duffus when he was carrying out the probe and the Prime Minister in the Other Place, one evening a citizen of this country interrupted the representative for St. Michael South when he was speaking and was ordered to leave the Gallery and when the Prime Minister got up to reply, the Prime Minister regretted that the representative for St. Michael South was interrupted by one of his constituents who occupied Culloden Farm and this is why, Mr. President, I say that we had a lot of persons living at Culloden Farm.

There are some people, Mr. President, in this country that can get away with a lot of murder. You can even get a trip outside and a trip back and nothing happens. I just would like to find out whether Ilaro Court is going to be made the official residence of the Prime Minister. I do not think any full statement has been made, or whether he is going to revert before the day of reckoning comes to Culloden Farm.

Quite a lot of money has been voted under Communications and Works, \$542,000 under Capital for repairs to Ilaro Court but what strikes me is that the structures are \$252,500 which I believe would be for materials etc. That would be needed for the repairs to the

building and the Personal Emoluments totalled something like \$225,000. It is almost dollar for dollar, therefore, with labour and materials running almost dollar for dollar when you come to the restoration of Ilaro Court.

We have been talking about productivity for a very long time in this country and this, I think, these two sets of figures that we have there in the Estimates would certainly give us some indication of the non-productivity which we are getting in certain areas of Government because if you are going to spend \$252,000 in materials and your projected labour cost on that is \$275,000, well something is wrong somewhere along the line because if the materials are going to cost \$252,000 and you are going to spend \$225,000 in Personal Emoluments in having it restored, that could not include any of the staff.

Mr. President, I think it is time something is looked at on this whole question of labour and productivity of workers in this country. I do not necessarily believe that the answer lies in what Senator Deane glorifies in. "Little Colin" as he calls himself, who moved on before work was done on him. I think that is what he said.

I think that the Supervisors and persons who are in charge of the Ministry of Communications and Works must certainly understand their roles much better if the people who work under them are to produce more. One thing bothers me about the Ministry of Communications and Works and the high cost of projects. Whenever you see them starting a new project, you can look out to see new material. Just let me ask one simple question. Is it because when you cost a project you may put in at the outset, which I appreciate that you have to put in, for the necessary new board that you want for boxing and so on. What happens to the material which must be left back from time to time on other projects. Why is this material not used in the construction of other projects, it is all Government. Let me give you an example of what I am talking about. We are constructing a road and we are going to do it in St. Philip South for the benefit of Senator Linton, we do a little road in St. Martins and it takes two weeks to do. At the end of that time you have planks which were used at the side of the road to form the gutter and so on. There is another road to start in St. John for the benefit of Senator Linton again. You are going to tell me Mr. President that you cannot pick up that material from there and use it over there. You want to go back and face the store and buy new material. I do not understand it.

I see a bit of wall pushed down by the Modern High School. They are probably widening the road there opposite the Transport Board and when one sees the large amount of new material that is there, it makes you wonder Mr. President if the persons at the Ministry

of Communications and Works all like to use new material, or if they have no uses for the old material. The cost of the projects as compared with the cost of the projects by private enterprises — we know that the Ministry of Communications and Works is not supposed to make profit, they operate as the Government industry which provides employment for people in this country, despite the fact that at certain times, when efforts were made in this direction, there was a big human cry in the country. The point that I am trying to make is that the Ministry of Communications and Works' costs are always much higher than the cost of the private individual.

I do not want to say anything on Sport, I will come to that tomorrow. Senator Field will know what I am talking about if he reads the files on the two playing fields. I could draw to his attention the one at Welchman Hall and the one at Farmer's in St. Thomas. The quotations from the Ministry of Communications and Works for levelling the one at Welchman Hall, if I can remember correctly was something like \$130,000 and at Farmer's, it was about \$115,000. I told them that there is no way that we can spend that money on levelling. We went out to tender and R. L. Construction said they would level at \$7,800 or \$6,200. That is gospel. It was on the file when I went into the Ministry and I told them we could not pay that kind of money to level a playing field. We acquired a piece of land from Chapel and I passed in that area yesterday and I saw it levelled. I compliment the Sports Council on getting it levelled because when you talk about levelling it, the Parliamentary Representative would call and tell you that the cricketers do not want it levelled because it is the cricket season, they have no way to play the match and if they cannot play, they will have to withdraw from the competition. You accept that, but when the cricket season is finished, the footballers do not want you to level it either because they will have nowhere to play. Somewhere along the line, the Sports Council has grappled with the situation and I see it levelled.

Senator Field talked about pavilions. I do not believe that he is going to be here tomorrow. I understand that he is going off on a promotional tour, that is probably why he spoke this afternoon before me. He spoke about them constructing pavilions. I am not sure whether the Hon. Minister himself would refer to them as pavilions or as little huts which they are putting at the side of these playing fields. The criticism came, not from me, read the paper, the poor people of St. Peter had an article about the one that you are building down at Warley. I passed and saw a little structure going up at Chapel. I asked a question and they told me that it is a pavilion.

Apparently the concept now is that a cricket team is eleven members and a twelfth man. There are two umpires and two scorers, eleven members and a twelfth man from the other side, so you cut down on accommodation to suit them. My understanding is that one has been put at Dover and the people in that area cry shame at the little structure that has been put up there. The one at Dover was to be incorporated in the Convention Centre and when it proved not feasible, I think it was the past Administration who decided that the Ministry of Tourism should pay for the construction of the pavilion for the residents in Dover. I understand that something has been scotched up in the hill up there and the persons in the area want to know what it is. If we cannot put a proper structure, we should say so. If we find that we can only put up two proper structures in any one year because we are getting to 1981, we should not put up something that we will regret later on. I am serious about this. It is probably better to phase it out and put up two proper pavilions in any one year, realising that it has got to cater to the residents in the area when they are playing a game or something like that and the rain comes. It is not only cricket, there are hard courts attached to these areas. The netballers, the basketballers and spectators would want to shelter from the rain.

This whole question of hard courts is one which the present Administration has a bad record on because you provide these facilities, as far as I am concerned, in the areas where you have the population and where you think that they should go. In the St. Patricks area, instead of two hard courts, they ended up with one. Carrington's Village is an area where you agreed to put down two hard courts, Gully Hill two, one was primarily for basketball because that area has produced many basketballers, the other one was for other ball games. Somewhere along the line, one of them was dug up. The Hon. Minister says one at Grazettes.

The Government does not put down hard courts like that, there are always engineers who are involved in these things and Senator Field got away with this last year because I had spoken before him. He referred to the netball stadium not having foundations. Put it this way, when you decide on a project, you bring in the Ministry of Communications and Works, tell them what you are looking for and the officials of that Ministry design the thing and pass it on to you. One cannot assume that every Hon. Minister is an engineer because if he were an engineer, he would not need engineers to come and do these things but you give engineers these jobs to design for you and you support the advice which the engineers give your officers that this area is the best. The question of drainage is taken into consideration and you approve the project. He is going to talk about the one at Grazettes. I do not know what

is wrong with the one at Grazettes. All I know is that I saw something in a paper called The Beacon.

Somebody gave me one one Saturday and I saw something that the residents at Grazettes were talking about the hard courts up there, but I also saw in that same one, Mr. President, that the Minister of Community Services had spoken at Rock Hall, St. Thomas, and according to that paper, it said that to a loud acclamation he announced that Rock Hall would get a model community centre before 1981.

I had the opportunity of speaking with the Minister, and the Minister told me in no uncertain terms that he was misquoted, he certainly didn't promise any new community centre in Rock Hall in 1981, so you see, when you see those kind of comments coming and the Minister saying he didn't promise it, I was wondering what was the new concept in community centres that he was talking about. Programming, yes, I could accept that there is need for a different type of programming, because the programmes which were relevant ten years ago are not necessarily relevant now, so we can accept that the programming on these community centres would change over the years.

But you see, advice is accepted, Mr. President, and then you have the responsibility for it, and certain persons in our community would lead you to believe that resignations for inefficiencies should only come from certain quarters, but when other persons are given advice from other quarters and take to the airwaves in this country and proclaim the advice which they got, and then subsequently if it is shown that the advice which was given is not good advice, there is no question then, Mr. President, of anybody being responsible and anybody wishing to resign. I shall not come to that now, I will deal with that one tomorrow. That is when I will deal with the other matters. Tomorrow we will deal with that when we are more relaxed and more comfortable.

But for the benefit of Senator Field who spoke about tourism, and he took the same kind of line that Senator Truss took last year, absolutely nothing was done in this country for tourism until 1976; absolutely nothing was done. The Minister sought to show in his introduction the figures between 1977, 1978 and 1979. If he had gone back, Mr. President, and shown the figures, he would have seen that every year successive Governments in this country have been putting more money into the Tourist Board. You spend more money, and therefore if you spend more money you expect that you will get more returns on it, you cannot sit back and expect that people will just come to the country, and the way how members of that administration get on, they seem to think that because we have reached the 350,000 mark, or

whatever it is, with tourists and \$350 million is being spent annually by the tourists in this country, that this has all started then, but it has been a rapid progression over the years.

Just like the Estimates, every year that we come here the figure that we seek to vote is a record, and this will continue and continue to climb, and it is the same thing when you get to the question of tourism, but there are problems with this, and I don't know whether the Government has seriously looked at it. We are talking about the tourists coming, the tourists coming. We welcome them, Mr. President, because they contribute to the economy of this country. There are problems which Senator Field referred to, but he said that Barbados is known as a paradise, and when he was particularly alluding to the nudity problem on the beaches, I wonder whether in saying that Barbados was like paradise he had his facts correct. I am not going to say any more, I think he understands what I mean as far as that is concerned. We have problems in this country and we cannot afford to have visitors being attacked as they are attacked now by one or two persons and robbed, because they will then go back and paint a bad picture of this country, and then what you will find is that other persons, not really knowing the circumstances, will not want to come, and we also have to make sure that the health services of this country are up to date. I will deal with that one tomorrow too, when I deal with Senator Hinds and the promise of 1940 for health. He said in 1940 there was a plan for health in the BLP Manifesto. I believe Senator Cox told him that.

He said now in this year it is a free national health service, and do you know, Mr. President, he says a free national health service — that is what they promised in 1976 — and I see where under the revenue coming in under the Hospital, xiv, Ministry of Health, Head 7(15), in the Estimates for 1980–81 they estimate that they will collect \$950,000, an increase of \$250,000 over last year's and in the notes next door it says: "Sale of drugs, ..." and this kind of thing. They are talking about a free national health service, and the Minister announced that this service is to come into being some time at the beginning of the year or something like that, next month, and you would have thought that the drug aspect which she said is coming first would be reduced, but you see the revenue projected at \$200,000 has gone to \$950,000, and the note says "The Health Services (Hospital Fees) Regulations 1977–1978, receipt for paying patients, X-Rays, examinations and treatment, special nursing, sale of drugs, sale of meals, rental, fees of consultants, and other miscellaneous sales and receipts." And the one that struck me was the sale of drugs, Mr. President, because the health plan as envisaged by the Labour Party, as I understand it, is intended to reduce the cost of drugs.

I understand she said they will rip off the druggists from making too much money, and things like that, and I don't know how they could budget to receive another \$250,000 from that particular area when we are talking about a free national health service, but we will see how free it is in a very short while, Mr. President. I was only passing by them, Sir, but this question of tourism is one which bothers us, the question of the attacks on the persons of the tourists. Senator Field spoke about the Division of Hospitality, and I don't know, I think he got a bit mixed up there. The Hotel School has been absorbed into the Community College and that now becomes the Division of Hospitality, but he mentioned the Division of Hospitality, the Community College, and the Hotel School must train these people, but it is one and the same thing. The division of Hospitality has taken over the services which were formerly provided by the Hotel School and I believe that is the best place for it.

We have got to understand that if anything happens overseas, or here, the 15,000 persons who are employed in the hotel industry are going to be out of work, and the question of the expansion of the tourist industry is something too that we have got to look at, because large sums of money are being loaned by the Barbados Development Bank to hoteliers to construct buildings, but the point I am trying to make here, Mr. President, is that we have got to look at the long term thing, what effect this would have on the economy of this country and on the ability of those people to repay the loans if there was a slump in the hotel industry. If something happened here, if something happened overseas in any of the markets and we do not get the tourist coming down, because except they come the hotels are going to be scanty and we would not be able to employ the people, and the revenue would not be as it should be.

The prices of these hotel rooms seem to be the cause of some concern and I think it is the President of the Hotel Association who said that if they are not careful some hoteliers would soon price themselves out of business. One or two of the hotels came up with a scheme during the off season which allowed Barbadians to have a weekend at their hotel and so get some idea of what the tourist industry means to this country. I would like to think that the Tourist Board should encourage more of the hotels to do this during the off season so as to give some of our people an opportunity to get a little closer to the operations and problems which the Hotel industry has and allow them to see what the people working in the hotel industry are called upon to do. I think the idea of Sam Lords Castle is a good one and I think more hotels should do it. The Crane Beach Hotel is expanding and I think they should follow the lead from Sam Lords. I understand that the manager of the Tourist Board leaves tomorrow on a tour and we wish him well and hope that all of those hotels now being built or expanding their ser-

vices will be filled to capacity during the coming season, because it is only by doing that that this country can make the full impact on the tourist dollar.

I would like to touch briefly Mr. President, on the new concept in the Estimates. It appears that a new method has been employed this year which should lead to greater efficiency. But the page with the summary which the Minister referred to, page xix, the print is too small and I think he should draw this to the attention of those concerned. I had difficulty in reading it. I do not know what is the reason for making the print so fine but we should try to do a little better in future as everybody's eye sight is not the same.

I am worried too about some of the contingency figures in the Estimates, particularly under agriculture. I am not convinced that a Government that has done its planning should be having contingencies in the region of \$155,000 in one case, \$68,000 in another and \$76,000. And if you look at the back of the Estimates and you see what the contingencies are supposed to be, I think it is making a mockery of Estimates. I think that the contingency figures that we have here seem to indicate that the planning has not been fully completed and therefore you cannot put these amounts under the proper Head and so you dumped them under the Head "Contingencies". If you take for instance sub-head 27 on page 46, which is Relocation and Expansion of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, you have: Structures \$722,500; Plant, Equipment and Furniture \$716,000; Professional Services \$403,200; Contingencies \$155,050. My contention is that if proper planning had been done the contingency figure should not be \$155,000. The Government should be aware of everything that is going into this project but I believe it is a case that if you think you are going to spend \$2 million and you can only account for \$1.8 million, you slap the rest under contingency. But I do not think that contingency should be used in that way.

Then on the question of agriculture let me say this. Senator Brathwaite made a speech in here this afternoon and I sat and listened to him. I am not going to say much, for I do not believe that Senator Brathwaite intended saying the things he said this afternoon about fifteen wasted years. Tomorrow when I speak I will point out to him the new areas that were introduced when certain things were stopped. I do not have the figures with me this afternoon but I will give them tomorrow. But in passing I must say I do not believe he was responsible for this. I have known him to be a balanced person in all the years. At one point he said that they had thrown out all the fish at the BMC but now he had been told they have room they can store all the surplus fish. But I ask him "and throw away the chicken". He did not understand me and went on to say what work they did for the chicken industry and things like that. But it is one thing

to store the fish and then have a lot of chicken go down the drain. And we all know that; I don't think he will want me to go into it. I do not want to trespass on the province of the Shadow Minister of Agriculture who will deal at length with this tomorrow or Friday.

But there is one other point I want to deal with. Senator Brathwaite said that there were problems with the freighting of canes, and Senator Brathwaite himself did a lot of freighting of canes. I believe in the year we did not have a Budget presented, when the Prime Minister took the nation into his confidence and did what was referred to as a confidential chat on television – I think that was the year we had the large windfall from sugar – he took some of the money that was available and told the sugar factory people – and money was provided in order that transportation could be provided to ease some of the problems the small farmers were experiencing in getting canes to the factory. So I do not feel it is fair to say that the present administration did nothing about those things. We ought not to forget these things or forget what contributions were made by other persons. But perhaps it is only when somebody dies that people are prepared to forget differences.

The Minister who introduced the Estimates this afternoon was at pains to talk about the Conference and Delegations Vote and from his introduction of the Estimates he gave me the impression, Mr. President, that they had one Super Minister in the country. He referred to the Ministry of Caribbean Affairs, Trade, Tourism and Civil Aviation. He said that he believed Caribbean Affairs was one full Ministry under the last administration and this present Minister has responsibility for Energy, Caricom Meetings, IDC and all these kind of things.

When I sat and listened to him, Mr. President, and the way how he spoke about that particular Ministry, he certainly gave me the impression that the other Ministers could go home and just leave that one Minister to administer the affairs of the Government. He spoke at length and he spoke of two Ministries in one. I do not know what case he was making out this evening so that when the time comes he would say I said it during the Estimates. I do not know.

The way how these people operate, Mr. President, you have to watch their every word. From the length of time that he dwelt on that particular Ministry this afternoon. I do not deny that the Lome Convention was negotiated and that Mr. St. John did a lot of work. The Lome Convention did not start until after 1976. This was something that was negotiated and Barbados played an important part in the negotiation with Lome 1 and the then Minister, the Minister of Trade, do not care what you may have against him, or not, but he was one of the leading lights in the negotiations in Lome 1.

The kind of speeches which we have got would seem to indicate that all of Lome, all that we got out of Lome started in 1976. Of, course, we, as Barbadians, are proud to know that our Minister of Trade is President of the ACP Group of Countries and that he was able to negotiate the Agreement.

The only thing that he seems not to be able to get done is to get the Oistins Fisheries Project started on time because I remember listening to a programme on one of the Radio Stations and the interviewer, Mr. Alleyne I think it was, Date Line Brussels, I think was the programme, and they had the Irish Foreign Minister Mr. O' Kennedy. You said it was Mr. Kennedy but it was Mr. O'Kennedy on the line and he asked him and he said, well you know the Fisheries Project was set up in Bree's own constituency and when I asked him how it is he said that they are changing it. The concept is being changed but that is a matter for him because that is in his constituency and it is not for me to tell him to get it started.

I see a lot of money has been put down in these Estimates and \$163 million in Capital Estimates is a lot of money, Mr. President. The Government cannot spend \$163 million in the next Financial Year. This is 1980. These Estimates run from 1980 and they end in March, 1981 so the panic stations have set in. You will find that the Estimates are inflated.

There is talk about a surplus but when the supplementaries start to come at the end of the Financial Year, in the Other Place we do not see them. You will find that there will be no surplus. There is no surplus. What has happened is that the Minister of Finance, who the Leader of the Senate this afternoon said that he – I do not want to use the wrong word. I thought I would have remembered but I cannot remember off hand. He said that they had told the Minister of Finance that he was hard when it came to disbursing funds. The correct word is "cheap". I would not have said stingy but cheap, when it comes to disbursing funds and that he acknowledged that.

Ministers of Finance who have the Budgets to prepare and things like that and they go through the Estimates and I had an experience of seeing how they operate. You go up and you sit down and you put together all your projects that you hope to get through and when you go up to the Minister of Finance and he listens to you sometimes when you are making out a case for say Head 1 under your estimate he already has the total sorted out in his mind that you are going to get and all the talk that you talk when everything is done he says, I can only give you \$2 million and you have to go back then and trim it down to \$2 million.

I have no doubt that they have experienced the same problem because all Ministers have to try to bring

up their own plan and when they get to Government Headquarters then they are cut down and they are told that they have to go back. We can only spend a 10% increase on last year or something like that and many of the plans which Ministers will like to see executed are not executed through no fault of their own but primarily because the Minister of Finance of this country would not support it.

If the Minister of Finance or the finances of the country could have afforded it during the Financial Year that I was Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Field would not have any hard courts to put down or anything like that. A Development Plan was drawn up and if they go back to the files they would find it where we identified areas at Welchman Hall. The top area was to be used for a playing field and the bottom area that they have developed into hard courts we had agreed on. That was our Agreement. Where the hard courts are being put, that was the area that we identified for the hard courts up there and if you go and check the Plan you would see that the areas were identified up to that point but the funds were not available. There comes a time when you have a certain element of Planning in certain areas and they were able to arrive on top of it and now they take the glory.

Mr. President, in politics you find that you sit down and you work from time to time and Elections come and people go and the samething will happen again. They would probably have some of the best plans which should be in the pipelines. Some are in the pipelines now because we know not when the hour will be. There was a Report which was released recently and that was the one which was being held for the Election. (ASIDES). We would not know. You never know what your Leader would do.

Mr. President, what you find is that money is not as free as some people thought and so the Ministers have got to cut back and now you are coming to an Election year, you are trying to get all of these things put in even if you do not get them done but at least you could tell people well look, we had them in but we could not get labour. There was a shortage of labour. The contractors were too busy doing the National Auditorium doing the Post Office, doing this and doing that and we could not get them to get those things done.

I believe that Senator Blackman, the Honourable Minister means well and I understand that he has got some action but I would like to offer a little advice to him. There is a certain amount of discontent in the Community Development Division and this discontent is among the staff in that Division. I think you will be well advised to have a look at the operations of the sections to see if you are really getting the best results from that action. The discontent is too great but I believe that you can deal with it in your own way and I will like you to

do it. I would not want on the Floor of this Senate to air what I understand the discontent is.

In fairness to the Hon. Minister, I will mention it to him and ask him to deal with it because I do not think that it is every matter which comes to your attention as a Politician that may necessarily be checked. I much prefer to mention it to him privately and let him investigate it himself and see if he could get the matter resolved before it reaches breaking point inside the Ministry of Education. There is a matter which has been glossed over and it is this question of the boy from Lodge School who has been sent home and has not been able to continue his education. Attempts have been made in the Other Place to have the matter raised and they were told — the representative of the constituency in which the boy lives was told that he would get a chance during the Estimates to do it, and during the Estimates the matter did not come up for discussion.

I understand that there are incidents at Lodge School where it is alleged that the youngster ate the lunch of a First Former and was sent home from school. I have been trying to find out — even the students at Lodge School, when you talk to certain students in the Third and Fifth Forms, they know nothing about it. This may be a new concept of school administration, but I went to Combermere and I know that if you had an incident like that at Combermere, the very next morning at Prayers, the Headmaster would be on the stage, would refer to the incident and make sure that there were no problems like that again. I understand from the boys in the Fourth Forms at Lodge that they only knew about it when they read it in the newspapers.

I do not know whose son it is whose lunch was eaten, but I think that it was a very harsh treatment for somebody to be sent home. I understand that the boy who was penalised was not even the boy who ate the lunch, that proper investigations were not carried out and that it was somebody else who ate the lunch and the blame was put on this boy. I am told by the students at Lodge School that if an investigation were carried out tomorrow among the students, as to whether they would like to be at Lodge School, that the majority of them would vote to go to another school.

Perhaps the time has come for the Ministry of Education to look into the whole matter of Lodge School. I believe that the Hon. Leader of the Senate is an old Lodge Boy and he perhaps might get a word in on the particular matter. I think it is hard for a boy to be deprived of his education because of a matter like that and I think that the Ministry of Education should look into it and try to find a place for the boy. I do not accept this case. I want a full investigation to find out what happened.

When I was at school, it was a regular thing to eat one another's lunch and you ate it in front of the masters in the form. You would swallow a sodabix. When you get little foolish things like this and people complain, I am not so much concerned about the eating of the lunch, I am concerned about the fact that this youngster is at home being deprived of an education and it appears that the Ministry of Education is doing absolutely nothing about it. I am very surprised that no debate came up about it in the Other Place. Perhaps, it is because of the area in which the parents of the child live, that nothing has happened. We know that in this society if things happened to certain people in this country that action would be taken overnight to get corrective measures and this matter has been outstanding for too long.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister to ask his colleagues when they meet in Cabinet tomorrow morning, to try to get something done about this matter, in order that the boy could resume his education. He is entitled to that. As an old Combermerian myself, I do not understand why they want to get him to Combermere. It seems to me Mr. President, that they are giving the wrong image at Combermere. Be that as it may, the important thing is the education of the child.

Senator Wickham is happy, Mr. President, at the votes in the Estimates for CARIFESTA. I am also happy that the Government has been able to provide some funds for the hosting of CARIFESTA. I would hope that the planning for that activity would start early and that they would try to make sure that the facilities are ready. I know that they would not be 100% ready. When CARIFESTA was held in Guyana I think it was in 1972, a national theatre, where the majority of the activities were put on, was covered with a couple of tarpaulins. I have not gone to Guyana recently, but I am told that it is not yet completed. We have got to start early, there are going to be a lot of artistic people coming to this country for the festival and we must make sure that the accommodation is ready for them. The Ministry has a million dollars provided in the Estimates for next year and I think it is about time that these things are sped up, so that we can get work going on.

Mr. President, the Tractor Cultivation Scheme, under the Ministry of Agriculture has been causing quite a lot of problems to the small farmers in this country. Somewhere in the Estimates, the Government put in where they are going to be I think, six horse power machines to ease the problems. I sincerely hope that when this is done a new system will be devised where the small farmers will not have to wait for any length of time before they can get the fields ploughed because agriculture is the life blood of this community. It is time to speed up operations and make these small farmers happy because if they are not happy, they tend to leave the field and find other areas of employment. One finds

that the fields are left there because of frustration. Some time ago in this Hon. Chamber, I made reference to the then Hon. Minister of Agriculture and I was taken to task by Senator Linton for it. A lot of criticism was heaped on the former Prime Minister of this country on the part he played in the debate on Constitutional Amendments.

Recently, I was shocked to see the attitude of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture on television cutting down one of the young, small farmers in this country because there was some problem and they did not see eye to eye. I am not sure whether the Hon. Minister understands what his role should be and whether there was any need for him to have reacted in the way he reacted that night on television. When there is an Hon. Minister on the television airways and he refers to a "diarrhea of speech" and things of that sort, I think it is very shameful and I do not know how his colleagues feel. It does not say good for the Government as a whole because you have collective responsibility. They will laugh in here, but they would not tell him that he is wrong. The next morning when they see him, they will tell him, "Braff, you are right, you hit him, you did a good job."

It seems that there are certain persons — I have kept clear of the Acting Hon. Minister, Mr. President, for the whole afternoon. I have decided to devote little time to him because I would have to speak too long and I did not want to speak too long. He is now interrupting me and this will force me to speak a little longer tomorrow, when I come back. I think it was bad. I do not care what you say, he would probably take a turn in me later on.

I do not think that Mr. Bethel himself is a politician and I do not think that it is fair for the Hon. Minister to get on the air and cut him down, a citizen of the country, in the way which he did. I think it is time that his colleagues stood up and told him that his attitude is bad. The Acting Hon. Minister is a gentleman, say what you like about him.

Mr. President, could you clear something for me in relation to Senator Cox's appointment, because there seems to be some misunderstanding. I got the impression that he was acting Minister until the 29th of this month, but in an aside I heard he is appointed a full time Minister without Portfolio. Could you tell me which is correct, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just to humour you, Senator Hunte, I read the Message and you were here.

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: No, I was not.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Oh! I apologise if you were not here. Unfortunately I have not got the Message here with me, but I did read the Message as I received it to hon.

members. It was in some papers that were circulated to you, I am quite sure. I see Senator Rocheford has one there; perhaps he can pass it to you. That is the context of the Message that was circulated to members.

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: Well thank you, Sir. This is the first time I am seeing this one. I certainly did not receive it but some people said he was appointed a full Minister. That is what was said to me, but then when I saw the Advocate I saw where you had said that it was from the 5th to the 29th, and for Senator Linton's benefit I will pass him that so he will know he is only an acting Minister and has only three more days to go, and he would not interrupt me anymore, because he is not aware of it either and he is a member of that same party. If I am not a member of that party, then I do not know except I hear from you, Mr. President.

Anyhow I will deal with the acting Minister tomorrow. All I will say in passing is that in his years of public life I am sure that he would never have gone on the air and cut down anybody like that, and the other two Ministers who are sitting in here with him I think recognise the decorum of this Place. I do not know if they get in the Other Place what will happen, but I am sure that while they are up here they will never ever descend to that level to refer to a citizen of this country in that way. I think you can cut down somebody in an entirely different light, but it is really ridiculous that the Ministers of Agriculture that we have had since 1976, the two of them, that the quickest thing they seem to do is that the moment they disagree with people, they, in the Bajan saying "wash they mouth on you and cuss you off". That seems to be the type of attitude which we are getting.

It is reaching the hour, Mr. President, when we agreed that we would stop. I will wish tomorrow to indicate to the Leader of the Senate that I will want to deal with the matter of the Police and the Fire Services. I think Senator Deane will be back tomorrow when I will deal with the Fire Service. He had a house fire in 1975. The tender did not have in water and the hydrant was blocked up and he blamed the Democratic Labour Party for that. Tomorrow I shall tell him who was the Chief Fire Officer at the time and he will understand that the politicians do not put water in the fire tenders. You've got a Chief Fire Officer and he has staff under him, and politicians do not drive the fire tenders and they do not go around to see that the things are there. I shall speak about that tomorrow when Senator Deane is here.

The question of the police I will have to dwell on tomorrow. I shall by-pass the Conference Centre at

Wilkey and dwell there for a short while tomorrow, Mr. President, and then I shall get a Transport Board bus and hope that we can get some good roads to travel on so that I can conclude my presentation. I do not want to lose my time so I may have to wait for the gong, or can we agree to break at this point? Do you want me to break into new ground?

Mr. PRESIDENT: We had agreed that we would stop at 7 o'clock. Are you proposing to wind up your speech, or do you wish to come back tomorrow?

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: No, Sir. I will come back tomorrow.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Very well. I will allow you to speak tomorrow.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting will be suspended until 2.30 tomorrow, Thursday, 27th March, 1980.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

When the sitting was suspended last evening, Senator Hunte was speaking and expressed a desire to continue speaking today. He is not here, and I am afraid we will have to proceed without his speaking.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Mr. President, unlike Senator Deane I cannot say that I am an independent Senator, although like him I am proud of the Government's record of achievements over the past three and a half years. But whereas I cannot say because of the terms of my appointment that I am an independent Senator, I have no doubt that all hon. Senators will regard me as a Senator with an independent mind. Now it is on this basis, Mr. President, that I rise today largely to compliment our Government on the way in which it has handled the affairs of this country for the past three and a half years.

Now in the five years commencing 1981 I hope to be able to rise and speak in the Other Place in a similar act of commendation, and since I confidently expect to be referred to in the Other Place as the hon. member for St. Philip South, that would of necessity mean that Senator Connell will not be there to heckle or rejoin. As for Senator Hunte, and I am sorry he is not here, a Mr. Best has put paid to his ambition and it now seems sure that he Senator Hunte will create a record in 1981 when he is again appointed an Opposition Senator, because by

then he would have been the longest serving Senator in this Island.

It is therefore, Mr. President, with a sense of duty to my country and sympathy for my fellow Senators on the Opposition benches that I will be fairly restrained in the language which I use today. As I speak in what is possibly the last but one Estimates debate in this chamber and possibly the last, that is, if the Prime Minister seizes the opportunity while the other side is in a state of argument and disarray and fighting over problems like leadership and constituencies and so on, and above all where they are going to run "Fly", and if he calls an election now when they are debating these matters, I think this would in fact be my last contribution on the Estimates debate in this Chamber.

Let me therefore, Mr. President, begin where Senator Hunte began. I shall begin with Parliament. I am happy, Mr. President, to observe that there has been a fairly dramatic improvement in all the services rendered by Parliament. This public address system is itself a tremendous improvement. One would have thought that the country was too poor to afford a system such as this over the past fifteen years. Indeed with one in my position coming from origins as humble as myself came into this House, one thought that the country could not afford a public address system at all, that the previous administration knew quite well what it was doing it could not afford the money that was allotted to the purchase of this system, but under your guidance, Mr. President, we have managed to purchase this public address system and it has enhanced the debates in this Chamber. At least we do not hear the complaints from the press table now like we used to hear before, but perhaps from 1961 to 1976 it was deliberate that the press should not hear the debates going on in this House, because perhaps they did not have much to say. Our thanks to you, Mr. President, for improving the system in this Chamber by the provision of this public address system.

Indeed I would go so far as to say that all the amenities in Parliament have been improved. I need not dwell at any length or at all on the level of debates, and I of course would take no credit for the fact that the level of debates has risen dramatically. I do not even think Senator Connell would want to take any credit for that, although I would be the first to concede that he has in fact contributed to the rise in the level of debate in this Chamber even though at times he talks what could be classified as nonsense; but I would not want to rob him of the chance to state that he has contributed to the level of debates.

From listening to fellow Senators I would say that the quality of the food has improved, Mr. President. While these are small things or would indeed appear to be small things, but are they small? Because I put forward

the argument that if a person is not comfortable in his own home or in his place of work or where he seems to make a contribution on behalf of the people whom he presumes to represent, if he himself is not comfortable then it is virtually impossible for him to make others comfortable. It is not only a law which human beings operate *per se*, it is a law of nature, a law of human beings and it is not necessarily epitomised in the maxim that self comes first. It is a question of feeling well then in order to make others happy, and if we in Parliament are not comfortable, if we are not happy, if we do not feel at ease when we are seeking to speak on behalf of the other inhabitants of the country, then we cannot, Mr. President, represent them to the best of our ability.

In this regard I would be falling short of my duty if I did not remark that the Parks & Beaches Commission itself has made its contribution to the comfort of Parliament in that it has supplied some very lovely plants that lead from the entrance right up. I note with a certain sense of alarm that some of the plants are drying but I would state that I have given Parks & Beaches instructions to come down and look after them and replace them if necessary to make this Parliament an even more beautiful place and more pleasant place for members to come, so that hon. Senators need have no fear that Parks & Beaches are going to leave dried up plants in the precincts of Parliament. We are going to do our bit to make sure that Parliament is as comfortable as Hon. Senators would like.

Let me move on from Parliament, Mr. President, and turn briefly to two Heads which I wish to take together. These are the Service Commission and the Establishments Division. Now I do not want to say much about these except on the question of training, and in this regard, Mr. President, I would like to see greater provision at the training unit for employees, especially junior employees of some of the statutory corporations. This should not be too difficult now that an obstacle has been removed from the training unit, and I hope that in time to come the unit will be expanded so as to make its services available to more of the employees of the statutory corporations. The corporations themselves, at least the Parks & Beaches Commission, are doing their utmost to provide their own training facilities for their employees.

I believe they can benefit to a large extent from the expertise that is provided in the Training Unit. I have no doubt that the Leader of the Senate will be able to enlighten us on methods, programmes and future provision in this regard.

Turning now to the Cabinet Office, Mr. President, I should like here to make one or two comments on the Printing Office which both in the Other Place and in This

Place has come in for some measure of discussion. I have my own view of the Printing Office. I do feel that it should be run, or at least part of it should be run, along the basis of a commercial enterprise. I can see various jobs which the Printing Office can do from which it can be allowed in fact to make a profit, and this profit can in turn be used to replace obsolete machinery and to bring in modern and up to date machinery to facilitate the printing that is done by Government and the subsidiary departments. There are, for example, several legal documents which can be pre-printed, which in fact are pre-printed in England, and these documents could be printed by the Printing Office and sold to litigants and the legal profession in general.

I see no obstacle in that, I see no reason why the Printing Department could not be given a commercial arm to its operations, and why it could not print these things and have them sold through the Government kiosk or some other outlet. I think that this would give it much needed income, but of course, Mr. President, I would like to see separate staff at the Printing Office if indeed part of it is commercialised so that that separate staff will look after matters coming from Parliament to be printed. Parliament is important enough to merit a separate Division in the Printing Office, separate staff which will look after the interest of Parliament and make sure that Papers, Statutes, Resolutions and what have you are printed on time, and I am sure that the staff of the House will make sure if they are printed on time that they will in fact be circulated on time.

That is just my idea for the Printing Office, it is no criticism of the present Printing Office, it is an idea that I would like to throw out for consideration by those who are responsible for the Printing Department. That should not be regarded as a criticism of the present staff of the Printing Department either, Mr. President, it should simply be regarded as my suggestion for a more functional Printing Department.

If I may turn my attention to the Head of Defence and Security, if I remember correctly, yesterday Senator Hunte queried the increase in the amount of expenditure allotted for this Head over the amount allotted from 1975 and earlier. He wanted to know for what purpose, why was this increase necessary. I think he was just trying to make a point. I would not say, Mr. President, a cheap political point, in querying why an increase was necessary. He was simply making a point, but we well know that Sydney Alleyne was a real threat to Barbados, otherwise why was he imprisoned in a foreign country when he was *en route* to Barbados? Is it not a fact that he said that he is going to invade Barbados if he invades it on the fins of a dolphin, or what have you? Is that not a fact? Did he not state a deliberate intention to come to this country and create strife?

One ought not to create a Defence Force for Sydney Alleyne alone. We ought to be fearful, not of Sydney Alleyne, because a bug can only exist if it has a bed in which to exist, so that if you have a bed that has bugs you do not just spray the single bug that you see and hope in that way to get rid of the bugs, the thing to do is to spray the entire bed, or to get rid of it altogether, so that Sydney Alleyne cannot be looked at in isolation at all. It is virtually impossible, Mr. President, to regard Sydney Alleyne *per se* as a threat to this country, one has to be ever fearful and work out the nesting ground for Sydney Alleyne, one has to be careful that one identifies any institution or person or persons who may be giving encouragement, help and assistance to Sydney Alleyne, or who may be wishful of giving such encouragement or assistance. I am not saying that there is any present institution in this country or person or persons who may actively be giving or who may have given that kind of assistance to Sydney Alleyne, but the fact remains that one has to be careful none-the-less, and one has to make sure that if anyone is ever minded to render assistance to such a person as Sydney Alleyne, that the country has resources in a military sense to deal with such incursions.

I know that when he was *en route* here he was not coming to open another mercantile bank, because this Government had no intention of giving him a licence to open another mercantile bank, so that argument cannot be put forward that he was coming here to run a bank. So that we have to make provision for the protection of this country, and the people of this country must be told that defence and security in the sense in which we are discussing it does not mean the defence and security of the Barbados Labour Party at all, it means the defence and security of the people of this island of their lives, of their limbs and of their property. That is what it means. The members of the Barbados Labour Party have no need of any defence at all, we can defend ourselves, we did it competently and adequately between 1961 and 1976, and we can go on to defend ourselves. I can defend myself, I have no doubt that every hon. Senator from this side, including your good self, Mr. President, probably the independent Senators from the other side, and I have no doubt the Opposition Senators can defend themselves, so the whole idea in making a provision for Defence and Security is not to defend the Barbados Labour Party.

Certain sections of this island would have us believe that when you make money available to Defence and Security, when you seek to buy an aeroplane so that it can fly around and work in rescue operations, that we buy it so that it will defend us. I do not want any aeroplane to defend me, and I am sure that nobody who lives in St. Philip, including Senator Connell, wants an aeroplane to defend him. You want an aeroplane to defend the people of Barbados, Mr. President, and we have to make it abundantly clear that defence and security is

as material to them, is as important to them as it is important to anyone in this Senate or in the Other Place. Do not let anybody get the idea that the Prime Minister or the Cabinet or the parliamentary Labour Party members on this side want to vote a sum of money for Defence and Security to defend only themselves or their personal property.

They do not have any aeroplane standing by there at the airport for when Sydney Alleyne comes to get away, we do not want that, we want to defend all Barbadians and to make sure they can sleep at night, we want to make sure they can rest comfortably in their beds, we want to make sure that when their homes are broken and entered into, when people walk about and stir up strife and tell them to knock down this and to knock down that, and to kill this person and to kill the next person, and to throw stones and all sorts of things, that riots and mob rule and what not can be instantly brought under control.

So that the message that we have to send down from this Chamber is that the question of Defence and Security concerns each and every one of us. If the people of this country feel that there can be no justification in spending the amount of money allotted in the Estimates, they are entitled to feel that way and we as members of Parliament have a duty to listen to them. But we know that the threat to our security if it is not real today can become real in a very short time and it is very important that we are in a position to protect our country. In 1976 just after the elections we had a lot of hostile activity by hostile people. I would go so far as to say that the Opposition did not take kindly to the fact that they had been weighed in the balance and found wanting. They had grown accustomed to power, and though I have not the evidence before me — I would not say they condoned or encouraged people to rise up against the Government — but I would say they did nothing to forestall potential subversive activity. They went on platforms and said that the people should not have voted for us. This sort of thing does not help towards a stable political climate, and that is precisely the reason for a Defence Force. We do not mind if they get on platforms and say that we should not have come to power; we do not mind if they should rule for ever and a day so long as they do not bring in guns and ammunition to rout a duly elected government. So we need to emphasise that the money spent on defence and security is money well spent. We are an open government and will not be party to a government that spends a sum of money on defence and security that people do not want us to spend; but before I refuse to vote for this money they will have to tell me that the people do not want a Defence Force; they would have to tell me that the people of Barbados do not regard Sydney Alleyne, Patrick John and their ilk as a real threat to this country; they have to tell me we are not in any danger of being taken over by people of a different

political ideology. If the Opposition tell me that and the people of Barbados agree that we are spending too much money on Defence and Security, then as an open Government we would owe it to the people to spend that money on some other item such as education or something of that sort. But do not let any Senator in here get up and tell me we are wasting money on defence and security, that we have increased it from \$200,000 in 1975 to about \$3 million now. They have to bring facts; they have to tell us why they think that we have increased it unduly. They must bring facts and when they present the facts we would sit down and listen to them. We have listened to them all the time; indeed at the beginning of the life of this Government we asked them to join us on the Statutory Corporations and they refused. But we are still willing to listen; we are an open Government and I will not be part of anything which is less than an open Government. If Senator Connell or Senator Hunte have views which are constructive and which we can incorporate into our programme we will be willing to co-operate with them; and let no Minister tell Senator Connell or Senator Hunte on the rare occasions when they come out with constructive ideas that we are not listening to them. If that is the case, then I will join Senator Hunte and Senator Connell. The occasions will be rare, Mr. President, but we have to listen to them, and I have no doubt that the Ministers will listen to Senator Hunte and Senator Connell. In this regard I want to make this point. We must in this country defend our traditions and institutions and we must not fool ourselves that Sydney Alleyne and his ilk constitute the only threat to our institutions and traditions. We must beware of wolves in sheep's clothing. In this connection I want to issue a warning to the country and in particular to the people in the parish where I reside, especially the people who reside in the southern part of St. Philip. I want to tell them to beware of persons who have exhibited tendencies which are contrary to the tendencies we have enjoyed in this country for innumerable years. I want to tell them that a person may change his Party, he may even change his constituency, but if that person has communist tendencies he does not change his ideology. So we have to be very careful of such persons with such ideologies. Such a person may have to vary his *modus operandi* for the purpose of seeking election to Parliament or joining a particular party but he never changes his ideology, which represents a threat to the fabric of this society. We have been accustomed to an open form of Government, a free enterprise system of Government, and we have always enjoyed the free enterprise system of Government. So we have to be very careful of the Gonzalves and Francis Belles and such like. It does not matter if they move from the PPM or PRM or whatever to the DLP, their ideologies remain the same, and when they get power they are likely to use that power in a way which the people of Barbados do not appreciate. This is why I speak of this under the Head of Defence and Security, because it is in the realm of defence and security that the Gonzalves

issue came up and other persons of such tendencies are likely to surface in the not too distant future.

Passing on from that I want to turn to the Head Finance and Planning. Now this country for a long time was given to believe that we were fortunate to have been blessed with what they regarded as a financial genius, — the only man who could regulate and control the finances of this country, the only man who could go to the World Bank and speak to them as a man.

We were given to believe that we could only raise loans, grants and aids on the International Market if a certain man was negotiating these loans. We were led to believe that all the scholars that Harrisons College produced, all the scholars that Lodge produced and all the scholars that Combermere produced were no good, that there was only one man who possessed this peculiar ability. There was one God given man here in Barbados who could go into the International Market and bring back gains.

We were led to believe that except he was at the head of the Government of this country we would never be able to raise any finance on the International Market. He was the be all and the end of all. They just stop short of his being omnipotent. They led us to believe that he was the only man capable with the knowledge of achieving these objectives.

I am happy to say, Mr. President, that the Great Combination has proven otherwise. It has proved that the legal mind should necessarily incorporate the logical and the Mathematical mind and in the case of the present Prime Minister, it certainly does. He has been hailed in all of the International Institutions as being truly a great Minister of Finance and Planning. Even certain members of the Opposition in the Other Place have openly recognised this fact although I think it would be asking too much of the Opposition present in this place to recognise and accept it but, of course, it would not be too long before Senator Hunte may be sitting on this side and recognising it. He will be sitting among us, Mr. President, as I will show you in a minute.

I am not so sure, Mr. President, with great respect to you, that the medical mind of necessity incorporates the financial mind and in this regard leadership of the other Party may fall to the man who is proclaimed by his fans as the Public Relations "Expert" Officer. The inverted commas that will be shown at the top of the word "Expert", by the Reporter are mine, Mr. President. It is not the Reporter's and I understand that the man who would become the leader is now battling with Law exams at Cave Hill. This tends to confirm my conviction that he too feels that the legal mind incorporates the financial mind and that the medical mind

does not so incorporate the financial mind and it is to that extent that he expects to become the Leader of the other Party. Fortunately for the present Leader of the Senate, he is now spared the task of teaching the students Land Law.

I am speaking under the Head of Finance and Planning. I would like the record to show, Mr. President, that for three and a half years there have been no complaints either in the Other Place or in This Place with regard to the Ministry of Finance and Planning. That may mean a lot of things. It may mean that Senators, opposition members are not aware of anything being done by Finance and Planning which may call for criticism. It may mean that they did not fully or at all understand anything that is being done by Finance and Planning or it may mean that the Ministry of Finance and Planning under the Prime Minister is functioning so effectively that there need be no criticism at all. I believe the last view is the correct one.

I have never heard a serious complaint from anyone. Maybe, I am now prompting a complaint. Maybe a Senator will get up after me and make a complaint just for the simple reason of contradicting me but I have never in here, and I have attended quite a number of debates of the Other Place and I have never heard a serious complaint relating to the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

I believe that the reason for this, Mr. President, is that the Ministry of Finance and Planning is doing such a wonderful job, is performing its functions so adequately and competently, that there is no room at all for criticism. That again gives a lie to the fact that this country has only ever produced one financial genius. That shows, Mr. President, that the present Prime Minister and Minister of Finance knows what he is doing.

He is fully aware and fully in control of the situation and therefore I do not have to dwell on the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Of course, if there are any haphazard and *ad hoc* criticisms flowing as a result of what I say here today, I have no doubt that the Leader of the Senate will deal with them in his usual fashion. He will make sure that the person making those criticisms will be dealt with in the manner in which he deserves.

Let me turn to the Ministry of Agriculture, a Ministry that I have sought to defend ever since I entered this Senate and in speaking under this Head, I will not turn to the cane blade speech at all. I think the cane blade speech is becoming a bit worn and everybody is walking about saying now that Mr. Barrow said that he does not want to see another cane blade and you have

to depend on the canes and all sorts of things. I do not want to dwell on that at all. Everybody knows that we need to reap the canes and that Mr. Barrow was talking through his feet at the time. He did not know what he was talking. It was just before he went off on his Sabbathical in New York or wherever he went. He was tired and he was not quite sure of what he was talking. He was getting problems here with the Burton Report not being published and all of that and he did not know what to do or what to say for that matter and he gave his famous cane blade speech. I will not dwell on that at all Mr. President.

I am not even going to dwell on the speeches which were recently made in what was until recently Senator Hunte's constituency by the respective candidate now on the other side for that constituency when he joined with other persons in telling Barbadians not to reap the canes. Do not cut the canes. That was a speech of the most irresponsible kind, Mr. President, I am sure that if Senator Deane had to speak after me he would support every word that I am saying now, but anyone, least of all a prospective candidate, for a constituency and a constituency out of which there is one in this Senate, to get up and tell Barbadians not to cut canes. I am sure that Senator Hunte would not have done that. He is more responsible than that.

I cannot understand why they have changed Senator Hunte at all. They have been talking some foolishness that he did not go to University or something of that manner. He is a very good candidate, but they changed him, and changed him and brought a man who is telling Barbadians not to cut canes. Senator Hunte would never have done that. He boasts the same origins as myself. He knows how important canes are to us. Charlie Best never cut a cane yet. Senator Hunte knows about cutting canes and I wish he was going to be a candidate because Agriculture would get a boost. He knows how important Agriculture is to this country.

Unfortunately, we are now witnessing the demise of Senator Hunte and he would not be in a position, unless he joins us, to say much on matters of this sort and I will speak for him, Mr. President. I will speak for Senator Hunte. He is my colleague and my friend and I will speak for him. I am not going to let anybody get up in Christ Church and say things that Senator Hunte would not have said and deny him a platform on which to reply because the Other Side has said that anybody who goes on Fly's Platform and speak will not be coming back in their Party and Senator Hunte is scared to go on Fly's Platform so I am going to speak for him. I am not going to let anybody get up in Christ Church and say things which he would not have said.

They said in Christ Church that Barbadians should not cut canes. Well let me warn all of those prospective

persons out there who seek political office that they must come to it with a greater sense of responsibility. They are telling people not to cut canes. The next thing they will be doing is to tell people not to work in the Industries.

Then from that, they will be telling people not to sell the tourists, things on the beach. You only need a small beginning of irresponsibility and that will go into a whirlwind. Mr. President, one has to be careful. All those candidates, and all those persons who seek political office had better be careful what they say to the people of Barbados and on Senator Hunte's behalf, I am going to deal with them. I believe that I have his authority so to deal.

After this Government has renewed the emphasis on Agriculture which it enjoyed prior to 1961, we have irresponsible retirees, people who not only enjoyed their jobs in this country but who are now enjoying handsome pensions. They are telling the people of Barbados not to cut the canes. I am sorry Mr. President, that this is not a different Forum. I know that you are not going to allow me to dwell on that at length. I will set up a different Forum in Christ Church.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have really anticipated me.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I anticipated you as you quite rightly said Sir. I am going to go back now Sir. This Government has placed an emphasis on agriculture which was there prior to 1961 and which was deliberately, consciously and maliciously removed between 1961 and 1976. They de-emphasised agriculture just like they wanted to depressurise the country.

Now, we are trying to help the small farmers. I know, because I have just started producing myself. Senator Connell knows, he is a small farmer too. He produced some sheep up there. He might not want to tell you, but I see his sheep running about up there. We are trying to build up our small farms, our four acre lots. He is not going to deny it, he has some rails up there barring in his sheep. Sometimes the dogs eat them. We are small farmers and know what it is to need the help of the Ministry of Agriculture. Senator Connell and myself from St. Philip can vouch for that fact, that we are badly in need of irrigation up there. Some Democratic Labour Party residents near to Mapps College formed a group and are asking for co-operatives but they talk and nothing else. I am going to re-organise them and I hope that Senator Connell will join me, with a view to getting irrigation up there. I hope that trickle irrigation proves successful because that would just suit us people who produce a few sheep, a few carrots and pumpkins, not to benefit ourselves, but to help the island because I give away more than I sell and the dogs eat more of Senator Connell's sheep than he sells. We hope that this trickle irrigation system works out so that the island can benefit from it

and so that St. Philip, which is a dry parish, dry geographically, can benefit from it.

The Ministry of Agriculture is trying to help. I saw an officer come around to my place the other day to find out what I was producing and to find out how he could help. He saw that my carrots were being eaten by worms and suggested something to me. I bought it and it helped. This Government has placed emphasis on agriculture again and we have to keep it that way. It does not behove us to walk around the country telling people not to cut the canes. The next thing you would be doing is telling them not to pull the carrots and pick the pumpkins. One step leads to the other. We have to make sure that we put agriculture on a sure footing so that if, as Senator Hunte anticipates, there is a difficulty in tourism, and it suffers an 80% set-back, then we can still at least feed ourselves without any difficulty.

I do not mind too much that Senator Hunte sought yesterday to defend Mr. Bethel. Mr. Bethel may be right, or he may be wrong, the Hon. Minister may have been right to castigate him or wrong. The point is, if Mr. Bethel wants to discuss difficulties, let him go and see the Ministry of Agriculture and if he does not get a satisfactory answer, he should not rush off on television, trying to make everybody else look foolish and make himself look knowledgeable, as if he is the know all, the have all and be all. I do not think that he is. He is knowledgeable on agriculture and one has to respect Mr. Bethel, but I am not going to defend Mr. Bethel, if he chooses the mode of putting his case to the country, then, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, has every right to go and defend himself. As a lawyer, I do know, that once your defence is within the terms of the law, it is legal and legitimate. I am not going to castigate the Hon. Minister for choosing to defend himself after all, in what was a legal and legitimate way. In the end, the result which we got and which Senator Hunte failed to say we got, was a dialogue between the Hon. Minister and the same Barbados Agricultural Society and it appears that it is more akin now to the benefit of the country, including Senator Connell and myself.

Senator Hunte has 3000 square feet, a small lot down there and he does not have time to plant anything. If he is desirous of planting, he too will benefit as a result of the dialogue that has ensued. He does not have to come in here and defend Mr. Bethel. Mr. Bethel can defend himself better than, even Senator Hunte can. He does not need a lawyer, he does not need Counsel.

Under this Head Mr. President, I would like to take issue with certain remarks made by Senator MacKenzie regarding the Barbados Marketing Corporation, because I think, that so far as he said that the Barbados

Marketing Corporation is not achieving the aims or objectives that it was designed to achieve, he said that it is not achieving those aims and objectives 100%. The Chairman, Mr. Vic Johnson, is still moving towards the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I hear Senators at my right asking about the Act relating to the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

I am going to make a very serious point here regarding what Senator MacKenzie said. What were the aims of the Barbados Marketing Corporation? They were to provide a ready market for small farmers in particular, to act as a buffer — I do not think that those are his words, I have summarised things in my own fashion — to deal with the problems of the glut situations. Those were the official reasons and very good reasons they were too. We all know the real reason why it was established, to create employment for persons who held the passport for the Democratic Labour Party. In 1976, the manager contested the general election for a St. George constituency but ignore that for the time being, that is political patronage that we have grown accustomed to in the past 15 years between 1961 and 1976.

The official reasons were the reasons which I outlined earlier and which Senator MacKenzie outlined in his speech yesterday. Senator MacKenzie has not told us that those reasons are any less uppermost today than they were when the Barbados Marketing Corporation was established. He does not say whether those reasons still exist or not. I presume, that he appreciates that those reasons still exist, that is, that there is still a great need for a ready market, in particular, for the small farmer. I presume, that he knows that there is still need for a Body which will act as a Price Stabilising Body. I presume that there is a great need for an institution like the Barbados Marketing Corporation to play its role in glut situations where more of a thing is produced than is really needed. He has not said that we do not have those criteria obtaining today and insofar as he has not said that we do not have them obtaining today, I take it, that he accepts that some of those criteria still obtain. What has he done? He has put up a very beautiful and flawless argument for the demolition of the Barbados Marketing Corporation and he has not told us with what he would replace it, bearing in mind, that the original, official reasons for its establishment still obtain today. It is Senator MacKenzie's duty not only to come in and tell us why it should be demolished, but how we are going to fulfil the aims and objectives which it was designed to fulfil in the first place.

That is his duty. I do not here state that Senator MacKenzie does not understand his duty; I do not here state either that he does not understand the extent of his duty. What I state is that perhaps he has not yet given full thought to a suitable replacement for the

Barbados Marketing Corporation. I think he will. I know Senator MacKenzie well enough, the businessman that he is, to know that he will go back home or to his place of work and think about it and on another and more appropriate occasion he will come here in this Chamber and tell us with what he would replace the Barbados Marketing Corporation. He does not even have to call up the Barbados Marketing Corporation, but he must replace it. Do not just tell us that a body which was formed with what in all fairness could be regarded as admirable objectives must be demolished willy-nilly without replacing it. If he demolishes it just like that, if he knocks it down.....

SENATOR D. S. MACKENZIE: Mr. President, there is really not much point in the hon. Senator going on with this argument, because he must have been out of the room when I spoke. I did not say we should demolish it or that we should stop or we should not have the Barbados Marketing Corporation. I accepted it had a role to play and I defined the role which in your words you said I defined. What I am trying to say, at least what I would like to correct is that you are arguing that I say to replace it with something. I said to wind down its operations and to change its direction to support the interests that it had alienated by the wide scope that it had and to stick to the very things that you are talking about which it should stick to. So we are not in disagreement; we are in agreement, but only in that area should it operate. So just to correct that, I thank you for giving way.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I wish to thank Senator MacKenzie for finding himself in the same lobby that I have found myself. I am happy he agrees with everything I am saying. I am sorry if I misinterpreted or misunderstood what he said yesterday, but I was fairly clear in my mind that he said that we should abolish the BMC. Since he has said, that he has not in fact said that, I will give in. Let me then forget all that argument and that will save the Chamber ten minutes of listening to me.

Let me go on, Mr. President, to tell Senator MacKenzie then that I think the present Chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation is making every effort to get the corporation to work in the manner in which it was originally intended. He had to begin somewhere, and I know that one of the steps he took was to give the retail outlet of the supermarket, which as somebody said, I do not remember if it was Senator MacKenzie, should not be a part of the BMC in the first place. I do not see why it was necessary at that point, but he has begun to give the retail outlet of the supermarket a certain degree of autonomy. Since they are now allowed to do their own ordering of stock, purchase of produce and what, have you, if you are a small farmer and have pumpkins to sell or sheep like Senator Connell, you can go to the retail outlet of the BMC and make your own arrange-

ments with the supermarket retail outlet. You do not have to go to the main supermarket section, and they are now working efficiently in that regard in competing with the other supermarkets. They are buying at competitive prices. All this nonsense about grading in A, B, C and D where you went back with half the produce you brought in the first place is out. If they find your produce is not up to scratch, they are offering you a lower price for it and selling it at a lower price, which is exactly what they should do because the produce that is brought to them is not bad or unworthy of being sold in supermarkets or what have you. Some of it may not be top class produce. In former times they used to tell you to take it back. Now what they are doing if it is all that low in quality, they are buying it at a different price and selling it at a lower price, which in itself is a benefit to a lot of consumers, because a consumer may not be able to purchase carrots at \$1.20 a pound, but she may be able to purchase a smaller carrot being sold at 60 cents a pound. That is a benefit so far as the retail outlet is doing. If the Government had to start a retail outlet today, I would be the last to support that, but since the retail outlet has been in existence for some time and certainly before we came in to power, then I would be the last to support any notion that it should be closed down, and I am not here saying that Senator MacKenzie said it should be closed down; but I would be the last to support any notion that it should be closed down, because no doubt it creates a lot of employment. It employs quite a lot of people; I do not know the figure, but I have no doubt it employs quite a lot of people. It also gives the management of the retail section a chance to benefit from being managers of the section perhaps which could be useful later on in a different section of Government.

Not only that. A lot of customers would have gotten accustomed to the fact that they shop at the supermarket and may in fact find prices competitive with the prices they get at Goddards and JB's and places of that sort. It may also offer convenient shopping for persons working in that area, and of course it makes a profit. I am sure it now makes a profit, and I am indebted to my friend Senator Rocheford for this point, the profit made from the retail section could be used to buttress any losses that are experienced in the other sections where the BMC is used as a social organ rather than a business or a commercial organ. There are fairly strong arguments for the retention of the supermarket so long as it operates at least not at a loss, but operates in a strict business fashion and continues to perform the service that it is performing; but I would not support a supermarket at all if you had large scale pilfering or theft or anything of that sort. There is no evidence that that is present, but I would not support a supermarket if you had that or if indeed it was not at all operating at a profit or the people who were running it were running it for their own benefits.

Now so far as the other parts of the BMC are concerned, I do think we shall have to wait until it has moved to its new premises before we can cast final judgment on it. I do think there is a need for a central processing plant and a plant which is not necessarily a privately owned plant. I do think there is a need for storage facilities and storage facilities which are not private storage facilities and that includes cold storage facilities. What can happen in the future if it becomes necessary is that private entrepreneurs perhaps like Senator MacKenzie can be invited to buy shares in the BMC to turn it into a limited liability company and let entrepreneurs who possess some business acumen like Senator MacKenzie put their money into it and make sure that they have a say in the running of the affairs of the corporation so that he could help to direct it down there. There is no reason why he should not be a member of the Board at all. I would support Senator MacKenzie's membership on the Board of the BMC. I have no objection to that at all, because I think that he would be able to make a serious and lasting input into the running of the BMC. I hope my words do not fall on deaf ears. I hope the Leader of the Senate will pass on my feelings to the powers that be and that Senator MacKenzie be invited to serve on the Board of the BMC, if of course he is not too busy serving on other Boards. I am sure that Senator MacKenzie is willing. I believe he is a member of the Occupational Training Board, that he will make his input there, and I see no reason why he should not be invited to serve on the BMC so that he can help it to benefit. Mr. David Seale, another business man is doing a wonderful job at the Barbados Development Bank and the Central Bank. Senator David MacKenzie could also be given an opportunity to make a serious and lasting input into the economic life of this country, and I would support that wholeheartedly. If it means driving 44 miles to vote for him, I would drive the 44 miles; I would run the 44 miles to vote for Senator MacKenzie, and I do not say that in jest. I am serious, Mr. President, when I say that. I have no doubt if you are in a position you would also support his being a member of the Board, Mr. President.

Now, Mr. President, I believe that come 1981 the BMC should have got over most of its teething problems; I would call them, because it only began to function in 1976-77; it was malfunctioning before; so it only had teething problems in 1976 and 1977. Before they were doing all sorts of things. I do not know how the Commission of Enquiry did not look into it at all, because they were doing all sorts of malpractices down there before 1976, but since 1976 it has begun to function and it is now getting over its teething problems, and I believe that by 1981 it would in fact have surmounted at least the most serious and most difficult of its teething problems. Finally at last, we would have reached a stage where the BMC would play the pivotal

role in the economy of this country that it was designed in the first place to play.

There is only one aspect of the BMC that I would like to really take serious issue with, and I have no doubt that Senator Connell would like to join with me on this. There is what I call a defunct market at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip, a market that was set up by the MCW with good objectives, to serve the people of the parish of St. Philip. It is not regularly used, or used at all. The keepers of the market are good people, they do their best to keep it tidy, but I would like to see that market at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip, and I want this to take hold, I do not want this said here and forgotten, because Hansard is not going to come out for some time. I want the people of Barbados to know, I want the Chairman and Board of BMC, the people of St. Philip, and particularly the people of St. Philip South, to know that I want the market at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip handed over to the BMC now, Mr. President, N-O-W now, I do not want to wait until 1981 or 1982 to have it handed over, I want it handed over now.

We need a BMC depot in St. Philip, and that market is admirably placed and well suited to the type of operations which you find at the BMC. The people in St. Philip want to be able to buy groceries at competitive prices. You have one or two supermarkets springing up, but you do not really have the competition that you need. They are doing a good job in servicing the people in St. Philip South, but we need a BMC depot which will service the people of St. Philip and which will be a market for their produce. After all, St. Philip produces limes and nuts and things that are prone to dry weather. Senator Connell knows that, even though he goes for sheep, he does not go for limes and nuts. They produce nuts. A man does not want to drive to town with 25 and 30 limes, but he wants to sell them, because he cannot eat 25 or 30 limes, but when he pays 45 cents to drive to town with 25 or 30 limes and buys a snap of rum for 80 cents, and 45 cents to get back up, he is not making anything. He wants to be able to walk to the BMC in St. Philip with his bag of limes or his bag of nuts, get his \$5.00 and return home, buy his snap of rum home where if he gets drunk he does not have to pay the bus to get back home, and he would not get put off either.

The people in St. Philip South need this facility, and I do not want the Leader of the Senate either (a) dismissing me, (b) telling me it is being looked at, or (c) telling me it has been on the cards or anything like that. (ASIDE). If he is not listening he may still be hearing, and I want him to hear, because the people of St. Philip want that BMC depot at St. Philip, and if the Ministry of Agriculture does not turn it over to the BMC they may find a situation where the people in St. Philip take it over and run it. I am not going to wait until anybody else who is running on the other side — I do not know who is

running on the other side — but I am not going to wait until anybody else comes up in St. Philip and asks for that market to be handed over, I want it converted before 1981, and I want it well stocked, I want it to operate as a market. I am assured that the Leader of the Senate will give it to me, Mr. President, and I hope that the records will show clearly and that the records will come out before 1981 too, the show that I asked for it.

They want in St. Philip a choice of shopping. I was born and bred among those people, Mr. President, I am like the siamese twin to those people. Every time they feel pain I feel the hurt, whatever hurts them hurts me, and I want to see that they are well taken care of. This is no idle request, this is no political request, whether I am their representative or not in 1981 — I think and hope I will — I want to see that market established there for the benefit of the people of St. Philip South, all St. Philip indeed, because Six Cross Roads is a pivotal point in St. Philip, it is a central point. My fellow parishioners would like to have a choice in shopping with the knowledge that their Government, through the BMC, is making sure that they pay no more than reasonable prices for their goods and that they will have a ready market for their produce.

I say, Mr. President, convert Six Cross Roads market now into a BMC depot. That was built in the Barbados Labour Party's time prior to 1961. The Lord knows that that and the Farm Housing Area were the two things spearheaded by Mr. D. D. Garner. I say the Lord knows, but I am sure Senator Sir Mencea Cox can confirm that for us, and I am sure he will when he speaks. Senator Sir Mencea Cox says that he had a hand in it too. Well, it goes to show that every time we get somebody out of St. Philip coming up there to contest a seat you get nothing done, and when you get a St. Philip man contesting a seat you get a lot done. Well, the people in St. Philip South should take note, it was Senator Sir Mencea Cox and Mr. D. D. Garner who built the Farm Housing Area and the market down there, but the market is not being used, it is not being misused, but it is not being used at all. We want a BMC depot right now, it must be converted into a BMC depot before the end of this year and it must function adequately. I think I have drilled that enough, drummed that enough, and I think I have the assurance of the Leader of the Senate that he will make sure we get our market before the end of this year so that I can go and open it like I am invited to open other areas in St. Philip South.

Let me in this same context, Mr. President, turn quickly to Housing, but I am going to turn to Housing, turn back to something else and then turn back to Housing again. I want to turn to Housing now because in this vein, and in this same context, and in this same area I want to implore the Minister of Housing to go ahead with his plans, and in this regard I am supporting my

friend and colleague in the Other Place, Mr. David Simmons, one of the few men who have represented St. Philip and have done anything at all for the parish. I want to support him in calling for the urgent construction of that Housing Area which they plan to put near Six Cross Roads in St. Philip, somewhere near Nursery and Four Roads in St. Philip. I do not want it on paper at all, I do not want it like the Law Faculty building in Trinidad which gained prizes for architectural brilliance and for seven years you have not had a block put up at all. I do not want that, I do not want any prizes for architectural expertise at all. All I want is about 100 houses there in St. Philip next to Six Cross Roads. That area is developing rapidly, and those of us who live there and who take gas in that area — not all of us who live there take gas in that area for fear that we will have to stop and come in contact with the people there — but those of us who live near there and go there and take gas there know that that area is rapidly developing.

I understand from the Minister of Housing there are plans afoot to put a Housing Area there. Now, I do not really support a Housing Area there, in the final analysis I will have to, but I prefer the Housing Area where my friend and colleague, Mr. David Simmons, wants it, up Lucas Street opposite Windward Cricket Ground, not because I was born in Lucas Street and still live there — it is near my father's shop as Senator Hunte says — because there is a vast area of land which will lend itself suitably to the establishment of a Housing Area there and to develop that general area. But if they must put it at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip, let them get ahead with it. By 1981 we want at least 100 houses up there, we want the families to be properly housed, and what with the Housing Area, the supermarket, the BMC depot and the Fire Station which I see under the Ministry of the Attorney General, I have no doubt that Six Cross Roads will become the promised town, the town that was promised to St. Philip.

I am going to talk about the fisheries terminal later on this afternoon, and things like that, but I want to see a total development and transformation of Six Cross Roads, St. Philip, Mr. President.

I am arguing here on a parochial basis because if I do not ask for things for St. Philip South apparently nobody else will, so hon. members will forgive me if I am parochial in my requests; in a little while I will treat the Estimates in a more global fashion. But I want to make the point that a housing area must go up, the market must go up and the fire station must go up.

Now a word about fisheries at this point. I see from the Estimates that work on the fisheries terminal at Oistin will begin soon. I think it would be a beautiful supplement to the fishing terminal at Oistin to have a fishing terminal in St. Philip. St. Philip is one of the farthest parishes from Bridgetown and the people of St. Philip when they have large catches of fish have to journey to

Bridgetown. I do not know if you will be able to put up facilities where they could sell their fish at Six Roads; if you can, all well and good. But if they cannot, I would like to see some urgent consideration given to the construction of a fishing terminal somewhere in St. Philip. I know there is serious erosion at the Crane Beach and the fishermen have been complaining for not being able to pull up their boats now. I am satisfied that the Minister is doing his utmost to arrest the problem, but I would like to see a fishing terminal somewhere in St. Philip, perhaps along the Crane or Foul Bay, for the benefit of the fishermen of the area. I think Senator Connell will agree with me on this.

All in all Mr. President, the Ministry of Agriculture is placing emphasis on all those questions that have been raised on agriculture in general and we are doing a better job than we have seen prior to 1976. There are still some problems that need to be ironed out. For instance, a way must be found to attract workers to the land again. It does not suit us to have to import foreign labour to reap the canes. Some kind of incentive must be found to get workers back to the land. But I have full confidence in the Minister of Agriculture and I have no doubt that he will be looking at the problem. He is a man who likes and will accept a challenge, as was seen from the short term he served as Minister of Communications and Works. He is probably one of the best Ministers we have seen for a long time. But we must devise ways and means of encouraging people back to the land. We must find some way to attract people back to the field and show them that cane cutting need not be dehumanizing. We have to return some form of humanism to cutting canes rather than making people believe you are less than human if you have to do that kind of work. I do believe that some way must be found to encourage young people to return to the field; perhaps we must have seminars and discussions with the young people and hear their points of view as to what they think about cutting canes and working in agriculture in general. We have to reach out to the young people in our community and start a dialogue with them and if necessary offer some kind of incentive.

I go on now, Sir, to the Ministry of Attorney General. I have noted before that token provision has been made for a fire station at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip. I wish I could also see token provision for the construction of a Police Station and Magistrates Court in St. Philip, because the one we have at Station Hill in St. Philip is inadequate; the toilets don't work and the last time I was there the lights were not working. It is terribly uncomfortable and litigants from my constituency have to endure the unsatisfactory condition of the District C Police Station and Magistrate's Court. I know they are going to get ahead with the construction of a magistrates court at Oistin. I am pleased about that. Boarded Hall is too out of the way. The buses are not regular, and when people have to go from St. George, Oistin and all

about they have to take two buses and pay two bus fares. So we have to make it convenient for litigants, and the same way we are going to construct a court at Oistin I hope the Attorney General can be persuaded to construct a court at Six Roads.

Mr. President, what can I say about the Ministry of Trade? As a matter of fact, no one in here or in the Other Place can say anything against it. That Ministry is functioning competently and adequately. All I can say is, thank God for the present Minister of Trade. The other side used to talk about a financial genius. Apparently this Minister is a trade genius. I see his name appearing in trade magazines in every one that I open. He makes constructive contributions about everything. As Senator Deane said yesterday, he does not know how he got through with Lome II. It is just a reflection of the man's brilliance and perseverance. No one can say that the Ministry of Trade is not functioning. It is performing a beautiful role in this society, and in the Caribbean since 1976. But I will not dwell on this; I will move on. As Senator Lynch said yesterday *res ipsa loquitur* — the thing speaks for itself. So the Ministry of Trade speaks for itself.

What can one say about the Airport? One can only say what the visitors to the Airport have been saying. It is a marvel. We are talking here about 400 000 tourists. If the Grantley Adams International Airport becomes one of the Wonders of the World, we will have 80,000 tourists. We had better be careful how we give publicity about the Grantley Adams International Airport and about how it is run.

Do not mind that it was started during the Democratic Labour Party's lifetime. It is the way we have constructed it. It is the way we have made it out, the way we have kept it clean and tidy, the way we have brought everybody working in unison. Those are the things you notice about it. It is a self-kept building and a maintenance free building so it does not take any genius to set it up. It is how you run it. If we are not careful, Mr. President, it will become one of the Wonders of the World.

I want to say that I went into the Manager's office the other day and I wish that greater provision was made for his comfort. After all, he has a serious post but I am going to have private words with the Minister responsible. I have no doubt that he will make provision for him. This is a personal feeling. I do not think it affects the country although if a man is not comfortable it can be reflected in his work. I did not discuss it with him either but I was just shocked to see that he was tucked away in a little corner. He did not have a Secretary or anything like that and I think that we will have to make greater provision for him but I have no doubt that the Minister who is very amenable to this sort of suggestion will make sure that the Manager of the Airport is quite comfortable and the Leader of the Senate has no need to reply to me

on that point. I will speak to the Minister directly on that.

Let me come to the Ministry of Communications and Works. I am satisfied and I must make this point first because it is something that I have been trying to get done for sometime. I am satisfied that the Ministry intends to have some work done on Heddings Road in St. Philip. Hedding's Road in St. Philip is in a bad state of disrepair. I have been seeking to have it done. The Minister has been inviting me to tour the road with him and I am going to do so. It was a personal thing from me, not from the incumbent representative of anybody or anything like that. I went down there and I saw it was bad and in my capacity as a public servant of the people of Barbados I told the Minister I would like him to go and see this road.

I was born up there and I have a sense of belonging when it comes to St. Philip and I do not care who is the representative. Once I see something wrong and it cannot have the ear of the person responsible I would go and say something is wrong and I want it done as soon as possible. I said that this road was bad and I wanted it done. I said I would call you and show it to you and I showed it to the Minister and I am going to get this road done as soon as possible and I hope that the people of St. Philip South will be told that the road will be done as soon as possible.

Speaking globally about the Ministry of Communications and Works I am coming back to a parochial point first. That road that leads from St. Martin's to the Airport wants resurfacing and the Leader of the Senate can take me up on this. The road from the Airport right down to Oistins needs resurfacing as well as the road from the Airport up to St. Martin's. I have not spoken to the Minister of Communications and Works about this recently because there was no point doing it while substantial work was still going on and heavy duty vehicles were travelling on it going to and from the Airport while it was being constructed but now that it is finished, I want to see the road from St. Martin's Church right out to the Airport fully paved, barber-green if you please.

As Senator Hunte quite rightly said, we also want it widened. He is always in St. Philip. I do not know if he is looking for a constituency. Every morning I get up I see him up there so he is quite familiar with the road too and we want that road widened and we want it surfaced.

On another parochial point, I hope that by the end of this year that the Transport Board will have moved all of its engineering, mechanical and repairing operations from Roebuck Street to Mangrove in St. Philip. We have up there adequate space and willing workers. I want to see

the major part of the Transport Board Depot moved from Roebuck Street to Mangrove in St. Philip. We have all the workers that we need and the space and I should add here that once they move it and they have constructed the building they cannot do better than to ask Parks and Beaches to come in and landscape the area.

If there is a lack of space at Roebuck Street there is absolutely no reason why the Depot should not be moved to Mangrove and I am sure that I will get support in this area. I am sure that plans are afoot to move it and if that is so, then we in the Senate should be told that it is so, so that we, the people in St. Philip, will know that employment is coming our way.

Under this Head I want to speak briefly about the Mini-Buses. It is imperative that we bring this problem to a head. I understand and I have spoken to the Minister of Communications and Works about this Head and it is still being discussed and it will not be long now before it is brought to a head.

What I want to say and what apparently is not exactly understood is that persons who were granted permits before 1976 had to show the so-called passport of the Other Side so that the non-permit holders could be regarded as non-passport holders. We have stopped that. We want to regularise the situation. It is no good fooling ourselves, Mr. President. There is a great need for these mini-buses. There is no need to bury your heads under the sand like ostriches and say that we do not need the mini-buses. We need them. The whole system would come to a stand still if we did not have the mini-buses and until somebody gets up and says forcefully and as forcefully as I am saying that we need the mini-buses, then the mini-buses will never be regularised. We need to have them regularised.

I work for them in a professional capacity and I have the conviction that we need them. I have left my car already and travelled by the bus and then people had to come and offer me a lift home. They said, "what are you doing down here. You should not be here rushing for any buses." I know people go into the Bus Stand at 4 o'clock and this sort of thing. I know that there has been a vast improvement. We have improved the bus service over 500% since we came into power. We have bought new buses. We have streamlined the Transport Board. We have cut down on the fuel allowances. We have improved the service. We have done everything possible but we are not yet at the point where we can satisfy the travelling public. Such is the point that we have to accept.

I know that we have done everything that is in our power. I know that we have done a lot. I know that we have increased the Bus Service. I know that we have

provided a Bus Service which was non-existent before. We have cut down on the pilfering and that sort of thing. We have increased the frequency with which buses travel. We have increased the standard proficiency of the workers at the Transport Board. We have done everything humanly possible as what we stated that we would do in our Manifesto but because of the state the Transport Board was in before the demise of the last administration, we have been unable to fulfill our objectives.

The only way that we will be able to do that is to regularise the mini-buses. A lot of these Firms are now using a three-shift system. Part of the Agreement of the Workers' Union, part of the Law of this Land is that if workers work late at nights that you must pick them up and drop them to their homes, at least to their doors, and they are finding it difficult getting their workers to and from their work when they are on day shift.

People are only employed near the Airport because of the shift. The mini-buses could play a vital role in this regard. We must, and I hope the Leader of the Senate does not get up and lambast me because I say this. I want him to get up and support me. We must lift our voices in unison for the mini-bus operators. They are not passport holders. If they were passport holders they would have got permits during the last administration. They were refused permits because they did not have the DLP Passport.

It does not mean that they are totally supportive of us but it means that they were only supporting the other side in the sense that they were passport holders. We have to support them. They are providing a vital service and they are providing an even more vital service to their country. I see absolutely no reason why we cannot support mini-bus operators and I want it to go on record that I am in full support of the mini-bus operators.

If the Transport Board cannot compete we will arrive at the system by dint of our economic forces where we will have a viable Transportation system. You do not worry about the Transport Board not competing. The workers of the Transport Board will do with the competition. They will know that they then cannot compete and they themselves will have to run mini-buses or work on mini-buses.

The economic forces will work. We are not a Communist Government. We will allow the free market system to operate. Let them compete. Let the mini-buses compete against the Transport Buses. Let them drive the Transport Board to maximum efficiency, if we must, but the mini-bus people must live. Give them permits and I make no apologies to anyone even though I have a professional duty towards the mini-bus men. I make

no apology for saying in here that the mini-bus people should eat. Even if I do not have that professional responsibility towards them, I would in here be arguing for the light for the mini-bus men.

I know several times that several people could not get from A to B unless they used the mini-bus. Let me hear the Leader of the Senate get up in here and say that by X day of date that we will have a Mini-Bus Service which will definitely improve the Transport Service. I know that they are waiting on the Report of the Transport Survey and I do not think that I am premature in asking for an urgent decision on the question of the mini-bus permits.

I do not even think that the Barbados Development Bank will give them money once they do not have the permits, we have to look after them. They are non-passport owners, all those illegal operators are non-passport owners. They do not have any passport of the Barbados Labour Party. This is a speech for the mini bus men, the small men. I want to make that point in as forceful a manner as I possibly can. I do not mind who tells me that I am out of place, that I am premature, or that if I had asked, I would have got this particular answer.

I want to know when we are going to legalise the mini bus men, not if, when. There can be no doubt that we ought to legalise the mini bus men. I want the support of every Hon. Member of the Senate when I ask for the mini bus men to be granted permits. I want to have permits for the mini buses as soon as possible.

Let me turn briefly to the Ministry of Education. There is one particular point that I want to deal with under this Head. I want to deal with the Barbados Labour College. It is providing a very useful service to workers now as it provides Trade Union education for them. The Parks and Beaches Commission permits its workers to take part in these courses and when you talk to the workers, they are much more knowledgeable about collective bargaining, about disciplinary procedures, their rights, duties, and things of that sort. The training being given is useful. I am not arguing for the Workers' Union College because it lies in the heart of the constituency which I hope that I will be speaking for in the Other Place sometime in the future.

I know that Mr. Walcott is getting a bit tired and possibly a little old, but he is always receptive to new and constructive ideas. I would like to see the Barbados Workers' Union operating on a basis similar to BIMAP where it not only offers courses in Trade Union matters, but it also operates as an adjunct in addition to and in furtherance of the training facilities being given by

employers and the training facilities being provided by Senator the Hon. Don Blackman and the Occupational Training Scheme to provide further education in various trades.

I do not see a mason, a mechanic, a carpenter, or one such tradesman on the staff of the College teaching the workers anything at all. If I am wrong, I stand to be corrected and I am glad to be corrected. You hear about people who teach Philosophy, Collective Bargaining, and Politics. I believe that the workers are indeed benefiting from the training of that sort. Why is it that the Barbados Workers' Union cannot use its facilities, and large facilities they are, for assisting in the training of workers. After all, it is the workers who pay for the Barbados Workers' Union and do not let anybody in the Union or anywhere else come and tell me that I am in no position to tell them what to do because the Government pays \$20,000 to them out of our money, so that gives me a right to speak about it. Why is it that they cannot provide extra training for the workers and let the Government match them dollar for dollar, so far as they provide that training. I am sure that in this system of open Government which we have, we would be willing to have open dialogue with a view to providing training for employees. Do not only give them Philosophy and things like that, I did not say propaganda. It is providing a useful service. Let them go further and use the Barbados Workers' Union College to teach the employees. I am sure that a man who has got six weeks in training from the Occupational Training Scheme or whatever you call it, could be glad to know that the Barbados Workers' Union would sponsor him for a further three months in order to enhance his training in a particular field. I think that this is a good idea. Why do they only ask for time off for the workers to teach them trade unionism and the same worker when he comes back, if he is a gardener at the Parks and Beaches does now know a rose from a marigold. That College belongs to the workers. I know that Mr. Walcott is a kind man. He is getting old now but he will listen. I am looking for his reply in the Sunday Advocate. I am sure if he does not hear what I said in here that Senator Hunte is not going to tell him, he has no interest in telling him anything now, Senator Connell will tell him for me.

I am not going to comment on Dodds until Mr. David Simmons reports the findings in his recently established Commission. All I can say is that I heard that his office was broken last night and I hope that it was not the Dodds boys. I reserve my comment on Dodds until the Committee reports. It would be totally unfair to speak on Dodds until the Committee reports its findings and tells us what the problems are and how they propose to solve them. I think that with Mr. David Simmons in the Chair, no doubt with his previous association with

Dodds, not in the capacity as a boy of Dodds, that he will be au fait enough with the problems and would be able to give a solution.

I live in the heart of St. Philip and St. Philip is dear to my heart. I remember when I was younger, the boys would come to King's Park, and once a year they would wash the Bandstand, paint it, and do the gardens. Now, we have to hire people to do it. You cannot ask a boy now to sew a pants. They used to produce some beautiful trousers up there. I hope that at the appropriate time I would be able to make an input into the Dodds situation as well.

External Affairs. Here again, I am not going to comment, except to say that I would not mind being appointed to the Hon. Henry Forde's Joint Parliamentary Committee, because having worked in the Barbados High Commission in London for some time, and having some experience, I believe that I would be able to put some input there, but I am not going to ask for a position, it is just my wish to make a contribution to the people of Barbados in whatever capacity I could. I am not going to move from town to St. Philip, although I moved from St. John to St. Philip. I am not just interested in getting into Parliament for Parliament's sake. I want to make a solid contribution and in that regard, I would be willing to serve on the Joint Parliamentary Committee, because I feel that there is some input which I could make as far as External Affairs is concerned.

The Ministry of Health — everybody is healthier under the Hon. Miss Billie Miller and when our National Health Service comes, so that the cost of drugs, treatment and so on is reduced, we are going to be even healthier. All I can ask the people is not to go to the doctor as soon as they get a slight headache, because you do not have to pay much, but to use it reasonably and with discretion. I have been promising the older people up my way, in areas like the Crane, Sea View, Belair, Ruby and places like that — Senator Connell will recognise those — that every effort is being made towards the implementation of the National Health Service. I hope I would be able to be in a position by the end of this year, to tell them that they can now benefit from the implementation of the National Health Service. They are looking forward to it. They think that it is another great contribution by the Barbados Labour Party and one of those contributions that you can look back on and say, this was indeed a contribution of the Barbados Labour Party, this bears the stamp of the Barbados Labour Party.

Finally, Mr. President, I come to the Ministry of Housing and I left that for the last because the office of the Parks and Beaches Commission falls under the

Ministry of Housing and I want to speak on that, not at length, but I want to bring the public up-to-date on what is really happening. I believe that you have travelled Sir, since the airport was landscaped, you saw the landscaping and you are no doubt pleased with it.

What I am saying is that I believe that we managed to recruit a batch of very competent and useful workers who did their utmost to make sure that the landscaping at Grantley Adams airport matches the services provided therein. Only last week I was speaking to the manager and he expressed his satisfaction with the landscaping at the airport. In another six months when the trees begin to get tall and provide shade, members of the public are going to be even more pleased with what we have produced at the airport.

I can say that we have put in a tender for the landscaping at Heywoods and I hope we are successful and if we are then we will do a good job. I hope that the landscaping at Graeme Hall will be given to us and so will the landscaping at Oistins. I hope all that landscaping will be coming to Parks & Beaches. If it goes out to tender of course the Parks & Beaches will submit a tender because it is as a result of the commercial section of the Parks & Beaches enterprise that we have been able to sustain the number of workers to 400 and above. You will be pleased to know that all those people who were taken on in a hurry in 1975-76 around the time of the by-election in the City, when the Manager of Parks & Beaches was rushed to Trinidad, they gave him \$2,000 to go down there, passage and hotel and what not and he went to buy hoes and forks, so much so that Trinidad ran out of hoes and forks and then after the election they took the money that they had to spend at Kings Park for six years and spent on that crash programme. Senator Connell can confirm this because he was a member of the Parks & Beaches then. Money had been voted for the development of Kings Park, plans had been produced and all this sort of thing and they took the money, despatched the manager of Parks & Beaches to Trinidad to buy hoes and forks so that every commercial enterprise in Trinidad that sells hoes and forks ran out of hoes and forks and then we had to persuade the plane to fly the hoes and forks back here just to take on 250 people to satisfy the whims and fancies of a man who was contesting the elections. Nearly all these people have again found work in Parks & Beaches of a very profitable nature, and we do not have to send out to buy hoes and forks for them. We have given them work; we have created a commercial section, we do private commercial work and Grantley Adams Airport landscaping was one of these. So we are not going to indulge in foolishness. I am going to get the figures for the appropriate time, how much it cost to send the manager to Trinidad to buy hoes and forks, how many hoes and forks he bought, what was the cost of each hoe and fork, and I warn Hon. Senators I am going to get

these figures and bring them here to the Senate so that the public will know how much was spent on hoes and forks in Trinidad round the time of the City-by-election in 1976 or whenever it was. We are not doing that. We are doing proper work; this is why I hope that we get Oistins landscaping, Heywoods landscaping and Graeme Hall landscaping to do so that we can employ the people in Parks & Beaches usefully.

I will say to Senator Connell's credit because I do not want to miscast him and say that anything that went on in Parks & Beaches that savoured of buying the seat in the city he agreed with. I have read all the Minutes and what not and I am not saying here that he agreed with it. I do not want him to get up either and say that I am imputing anything to him or saying he was a member and agreed with it. I read the Minutes and he did not agree. Even when they dismissed Hoyte for political reasons he, I am happy to say, did not agree with it; neither he, nor the present Chairman agreed with it. Senator Connell did not agree with it, but he was a voice crying in the wilderness. All the others agreed with it. So we are trying to rectify this whole situation.

Ilaro Court: as you all probably know, Mr. President, Parks and Beaches has been charged with the duty of landscaping Ilaro Court. Senator Hunte said yesterday they cut down the mahogany trees. I hope when Mr. Best comes in here and takes his seat he does not speak as irresponsibly and without facts. I hope he takes the time to get the facts first. The fact about the mahogany trees is this, Mr. President. The mahogany trees that were cut up at Ilaro Court were never planted at Ilaro Court; they grew up on rocky soil and when we moved in to landscape Ilaro Court they had already been blown down much to our regret, so we cut them up, we stacked them for future use and we are replanting mahogany trees. Parks & Beaches does not cut down trees; it plants trees, Mr. President. Cut down mahogany trees. Indeed!

We are trying to preserve Cherry Tree Hill now, trying to get the Government to buy Cherry Tree Hill. They would not buy it at all when they could have got it for next to nothing. We are trying to get this Government to buy it now. They like mahogany trees? If they liked mahogany trees they would have bought Cherry Tree Hill. They are not cherry trees, they are mahogany trees up there. They like mahogany trees? Senator Hunte comes in here talking about preserving mahogany trees and they refused all these years to buy Cherry Tree Hill and the other place down there named Foster Funland for all these years, and we had to come and do it. Who likes mahogany trees? If you want to know the history of the mahogany and the history of the preservation of trees in this Island, you go and ask Mrs. Iris Bannochie and Mr. Donald Wiles. You do not ask Senator Hunte. He is talk-

ing about our cutting down mahogany trees. We cut up a few mahogany trees that were blown down and we are replanting the mahogany trees. What we did up there was to debush the area, cut out useless trees, woman tongue and that sort of thing. We are cutting out useless trees and we are going to replace them by useful trees. We prefer to plant fruit trees wherever possible. We want to feed Barbados, not only to beautify it and while we are beautifying it we are feeding at the same time. In a year's time and you look at Ilaro Court it will be a dream for you to go there. Senator Hunte would not get the chance to go there because they do not come when we invite them; but he is not going to get the chance anyway; they are not going to get the chance until the year 2000 to go up to Ilaro Court. Yes, you will because the Prime Minister has declared that he is going to open the bottom for public viewing. You are going to have to pay 25 cents like everybody else to go in. We are going to beautify Ilaro Court. (Asides) To see Ilaro Court. You don't want to see the Prime Minister; you will see Ilaro Court. But we are not cutting down mahogany trees. We are doing our best. We have not even got to the end of the debushing yet because there was a lot of wild bush up there. The Rastas had invaded Ilaro Court; they had taken it over. A big Government building they bought and didn't tell anybody that they had bought it either from one fund called Special Projects or something so that Mr. Duffus commented on. They did not tell anybody when they were buying it. I don't even know if they got Ilaro Court valued when they bought it. They bought it, kept it up there, allowed it to be over-run by bush and are now blaming us for cutting down dead wood. We are cutting out dead wood. Parks & Beaches has a reputation even when Senator Connell was a member of the Commission for doing an excellent job; it does not go around cutting down mahogany trees. I do not want it to go to the public at all that Parks & Beaches is party to the cutting down of mahogany trees. Part of our policy is to have trees preserved. As a matter of fact I think there is a draft tree preservation Act now going up to the Attorney-General's Chambers in which Parks & Beaches has made an input. We would like to see anybody who wantonly and destructively and maliciously cuts down a mahogany tree be dealt with or any other beautiful and useful tree. We want to preserve the heritage of Barbados. You do not have to restrict this to any conservationist. Any man who has a feeling of patriotism and culture and what have you would know that a country without trees is like a bird without feathers; what you called the fowl that did not use to have feathers? A bared neck chicken? I am sure Mr. President would know what I mean.

Mr. President, I will not take you long now; you will be able to take the tea break at the usual time I believe. But I just want to rejoin the point that Senator Hatch raised, the beach boy problem, not to criticise him or take him to task or anything, but to ask him when he

speaks about this problem here or elsewhere in future to be very careful to distinguish between the beach boy problem as he puts it, which is a much better term than we used to hear, and the beach vendor problem. There is no problem now, at least not many problems with the beach vendors. There are just one or two or possibly two areas which we are trying to sort out. As a matter of fact, so far as beach vendors are concerned I have a meeting at 8.30 tomorrow morning with representatives of the Holiday Inn where we have just managed to persuade them to construct a kiosk where the vendors can sell. I think the vendors there were quite unreasonable and I will say so publicly. They got licences to sell on the beach and they went and put their umbrellas up in the midst of the hotel's guests, on the prime area of the beach. I think that is unreasonable. Whereas I subscribe to the view that the beaches are public and should remain so, I think everyone has to act reasonably and with discretion, and I do not subscribe to the view that the beach vendors or anyone else should arrogate to themselves the right to deprive visitors or anyone who is paying for the use of that beach from using that beach. I think they should compromise so far as possible. I am not saying that you should push them in some back corner where the visitors cannot see them and they cannot show their goods either, but there must be a reasonable compromise.

I say publicly that I think the beach vendors at the Holiday Inn are totally unreasonable. Now, they put the umbrellas in the middle of the prime area of the beach and they demand all the space in the shade which is normally used by people sun bathing. I went up there with the members of the Parks and Beaches Commission and we told them we would agree if they would put up a kiosk. A kiosk has been put up, and apparently the vendors do not appreciate the position of the kiosk. I am going tomorrow morning to meet with the management of the hotel and then on Saturday morning to meet with the vendors; then on Sunday morning I will meet with the two jointly to have the problem sorted. We had a problem at Paradise Beach and a kiosk was put up and that problem has been sorted. Marriott's, Sam Lord's Castle, has put up a kiosk, the problem has been sorted, and at Rockley and no problems have been reported with beach vendors. By and large, and for the benefit of Senator Hatch and perhaps other Senators, there is no problem with beach vendors.

Is there therefore a problem with beach boys, as we call them? I am not entirely sure even now, as I was equally unsure in 1976-77 when I spoke on this topic, that there is a problem. I was appointed a one-man sub-committee by the Parks and Beaches Commission to look into this problem continuously and I have been monitoring the situation, and it may surprise you to know that I go to the beach, and I have to go, not dressed in my suit, I go casually, and I find I am

propositioned as a beach boy too. I wonder if it is a problem. I think things like bag snatching and peddling drugs and things of this sort are still there, but I do not think that there is any cause for alarm. You will find this sort of thing prevalent in a tourist oriented society, but I do not think it gives any cause for alarm. I do not think that the position so far as beach boys are concerned is that serious, or is serious at all.

The Parks and Beaches Commission took certain remedial action. We called in the police and we asked the police to assist us in our patrols, and I must commend the Commissioner of Police, because the patrols were increased during the tourist season on beaches at Rockley, the Pot, Paradise and the beaches on the West Coast, and they worked closely with the Parks and Beaches Wardens. We ourselves increased the number of Wardens patrolling the beach areas. Apart from that, we have recently asked for a further increase in the number of Wardens, 24 in number, and I hope that this word gets to the Minister of Housing, because that is to cope with this very problem. We want the Minister of Housing to grant us this increase in Wardens so that they will help patrol the beach areas. We find that where we have beach Wardens the problems are less, or are less serious, but the problems are neither great or insurmountable, and I will tell Senator Hatch that there is no cause for concern in this regard at all.

So far as the point about open windows to the sea is concerned, I share his concern. I was concerned when I first read that the DLP had permitted some foreign investors to develop Heywoods. That is the greatest rape we had on that part of the coast. So far as windows to the sea are concerned, I know Senator Hatch, you are too late to complain about it, we as a Government were too late too, we had to accept it as a *fait accompli*, but that is the greatest rape on that coast that this island will ever see. Do you imagine our children will not have the privilege of driving down Heywoods? Do you know what a great privilege that is? You only have to go overseas for a couple of years and come back and drive from Oistins back up to know what a privilege it is to have windows to the sea.

From a personal point of view and from the point of view of the Parks and Beaches Commission I would like to see as many windows to the sea as possible. Indeed, we are doing our bit, because the old site of the Natural Gas Corporation is being preserved as a window to the sea. We are making sure of that. I would like to be able to join with you in a personal capacity as well as in my capacity as Deputy Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission to make sure that the residents of Paynes Bay have their open window to the sea. I would like to make sure of that, because it will not only benefit them, perhaps I pass there more often than they do, but I would like to see as many windows to the sea

as possible, and Senator Hatch, you have my support, and I feel confident that I can speak for the Board of the Parks and Beaches Commission, knowing each one of them well and knowing their views, when I say that you have the entire support to the Parks and Beaches Commission when you ask for as many windows to the sea as possible.

I do not know if you have already written Parks and Beaches on your particular project you are doing now with respect to the loss of windows to the sea, I myself have not seen any correspondence. I do not even know if you have to write them, because I intend to bring it up at the next meeting of the Parks and Beaches Commission and ask them for what assistance they could, but I would invite you now, through Mr. President, to drop them a line as soon as possible, because I know to a man each member of the Parks and Beaches Commission supports you, so you have no fear. I go further, I would say you would get the support of each member of the Cabinet if you write them too. I think you have to write to the Secretary, you can probably ask the Leader of the Senate to pass on the information to them.

I want to speak, finally, about the under water park, not because it has been raised in here, but because I am sure Senators would like to know what developments have been made with regard to the under water park. I do not know if everyone knows what the under water park is. You would probably like to know therefore that an area under the sea on the St. James Coast between Sandy Lane Hotel and Coral Reef Club has been designated as a sanctuary for marine life. Now, legislation has recently been enacted declaring the area a marine reserve. It should have been gazetted on the 17th of this month, but I did not check it myself to make sure it was gazetted, but I know that Parks and Beaches were assured that legislation was being enacted declaring the area a marine reserve. I intended bringing a map of the island where it is designated to make it a document of the House for the benefit of the Senate, but in checking my papers I realised I may have forgotten it in my office, but I have no doubt that between now and this afternoon I can produce one which the Leader of the Senate can have made a document of the House so that members of the Senate can see the under water park.

Already we have a Peace Corps Volunteer, Mr. Cotter, and he is assisted by one Supervisor/Instructor and four other persons. They are at the moment zoning the area, collecting specimens and establishing a marine museum. Along with this, we have recently opened a facility at Folkstone, and by the end of the year we hope that the under water park will be fully operational. The ship which was recently sunk, the Greek freighter Stavronikita, forms an integral part of the under water park. I am pleased to report, Mr. President, that regular

use is being made of the Stavronikita, the ship is resting in 120 to 130 feet of water, less than half a mile off the west coast village of Prospect. It is well on its way to becoming a haven for both reef organisms and divers. Already we notice there grazing fish such as doctors fish, parrot fish and goat fish, and a barracuda has even staked out its territory near the left aft mast of the ship. Several dive shops in Barbados have scheduled trips to the Stavronikita, but I have been asked to issue a warning to divers that they should know it is a deep dive which requires prior planning and experience.

I have seen the figures concerning the number of tourists who have been attracted to the Stavronikita and I am satisfied that the ship is fulfilling the function for which it was intended, that is, as a diving attraction.

Mr. President, I have no wish to detain you or fellow Senators any longer on this debate. As I said in my opening remarks, it may very well be my last debate of this type in this Chamber, or the last but one. But whichever it is, it will not be my last debate on Estimates. My only regret is that I may not have Senator Connell or Senator Hunte to join with me in debate.

SENATOR A. TRUSS: Mr. President, I would like to make one point before I get to the meat of the Estimates. Yesterday Minister Dr. Blackman very eloquently expressed sympathy to Senator Connell and his family in his recent bereavement, and I would like to take the opportunity to associate myself with those remarks and to express my sympathy to Senator Connell and his family. From time to time Senator Connell and I in this Chamber have, as it were, locked horns in political battle; but I can assure Senator Connell that it is strictly political, not personal, and I would hope that that feeling is mutual. As members of this Honourable Chamber, we have been selected to serve specific purposes — the independent Senators for one purpose, the Opposition Senators for another and we for a third; and each tries to carry the banner of our respective parties. This will draw us into battle at times, though not as in the Other Place. I do not mean to reflect unfavourably on the Other Place but rather to suggest that the debate is usually carried on in this place at a different level. Again I wish to express sincere sympathy to Senator Connell and his family.

Now the Government in the estimated revenue and expenditure for 1980–81 is embarking on multi-million dollar projects in several of the Ministries — agriculture, aviation and tourism, education, health, housing, etc. but it would not be inappropriate for me to make some comment on the economic performance of the previous year, because it was only a year ago that we were debating the same Estimates as to how the Government

would be spending the money allocated and how it will go about raising the required revenue.

The year 1979 was the fourth successive year of expansion in the economy of Barbados and the real Gross Domestic Product has risen in 1979 by 7% as compared to 4% during the period 1976–78. Prior to 1976 — in 1975 and 1976 — Gross Domestic Product was less than 1%, I believe. So from 1976 it is clear that we have come a long way. Tourism advanced very strongly, sugar made a welcome recovery and there was a sharp increase in construction. There were a lot of problems in meeting the rising fuel bill. Manufacturing gains registered were only 4%, but the amount of goods exported by manufacturers increased by 33 1/3%. And interesting thing about 1979 when compared with 1975–76 is that unemployment dropped sharply. In 1975 unemployment was in excess of 20%; in 1978 unemployment was 13.4% and it dropped to 11.4% in 1979. It is traditional in Barbados that February and March are the months in which the maximum amount of people are working, and I believe that when the Central Bank's latest report is published it will show that unemployment in Barbados is now in single digits. I would say that if they are not now down to 9% it is not more than 10%; but I would wager for 9%. This has resulted from a climate which has generated activity in the private business sector locally and from abroad. The growth in lending to the private sector was the most rapid in six years. The Barbados Labour Party's policy indicated that there was a stimulus for a housing development and that there was money for housing development, and so domestic credit increased, and along with private sector borrowing, housing made great strides during the past year.

The year under review has been a good one, but not without its problems. When you see that consumer spending has reached the unprecedented level it has reached over the last two years, it is extremely important that the Government begins to concern itself with what could happen, and that is a topic which I hope to deal with later. But higher earnings from sugar and tourism and manufactured goods were insufficient to off-set foreign exchange spending; however, because of the fact that substantial capital inflows from overseas came in for investment in industry and tourism, we were able to show a balance of payment surplus of \$26 million.

Of great concern over the past and over 1980 to 1985 period, specifically dealing with 1980/81 is the Fuel Import Bill.

The Fuel Import Bill was \$47.8 million in 1978 which was 40% higher than 1977 and applying the same percentage it would mean that the Import Bill for

1980/81, the period under review, would be in excess of over \$17 million and the Government certainly should be concerned and I am sure that they are because these are areas in which we have absolutely no control.

Now the economic performance of the Caricom territories of those persons whom they say that the reason that Barbados has done so well in Tourism is because Canada and Europe have experienced cold winters and I have heard this comment. It is interesting to note that in every Caribbean territory with the exception of Barbados, they have not had the same growth as we have had including Trinidad and Tobago with their petrol dollar.

Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, no exception at all have had their problem in Foreign Exchange with the exception of Trinidad but they have had their problems with shortages of food products and rising inflation. They have been caught up in inflationary spiral which has been unprecedented and Barbados stands alone in control of the economy. I say, Sir, that that is not because the people of Barbados believe that God holds a special place for Barbados which might be true, but certainly it does not take into consideration these points.

I believe that it has been good management on behalf of the Government, particularly good management on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance too.

Now, in spite of the fact that Barbados has had several things going against it, we have absolutely no natural resources such as Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad as I have mentioned. We are at a disadvantage when it comes to exporting things within the Caricom region because Jamaica which has a very large market has placed quantitative restrictions on us. Barbadians can import as much as they would like to have from Jamaica but by the same token Jamaica would not allow Barbados to export as much to their shores as Barbados would like to export there. That is one of the disadvantages and it applies to Guyana as well.

In an article in a Magazine called "Crown", titled "The Face of Change", Sir, it is interesting to note the amount of feeling with which people have about the Barbados Government, the amount of confidence which the business sector has and the private sector has of Barbados and what is interesting is that Banks in 1979 are advancing more mortgage money in one month than they advanced in the whole of 1973 and 1974.

For example, in 1973 the Banks' total Mortgage rate over a 12 months period loaned out approximately \$12 million. In 1974 they loaned out \$13,500,000 but I will take just two months in 1979 to give a comparison and I am comparing, Sir, one month in 1979

as compared to two months in 1973 and 1974 to show the extent that Barbados has travelled in a short space of time.

In January of 1979 Banks loaned \$17.726 million for Mortgages, in March \$17.825 million and in May \$18.611 million so we can compare May of 1979 with the total lending for Mortgage purposes for 1973 and 1974 and still come out ahead. Now, that is so again because the policy of the Government has been to force Commercial Banks through the Central Bank to force or lend more money into Mortgage sections rather than consumer loans.

If you wanted to buy a house prior to 1976 for \$40,000 or \$50,000 it was basically impossible to get a Mortgage but if you wanted to buy a car for \$30,000, the money was available almost immediately. For a very long time the Banks were able to take advantage of Barbadians in short terms. They wanted to involve themselves in short-term loans for two years, three years, one and a half years and not commit themselves to long terms of 15 and 20 year Mortgages.

The policy of Government has changed that by placing certain deterrents and it has worked. It has perhaps taken two years. As the Prime Minister spoke in his Budget speeches in 1977 and 1976, there was a great outcry from the people in the country who said that the policies which he introduced were wrong and that they were incorrect and the proof of the pudding is in the eating and it is quite obvious that he was correct because we can see the results. It is important that people own their own homes, very, very important.

I believe, Sir, that that gives the general outline of the economic review of 1979. It has shown us where we have come from and now, based on the Estimates of 1980/81, there is an indication of where we are going to go. With the Ministry of Communications and Works who have been allocated some \$30 million, major road work is being done. They have already started and they will continue during 1981 and beyond.

For the very first time in 20 years the last major road work that was done in 1962 was the East Coast Road and that road was actually planned by the Barbados Labour Party and implemented by the Barbados Labour Party but between that time and 1976, the Democratic Labour Party never at all instituted any major road work.

We are now working on the Spring Garden Road which has already started. Many of these projects will be completed during the period under discussion, some of them will be started during the period under discussion and some of them will be completed before the financial year.

These Projects include the Samuel Jackman Prescod Access Road, the Fontabelle/Cheapside Road improvement, Prescod Boulevard which is for the Port Access Round-About, the Outer Ring Road which carries you from Highway 5 to Welches in Highway 2, St. Lawrence Gap, Top Rock to Rendezvous Road, the Speightstown Bypass Road which is 50% complete and will be completed before the Financial Year is finished and, of course, the extension to that East Coast Road, Bath to Consett Bay.

There is the Howell's Cross Road Junction Improvement. There is the Ball's Junction Improvement, Watt's Village Improvement and so on but in addition to the work that is at present being carried out, and contrary to popular misconception, 43 new subsidiary roads, Tenantry Roads, were built by the Ministry of Communications and Works over the last period.

I understand from the Hon. Minister that several new roads will be completed during this Financial Year. The Ministry of Communications and Works is involved also in construction, and just to touch on some of the areas of construction for the period 1980 to 1981: The Agricultural Office at Graeme Hall, Ilaro Court, the Civil Aviation and Tourism Building, the Transport Board at Roebuck Street, the Conversion of the United States Naval Facility for the Regional Police Training College, the Nightengale Home, the Barbados National Standards Institute Building, Bathsheba Social Centre, the Welfare Department in Country Road, Careenage House, Department of Immigration, District E Police Station and Magistrates Court, the Social Centre at Blenheim the Ivy and Ensдор Villa, Oistins which will house a new Rates and Taxes Division. All of this will be done, some of it which has already started, will be completed and some of it will be started during 1980-1981.

Small projects in which the Ministry of Communications and Works is involved are Central Fire Station, the Sheep Shedding in Greenland St. Andrew, the Airport Fire Station, the Cement Bond, and the Ministry of Information. So you can see that the present Hon. Minister of Communications and Works in my opinion, although he has left out the fanfare and you do not hear about him, he has gone about his business in a very serious way, changing the face of Barbados and resurfacing the roads. It has been said and justly so, that the roads have deteriorated over a period of years but all attempts have been made over the last three or four months — I am sure that we have all noticed it — to correct this and to ensure that the major highways will be resurfaced completely. Some of it will be done during this financial year and the balance during the next Financial Year.

Water — Under the Ministry of Communications and Works, for the 1980-81 Estimates, I see that they have allocated \$1 million for putting down mains in villages and

tenantries. There is a plan available for people who cannot afford to fork out the large sums of money involved to get the service. There was some discussion, I think, when the Hon. Minister introduced the Bill, he was talking about the amount of services that we have. During 1979, there were 2,648 new services connected. By the end of 1979, there were in existence, according to the Waterworks Department, 65,645 services. Indications are, that since there are only 65,000 homes, although I believe at the moment that it is more like 67,000 homes, almost every home in Barbados has water but the problem seems to be that water is not in all of the homes, it may be in the yards. A large proportion of people have water in their yards but not in their homes. I understand that the Ministry of Communications and Works will be embarking on a very serious programme to adjust that situation. It may seem strange that people have a pipe in their yards but would not have water in the house, but it is a fact Sir. I cannot tell you what percentage, but based on the Ministry of Communications and Works, we are well aware of it, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister is aware of it. Certainly, during 1980-81, and 1981-82, we hope to have that rectified.

In the Estimates for 1980-81, I see that for pumping water they have allocated \$5.2 million. It is very widely believed that this figure will probably go to \$7 million because of the rising cost of fuel to pump the water. The Hon. Minister is aware of these things and will make the necessary adjustments. The Expenditure Estimates for 1980-81 on water is \$12.248 million and Revenue just over \$8 million, showing a deficit of \$4 million. I think perhaps Sir, that the time has come when the deficit position must be stopped within the Waterworks Department.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister in his last Budget Speech introduced an idea that all the people who used over a certain amount of water would have to pay the commercial rate, whereas if you use less than that, you pay a normal residential rate for two reasons, firstly, to raise revenue and secondly, I suppose as a deterrent because we are using something like 24 million gallons of water per day. I still would like to see in the next Budget Speech, some adjustment made in the water rates at the top. It is quite obvious that the people at the bottom can ill afford to pay the present water rates, or an increase in the present water rates. It is unfortunate, that the people at the top would have to bear the brunt of the blow. When your water rate goes from \$15.00 per thousand gallons to \$17.50 per thousand gallons and \$18.00 per thousand gallons. I do not think Sir, that people who are earning \$15,000 or \$18,000 a year can grumble about that. That is negligible, but it will certainly reduce the deficit and give the Government an opportunity to take that \$4 million and spend it in an area of providing water facilities for people who do not as yet have water.

The St. Stephen's reservoir in Black Rock, is under construction and will be finished in this Financial Year. It is a 4 million gallon reservoir, will serve 30,000 people and will cost \$2 million. I understand that in addition to that, other works are being done all over the island to provide water primarily for villages and tenancies.

Turning to the Ministry of Agriculture, Sir. Again dealing with the Estimates for 1980-81, I see that they have allocated approximately \$10,760,000 for Agriculture. The major thrust of agricultural development as I understand it, would focus on land use, import substitution, export generation, employment opportunities from income incentives, administration in resources and conservation. There will also be a land use strategy which will attempt to bring out other agricultural land back into production.

Efforts are being made to ensure that agricultural export earnings from sugar are increased and agricultural export earnings from ground provisions and other agricultural provisions are also increased. An effort is being made Sir, to reduce the agricultural imports in Barbados which can only be done if we grow more foods. This is currently being done in feeds and meat as was mentioned yesterday by Senator Brathwaite, but import restrictions will certainly have to be placed on certain items in order to give the farmers some protection. The Ministry I believe, is aware of this. A policy of employment stability is being encouraged and the mechanisation of agriculture, not only in the sugar cane fields, but generally speaking in agriculture, will be embarked upon in 1980-81 and 1981-82.

The Hon. Minister has come up with a new form of Income Distribution Plan. Both the worker and the producer are given a fair share and at the same time, to take into consideration that the consumer is not ripped off and that he can be producing at a fair price.

The agricultural division of the Barbados Development Bank we discussed at the last Senate meeting. That will now be under the portfolio of the Barbados National Bank, and of course loans for agricultural implements and investment will be available from there.

With regards to fishing, Government has planned to provide incentives with the aid of the European Development Plan. Their major project is the impressive terminal plant for Oistins. Construction will start this year and there is also another fisheries project planned for Speightstown. Construction will start immediately I believe after the one at Oistins is completed or perhaps they may overlap. With reference to trawl fishing the Ministry is concerned, and the Minister is seeing what he can do to initiate refrigerated boats so that when fishermen go out to sea their catch can be refrigerated, they can stay out to sea longer, their catch will therefore be larger and the cost of fish will be cheaper. All

these things are planned. The plans are already in motion and will come off stream during this year.

Some of the major events for 1980-81, some of which have started, will be the relocation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, the construction of the new Central agronomic laboratory, the integrated development programme and the development of the Scotland District. Later on I understand there is the Spring Hall Land Lease scheme and fisheries development project. So in fishing we can see as well as in agriculture — ground provisions under agriculture because it too comes under agriculture — the Minister is working towards achieving some goals, because some comments have been made about tourism, but unless we can reduce the imports of food in order to satisfy tourist consumption, we are really wasting our time. Twenty-seven percent of the tourist dollar remains in Barbados and the balance goes overseas to provide goods and services. If we can keep a larger portion of that percentage of the tourist dollar in Barbados, I daresay one of the ways in which we can do it would be to produce more food.

In housing, Sir, they have allocated \$7,702,000. I would not dwell on the housing report; it is irrelevant at this stage. I have nothing to say about DaCosta Edwards, Philip Greaves and Deighton Griffith, but I will say in 1969 when the Barbados Labour Party introduced a Resolution in the Other Place dealing with an enquiry into housing, the Prime Minister at that time, Mr. Barrow said it was the wrong people who had brought the wrong Resolution in the wrong place at the wrong time. I believe the decision of the housing report is for the people of this country to decide whether or not the people discussed will continue to serve in any capacity at all publicly. I do not think that we should blame any particular party, although they may be responsible indirectly; but be that as it may, Sir, in housing the most recent population census which we had in Barbados was done in 1970 and at that time there was an indication that there was an average of four Barbadians per house. I have not been able to get up to date information, but it appears as though the figures have not changed very much. The population has not changed very much; it has slightly increased since 1970, but so has the amount of houses.

The Government recognises that housing is a very important part of their Ministry. It is important that everyone, every Barbadian is allowed to own a piece of the rock. It is important that every Barbadian has a vested interest in their own country; it is important that they can afford to live comfortably and own their own house, and the provisions for this must be given by the Government through the National Housing Corporation, through the policies of the Barbados National Bank, and by policies I mean by the Central Bank forcing the commercial banks to become more involved in housing,

and a recent survey on houses and their conditions has indicated that our Government cannot overlook housing and therefore the Government is concerned about the quantity and the quality of the housing in Barbados. The general objectives as I understand it are to provide a chance for Barbadians like I have said of all income groups to own their own house, and to upgrade housing in tenancies and they will provide services, that is, service building lands so that people can buy their little piece of land and they can have the services like electricity, light and water and natural gas and so forth.

Now incentives are being provided for the development of alternative materials to be used for construction, and in this respect the Ministry of Housing is working in conjunction with the Ministry of Trade, and the Ministry of Trade has done some serious studies on mineral resources such as sand, clay and limestone to see if it is possible to find some alternative to cement that we will be able to construct houses in the lower middle income group much cheaper than the present high cost. Hopefully in 1980-81 we will be able to tread boldly and say yes we have discovered an alternative solution to the problem. I know it exists, but in what qualities we are not yet sure. Efforts are being made by the National Housing Corporation and the Ministry of Housing to redevelop the depressed metropolitan areas such as Church Village, Greenfields, upper Bridgetown.

In the Labour Party's manifesto we pledged that we would build 800 houses a year. We have been criticised by the Honourable Senators on that side for two years for not being able to achieve that goal. It gives me great pride to say that in 1979 not only have we achieved the construction of 800 houses, but we have exceeded it. Under the Barbados Labour Party's regime 1,200 houses were built and though we may not have achieved it in 1977 or 1978, when you combine the total amount of houses built in 1977, 1978 and 1979 and our promise of 800 per year, multiply that by three is 2,400, so we have already achieved it; so even though we may not have achieved it in a given year, when you look at the end result we have achieved it and prospects for 1980-81 are extremely good. We will continue to build houses through the National Housing Corporation for rent and for sale. The emphasis I believe is for sale and soft loans will have to be made through the Barbados National Bank in order to achieve this. Whether or not outside aid from the Inter-American Development Bank or the Canadian International Development Agency or some such like organisation is available, only the Minister knows, but indications are that these international lending agencies do have some confidence in Barbados and are quite prepared to assist in our housing development.

Perhaps the most important achievement of this Government with regard to housing has been the fact that

after the establishment of the Barbados National Bank chattel houses are now or can now be used for security against a loan. In days gone by the banks would not consider using a chattel house as security because the very name chattel house implies that one can pick up the house, put it on a truck or lorry and move from St. Lucy to St. Joseph or what have you and then the bank would have no security. We promised in our manifesto innovative ideas and this is certainly one of them. The Barbados National Bank is now using and taking as security, as collateral against the loan for home improvements of poor people chattel houses as security, and I think that is very important. And even though sometimes the Opposition Senators may cry out for the Government to assist the small man or the poor man, that is an achievement which we have made in three years and they did not accomplish it in fifteen years, and it is a significant one.

In civil aviation and tourism we have heard quite a lot. They have allocated the sum of \$12,758,000 to that particular Ministry, and I dare say that the Deputy Prime Minister, Bernard St. John, has done a tremendous job in three years.

It has been mentioned by the last speaker that he is well respected internationally, he was well respected in the Caribbean and in Barbados before he became a Minister. He is a brilliant Minister and he knows exactly what he is about. He has a style of his own and he achieves whatever he sets out to do.

Tourism today is still the prime generator of foreign exchange and it is the source of a significant amount of employment. The growth of the tourist sector has stimulated the infrastructural development of Barbados, and for that at least we can say we are grateful for tourism. Senator Hatch dealt with some of the ills of tourism and Senator Rocheford also endorsed the remarks made by Senator Hatch yesterday. I would not argue with the Hon. Senators because I believe that they are correct in many respects, but one has to be realistic in a country such as ours where the only resources are the people, we have to do as Senator Deane said and make hay while the sun shines.

Hopefully the sun will continue to shine for many more years to come. I agree with Senator Rocheford that there is a saturation point. In the lack of a proper study I do not think we can just sit here and decide that 400,000 or 500,000 or 600,000 for that matter would be that saturation point, and if I am not mistaken, the Minister who introduced the Bill can probably correct me, the Ministry of Tourism is undertaking a very serious survey to determine exactly the long term effects that tourism will have on the country with reference to the moral fabric of the society and so on, and so forth.

We are aware of the ills, but whether or not one can say it is a necessary evil, I do not know, but when it can contribute \$350 million, and then again there was a dispute as to what it actually contributed. Senator Hatch was of the impression that it contributed less, Senator Field said \$350 million. My information is that the figure is \$350 million, and the actual amount of tourists who came here were 370,000.

Another very important issue which we must not lose sight of is that in our zest to satisfy the tourist who come to Barbados we must at all times ensure that tourist facilities must primarily not only be for tourists but for Barbadians as well. The Barbadian people must not feel as though they are the foreigners in their own country, and perhaps this is the problem that they had in Jamaica. Perhaps the gap was too great between the haves and the have-nots. I am not well experienced with the Jamaica situation, but certainly in Barbados we do know that we have a certain discipline here that will tolerate a certain level, beyond that I do not know exactly what the people will do, but at the moment I believe that the level is tolerable and that the tourists are not coming here in such droves that will cause the people any undue or any unnecessary pain.

I, too, am very concerned that when people come to Barbados, for example, the "hippies", or those people who grow their hair long and walk around without shoes — I say hippies for the lack of a different name — when they can come to Barbados and pitch their tents on our beaches and in our parks all around the country and pay nothing, I think this is wrong. I think it is time there is a law against it, I think it is time that the Attorney General enforces the law and locks them up or deports them, they contribute absolutely nothing to Barbados and to Barbadians, except for the air fare which they pay to the airline to come down here. (ASIDE). I do not mean the Attorney General can lock up anybody, I mean the police. I am sorry, I did not mean that, the inference was the police under the Attorney General. I really should have said the police, and I do hope that the police will take a very serious look at this, and I am appealing to them, Sir, to attempt to implement it now before it reaches serious proportions.

The nudity has been mentioned, there is no more than can be said about that, but what I also consider to be an important aspect of the influence of tourism is that tourists particularly continue on public beaches to play football and hopping ball, and to throw frisbees on public beaches in the presence of hundreds of people. It is dangerous, it should not be allowed, and the Parks and Beaches should have their Wardens on the beaches to stop it, because this is an area where Barbadians become irritated. I have seen flare ups on various beaches throughout the island by Barbadians who had been hit

by a frisbee thrown by a tourist, and that is the sort of thing that should not be allowed. I am sure they cannot do it in a public park in their own country and there is absolutely no reason why they should come down here and do it.

As far as tourism relates, the few points which were not mentioned by the Chairman of the Board which are of importance are that the United Kingdom, Europe and the Caribbean have grown at an average rate of at least 30% during the last year, and indications are that this rate will continue to grow over the ensuing year. But the most important and significant factor in the tourist industry is that of seasonality, there is no more season. In 1975, for example, in 1974, a hotel worker was one of the most insecure workers in Barbados. He worked from December 1, two weeks before the season actually started, and he was laid off on April 15 or April 30, two weeks after the season finished. During the summer season there was nothing to do, but that has been completely removed.

To correct another point, both Senators were correct. Senator Hatch said he thought there were 12,000 people employed and Senator Field said 15,000; actually they are both correct. There are 12,000 people employed directly and 3,000 people employed indirectly, so actually the industry employs 15,000 people; direct and indirect labour.

But seasonality is very very important, that has been completely done away with, Sir, and the information which is available to me for 1979 would indicate that overall between the summer and the winter months there is very little variance at all. Between December and April of 1979 there were 34,441 tourists in Barbados, between the spring months of May and June, 64.5% of that number were here, because 34,441 represented basically 100% occupancy, and 64.5% were present between May and June. In the summer months of July and August 100.2%, in other words, the summer months have now exceeded the winter months in terms of occupancy, and in the fall between September and October there was 82.5% occupancy in the hotels, so all indications are that seasonality is a thing of the past, and again I believe that the Barbados Labour Party administration, particularly the Minister responsible, Mr. St. John, should get some credit.

In 1980-81 we entered the tourist season with 30,316 beds, which is 1,849 more than in 1976, and there are still 1,800 rooms to be built that have been passed by Town and Country Planning. I understand the money is available and the only reason why the projects have not got off the ground is because of the lack of artisans. We seem to be suffering tremendously from that; there are not enough carpenters and masons in construc-

tion, but hopefully, — because of the programme initiated by the Minister of Labour and Community Services, during 1980–81 we should see some artisans coming out with limited skills perhaps but assisting with construction industry.

Under the same portfolio there is trade and the Industrial Development Corporation. The Minister of Trade and Industry recognized that something had to be done within the CARICOM region because of the imbalance — as I explained before with reference to Jamaica in particular with the quantitative restrictions; and at several meetings which ended with the fourteenth meeting of the Caribbean Common Market Council, Jamaica finally decided to liberalize its regional import trade by the removal of the import quota system. If Jamaica keeps its word in this regard, 1980–81 will see a boom in exports to Jamaica and the export of products manufactured in Barbados will increase, which will mean more jobs. This is the plan for 1980–81 and only time will tell whether or not Jamaica will keep its word.

Another important decision taken at that meeting was the metrication process of the common external tariff. Metrication has already been accepted by Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados, and although the tariffs basically remain unchanged, because of the conversion there are slight variations in these areas, and hopefully the LDC's in 1980–81 will attempt to bring themselves in line with the rest of the Caribbean, because Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados are now in line with the rest of the world as far as metrication is concerned.

As regards the Industrial Development Corporation, Senator MacKenzie mentioned that there were twelve new factories with an investment capital of over \$6 million, but he did not say that the number of jobs provided during that period was 1,469 as of February 29, 1980. It is all very well to talk about building factory space and opening new factories but this must relate to jobs because that is the ultimate end in building factory space. And since there have been 1,469 new jobs as at the end of February, 1980 I again think it is a feather in the cap of the Minister responsible. The amount of factory space completed was 183,600 square feet and that was spread over Six Roads, Grantley Adams Industrial Estate, Newton and the Pine. More factory space is being built now than ever before and I understand the figures for 1980–81 will surpass those of 1979–80, provided we can get sufficient artisans to build the factories. Construction was started at Wildey and Grantley Adams Stage 2, and there has been a tremendous amount of development in the handicraft area. The IDC has been for a long time promoting handicraft and eventually it is paying off. It is the sort of industry that is indigenous to Barbados and the people are now getting a hang of it. They are pro-

ducing extremely good work and for the first time we can say we go into 1980–81 with a positive view.

Before I leave the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce which ties in with the Ministry of Aviation and Tourism since they are under the same Minister, I would like to point out, as I have in the past, that this Government has continuously done a good job for the small businessman. Bearing that in mind the emphasis of the Industrial Development Corporation has recently been on the development of small business in this country, so much so that an officer of the IDC has been specifically assigned to deal with small business, and I understand a paper has been prepared on small business in order to establish what are the problems of small businessmen, what difficulties they are encountering and the strategy used by small business. I would like to assure hon. Senators that as far as the Industrial Division is concerned a lot is being done.

Mr. President, there are other areas I would like to touch on, especially Health and Education, but other Senators have spoken for a longer time than I thought, and in order to ensure that every hon. member gets an opportunity to speak before the Ministers on this side wind up the debate, I would leave that for another time. But in closing I would like to make one cautious note to the Government: Inflation and the balance of payments are to my mind the serious problems we will be facing in 1980, and I am sure that the Prime Minister who is an economist of tremendous repute is aware of this. But I am concerned because some of the problems we are encountering are simply because the recovery of the economy over the last two years has been so fast that we have been caught up in an inflationary spiral. I do not have the answers but I recognise that inflation and the balance of payments are two areas at which the Government must take a serious look over the coming years.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: Mr. President, before I proceed to make a relatively short address on the Estimates I would like to take the opportunity to thank this Honourable Chamber for the very kind remarks it saw fit to pass concerning my late father. A compelling professional responsibility made it impossible for me to be here at the time. This I deeply regret.

It is invidious on an occasion such as this to single out any particular member of this Honourable Chamber for mention but I think the Senate will agree with me that I should particularly thank the hon. Senator Don. Blackman for the eulogistic remarks he made concerning my late father. He knew him and I am satisfied to abide by the judgment he has passed. It is a very heavy loss to bear, but the very kind indications of condolence such as those coming from this Chamber do go a long way in mitigating the pain.

I should also like to thank Senator Truss for the very kind remarks that he saw fit to make. Indeed I should say that he has caused me to cancel several pages of my address this evening. I have learnt to wait to hear Senator Truss speak. It is becoming increasingly clear who has the information in this Chamber and what are the indications of future policies.

He spoke with knowledge on the wide spectrum of Government undertaking, financing, housing, the economy and agriculture. It has been said that knowledge gives power and it is clear to me that Senator Truss is one of the most powerful Senators on the Government side. This is the main reason, Mr. President, why I waited to speak after Senator Truss, to hear what are the most recent policy declarations of Government policies.

Sir, I have been wondering whether it is possible to conceptualise the debate that has been taking place over the Estimates for 1980/81 in a way which would highlight the issues that are being discussed and after some thought, it occurred to me that perhaps we can say that the Debate is taking shape in terms of growth versus development.

It seems to me that persons like Senator Hatch in a very excellent contribution on Tourism were seeking to indicate the difference between growth and development. Growth is being implied by me in the contents of intensification on human activity in terms of the expansion of the economy. When I use the word "development," I also intend to convey an intensification of human activity in terms of expansion of the economy. It would be wiser, however that due and constant regard be given to the importance of maintaining a balance between human and natural resources in a way that ensures the continued survival of both.

If I understand the main stands of some of the arguments enshrined in the speeches of yesterday and today, one of the main directions in which the debate is developing is that whereas the economy of Barbados is showing signs of growth, not all of this growth is in the direction of improving the quality of life of the greatest number of Barbadians. Not all of it takes into consideration the human development of the greatest number of Barbadians.

Senator Truss, for instance, spoke of many multi-million dollar projects. In my submission, it is part of the growth syndrome when you spend many million dollars and it shows up in your national figures but you do not give adequate regard to the number of human beings who are being developed when this money is being expended.

Now Senator Truss also spoke of the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister as a great Economist. I do not know what criteria he is applying. I do not know

whether Sir Arthur Lewis would agree with this judgment that he passes. What I would agree with is that he is a person who has an actuarial cast of money. He is a person for whom figures are important. When many persons see people, he is apt to see figures.

There is a tendency to seek to have symmetrical budgets and impressive statistics but I would send a message to him through Senator Truss or anyone who is prepared to take it that he cannot crucify the great majority of Barbadians on the cross of budgetary and statistical symmetry, he must remember the people behind these figures.

When one talks about surpluses, it is necessary to look at the human inconvenience behind the surpluses. It is necessary to consider the many schools, including the Community College, that are short of toiletry as a result of trying to show those surpluses. It is necessary to bear in mind the shortages of medicine in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that make these surpluses appear in the Budget and in the Statistics. It is necessary even to remember the pot holes in the roads. It is necessary to remind some of us that human beings are more important than figures.

I wish, Mr. President, first of all to deal with the question of Agriculture. I do not think that any hon. Senator has dealt in any great detail with Agriculture: It is, however, a major area of our economy and if and when the day comes regrettably when the goose that lays the golden egg of Tourism for some reason or another runs out, we will have to fall back on Agriculture. Not only that, it is an important earner of foreign exchange in these days of excessive pre-occupation with foreign exchange and it is also an important saver of foreign exchange.

The general approach of my contribution on Agriculture, Sir, will take the form of indicating how the failure of the present administration to consider the human aspect in development shows up in Agriculture.

You see, it is possible to present impressive figures in the area of sugar agriculture. Anyone in this Hon. Chamber listening to Senator Deane and not bearing in mind the distinction between sugar agriculture and non-sugar agriculture can easily form the wrong impression, living as he does, in the ivory tower of sugar agriculture, he is apt to forget what is happening beyond in the villages of non-sugar agriculture. The windows of his tower which look out on the world of the small farmer and sugar agriculture are opaque.

SENATOR C. I. DEANE: Mr. President, Sir, I want to thank Senator Connell for giving way to me, but I would like to make a point of order. I have indicated

quite clearly that my interest in the small farmer is just as great as my interest with sugar. It is I who am pushing the ideas of co-operatives for the small farmer to bring them as much into sugar, as to what the Senator refers to as us fellows in ivory towers.

I do not live in an ivory tower, nor have I made my windows opaque. Thank you Sir.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: I shall proceed Mr. President to demonstrate what I mean when I say that the Government is not paying anything like adequate attention to the development of non-sugar agriculture with particular reference to the small farmer.

I think it was my colleague Senator Hunte who regretted the fact that the Debates of this Hon. Chamber are not up-to-date. When one hears Senator Linton, one can rejoice in the fact that these publications are still denied public scrutiny but there are certain contributions in them that should be available for public reading. What Senator Deane has said about agriculture in this Hon. Chamber is now a matter of public record. There is nothing that Senator Deane had said in this Hon. Chamber about non-sugar agriculture that would have led us to expect the speech of the President of the Barbados Agricultural Society to which I crave your indulgence to refer in some detail.

What I am saying is that listening to Senator Deane, one could be excused in thinking that all is well in the field of agriculture unless one is aware of the distinction between sugar agriculture and non-sugar agriculture. I ask your leave Sir, to make a few brief quotations from President Bethel and I am quite prepared Sir, to make it a document of this Hon. Chamber. I think that all Senators should read it and inwardly digest it. He begins early in the speech by saying:

"It is no secret that agriculture is in desperate trouble. Productivity in nearly all sectors continues to fall, or if any expansion has taken place, has done so very marginally. This can create serious strain in our already fragile economy." He then goes on to say:

"Desperate problems require desperate solutions to solve them and so, I must expose publicly what many of you are saying privately." He goes on Sir:

"This year, a request was made to the Ministry of Agriculture for their support in bringing an overseas expert to work on onions and other related matters. This again would have cost the Government of Barbados nothing. Again, this was turned down on the excuse that the Ministry's research is adequate. Can you imagine the attitude of such self-appointed gods? A free opportunity to bring in additional information and they refused it.

They know everything, no further information is needed. I say something is wrong somewhere, something is terribly wrong, something must be done and done promptly. How long can our farmers be expected to support an inefficient Ministry? The answer to that question is in your hands. These conditions can only exist if you, the farmers, allow them to exist."

This is the President of the Barbados Agricultural Society speaking. He says at Page 6 of that document:

"And now I turn to the Government's policy on Agriculture."

He refers to the Manifesto and he says:

"Ladies and gentlemen that is the policy and proposals of the Barbados Labour Party."

He refers to pages seven and eight:

"As promised to the Electorate of Barbados in 1976. As I said before, they are very sound policies but they are no use to anyone if all they become are proposals in a Manifesto. On careful scrutiny, we see some 18 proposals, only four have been partially or completely implemented."

Then on that same page, he makes the point that I have been making from the time I rose to speak in the Honourable Chamber:

"In the first place, we see a reduction in the size of the Budget for Agriculture. This is a point that I should have to make again this time. They are constantly whittling away the Budget for Agriculture. That is a Budget for non-sugar Agriculture. You see, there is social and political significance in this question of whittling away the Budget for non-sugar Agriculture. Historically, we know who runs the large plantations. When then you pursue your policy which does not assist the non-sugar agriculturists to improve his state in the agricultural economy, you are fostering the continuation of a certain historical tradition which acts to the disadvantage of the vast majority of the people in this country."

He goes on on page 7 to say: "We note with disgust, the Government's policy of importing products from overseas which may happen to be cheaper than our own, and losing them on the local market to force down the earnings of Barbadian farmers. This policy is carried out without consultation with the farmers or their representatives. As I said before, it is a disgusting policy that stinks of undiluted bullying."

Sir, this sounds like a member of the Democratic Labour Party speaking from a platform. It is indeed the President of the Agricultural Society.

"I'm ashamed to see that a Government as progressive as ours would stoop so low to deprive Barbadian farmers of their only source of income." Then he says: "You want examples?"

(1) Over one million lbs. of chicken legs were imported when only 75,000 lbs. should have been imported.

(2) 3½ months supply of cheaper imported onions were allowed.....

(3) Last Christmas imported hams were brought in.....

(4) This month cabbage was allowed.....

(5) I understand that a large supply of pork had been brought into this country contrary to our health regulations from a source which has swine diseases which could be transmitted....."

This was at the time the speech was made. Then he goes on:

"If the Government wishes to kill agriculture come out openly and say so."

Could any person listening to Senator Deane imagine that this is the state of non-agriculture. You want to get up again? Not this time, please.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If the hon. member does not wish to give way, you cannot speak unless you are making a point of order which I would have to rule on.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: At the bottom of page 7 he says:

"We ask only to be consulted before a decision is taken to import foodstuffs. Is it unreasonable for us to ask for an opportunity to be heard on a matter which affects our livelihood. Where has open Government gone?"

Sir, I could go on reading from this document, but I just quoted it because the distinguished Senator to my immediate right may claim that he has more practical day to day experience with agriculture than I have. That I cannot deny. I respect his position in sugar agriculture, but I pray in aid a person who also had day to day experience, namely Mr. Bethel, to show you that all is not sweetness and light as Senator Deane would have us believe.

I propose, Sir, to deal with this question of the reduction that Mr. Bethel referred to. The whole budgeting history of this Labour Party administration

has been characterised with this reduction, this constant diminution, this repeated whittling away of the agricultural vote so far as non-sugar agriculture is concerned. When a look is taken at the Capital Estimates for agriculture, one will get the appearance of some increase, but when it is analysed carefully it becomes apparent that the increase is more apparent than real. Some \$13,893,000 have been allocated. Out of that \$13 million a sum of \$9 million has been allocated to special projects. These special projects are basically three in number; the BMC, Spring Hall and the integrated rural project. These projects were in the pipeline during the administration of the previous Government. The money is coming substantially from the Caribbean Development Bank. I have called from this position in this Honourable Chamber repeatedly for the implementation of the Spring Hall Development Project, and we can see from the Estimates that Government has at least decided to begin to get on with it. When you take out the \$9 million for the BMC, Spring Hall and the integrated rural development, what are you left with? Look at the other items in capital. What do we find? The amount allocated to soil conservation is \$1.4 million, and that shows a decrease on last year. The amount allocated to crop research and development is \$465,934; that is a decrease on the previous year. That is what Mr. Bethel means when he refers to "We see a reduction of the size of the budget for agriculture". Now he was speaking about last year's budget, but the same is true for this year. They are whittling down constantly the non-sugar area of the agricultural economy and the support given to it by the Government.

Under livestock development capital shows a very slight increase. When you look at these insignificant augmentations of the capital vote, you must consider, Sir, the inflation factor, so that the increase that they have put in under livestock development is really not significant at all.

Fisheries: When we come to fisheries, the same story is told. Here we must distinguish between what I call the infrastructural development like the Oistins Fisheries Development which was started under the previous administration from the direct assistance to fishermen. I am saying that this year the direct assistance to fishermen has been reduced significantly. Last year it was \$175,000 and this year it is \$80,000. When you consider the effects of inflation this is a drastic reduction and it is in keeping with the point that I am making that in all areas of agriculture and fisheries where the small man is concerned, the small farmer, the Government has been whittling down the agricultural vote.

Cooperatives: After the brave new dispensation adumbrated in their manifesto on cooperatives, what do

we find? The vote last year for cooperatives was \$10; they have increased it to \$100. This can't be a Government that is serious about giving the small man any place in the sun through the medium of cooperatives — from \$10 to \$100. I hear from the Chair an increase of 1,000%. Not from the Presiding Chair; the record must not show this. From the chair of the Hon. Leader of the Senate; an increase of 1,000%.

Nothing better illustrates the statement of Prime Minister Disraeli that there are three types of lies — lies, damned lies and statistics. You can use statistical distortion to dramatise any situation, and that is a classic example of it, but in ordinary Barbadian terms, to the man in Welchman Hall or in the Belle or Kirtons, the increase is from \$10 to \$100. They put on \$90, this Government that talks about doing something to assist the small farmer.

Now, I want to return to the point with which I began about developing people, human beings. Recently, 1977, Sir, a study was carried out on agriculture by UNDP and FAO, two Agencies of the United Nations. I shall with your indulgence, Sir, under Agriculture make reference to some of the findings of this survey. One cardinal point, however, that this survey makes is that it is important to maintain and increase the agricultural population of Barbados. This must be seen against the stark background of developing tourism and the ancient adage about putting all of your eggs in one basket. We are dangerously over-developing one area of our economy and recklessly under-developing another. If 1% of the investment in tourism was channelled in the direction of the small farmer, we would witness a dramatic change in this sector of the economy. Instead, in all these areas we are witnessing a whittling down of the vote that would tend to assist the small farmer. Livestock development, crop research, fisheries, agro industrial development, farm and agricultural services.

Let us choose one at random — Farm and Agricultural Services, Sir. The motor tractor cultivation scheme. The vote for that in 1979-80 was \$115,000, in 1980-81 the figure is \$30,000. Now, this is where the small farmer benefits. I challenge the Ministers of Government to deny that there are many small farmers who have already not only put in applications for the tractor services but have paid for them and cannot, after years, get a visit from this tractor. This is what I mean by onesided development. That small farmer out there is part of the Barbadian society. I do not wish to wax poetical, but words of Oliver Goldsmith in "Deserted Village" spring easily to mind:

"Ill fears the land to hastening ills a prey
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

This is the problem with this administration, it is impressed with figures, multi-million dollar projects, but it

is not looking to see the decay of the small man in the village, in the countryside and even in the rural areas of Barbados. A tractor which you need to break the sod, to turn it over and prepare the ground for the next crop, he cannot get that. What the Government has indicated here in its allocation for this coming financial year is that it will be even less available to him because of the reduction in the vote.

Marketing. I intend to reply specifically to Senator MacKenzie on the strictures he had to pass on the BMC. At this stage, however, I only wish to ask of the Minister who will reply on Agriculture how many contracts has this Government through the BMC been able to offer to farmers in the last two financial years. In this area as well there has been a whittling down of the services provided to the small farmer. I would have liked to ask Senator MacKenzie what criteria is he applying to measuring the success or failure of the BMC. If you are applying a criterion of straight profit, I will have to agree with you, if however you are applying development criteria as well, there is an area for discussion. But I will return to this question of the BMC, because Senator MacKenzie has only stated part of the problem.

He made a very interesting remark when he intervened during the speech of another Senator. He referred to scaling down the operation of the BMC so that it could win back, or words to that effect, the support or interest which it alienated. I am very interested in that aspect, the interest which it alienated, a very important statement. I think it is a true statement, but it has important social and even political implications, the interest the BMC had alienated.

Sir, another service that this Government has whittled down in relation to the small farmer is that in relation to credit. It is true that we have had a recent discussion on this matter, I do not think that that estops me from raising the question again, and I am prepared to sit down and allow Senator Deane to intervene on this one, because he has directorial influence in this area. Sir, I am referring with your leave to the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank laid in this Hon. Chamber this year. I am referring to Table I — Banking Division — Loan Disbursement 1978, Barbados dollars, page 6, the first table, Sir. It is broken down into months, plantations, small farmers, product and total. Under Plantation, Sir, the princely sum of \$13,459,008 has been lent for the year 1978, but the meagre sum of \$95,333 has been lent to all the small farmers for the same year. A quick glance at this table indicates that what was lent to the large plantations in the month of May alone, an amount of \$90,263, almost equals what was lent to small farmers for the entire year. Now Senator Deane has sought to apply a certain special logical technique in dealing with these figures. He has said that since plantations are larger than small farmers, when

therefore you are lending to plantations you naturally expect the loans to exceed those small farmers. Even if I accept his convenient logic, it can be urged that the ratio between the amounts lent to the small man and that lent to the big fellow is scandalous. So that when the distinguished Senator can rise and congratulate the Government on a splendid performance we understand from what position he is coming — he is coming from the rarefied heights of sugar agriculture; he is nothing to do with the arguments for the little man on a quarter of acre of land; that is beyond his ken socially and it seems beyond the ken of this administration. I wish to go even further than beyond the ken of this administration; I am persuaded that in the same matter of agriculture the long hand of the Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Affairs reaches into the Ministry of Agriculture and inhibits the smooth operation of that Ministry.

Recently a statement was to be made on alleged concessions to agricultural workers. You would have thought that this statement would either have been made by the Minister of Agriculture or that he would have been allowed to bask in what reflected glory there was from the announcement. But no, the announcement was made during a tour of certain plantations by the Minister of Finance when the Minister of Agriculture was reported to be overseas. So that it does not take a very discerning eye to see that the present Minister of Agriculture, like his predecessor, is not left to operate his Ministry with the freedom that should be his. This also goes for the part of the Ministry that deals with consumer affairs. There exists therefore in the Ministry of Agriculture a sort of Jacob and Esau situation in which one must take the responsibility for acts done by others.

Another area, Sir, under agriculture in which the Government has been whittling down moneys available to the small man is that of grants and incentives. Under crop development we again witness a significant reduction in the allocation made available.

I wish to turn now to the Agricultural Development Corporation, and the first question I want to pose to the Minister who is to reply under agriculture is: What is the Government's plan for the ADC? Under the Statute Cap. 254 that sets up the ADC it is provided that the duty of the Corporation shall be to stimulate, facilitate and undertake the development of Agriculture in this Island and participate in agricultural projects as the Minister may approve; and (b) develop and maintain on a commercial basis such agricultural land as may from time to time be vested in it, along the lines of Government agricultural policy. It appears to us outside the Government that a decision has now been taken to make sugar the main thrust of the ADC. But the emphasis seems to be in the direction of growing sugar. Now this is not the function of the ADC as envisaged in this Act. There are plantations that have been growing sugar for many years and have the

expertise in sugar production. What the ADC should be doing is blazing new trails, taking the country down the broad challenging road of agricultural diversification. That is what the ADC should be doing, but is it capable of doing this? Does it have the staff to do it? I would like the Minister to inform his Honourable Chamber what is the roll call of qualified persons on the staff of the ADC? In other words, is the ADC under this Administration equipped to carry out this job of stimulating and facilitating agricultural development and diversification which it was established to do? When one looks at the Food and Nutrition figures that have come down recently, one is again reminded of the importance of agricultural diversification. There is increasing need to supply a variety of food to Barbadians at a price they can afford. If we fail to do this in the face of rising inflation we are going to find increasing cases of malnutrition among the young people of this country.

The people who produce some of the vegetables, the proteins that should go into making up this balanced diet are small farmers who need the assistance for which I have been calling but which the Government seems hell bent on whittling down from year to year.

Another aspect of Agriculture that I should like to refer to, Sir, is that which concerns the actual staff structure of the Ministry. Ever since Barbados became an Independent country, we have been so to speak carrying on the same staff structure that existed in Colonial days. There is a certain rigidity in this structure that makes it not sufficiently flexible to cater to the needs of contemporary Agriculture. I am urging that the Government look at the staff structure of this Department.

One suggestion, Sir, is that we should do what is called projectising the Department, which is re-organising the Department on the basis of projects. Instead of having a Technical Branch as such, and a Civil Service Branch headed by a Permanent Secretary with all the various rivalries that occur, it is better to organise it on the basis of projects like Crop Development, Livestock, and to have all of these headed by a Director of the Project and be responsible to a Permanent Secretary who would be responsible for Planning and Co-ordination of the various Projects. This is one Organisation Chart that has been suggested.

I do not claim that it is the only one but the fact is that some farmers, including Mr. Brathwaite, have been complaining about the performance of the Department and we must give some attention to these constant complaints. It may be that all that is necessary is a thorough going exercise in organisation of Management after which we can restructure the Department to cause it to respond more effectively to the needs of non-sugar Agriculture in Barbados today.

I said, Sir, that I wanted to refer to some figures that were shown up in the recent UNDP/FAO Study in Agriculture in Barbados. It defines an Agriculturist as a person who produces some surplus from agriculture production and earns the major part of his or her income from agriculture. It then goes on to say, Sir, that some 73% of Barbadian families have some sort of farm or kitchen garden.

Further, it says that some 41,000 people in Barbados or 17% of the population are in a position to sell some sort of agriculture surplus which I think tends to give the lie to the oft quoted statement that Barbadians are not interested in agriculture. If some 41,000 people are able to sell some form of surplus, even if it is only a few limes that were facetiously referred to in a speech of a previous speaker, it does indicate that there is still among Barbadians a willingness to grow something on our soil. If their policies were tailored to foster this tendency more Barbadians would produce more and more from agriculture.

The Report goes on to mention that there are some 11,000 active farmers plus another 3,000 that are engaged in some form of farm labour. This includes persons who work on an Estate and have a number of cows or sheep which they pasture on land belonging to other persons. I wish to deal with this question of having to pasture on land belonging to other persons.

A final statistic, Sir, according to this Report, some 90% of family labour in Agriculture were on holdings of less than 1 acre. What I am working towards, Sir, is that there is a need for us to look at this question of land use, land reform and the distribution of agricultural land.

Senator Hatch when speaking about sea front land felt it necessary to utter caution that he was not recommending that the land of others be expropriated. It may be useful for me to follow his example. In any case the Constitution of Barbados provides that persons cannot be deprived of their property without due compensation so that it is reasonable to infer when one is talking about land reform that it will be done according to the Constitution of Barbados. Nevertheless, this is one of the most important questions for the political agenda of Barbados.

It is no use bemoaning the fact that persons are not cutting sugar canes in the numbers that they should and that persons are not producing these in the amounts that they should. We have to ask the question how much stake in the Agricultural Economy has that very small man? We have to address our minds to the question of land reform in such a way that allows persons who are really interested in agriculture to pursue this interest to the benefit of him or herself, his or her family and the

wider society. No amount of sweeping this question under the carpet will provide any solutions.

I know that there are Agricultural Economists who make the point of economies of scale. I am very sensitive to the argument that certain types of agricultural production, for example, sugar are best carried on on large plantations. I am persuaded however, that we can have both in Barbados. We can have the large plantations but we can also have the registration of some of the land in sufficient quantity to allow some of these 14,000 or 41,000 persons mentioned in the UNDP/FAO Report depending on which set of figures you are choosing to have the opportunity to pursue their agricultural interests.

It is customary for the Leader of the Senate, when replying on these questions to express horror at the fact that anyone on this side of the table can dare to mention the ownership of plantation tenancies. I know that it appears in the Manifesto of the Government but so did all of the fanciful things that were offered. So did the 18 projects that Mr. Bethel referred to in his speech. What I wish to say is this, this is 1980 and there is not a scintilla of evidence that the Government is going anywhere towards the implementation of this particular plan. Yet, it is a vital step in the direction of land reform and redistribution of land to enable the small man to have a place in the economic side.

The Springhall Project, the Integrated Rural Development Project that have now begun to figure in the Estimates are projects that were put in the pipeline by the Democratic Labour Party. I do not wish to claim any credit for that, but the records are there. As to the moving of the Barbados Marketing Corporation, I can inform Hon. Senators that that is part of an entire package which the Democratic Labour Party Government until 1976, put up before the Caribbean Development Bank and got approval for. The idea was to initiate a programme of land reform by allowing farmers to have acres of land at Spring Hall. It also provided that they would have comfortable wall dwellings on these farms which would be, I think, 20 acres in size. It was also provided that there would be an integrated Rural Development Programme which allows persons to buy freehold land which would be enough to put a house on and a piece of agricultural land adjoining.

Now, the Caribbean Development Bank very wisely said that if we are providing for small farmers, to have extra opportunities for agricultural production, that we must ensure that there are markets to take their produce. The Caribbean Development Bank therefore felt and the Government agreed with them, that it would be necessary to completely reorganise the Barbados Marketing Corporation to make it a fit vehicle for the disposal of the additional produce which these farmers from Springhall

and other areas of the country would be producing. This is the old package.

I heard about what is Vic doing. I will deal with this question of Vic Johnson and the dismissal of Frank Richards and other persons. This Hon. Chamber will hear what is being done down at the Barbados Marketing Corporation, but do not be anxious, we will come to that. They will also hear about the outlet at the Airport because these things must be matters of public record, but I will not be forced to digress by any mutterings from any quarter, Sir. This is the context Sir, in which the relocation of the Barbados Marketing Corporation must be seen. It is part of an entire package for non-sugar Agriculture. This is 1980 and this Administration that calls itself the "Great Combination" have now begun to implement it. I think therefore, Sir, that as persons who are interested in the development of Barbados and not only in the limited growth of its economy and persons who are interested in human development and not only in impressive statistics, that we must be concerned with this question of developing non-sugar Agriculture and the people who earned their living and who have fashioned their aspirations in this area of the economy.

In this context Sir, we must take a serious look at the McGregor Report, a very interesting Report put out by someone who was brought in to look at this question of sugar. Here again, one sees the emphasis on Foreign Exchange. Sugar and Tourism are being looked at now in terms of the earning of Foreign Exchange and all of the national thinking is being conditioned by this question of the earning of Foreign Exchange. The McGregor Report has very little to say about the food level of Barbados, how much of our own food we are producing, what is the situation with the production of livestock, pigs and black belly sheep. What about the position of Barbados' responsibility to the Caribbean Food Plan? What is the position so far as progress in the direction of Agricultural Diversification is concerned? The McGregor Report does not deal with this, it reflects the contemporary pre-occupation with Foreign Exchange.

I wish now Sir, with your leave, to depart a little from Agriculture and look at some of the other areas of the Estimates. In the past, my attempts to deal with these items by Head has drawn the very sharp comment from Senator Wickham and I have no intention of causing recourse to a similar remark. I shall attempt Sir, to deal with some of these topics in conceptual terms, rather than wear the Hon. Senators with a detailed examination of each Head. With your leave now, Sir, I wish to speak on those topics that deal with what I shall call public utilities. Some of them are slightly outside the ambit of what are public utilities strictly, so I will be general. I think that the caption is justifiable. I wish to deal with them in the context of Tourism.

Senator Hatch, in his own address, dealt quite adequately with the question of some of the negative effects of Tourism on the economy.

I do not wish to be repetitive. One area that I think he did not focus on as sharply as he might was the effect of tourism on what I call the public utilities as such in their totality. I claim no originality for this thought. It has been well documented and well argued by a female lecturer at the University and I think that a study of her findings would repay the time spent on perusing that. Her point is that we tend to look at the credit side of tourism, the numbers coming in and the money that is spent. We are not however considering the strain that it is imposing on the economy and the people of the community as a whole. Senator Hatch has dealt with some of the sociological aspects, moral aspects of this strain. I wish briefly to focus on the public utilities aspect of this strain. She makes the point that the tourist visitation is placing an increasing burden on your light and power resources, on your roads, on your water, on your telephone services, and that in a way the Barbadians who live here are subsidising tourism.

Now this is not a party point. This is nothing that occurred after 1976. It is a phenomenon however that all of us must be concerned with and we need to look at this fact, the extent to which when tourists shower excessively and not only consume water but consume a lot of energy in bringing that water into the shower, the extent to which the little Barbadian out there is subsidising it. When therefore Senator Hatch calls for a study or studies of the effects of tourism on the community, I entirely agree with him and would suggest that this study should be looked at, and what we are beginning to see is that Barbados can no longer boast that it does not happen here. You know we pride ourselves chauvinistically that although the telephone system did not work in oil rich Trinidad it works here. You know that sort of statement that so frequently falls from the lips of some of us. The reality is that we are entering the area in which some of our public utilities are not functioning as they used to function before either. We have had more black-outs during the last nine months than during the War, and the indications are that if more money is not forthcoming the black-outs will increase. This is part of the reality. There is an increasing strain on the public utilities, which strain in my view is significantly contributed to by tourism.

Still on this question of what I broadly call public utilities, but not as affected by tourism, I wish to mention two areas: the Sanitation and Cemeteries Authority and Natural Gas. For a number of budget debates I have sought to attract the attention of Government to an undesirable aspect of the disposal of garbage

by the Sanitation and Cemeteries Authority. We live in a plastic age, Sir. Everything now is packaged in plastic. It is a material the scientists tell me that is not easily bio-degradable; it will survive for a long time. It is unsightly by the side of the streets.

There are apparently certain private contractors and certainly sanitation and cemeteries vehicles that transport a considerable volume of garbage from the deposit point in the city of Bridgetown to certain dumps in the country. Does no one in this Government drive or walk along Highway 5? Don't they see both sides of the highway being piled increasingly with these paperbags which fly off of the trucks hourly as they pass? The simple thing to do, Mr. President, is to require that those who have these trucks carry some sort of heavy net to stop the garbage from flying off. I have observed it time and time again.

There is one enterprising driver or contractor who has got himself a net which he spreads over the garbage. It contains it, but at the moment what is happening, the garbage is being collected from the city of Bridgetown and being piled on all sides of Highway 5. It is becoming increasingly unsightly. Just across the road by St. Michael's Cathedral at certain times of the day, the gutter that fringes the Cathedral wall that faces the Sanitation and Cemeteries Authority is piled high with plastic bags. I think that in 1980 we in Barbados can do much better than this, and I am certain that it is just a problem of administrative supervision, and this is about the third year that I have mentioned it in Estimates debates and I have not seen any improvement. It impresses me that although certain grave countenances greet you on the other side and although there is a certain degree of scribbling as other Senators speak, that not much materialise from the complaints that we make. The Government goes merrily on and the paperbags continue to be deposited by the wayside.

On the question, Sir, of natural gas, there are several complaints in this area. One is the high price of the bottled gas that the consumer has to pay. The Minister who seems to exist in this Jacob and Esau situation made a statement last year that he was controlling natural gas at a certain price. I thought I understood then the meaning of the word "control", but very shortly afterwards natural gas again went up to an alarming figure. Not only are the consumers dissatisfied with having to pay this price for natural gas, but they are even more dissatisfied that they have to pay this price and don't get what they are paying for. It is well known that many of these containers are delivered three-quarters and half-way full; I am talking about bottled gas.

Again it cannot be beyond the ingenuity of this Government and even I concede that to devise a system

to ensure that those who sell bottled gas comply with certain basic standards. I have made some enquiries in this direction and I have been told, Sir, that some of the people who work with the delivery play certain games on the consumer, that they collect partially used bottles from friends of theirs and replace them by full bottles from the despatch bond. That may be so, but we can devise some system to stop that. (A VOICE: They would have to have a lot of bottles to do that.) Whatever is the explanation, housewives are complaining that they are buying bottled gas, paying for it only to discover that it is not lasting the length of time that it should last.

Now, this is a question of standards. We have a Standards Institute and it cannot be impossible to devise a way of ensuring that when these persons take the consumers' money for a bottle of gas that they are supplying the quantity of gas for which they are being paid.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think we should let you pause here so that we can have a short suspension and come back again.

The sitting will be suspended for 45 minutes.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: When we observed the intervention for dinner, Mr. President, I was looking at some of the other aspects of the Estimates other than Agriculture. I wish to look now at the question of the Attorney General. I think the Government must be aware of the serious concern in the public mind for the image of the Attorney General so far as the question of the Pele Enquiry is concerned. We had last year, and I think the year before, the remarkable spectacle of an open disagreement between the Prime Minister and his Attorney General on the question whether or not a Commission of Enquiry should be established to investigate the Pele murder case. The public record will reveal that the Prime Minister was asking for an enquiry and the Attorney General was saying that he did not think it was necessary. I do not recall the exact form of words that he chose to employ, but they were to the effect that he was satisfied that the police were doing a good job in the matter of the investigation of this murder. Subsequent events, however, were to give the lie to the Attorney General. The Commissioner of Police himself has come out publicly before the Commission and said that he was not entirely satisfied with the way in which the matter was investigated.

I think that that is sufficient to justify the resignation of the Attorney General. These are not matters that we can allow to occur and to banish to some limbo of forgotten things, these are matters that we must keep in the forefront of public thinking. Here is a serious commitment by one of the senior Ministers of Government on a matter of urgent public importance, and he has been weighed in the balance and has been found wanting. Under the system of Government that we follow he should resign. I do not know if he listens carefully to the comments that are being made in the streets, but persons feel that the Commission of Enquiry has been abruptly brought to an end and there is widespread public speculation as to the reasons. Before the Commission was terminated it would be said that in a manner of speaking the matter was *sub judice* and that we should not speak on questions that are before the Commission, but now the Commission has been brought to an end and people are asking why has it been terminated before it was allowed to put its accusing finger on that person who perpetrated this horrible crime. Let not the Attorney General or any other member of the Cabinet think that the public has forgotten this matter, and I must compliment the Nation newspaper for performing a public service by continuing to keep in the forefront of the public mind the murder of Pele by way of a photograph and quotation from a local poet. (ASIDE). The humour with which that observation was greeted, Sir, does not match the seriousness of the matter.

Another aspect of this Enquiry that I wish to focus on, Sir, is the state in which it has left the Police Force. Regrettably the institution to suffer most from this Enquiry is the Police Force. Unfortunately there is now a tendency among the general public to make criticisms of the Police Force in a fairly wide manner. Persons do not stop to reflect that the Force comprises over 800 persons and that some 90% of those person are as blameless as the other 90% of Barbadians working in any other institution, and in a way it is very unfortunate that the whole Force should be labelled over the serious shortcomings of a few. I think that it is necessary to rectify the situation. The Police Force is very important to the maintenance of law and order in this community. If the public are brought to a situation in which they lose confidence in the Police Force it could have serious consequences for the respect for law and order in Barbados.

I think that the matter having been agitated by the Pele Enquiry into the other unsolved murders, that it is necessary now to take it to the logical conclusion, it is necessary to have some examination of the workings of the Force, to weed out manifestly undesirable elements and to give every facility to those who remain to continue and to improve on their past performances. I think that this must not only be done but done with urgency. I am persuaded that the general effect of these

enquiries into unsolved murders have adversely affected the morale of the Force as a Force. I also am of the opinion that it is a serious thing to undermine the morale of an institution as large and as vital as the Police Force, and I am recommending, I am calling on Government urgently to take action to restore this morale and to do everything that it can to rebuild public confidence in the Police Force.

On that point, in terms of providing facilities to enable the Police Force to carry out its duties, I think it is time that the many perambulations of the Attorney General throughout the country visiting Police Stations should produce some tangible results. He has been making these lightning visits to police stations and magistrates courts ever since he took up office and we have still been without any obvious result. In terms of the police there is an urgent need to provide more space and better facilities, particularly at the Headquarters on Coleridge Street. The facilities there are deteriorating at a rapid rate; many officers have to function in accommodation that is below standard. To give a simple example, early this year I had to represent a policeman at a disciplinary inquiry, the normal sort of departmental inquiry; and under the Police Act the man was entitled to have representation by counsel. Would you believe Sir, that it was not possible to find at Police Headquarters a room with four walls reaching from the floor to the ceiling in which this matter could be heard. The most we could get was one with some partitions that went within a few feet of the roof. As a result, what was being said during the inquiry could be heard in other offices around us. Now this sort of atmosphere makes the person involved feel that he is not getting good justice, and it cannot be too difficult in 1980 to provide basic accommodation. At the CID the officers are sitting cheek by jowl and labouring under circumstances of inconvenience in carrying out the work of criminal investigation. We have the tendency to wait until a crisis develops and then seek to take dramatic steps to redress the situation; whereas if we sought to deal with the limited situations as they present themselves we could postpone the crisis. My understanding is that the construction of the new Justice Palace — as the new accommodation for the Supreme Court is estatically called — would make available some additional space. The leader of the Senate can correct me if I am wrong, but I understand the Registry will be the main beneficiary. There will be some spillover for the Police, but it does not appear from my sources of information that it will solve the question of limited space for the Police. It also seems that this new Palace of Justice is one of the projects that will not necessarily come into operation before the next election, so that even with that project in mind the Policemen may have to wait a considerable time before there is any improvement in the working conditions under which they live. I think that on the whole the Attorney General can

have little cause for satisfaction when he surveys the performance in those areas of government for which he is responsible.

The most outstanding failure on his part is that relating to the enquiry into the Pele murder. The positions that he has taken and the subsequent events that have given the lie to those positions require him to do what he has been threatening to do from the inception of his administration, namely, to resign.

Turning to Family Planning, Sir. I am calling on the appropriate Minister to confirm or deny the rumour which is emanating from certain professional circles in this country. It relates to the matter of sterilization of young women in Barbados. My understanding is that the persons on whom this operation is performed do not know that the process is irreversible. They labour under the impression that at some time in the future whenever they wish to have children they can still do so. According to my sources, however the sterilization process to which they are being subjected is irreversible. If this is so, this has serious implications demographically and socially for us in Barbados. It is something I would like to hear the appropriate Minister speak on and it is something which this Chamber should consider very carefully. We have, in trust, the future of our country. How will Barbados be comprised one hundred years from now? Will the demographic distribution be what it is today if we continue with this process of irreversible sterilization of young women in Barbados? This is in the context of the whole question I have posed about economic growth per se as against development which involves the human development, expansion of the human potential and maintaining some sense of balance between the natural heritage and the human resources in a way which will guarantee the survival of both.

I do not wish, Mr. President, to trespass on the area of Education and Culture which is the special preserve of Senator Wickham, but I have a matter which I have been asked to draw to the attention of the Government. The leading advocate — I can no longer describe Elton as the leading advocate for recognition of our links with the African continent since the arrival of Senator Blackman on the scene — I had better refer to him as Mr. Elton Mottley.

That will establish the person beyond all controversy. He has noted that the figure for Grants to Cultural Organisations is first of all slender. I see here some \$13,500 voted. This seems to be allocated to the Barbados Dance Theatre, The Barbados Arts Council and Bim Magazine. I would not even attempt to fight with the eloquence of Senator Wickham in expressing the parsimony of the administration in this area of Education and Culture.

The point however is to be made that the Government has not seen fit to make any allocation to the Yoruba Institution yet, I have been informed, that the Minister responsible for Education and Culture never tires of boasting of Yoruba overseas. It would appear that there is some kudos to be acquired in certain circles within UNESCO and that general ambience overseas from being able to say that we have in Barbados an Institution called Yoruba.

Those who support that Institution are concerned that the Minister is prepared to bask in the reflective glory and in the existence of this Organisation and nevertheless fails to make any financial provision or contribution towards it in the national Estimates.

Again, we are on this question of the small man who is the average Barbadian and constitutes the bulk of the Barbadian population. What about the skills identified in these persons? What about the enrichment of the cultural lives of these persons? What about the awakening of their identity and their sense of pride in whom they are and why they are? This is development in which you balance expansion and growth in the physical economy with the development of the human resource. What I am indicting this administration on is paying inadequate attention to the area of development of the human resource and of those who form the great majority of the people of Barbados.

On the question, Sir, of the Ministry of Lands and the Environment, I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to ask the appropriate Minister what is the position with the establishment of the Department of the Environment? Some of us had hoped that it would have been placed initially in the Prime Minister's Office or in one of the Departments for which the Prime Minister has responsibility.

I was of that school that felt that to command the respect and to be in a sufficiently central position to monitor activity throughout the economy and the country, that the Prime Minister's Office was the best vantage point for location of the Department of the Environment. This view has not prevailed. I think that given the reality of modern Government that the Office of the Prime Minister especially when he is also the Minister of Finance and Planning, is the best possible place for the location of the Department of the Environment.

However, that was not to be and it has been decided to place it elsewhere but I should be glad to hear from the spokesman for the Government what is the position and how soon it will really become operative and some indication as to the degree of bite that it will be endowed with in terms of being able to enforce the environmental planning decisions of the Government.

I think too, Sir, that the time has come in Barbados for placing on the Statute Book an Act of Parliament that makes it necessary to have an environmental impact statement before establishing any major development project. Recently, Sir, I had the occasion to table a question in this Honourable Chamber on the proposal to establish a Chemical Plant somewhere in the environs in Bridgetown.

If there were this kind of legislation on our Statute Book the person who had applied to establish this Chemical Plant would have to provide environmental impact statements indicating when, if any, damage this proposed Chemical Plant would have on the sea into which effluent is allowed to flow, on the atmosphere, on the land mass, and most importantly on the human beings who might come into contact with some sort of effluent escaping from this Plant.

No doubt, enlightened leadership at managerial and other levels can ensure that this study is in effect undertaken. The experience in North America and certain European countries is that it is much better to have legislation requirements clearly laid down so that would-be developers would know what they have to do and the public knows what are the safeguards.

I think that if we are coming to the establishment of a Department of the Environment, that the next logical step is to pass legislation requiring environmental impact statements to be prepared and presented and made available for public scrutiny before important developmental projects are commenced. This would go a long way towards meeting some of the objectives of Senator Hatch because a new Hotel would be such a development which would necessitate a prior environmental impact statement.

When the statement is prepared, it would be available for public scrutiny. As a consequence, members of the public, the Paynes Bay Window On The Sea Group or any other group would be able to study it and see what impact it is likely to make on the environment adversely and to cause their opinions to be felt in the right quarters.

This experiment has been resorted to in North America and it works reasonably efficiently and I think it can also work in Barbados.

There is an argument that it cannot work in Latin America because the Latin Americans are not temperamentally attuned to what is called the adversary system. It is argued that the idea of environmental impact only works in countries that understand the adversary system. One side presented an argument, the other side presented an opposite argument and as a result, some sort of solution came out of it. It is said that this is not attuned

with sociological realities in Latin America, but in Barbados, we practice an adversary system. Indeed, we are doing that now with the Government on one side and the Opposition on the other, about to replace them. We practice it in the Courts and elsewhere. I believe that the system of Environmental Impact Statements can work here and I would like to see shortly, in this Chamber, legislation introduced to provide for it.

I am sorry that Senator Linton has deserted his post so early. There are some questions that I wanted to put to him. There are complaints of a fairly generalised nature, that the Parks and Beaches Commission now has two arms, a Horticultural Arm which is manned by the experts in this area, and a Political Arm. I wanted him either to confirm or deny this rumour. I also wanted him to confirm or deny that those who manage the political arm require the workers to perform labour on their private lands. As I said, I regret that he has left, but the question is there and one would be glad to have an answer to it. I welcome those answers because they go on the Record and they can be referred to in future.

My colleague, Senator Hunte, has spoken on Defence and Security and I do not think I would weary Hon. Senators by expatiating on it for any length. I am concerned about the enormous amount of money in comparative terms that this Government has decided to expend under this Head. I also understand that very shortly they will be coming with a Supplementary Vote for more money to buy large engines of war so to speak. When this Bill was introduced, I disagreed with it in principle on the second reading because I had some indication of what we were letting ourselves in for. Since then, St. Vincent has happened. Much talk has been made about Communists, takeovers and Sydney Alleyne, but I have not heard anybody talk about the take-over by the Army of Surinam and the indications are that that is the real cause of worry. I made this point in the second reading at the time when it was being considered here. I know that Hon. Senators at the time would have felt that as long as good old Col. Banfield was there, that there was no cause to worry, but Col. Banfield is going, going, gone. What guarantee do we have that his successor would be cast in the same mould.

One thing which really concerns the public in this area Sir, is the way the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has of seeking to give the impression that the Defence Force is his pet. He pats its sleek hide and says very nice things to it, in a sort of possessive manner, giving a distinct impression that he is cultivating it and that it is his special pet. It is the Defence Force of Barbados and I think it is a dangerous departure for him to be seeking to give the impression that those out there, including the Opposition do not like the Defence Force but that he likes it and that it should like him. I think that we have

to be very careful of creating this pattern of thinking in our country.

I heard Senator Linton, I think it is, getting in here and giving the impression that the people of Barbados want a Defence Force and saying that if he is satisfied that the people of Barbados do now want a Defence Force, then the money should be spent on education, or something like that. The implication is that this Government has a Mandate to set up a Defence Force and to spend the lot of money that they are now spending on the Defence Force. This is what they told the people in 1976: "Barbados should have no territorial ambitions whilst recognising its crucial geographical significance to North America and the Latin American Continent. There is no reason why Barbados should attract foreign invasion or intervention."

Senator the Hon. Don Blackman, with his characteristic eloquence and his immense fund of facts and experience gathered in North America generally, and in the United Nations in particular, was able to make out an almost convincing case that Barbados in the world of today, did stand in fear of foreign intervention. The Manifesto gives the light of that. It says here on page 22:

"There is no reason why Barbados should attract foreign invasion or intervention. The Party will not commit our country to any foreign defence pacts." This is what they went to the people with:

"Internationally, the Defence Forces will be limited to such as are adequate to maintain Law and Order. There will be no need to maintain any standing army or other Defence Force." This is what they went to the public with and got voted on it, or so it seems.

Now, they are spending millions of dollars in these Estimates and there are rumours of even more millions of dollars to be spent. This open Government went and got voted on having no Defence Force. Then, you come spending millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money on the Defence Force and seeking specially to cultivate the Defence Force.

Mr. President, I understand that there is an expectation that I should speak for five hours. Let me hasten Sir, to disabuse the minds of those who feel that I am about to do this. I am rapidly nearing the end of my few remarks and I am just seeking to make sure that I covered the main areas that I intended to deal with.

Sir, it would take a few hours to deal with housing adequately. The general tenor of the debate from the Government side does not warrant saying some of the

things that I had planned to say. I only wish to say this: that I had occasion to look at the small brochure put out by the Government on housing. It purports to be a report on housing up to 1978 or something like that and it, like many of the documents put out by this Government, gives a false impression to the public. I listen very carefully to what Senator Truss has to say as one of the main spokesmen for Government policy, and he referred to this 800 houses per year.

Now it is well known outside on the streets that they did a kind of political sleight-of-hand on this question of the 800 houses. They gave the public the distinct impression in this manifesto on page 10 that they were going to build 800 houses per year.

"The BLP believes that every Barbadian has the right to decent housing at reasonable cost. The Party will therefore, on being returned to power, embark on a programme for the building of at least 800 houses per year."

Now I have often adverted to the clever use of words by the Barbados Labour Party. You have to scrutinise very carefully this use of words. They cause you to deceive yourself. Now any person of ordinary competence in the use of the English language would believe that that meant that the Barbados Labour Party administration if returned would build 800 houses a year. This little booklet to which I referred cites two statements made by someone or other in the Government to show that they did not really mean that they were going to build 800 houses a year; what they meant was that while they were in Government 800 houses would be built every year in its totality, that is, in Government and private enterprise, and therefore before your very eyes you see the rabbit disappearing. That is what this booklet is saying, that we never said we were going to build 800 houses; what we said was that we were so going to manage the economy that 800 houses would be built every year. There you are. The swiftness of the word deceives the eye. It is also said in the booklet.

This booklet also contains a number of photographs to give the impression very graphically of the housing construction on their part, and some of the houses in the photograph look unmistakably like houses that were there before September 1976, and I think that that being the case we should place on the record some indication of the houses that were constructed by the previous administration between 1973 and 1976. I say this because when the document finally comes into the hands of Honourable Senators they will be able to compare some of the figures to many of what is stated in that booklet. I think the booklet is highly misleading; it is no more than an excuse for not performing. It is a very small brochure consisting of some 14 pages, most

of it is taken up in explaining why they were not able to build houses.

Sir, in 1973 to 1976 the National Housing Corporation built some 500 terrace units at Wildey; it also built the following houses for sale: 83 houses at Wildey Terrace, 74 houses at Lodge Terrace, 72 houses at Wildey Terrace North, 191 houses at Friendship Terrace, 29 houses at Eden Lodge, 70 houses at Oxnards. At Wotton roads were put in for an estate consisting of 119 single units for sale and 118 terrace units for rent.

Mr. Simmons speaking in the Other Place mentioned the integrated rural housing development as though it was some brainchild of his and his administration. Before the Democratic Labour Party Government left power, Sir, it laid out roads at Sion Hill and Orange Hill in St. James for the purpose of integrated rural housing development. It also agreed to purchase some 166 acres of land from Fairfield and Mount Gay Limited in St. Lucy for a similar project. This administration has not seen fit to consummate that agreement to purchase. I hope the Minister who will reply for housing will also tell the Senate something about the contract which was not put out to tender and which was given to one Mr. Lisle Reid, I think he is, for \$864,000 to construct houses. I think Honourable Senators would like to hear something about that; why it was not put to tender. I would like to hear something about this.

As I said, Sir, the general tenor of the debate has not been as warm as it can be and one of the things with the paucity of members on this side is that we are at some disadvantage in terms of replying. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that some advantage will be sought to be taken of the recent Hanschell Report. Senator Truss took me by surprise by not seeking to take that advantage. He said he was going to leave it to the public and in so saying he demonstrated a level of maturity that took me somewhat by surprise, because I think that that is the jury with which this question should be left. I also think that when Mr. Hanschell appears before the bar of public opinion that he will need to satisfy them whether having regard to his interest in Bosvigo Limited, having further regard to the history of that matter and the way it fell out, he was the most appropriate person to have headed that commission. I think that it is important for witnesses who appear before any jury whether in court or the wider jury of public opinion to be examined as to whether they have an interest in the evidence that they are giving before whatever tribunal they appear. What public opinion is saying outside is that Mr. Hanschell has a sort of interest that renders him less than impartial in this respect. You see, Sir, you never can tell how the Hon. Leader of the Senate will come, and you do not have any opportunity to reply, so that

you must in advance state what your position is. The public out there do not have any confidence in Mr. Hanschell; they don't.

I think that I will leave Housing there; Sir, Mr. Hanschell is a bad note on which to end, but I elect to end on him, Sir, I do not want to go any further on this question, I think on the whole although I could a tale unfold that, I shall not worry to go any further on this question, because I am prepared to wait for the wheel of history to turn full circle and I am certain, I am confident that certain matters that were held up by the biased Hanschell as calling for public censure are being done by this administration, and I go further, certain broadminded persons in this administration have said that if that is a solecism then we are also guilty of it too, so I will leave the matter there, I will not go any further, because I think that history will absolve us on this point.

I am sorry that Senator MacKenzie is not here, because he had some strictures to pass on the BMC which I thought needed to be dealt with in a serious sort of way. You see, there is a tendency in this country to judge everything by the yardstick of profit, not necessarily private. If it does not make a profit it is a failure. I am not seeking to minimise the importance of making a profit on an operation, I would be the last person to contend that the public purse can subsidise an indefinitely expanding area of public operations, but we must draw the line. There are certain developmental obligations of a Government.

The BMC was established by the appropriate Act of Parliament among other things to stimulate, facilitate, improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the island, particularly for the benefit of the producer. Then it goes on to speak about handling, transportation, exportation, the securing of favourable marketing arrangements, etc. This is a developmental institution, you cannot judge it simply by the yardstick of profit-making and condemn it as such. I admit that there have been areas of failure at the BMC, I also contend that those areas of failure have been much smaller under the previous administration than now. The situation existing now is nothing short of scandalous, but let me state the level of principle first.

The basic problem with the BMC was that when it was started it was under-capitalised. That was one of the problems with CBC as well, and it is clear that if you do not have enough money to underpin the institution that it is going to flounder. It may even become shipwrecked on the shores of impecuniosity, but the fact remains that it performs a useful function in the community. All this thing that Senator Linton was talking about giving it to the people who can run it is contrary to the very philosophy which caused the establishment

of the BMC. What interested me, among the things that Senator MacKenzie said, was when he talked about winning back to its side the interest that it had alienated. That was a very illuminating remark. I happen to have sat on the BMC Board for some three years and I know very well the truth about the interest that it had alienated. I know that there were situations in which ships came into the port laden with butter and cheese and other perishable commodities. The BMC had to go to borrow on short terms from a certain bank in Bridgetown to pay for these commodities. Believe it or not, private business in Bridgetown that had substantial accounts with that bank persuaded the bank not to give the BMC the loan to get those commodities out of the port. The delay that resulted in trying to get the money from other lending institutions led to the spoilage of the commodities still in the harbour awaiting clearance. That has happened within my experience more than once. When he is talking about interest alienated he knows what he is saying, and anybody who was in agriculture in the early stages of the formation of the BMC and its operation will tell you that certain interests in this country hired spokesmen to go through the length and breadth of Barbados attacking the concept of a BMC and seeking to put the minds of small farmers against the BMC.

So that the BMC is not only an economic and political problem, it is a sociological problem as well, because it represents an attempt by the people's Government to provide a developmental tool which would give the small farmer a place in the sun of the agricultural economy of Barbados, so I am not one of those who wish to run down the principle of the BMC, I think the principle is good, how the principle is being put into practice is another matter.

I heard Senator Linton getting in here and criticising the way how the programme for the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College is organised and the results, and how the people from Parks and Beaches return from these seminars at the Labour College with no improved knowledge about gardening, but he did not seek to attack BIMAP and the performance or otherwise of BIMAP. He did not point to the fact that one of the Archpriests of BIMAP is perpetrating a total disaster down at the BMC. He did not speak about that, and let us not hide these facts, Mr. Johnson is a total failure at the BMC. Whatever ability he may have in the area of administration he leaves at BIMAP when he gets into his car to go down to the BMC. One of the cardinal principles of administration, as I understand it, is to stand back and allow persons who have a job to do that job.

I do not know if this matter involving the former manager is already *sub judice*. It is a tradition in this Chamber not to deal with *sub judice* matters. But the shabby way in which Frank Richards was treated is not

something we should ignore, and the way he was pushed out of his job is something that requires explanation. My understanding is that there was some outlet at the airport which mysteriously comes under the general portfolio of the BMC, and that more mysteriously Mr. Richards was being charged with a general responsibility for it since it came under the BMC but he was to have no say in what took place at the outlet itself; in other words, he was required to put himself in a position where he could be blamed for all sorts of shortcomings while having no jurisdiction over the person running the outlet. I would like the Minister responsible to talk about the person actually running it and explain to this Senate who he is and what are his connections. I would also like this Minister to tell this honourable Senate how many terminations of employment have occurred at the BMC since September 1976. To put it differently I would like him to inform this Honourable Senate how many persons who were working at the BMC at the end of August 1976 are still working there now. Minister Craig talked about victimization, but nowhere has victimization been more obvious than at the BMC. I want to hear the Minister on this because when he speaks it goes on the record and whenever these reports are published posterity will have his answers. Let him deny that Vic Johnson has tumbled people out of the BMC with the same sort of recklessness with which he tumbled Richards out. If the BMC has any problems now, many of them in large measure are due to the mismanagement of Vic Johnson.

Sir, I am coming home; please allow me. I must regret that Senator Linton has left. He got in this Chamber and made certain statements which fall basically into two categories. While Senator Truss makes disclosures at a national level, it falls to Senator Linton to make them at the parochial level. You listen to Senator Truss for the policies of Government as a whole, but Senator Linton comes out with policies for St. Philip South. It seems to me that at some party caucus it was decided to put a BMC depot at Six Roads; so he comes in here and vociferously calls for a depot at Six Roads. Whom does he think he is talking to? A kinder-garten group? We saw a photograph in the "Advocate" with the BLP Parliamentarians sitting down at a meeting. So they were given an indication of what was going on where and when. But he gets in here and makes this clarion call for a depot at Six Roads. This is just a sort of histrionics and play acting. He is going to have a housing development somewhere out by the Windward Cricket Ground; the road at Heddings is to be done; the road to the Airport that runs through Mangrove — all this is going to be done. Obviously a decision was made at party level but he gets in here and calls for these things and gives the impression that when it comes about it would be as a result of his calling it. This sort of farce must stop. I am glad for the

people of St. Philip South that they are getting these things; what I mind are the gymnastics that are performed in the process.

Then he talks about permits for mini-buses. I would like to ask him if he does not have some say as to who gets a permit; at least that is what the people outside are saying. He talked about minibuses but made no substantial contribution as to the future of the mini-buses. There is a big debate on now about mini-buses. Of course they perform a useful service, but what about the people whose lawyer he is? Not a word. The poor returns that mini-bus people get from their operation, the delays in obtaining permits from MCW to operate, the difficulties they experience in obtaining insurance coverage for their vehicles — he did not talk about these things but he draws their fees.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. President, I think the hon. member is not deliberately, but perhaps through an oversight, misleading the Chamber. Senator Linton most specifically referred to the insurance problem.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: Yes, he may have referred to it but he certainly did not indicate any solution and I would have thought that as a member of the Government and a person drawing fees from mini-bus operators he would have adumbrated some solution to their problem.

He spoke about Parliament and a lot of other things. He talked about communists, he talked about persons who would overthrow governments, and so on. He had a field day in the kind of political mud slinging that is prevalent at the lower stratum of the political order. He obviously is of that school that would establish a bureau to carry on the McCarthy-type operations. But I would say to him that when he is establishing the bureau let him establish a bureau to enquire into the conduct of certain lawyers as well and let them call Schofield Smith to be the star witness before this bureau as to the way in which the lawyers represent them. I am sorry he is gone because people like him think that only they can talk.

He talked about Parliament and said he would like an improved Parliament and so on. So would I, and for his benefit towards improving Parliament I would contribute a copy of Homer's Iliad. In Homer's Iliad there is an interesting figure called Thirsytes, and from what I can remember from Pope's translation it said:

"Thysites only clamoured in the throng,
Loquacious, loud and turbulent of tongue;
With bitter malice studious to defame,
Scorn all his joy, and slaughter all his aim."

I will contribute a copy of the Iliad to the Parliamentary Library for people like Senator Linton to read.

May it please you, Sir, I have come to a close of the remarks of which I wish to make on the Estimates for 1980/1981. I tried at the inception to conceptualise the debate on this area. I sought to put it in some form of framework, how could we see it and I suggested that we could see it in terms of the contra-distinction between growth *per se* and development.

This administration, Sir, is hooked into the growth syndrome. The bigger figures they can talk of better but they are overlooking in the major areas, the development of human beings, the mass of Barbadian people outside there. In the area of agriculture, in the area of Price Control, in the area of housing, in the area of old aged pensions, in the area of victimisation, they are forgetting the human side of the development equation.

I think that that type of social and political amnesia is reflected in these Estimates of 1980/1981 and I sincerely hope that the people of Barbados will arrest this downward slide in terms of development when the occasion arises be it in 1980 or 1981.

Listening to the loquacity of Senator Linton, one begins to think that it may well be 1980 but when one reflects on the disarray in which the Pele Enquiry has left the administration, one may be inclined to feel that it cannot be 1980. It may not even be 1981. Be that as it may, I hope, Sir, that the people of Barbados will read the Reports of the debates of these Estimates and if they can get their hands on the Estimates themselves and see the extent to which this administration is failing in its thrust to develop this country as a whole and particularly the vast majority of persons that make up the population of our small country. Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR ADEL LYNCH: Mr. President, I am not one of the century batsmen but I will still try to make a few runs while there is still light. We have heard much spoken about Tourism and the benefits from the growth, etc., etc., but there is one aspect of Tourism to which people seem not to cater and that is one which interest me somewhat and that is the language.

I do not know if we have made adequate preparations for dealing with the tourists who we invite here and we must be aware of the fact that they speak languages other than our own and I would hope that all is being done to ensure that their visit or their stay here is made as comfortable as possible from the point of view of the communications.

I have had the pleasure, yet a strange encounter, with some Germans recently and I must say that I felt

myself at a great disadvantage because I was unable to be as kind to them as I would have wished to be because I was not able to communicate with them in their language nor were they able to communicate with me to any great extent in mine, so I would hope that we would do something in that regard.

Let us remember that when people come on holidays they wish to be able to ask questions, find out things and to share and one of the ways of sharing is by communicating. I have had an experience myself of being in Brazil and I thought I could cope with most things even though I knew no Portuguese but then I found myself on a long journey and not really being able to say very much.

I could understand the disgust of the driver at one stage when he was communicating to someone who was on a 21 hour journey that I was not saying anything. He kept on saying *nefala, nefala* and he was really mad that I was not saying anything to anybody. He really thought that I was dumb in the sense of not being able to speak. However, I said to him at least enough to convey that I did not know Portuguese and that I did not speak Portuguese and then it was clear, but, really, I could have benefitted much more from my visit had I known the language and we must make it possible for these people to feel at home and be able to communicate with us readily.

In the same vein I would pass to the business of the CARIFESTA Programme which is going to be held here and I believe that it sometimes occurs that people have language problems when cultural events and so on are to take place because at times there is a play or something to be put on and if there is not adequate information in a language which a person speaks, it is difficult to grasp the significance of what is being done.

I should like to think that our planners, and I am sure that Senator Wickham would bear this in mind, would do all in their power to ensure that the people who speak different languages have some sort of outline of what indeed is going on so that they may benefit from what, I believe, would be performances etc., of a very high quality.

Let us go back one bit to the matter of Tourism. I would like to hope that this is providing a commensurate increase of employment of women. We must not overlook the fact that a greater number of the unemployed happen to fall among the women and we cannot stress too much the need for women to find gainful employment so that they can contribute to the wellbeing of the country, to their own welfare and to enjoy some degree of independence which I am sure most women would wish to have.

Of course, I would like to compliment Dr. Blackman for the efforts which he has been making on behalf of women who happen now to be under his expert and I should say, competent care.

In the field of education, I note that a provision for school uniforms is there and everything points to the likelihood that this project would come into operation this year. This to, I know, will go a long way in assisting the poor parents, especially the mothers who have the total responsibility of the family because we have many one-parent families in Barbados but we have got to face that fact.

I am sure that this will go a long way in helping them to provide adequately for their children. I join Senator Enid Lynch in advocating the training of teachers in some areas of counselling. Go further and call for some preparation of teachers to deal with certain problems of children, the problems which they have, or thing that they have and in fact, the ones that they think they have are more difficult to deal with than the ones that they really have. We must remember that in a society where things are changing, some parents tend not to give enough attention to the psychological needs of their children and this can cause many problems in school. The teacher who is not prepared to meet the kind of problems, can be at a great disadvantage.

One may say that Counsellors are provided but it is not always that the tantrums and traumas occur in front of the Counsellor, they could quite well occur in front of the teacher who is absolutely not prepared for this sort of thing and is at a lost as to how to deal with the problems effectively. I myself have had a problem, where, I think I shouted at a student who kept on grinning long after a joke was over but this child was one of these children who at some time or other cannot stop laughing. I never knew how to deal with that sort of problem. Someone who realised that this child has this problem took her outside and dealt with her, it was one of her classmates but I certainly did not know what to do. I was not informed that the child had this kind of problem. We would urge parents to have some sort of confidence in the teachers and let them know when children have peculiar problems, that is, if they know that they have them because far too many parents are still delinquent and put emphasis in the wrong places with regard to the provision for their children. They look after all sorts of things, but they never take the time to talk to the children and find out their problems.

Much has been said about the Police. I am in no position to defend the Hon. Attorney-General, he is a Lawyer and can speak for himself. What I would like to say about the result of the Enquiry is that there

has been a growing lack of respect by the general public for the Police. I do not support this kind of disrespect. After all, in every group, there will be those who will default and whose behaviour may at times bring the group into disrepute, but we must remember that there are others who are capable, conscientious and noble. This opportunity should be taken by the Police to show that they are bigger than those members of the public who seek to pull them down. They must not, in their effort to get their own back, hound and harass people unnecessarily. They must be assured that we are not supporting this conduct by people who would seek to pull down the whole Force because of the lack of discretion of some of the members.

I had occasion to speak to students recently about this because they saw some policemen passing through the compound of the school and they started to shout this business about who kill Pele. I had to let them understand that we had to respect the Arm of the Law. We have to respect those who stand for Law and Order and we could not pull down the whole Force because of the bad behaviour of some members. Let the Police know that we still have respect for them and let them show respect for the public from whom they would like to get respect.

I was disappointed recently to notice an act of discourtesy by some members of the Force to the Hon. Attorney-General. He perhaps was unaware of it, but I noticed it and I did not think it was the best thing to do. You cannot command respect, if you do not give respect.

In the matter now, of highways. Everybody has been talking about the pot holes and dropping into them, I suppose, at least in their speeches but nobody has really tried to give any suggestions or even tried to see how it is that there are pot holes in some areas where there need not be. I have noticed that usually, when a road is repaired or a new road has been done, that the water is then put in, or you find people developing their houses along the areas where the roads have been fixed and it is not always that these things are in order immediately after. You find at times that hydrants are exposed. I think that if the Waterworks can co-operate with the Ministry of Communications and Works or whatever and synchronise things that there would not be need for digging up the roads immediately after one has just been laid. We admit that there are problems. They are there at other times as well, they were there before 1976.

Another bit about the road which I have to make note of is the Springvale, Triopath area which of course, is impassable but I wonder if anyone has taken the time to discover the real reason for the sinking of the roads

up in the Triopath area. I remember that my father explained to me that in his day, as a boy, there were mines called manjack mines and as a result of the mining, there are some veins which were left and it would seem that where there is this large space, that obviously the ground would seek to drop and fill in that vacuum which had been created when the manjack had been moved.

We have to face the problem and try to get some sort of proper survey done so that we can get our roads on a good enough foundation. I have known this to be a problem for years. When I was going to school, many times one had to get out of the bus and walk up the hill until the bus could come up the hill.

This is not a problem of any one administration; this is an ongoing problem and we should try to tackle it in a responsible manner and try to get to the bottom of it and solve it once and for all. At the same time I would call for the strengthening of a few of those little bridges in that same area. They are vital. They may be small but they can cause a lot of headaches when you go over three or four and find you have to turn back because you can't get over the fifth one. You may be shocked to think that there are so many bridges to cross to get to St. Andrew, but there are.

I would like to return just briefly to education and perhaps we owe some thanks to the World Bank for the assistance which we have obviously been getting in that \$29 million educational project to suit our needs, and we are heartened at the fact that there is construction and reconstruction of primary schools. Many of our best brains in Barbados are people who came up through the primary schools and some went to the primary schools and most of us know the value of good primary schools, not the buildings alone; we do need the buildings and I think we should be placing great emphasis on primary schools and pre-primary, kindergartens and whatever, because we can only build if the foundation is good. The building can't stand if there is not a good foundation, so let us back on that foundation of knowledge.

I find that many of the students come to us with very superficial knowledge and then it is difficult to go on to higher heights. You cannot build if you do not really have the broad and strong foundation, so I am glad that we are paying some attention to primary schools and of course the schools are no good except you have good enough teachers too, and I hope that a lot of attention would be paid to the quality and quantity of teachers that are put in the primary schools. On that note I shall end. Thank you.

SENATOR MISS M. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I will not be long, but I have been sitting debating with myself whether I should speak at all, and I have come to the conclusion that I probably should because there is something that is biting me very much with reference to a section of the population which I think I should speak about.

The Estimates that we have before us relate to the Government's machinery for implementing its policies, and one of the policies which this Government has spoken about very loudly is the help for the small man; but Sir, I am really left to ask who is the small man in this society, because it seems to me that people who are responsible for schemes dealing with the small man have been dealing with so much literature from abroad that they have got their feet off the ground of Barbados, and when we begin talking about the small man in Barbados and talking about hundreds and thousands of dollars, those of us who still have our feet on the ground know that this is not the small man. These sort of figures confuse him and frighten them and send them back to keep quiet and say "no, I can't get into that sort of thing". So, Sir, it is on behalf of the small man that I want to draw attention to some of the things which are happening in the very organisations and institutions that have been set up to help him.

I would not wish to refer to people in terms that one used to refer to other things in society. One uses terms like "piowchy" and "grochim" if you want to get smaller than what is usually called small, but I would not hope to have to use that sort of terminology to get people in Barbados to understand who I am talking about when I talk about the small man.

Senator Truss made reference to the fact that in the IDC an officer has been appointed to look after the interests of the small man. He may be right, but, Sir, I would like to draw to the attention of the Leader of the Senate some of the problems which have been encountered by small people, and I mean really small, one attempting to deal with, let us say, the IDC. I could point out to him several incidents, for instance, of a group waiting on stock from June last year. In October this year the group actually paid in the money for stock; it has not reached Barbados yet. I could mention, Sir, that since June last year another group was looking for material which is normally stocked by IDC for them. The last week in November we received notice that an order had never been placed for that material.

Finally I mention in here that we had been forced to seek funds and I am very pleased to be able to inform the Senate that a commercial bank offered it with no collateral and security. I am very pleased to say the terms are very steep, 10%, but nevertheless we have been able to get the money to deposit to get the stuff we want. I

can only hope it will arrive because it should have come for last Christmas, and we can only hope now that it will come. I can mention, Sir, that there are times when small people have taken stuff to IDC amounting to \$200 or something like that and have had to wait six weeks to get payment. It is this sort of problem which we have in dealing with really small men that I am talking about. I am not talking about the man who is \$100,000 big. I am talking about the small man outside who deals in terms of \$200 and \$300 and who is depending on this \$20 and \$30 that she gets when the week comes to support as many as eight children. This is my sort of concern, and I do hope that somehow we will be able to get the policies implemented so that this size small man can have the sort of attention which he needs in order to cope with the pressures in society today.

Needless to say where these people have families and children there can be a great deal of hardship caused when plans to help them are not really implemented. Sir, I would not wish to go on in this vein. I think I have said enough to convince the Leader of the Senate that I hope he will speak to the relevant authorities. In fact I have myself served notice on the Manager of IDC that I intend to vote against the funds for IDC on this score, and I have told him the reason why.

I wish to thank Government for the increase they have seen possible to make for welfare services to individuals. I hope this will allow the grant to welfare applicants for support of a child to go above \$2.50 a week because I am sure we all know that \$2.50 a week cannot support a child in 1980, and I do hope that the increase which I see in the Estimates will allow some increase in this.

Mr. President, the time is late and I do not intend to detain the Senate. I have said what really I wanted to say. Thank you.

SIR MENCEA COX: Sir, much of what I intended to say on three of these portfolios was said by Senator Truss who gave quite a lot of figures on various aspects of the Government's plan for 1980, and also, much of what has taken place before that or during this particular year, but I must make a few remarks on various comments, made, first of all, by Senator Rocheford who is not in his place at present, the little criticism he made when he was addressing the Senate on the performance of the Agricultural Department. He referred to the St. Andrew area in which he said the cherry tress were drying up, he said there was no fencing around although some had been promised, and he also said that the fruit trees, people were stealing the fruits and all that sort of thing, and so on.

The Ministry has taken over that area from the ADC and intends to rent it in lots to persons in the area. He mentioned something about the cotton being ripe but there was no picking of cotton, but as I have

informed you you cannot get workers to pick the cotton and that is why the cotton is not picked. It was suggested that there is a machine with which this cotton could be picked, and from my information that machine is unsuited to harvest this cotton because it is said that the cotton must be perfectly clean and the machine cannot pick it in that manner.

However, much criticism had been made against the Agricultural Department by Senator Connell, and no doubt Senator Hunte criticised the Minister of Agriculture yesterday for the manner in which he had replied to Mr. Bethel of the Barbados Agricultural Association I do not know, Sir, the contents of it, although I have heard that it was suggested that an outside person be brought in, an expert, to advise on that matter. The Minister apparently was satisfied that he had an expert here who was quite capable of handling the situation, and I understand it was from there that the difference between these two parties arose. However, as far as I have gathered, that matter is now settled and I understand that the two men involved are friendly and everything of that sort is over.

Senator Connell on the last occasion raised that question in the Senate, and no doubt he convicted and condemned the Minister for the manner in which he had replied to what Mr. Bethel had said. I have no comment to make on that, all I would like to say is that each person retorted, or whatever you may call it, to criticism in his own way. I do not know whether he was justified or not to reply as he did, but as I said, that is all finished. But to say that nothing or very little is done for agriculture is not true at all, as a matter of fact, agriculture got a blow many years ago from the former Prime Minister of this country. As a matter of fact, it was felt that it would take many years to recover from the blow given to it by the former Prime Minister. Not only did he say that he hoped that he would not see a cane blade in this country again, but he encouraged the people not to work the land, even in 1976, in the last election, if I remember correctly, when the Labour Party was appealing to the people to pay some interest in agriculture he campaigned against us and said that we were putting people back into the field, and all that sort of thing, and tried to deter people from concentrating on agriculture. It is the Barbados Labour Party that has tried its best to bring back agriculture in this country, and I do not think the Senator is justified in the criticisms which he has made against the Barbados Labour Party since it was his party that tried to kill agriculture.

Now, I have seen here some improvements made in the various areas as far as agriculture is concerned. The Minister has worked hard in trying to improve development of citrus and things of that sort in the

parish of St. Andrew, he has tried to encourage the production of honey in that area and many other aspects of development. Quite a lot of land has been brought back into cultivation in St. Andrew, and we know very well that over 241 acres, I think, have been brought back into production in St. John, at Bath Plantation, and all in all that area in Bath in St. John has produced something like 43 tons to the acre since the Minister has worked on that. The Government has tried its best at every angle to improve the breeding of animal stock. As you know, the black belly sheep, pig breeding and things of that sort, it is pointed out that the people who have sow pigs have had to pay something like \$40 to get them taken to the boars, and they have today a system of insemination. They have a system of insemination for those sow pigs which is a big saving for those persons who have these pigs.

There is a lot of drainage in St. Andrew; bridges have been built to accommodate people in that area and quite a lot of agricultural activity along with the conservation of land in St. Andrew is going on. So it is not true to say that there is no emphasis or that the Government is doing nothing for agriculture.

Now when Senator Connell was speaking and pointing out that there were reductions in various parts of the Estimates for 1980 and he referred to Livestock Research and Development he never mentioned the amount under that Head. As far as I have here, last year it was \$116,850 under that head Livestock. That head is increased this year to \$188,645; that is an increase of \$71,795 on that particular item. And under sub Head 16, Animal Nutrition, that item has been increased from \$182,310 in 1979 to \$200,842 in 1980, an increase of \$18,532. And in these Estimates there are various increases which were not mentioned by Senator Connell; he just pointed out where there were decreases under the various Heads but nothing was mentioned about increases. I am satisfied that under the circumstances the Government has no doubt done its best and is doing its best in every field of endeavour insofar as the promotion of agriculture is concerned. It has been pointed out and we are still aware of the fact that quite a lot of food is produced in this country as against the amount that was produced at the time the Democratic Labour Party was in office. As Senator Truss has already mentioned, quite a lot of foodstuff was imported from the various islands — potatoes, yams and eddoes — and sold at seventy five cents a pound. We have not had that recently. A year after the BLP got into office they tried to bring back into cultivation as much food crops as possible. I remember that the former Labour Party government insisted that land owners and estates plant at least 18% of their land in food crops. But soon after the DLP government took over the

administration of the country they abandoned that policy and the plantations were not compelled to grow food as in our time. I mention that to show that the Barbados Labour Party Government was always interested in trying to provide as much food as possible for the inhabitants of the country as against the Democratic Labour Party's performance on that issue.

Mr. President, mention has been made about housing by the hon. Senator also. I have here in my hand notes showing the amount of houses that were built by the former government during its fifteen years in office. From 1961 to 1966 there were 651 houses built and from 1961 to 1976 there were 2,538 houses built. Now the Barbados Labour Party Government from September, 1976 to December 1979 have built 1,071 houses, so one can very well see how many houses were built in three years compared with the number built in fifteen years of Democratic Labour Party Government. I would say this — and I saw it on TV and listened to Mr. Edwards — a former Minister of Housing. I notice that the hon. Senator was just trying to minimize the situation as it stands with the Hanschell Commission but I do not believe the Hanschell Commission was given all the facts concerning that decision. Mr. Edwards in a statement made said that when he took up the Ministry fifteen years before, houses of a particular type were costing \$1,500. Well, Mr. President, that fifteen years as he mentioned, if he took it up in 1966 would have carried it back to the days when the Labour Party was in office and at that time I would have been responsible for Communications, Works and Housing. I had to say that at no time did any of the houses to which he referred as costing \$1,500 fifteen years before he took up office cost as much as \$900. Indeed I am sure they did not cost more than \$800. As a matter of fact, I discovered some happenings which were reported to me by the Acting manager when the late Mr. Haynes was on holiday.

I had to stop someone from building and selling those houses of the Housing Authority and even after I left that Ministry which was the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Development, Tourism and Labour I had a case where a Canteneer because I heard some reference made of canteneers sleeping on the floors with the Policemen and all of that sort of things which I have never believed.

He had to go and borrow money to build houses for these people and lend them and all of that sort of nonsense. As a matter of fact, I wonder what happened to the Government whether Government was no longer putting money into the Housing Authority, subsidising it if necessary, to meet the requirements of the Civil Servants in particular but I remember when the Government, of which I was a member, under-wrote the Civil Servants' loan at the Barclay's Bank.

In other words, you could get as much as you wanted to build a house or to buy a house of property or whatever it was and the Government under-wrote the amount at Barclay's Bank. There was a large amount that the Government was prepared to underwrite so that the Civil Servants could get money to buy or build as the case may be. I do not know if after we were pushed out if there was a change.

I remember, Sir, when I was in Trade then, a Canteneer came to me and he wanted to buy a house from a builder in My Lord's Hill but the second man who was looking after the Civil Servants he wanted this type to buy, an old gable house that was actually on the lean from another person for \$800 and I arranged with the man and I got the overseer and the man and I took them to both houses on the Sunday morning and one was a brand new house. All it wanted was the windows put in and that was for \$800 and this old gable house, actually leaning, belonging to a man at Eagle Hall and the man wanted him to take his old house. Both the overseer and I agreed with the man that the new house was the house to take and it was only for \$800.

The next day I got in touch with Mr. Spencer who was the top man, a very honest man and I told him what was happening. He went and looked at both houses, he came back and telephoned me at my office and he told me that he apologised for what his underman had done or intended doing. He told me to send a man to him and he would lend him the money to buy that house. It was bought for \$800 and that was somewhere in 1959.

What I am trying to say is that we built houses then at the Housing Board. I stopped some of those persons who used to sell to the Board and then the Board would pass them on to the workers. I had the Department building those houses and the Department built those houses at \$700 each, the houses to which Mr. Edwards was referring to the other night.

I did it for two reasons. The first is that we would give the people a better house and secondly that we would be employing persons who would be steadily employed and who would qualify after years for pension and gratuity and that was the position.

I am sorry we have to stop at this point but that will give me a better opportunity to speak on it again.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: There are certain Union problems which we have to observe. I propose at this stage to suspend the Sitting until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.
Senator Sir Mencea Cox.

SENATOR SIR MENCEA COX: Mr. Deputy President, when the Session ended last night I was speaking on the question of Housing. I think it is well known to many people in this country that the Housing Department, like some other Departments, is in a difficult position in so far as the engagement of workmen such as masons and carpenters to carry out the work is concerned, and this is as a result of the building industry which has been multiplied considerably since the present Government took over. The Housing Authority is also in the difficult position due to the fact that there is a substantial amount of money owing to the Department which the Department finds very difficult to collect and may in the process of time have to write it off.

If I may just go back to some years before, during the campaign in 1956 and also 1961, the Democratic Labour Party told the people who were occupying those houses at the time that they did not have to pay any rent, that the houses were theirs, and they even went as far as to refer to those three funds which were given to the sugar producers; they went as far as to tell them that the Rehabilitation Fund was given to the factory owners and so, and that the Price Stabilisation Fund was also given to these large bodies, and so the Labour Welfare Fund was also given to the labour people and therefore they should not and would not have to pay for these houses. I remember that very well in the 1956 campaign as well as in 1961, so the people believed then that they did not have to pay and they felt that we were only making them pay, but we pointed out on several occasions that while that money was given to the workers and we were prepared to provide houses for them, if you divide the amount that was given between the number of workers that would qualify for these amounts there could be no money to build any houses at all, not even a 2' x 2', let us say, in some cases, and we pointed out that we would have a revolving fund. As a matter of fact, this was well drawn up by the former Attorney General, Mr. Wylie, who discussed the matter with me, because I was responsible for Housing and Communications and Works at the time, and we made it possible for the Housing Authority which was instituted in 1956 — before that it was what was called the Housing Board — and we made it possible to give them a certain amount of money to build these houses and it would work as a revolving fund so that it would not be necessary every year to come to the Legislature to get amounts to feed them, keep them going all along, and so these houses were to be built with the understanding that the people would rent them, and they were given at a very low cost.

The rent was smaller, and also the workers were given loans. The first year, if I remember correctly, there

was no interest and then after the first year it was something like 1% interest, and that was the position, but as I said, the DLP — and I must say some of the members of the other party — gave them the impression that they would never have to pay for these houses, and therefore a lot of the people did not pay. Some paid, some ignored them and paid, and that is one of the reasons too which is the cause of the Government not being able to carry through as many houses as projected. But to my mind, Sir, if you look at the performance — and in those days when it was not that labour problem, so to speak, and if they could only build 2,538 houses in 15 years and the Barbados Labour Party in three and a half years could build 1,071, you can see the vast improvement made by the Barbados Labour Party's performance as against the performance of the Democratic Labour Party.

Now, the Hon. Senator Connell — I am sorry he is not in his seat — but he made an attack upon the Chairman of the Commission which investigated the Housing Corporation. I was disappointed because I think that the people of this country hold in high esteem the legal luminary in the person of Mr. Hanschell, and he also had a civil servant against whom there is absolutely no ill mark or bad mark, Mr. McConney, who has been in the Service and reached a high position, and to my mind it was a Commission of very high standing. To talk about it being a political question, I do not know of either of those members who is a member of the party to which I belong, I have never heard of it, and indeed I do not think so, I do not feel so, I would almost say it is not true. But even in reading part of the Commission's report I think they were fairly mild on those persons whom they actually indicated, because for years I have been getting information, and quite a lot, on the administration of that Housing Corporation, having been in contact with it and being the first Minister responsible, and even when it was not ministerial Government I was a member of the Housing Board, and people will pass on information to me.

Two lorries which were purchased by the Melbourne Company belonged to the Housing Authority, and those lorries as far as I gather were sent to the Courtesy Garage and repaired, and after they were repaired they were purchased by the Melbourne Company, purchased for less than what the repairs had cost, and I would say very frankly that it is a bad policy for a Minister to take the opportunity to use his office to get around these types of things. On the other hand, as far as I know, Sir, and I have a man living on a spot just behind me, and he was given this house without it being finished and had to finish it himself.

He paid every cent for it, and as I said last night, when it comes to civil servants I cannot see for the life of me how a Minister would have to go to a bank to borrow

money to put into a Housing Corporation to allow government workers to get a loan on a house. It just doesn't fit in; it cannot be right, when, as I said last night, the former government made it possible for Government employees to get loans from Barclays Bank to build as well as purchase homes and things of that sort. So we have to dismiss that; that is a glaring example of untruth, to be mild. There has been no doubt a lot of squander over there. There has been from time to time, as we will see and as I heard before, quite a lot of misbehaviour, if I may put it that way. Take for example the Chairman of the Housing Authority who as the Returning Officer for a particular area — St. Michael North West I believe — goes around the area and has people's houses in a particular area repaired and is going to canvass morning and night in the same area and then sit down there when election day comes and manipulate the position of being in charge of the poll. And obviously if the Minister of Housing is a candidate in the particular area, he will use his influence with the people to get them to vote his way. It was done for that purpose and that is a disgraceful bit of behaviour when he was Chairman of the Housing Authority. This was not told to me yesterday, I knew this ever since, long before the election.

I am sorry no member of the Opposition is here to hear what used to go on in selecting persons for houses. If you did not belong to the Democratic Labour Party you would not get a house. I am sure Sir, that when one looks at the report seriously one has got to come to the conclusion that all is not well, that the Ministers took advantage of the situation, misused their authority for their own aggrandisement and that is why today we are getting so much criticism around, because they have lost too much material gains and advantages which they had when they were in office. As far as the Barbados Labour Party is concerned, I have said this from the house top and will repeat it that I operated on the principles attributed to Caesar's wife; they were not only honest, as professor Sir Ivor Jennings said in his treatise on Cabinet Government, but they appeared to be honest at all times and I would like to say that even if the tailenders wanted to be dishonest they couldn't take the chance, and that is why I always say that the fish stinks at the head first.

Now, Sir, as far as the question of roads and pot holes is concerned, that they are complaining of, I have been driving all around but have not seen any pots on any holes. But if there are pot holes, this Government is not the first government under which pot holes were discovered in the roads. I saw many of these holes in many roads many years ago and I am sure all of us have. But what we have to take into consideration is the fact that the vehicles that are being used on the roads today, the roads were never built to carry these vehicles. I remember when we had Captain Barnes here as Director of Highways and Transport he said that we needed a load loader to take rollers to various parts of the country. And

more particularly since the construction industry has been boosted to that extent, more and more heavy vehicles are being used on the roads and obviously the roads are bound to wear more and more. As you go through the Island you can see lorries of all sorts and other transport vehicles carrying all sorts of things all over the Island and the roads cannot stand up to this, plus the fact, as was revealed already, that the material used today on the roads is not the type of material you used to get before. I must say that this is the case in almost anything you have to purchase or deal with today. Today is more a matter of getting the money quickly and getting it turned over quickly; I think a lot of people see and know this. We have been saddled with poor material through the contract which was made by the Mobil people who I understand have been giving us some inferior material.

There is another factor also, and that is the question of the workers. Workers today are not like they were before. The majority of workers today just drag their feet and the work is not as substantially done as before.

The work is not as substantially done as it used to be before and so, taking those factors into consideration, I do not think that the Government can do much better than what is being done at the time. We have an unfortunate experience in Barbados as far as the Sugar Industry is concerned. You cannot get people to work in the Sugar Industry now as you could before.

I remember in the late 50's, I think it was, when we used to send people to St. Kitts to cut canes down there after our crop was finished and they were only too glad to go and work and cut canes down there. Nowadays, they do not want to cut canes at home much less to go to St. Kitts and I still maintain that although it is said and no doubt the unemployment situation has lowered considerably I am not satisfied that the unemployable situation has been reduced to any great number.

I can still see a lot of people who are not prepared to work around the areas all day and all night and that is really something that is preventing the development of the various works from going ahead as swiftly as is desired.

As I said last night, when you get the Head of a Government telling people do not go into the field, we are taking you out of the field and yet somebody else looking like yourself and even sometimes not like yourself has to provide food for you well then you have to purchase that food at the price the person is prepared to sell it for.

Agriculture, no doubt, is the main stay of development in Barbados and has been for many years and will

continue to be because if at anytime anything goes wrong in World conditions barring a War, what are you going to do. You would not have a Tourist Season as we experienced from 1939 to 1947 or so and therefore you have to concentrate on what you have here.

I have said on several occasion and I repeat that we may play that we are better than earth but I have always said that we can never be better than the thing out of which we were made and into which we will go. We can never be better. Whenever the time comes and we pass away after a certain number of years nobody can go there and say this is somebody. It is just dirt and to pretend to be greater than that out of which you were made is just false pride.

It has to be understood that every person in every walk of life has a part to play and should be respected as a good human being or a decent human being irrespective of what work the individual performs. A sweeper or a scavenger, as he is called some people will look at him in scorn and as subhuman, so to speak, but indeed he is not because the day that he decides or the years that he decides not to clean you up, well then you will be in trouble and you will have to clean whatever it is yourself. That is the position.

What has to be done, those workers in those areas, especially in the field and people who clean the streets and so on, they have to be up-graded and they have to be looked upon as humans similar to any other. That is as far as that is concerned, Sir.

I do not think there was any other points raised under Communications and Works. There was some question on mini-buses and that sort of thing. I understand that as far as the aspect of it is concerned, that the Government intends to give mini-buses — as a matter of fact, that was made clear by the Prime Minister in his last Budget Speech that he is prepared to give permits to those persons apparently who have not got and perhaps can pass the test and that he regards the contribution that those mini-buses make as important and very helpful in moving people day in and day out.

I, myself, highly appreciates the contribution that they make, the alleys into which they go and bring out and carry people, rain fall or whatever and carry out their baskets and this sort of thing is very very helpful to those people. I think we all appreciate the transportation service that they give to the community.

As far as Agriculture is concerned, I am sure that very much more is done nowadays for that Department than has been done for the last 15 years. Looking at the production of certain foods, I see here in 1974 we

had 11,250,000 lbs of yams. In 1975 you had 14,573,000. In 1976 there were 12,750,000. In 1979 there were 13 million but in 1978 you had 18,800,000.

As I said already, that enables you to purchase those things very much cheaper than if you had to purchase them when they were imported. Carrots, cabbages went from 1,725,000 in 1974 to 4 million in 1978. Poultry went from 5 million in 1974 to 9,395,181 in 1978 and Milk from 12,909,000 gallons went to 15,824,000 and Eggs went from 2,500,000 to 4 million in 1978.

There are a lot of figures here but I will not call all. One can very well see that there has been a great deal of improvement of what Senator Connell say is non sugar agriculture.

Some question was raised about the Barbados Marketing Corporation and in that, it has also been put to us, something about the dismissal of persons at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Mr. President, it is a matter which I do not think that many of us are fully aware of and therefore, it might be difficult to say exactly what has been happening, but I am convinced that it started on the wrong foot. It started out with a retired merchant who decided to go into voluntary liquidation, I understand that he was retired at the time. He was made Chairman of this Board. I have nothing against the gentleman. He has, no doubt, like other oldsters, made a contribution but I think that at that time, having given up his own and become tired of this sort of thing, I did not think he could be a good initiator of a scheme as important as this scheme but after that, there have been many persons who had to be pushed out of that Department because they lacked that sense of probity which is absolutely essential, if the best is to be produced from any source whatsoever.

I remember one man who was promoted, he was a Senator I think. He was Chairman or Manager and he had to get out of it. Quite a few persons who were in charge of that Department had to leave, no doubt fully stained with the impure blood of that Department. Mr. Deputy President, I have had quite a lot of information about that Department. Things were stolen at night. Keys were available to people. Lorries were able to go in and collect a lot of things, whisky, brandy, all sorts of things, and I was told of persons who used to receive these things. It was the normal thing as no doubt, some people believe today, that this thing is no real serious thing to carry away as much as you can and to deprive the downtrodden persons of the country from getting a proper living when millions of dollars are carried away and the person is about to get through and get by. The people at the bottom are going to suffer, they remain where they are. Like the people in Cats Castle, so everything should be. Very little was done for them by their

representative at the time and they are still living in shacks and so on. I hope soon to see a clean up of that area.

The Barbados Labour Party has taken over and I am satisfied from what I have seen and heard that it is carrying on in a similar way to the former Labour Party and probity is the hallmark of this Party. I am glad that it is like that. Having a new Manager and a new set of people, standards will be laid down and are laid down which will no doubt, be resented by certain groups.

When you hear a report like the one that was just made referring to a red herring across the trail, one can very well understand the mentality of a person saying a thing like that. Very serious charges are made. It means nothing to those persons when thousands of people beg you to try to get somewhere for them to live. That particular person or persons live in mansions, have more than they want and these people must remain. They are the people who are pretending to the same people that they love them so much and want to lift them to the skies, while at the same time, the things that would lift them to the skies are being kept and held by them.

I know Sir, that estates were purchased from the time this no cane business started. Estate owners found it difficult to get people to work and they had to start and sell the estates and who bought them? I know and a lot of people know who bought them. Only last year, somebody approached me and told me they wanted to buy two acres of land. A young man who loves Agriculture. He is a Mason but he loves Agriculture and he wants land to work. He works a piece of land at present, but he wants his own. He approached a certain person who is the agent for land belonging to some members of the Democratic Labour Party and that man asked \$9,000 an acre. He wants two acres and he is to pay \$18,000 for that land. He is trying his best, but recently, he told me that he has not yet succeeded in getting the amount of money which he has to deposit. Imagine, in an area, not far from here, a piece of land costs \$9,000 an acre and it belongs to people who love poor people so much and want to see so much done for them. I have no reason to doubt the chap at all.

As far as the Barbados Marketing Corporation is concerned, changes had to be made.

When you take over and you go to live in a place or something like that, the first thing one does is to have it cleaned, and that applies also to business. I cannot say that the Chairman is wrong for trying to clean it. As a matter of fact, I have a lot of confidence in him. He impresses me as a clean person, an honest person, a person with a strong sense of probity, and I cannot say anything against him. I knew the case with Mr. Richards which I regret because I knew Mr. Richards for some time and his

parents and so who no doubt used to subscribe to our political philosophy for many years.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Cox, may I ask for a moment for the coming of the President?

Mr. Deputy President left the Chair and Mr. President took the Chair.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I apologise for being late. I was unavoidably detained.

I believe Senator Cox was on the floor.

SENATOR THE HON. SIR M. E. COX: Yes, Sir. I was saying that I understand that the gentleman Mr. Richards being annoyed about some decision the Chairman had taken decided to resign and it was accepted that he had resigned. That is all I can say about that. But I must confess that some confidence has to be put in the Chairman and not really to regard him as a tyrant as was said by Senator Connell last night.

There is a memorandum here from the Barbados Marketing Corporation. This is something which perhaps the Senate should know. \$155,000 Contingency under Head 74. It says this contingency amount was arrived at by using 10%. A crude measure of 10% was used in determining the possible overruns on the capital estimates included for this project. Overruns arising out of inflation, price escalation over the period the period elapsing between when certain equipment is selected, and when procurement will begin, or overruns necessitating additional expense in other areas of the project such as professional fees, will affect the budget. Experience has proven that 10% of the total cost is a realistic figure to use against such eventualities. The total capital works on this project during the next financial year is estimated to be \$1.5 million.

Mr. President, I think I have said sufficient to indicate both with the agricultural question as well as the transport and of housing the Government's position. I am satisfied that in the existing circumstances the Government is doing its utmost and no doubt there are many people in this community despite the propaganda used against it, there are many intelligent sensible people who realise the vast improvement in every sector that this country has made since this Government took office from September 1976. They realise also the strength and character of those persons in whose hands the destinies of the people lie, but more particularly the Prime Minister who has had no doubt a very rough time from the time he took over until now, and to see the courage, the fortitude and everything with which he is carrying on. I am satisfied from his performance that he has brought this country out of bankruptcy because I remember well when the question of paying your taxes by such and such

a time and you will get a rebate came up. Obviously it was for current expenditure; you wanted that money to pay your civil servants and so right through the line, and I have been reliably informed that at one time the Transport Board went down to Barclays Bank on a Thursday, I do not know if it is true, but I have been informed that, to draw money and had to go back without, and the people were not paid until the Tuesday. This country from what I have seen since I happened to be a member of this Honourable body was bankrupt and the present Government has pulled it out of that position and has today placed it on a sound footing which is appreciated and praised by many people including Senator MacKenzie, and I am sure that a lot of people in this country are thankful for the position which we have reached, and I think all of us should be thankful to the Prime Minister and his Deputy and all those who have made the economy and financial position what it is today.

SENATOR THE HON. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, picking up from where Senator Cox left off, I should merely note briefly the fact that once this year we have a surplus on current account, and it is not necessary for the Government any longer to borrow money in order to pay the wages of its servants. Those nightmarish days are gone forever as long as we have administrators of the calibre of those which we now have in the seat of Government. But the spectacle of a surplus presented my good friend Senator Hewitt with an irresistible temptation because he could not restrain himself from making his usual pitch for tax relief which he is fully entitled to do and perhaps justified. I had no intention of responding to the Senator whose thoughtful and thought-provoking speeches I much admire, but since he chose to interject me into the debate by referring to me by name, it is going to be necessary for me to reflect critically upon....

SENATOR K. R. HEWITT: On a point of order, Sir, I think the record would not reflect that I ever did mention Senator Blackman by name.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is not my reflection that Senator Blackman's name was called, I do not know whether there was some inference which induced Senator Blackman to assume that it was to him you were referring.

SENATOR THE HON. D. G. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, my recollection is different from yours, but even if — and I do not concede the point — but even if he did not mention me by name his reference to me was patently clear, and while disclaiming loudly, as he is prone to do, that he is not a politician, he chose to have recourse to an ingenious device used by politicians by mistranslating a statement which I made last year. He claimed that I said that all indirect taxation is regressive. I said that indirect taxation is basically regressive, and I am a man who chooses my words with meticulous care,

and I said that it is basically regressive, because when one begins to comment on indirect taxation or taxation of any kind it is necessary to proceed from a set of assumptions. Indirect taxation, as I conceive it, is not simply an instrument for raising money as some people seem to think. If it is used simply as a matter for raising money it may or may not have regressive effects, depending upon what the desired objective is. It may also be that in addition to raising money the aim of the policy maker is to change consumption patterns for socially desirable reasons, but one must always examine the assumptions on which a policy proposal is predicated before rushing to make statements, and that is why I used the important qualification "basically".

Moreover, the term "regressive" in respect of taxation was first used by a social scientist, an American called Thorstein Veblen, and the term "regressive" as it has subsequently been used always relates to the relative benefits or disadvantages that accrue to the different social layers as a result of a tax. This is always the context, the historical context in which we use the word "regression", so these silly acts of verbal prestidigitation must not be used slightly in order to distort what I am saying. I think it is necessary for me to put the record straight and to refer again to the question of taxation and the philosophy of taxation when the time comes to discuss the amendment to the Income Tax Act.

Mr. President, it has been said by my able friend, Senator Connell, who regretfully is not here, that the arguments of the Government relate to growth and they preoccupy themselves with growth and ignore humanistic concerns. I will refute this claim, Mr. President, I will refute it when I begin to deal with certain questions that relate to the Ministry of Community Services, but before I embark upon my refutation it is necessary to point out this. We must examine questions conceptually before we rush to draw conclusions from empirical generalisations. The analytical tools bequeathed to us by social scientists past and present require that an exposition with respect to the economy of the country be presented in this way. There is no way in which growth or movement within the economy can be described except in quantitative terms. This is the type of analytical tool that social scientists have bequeathed to us.

Francis Bacon in the 17th century, picking up from Plato in the 3rd century B.C., resurrected the doctrine that one begins to think seriously only when one enters into the domain of mathematics, and when Bacon in a reaction to speculative satisfaction in the mediaeval period asked for the use of the scientific method by examining things, quantifying them and so forth, he started an approach and a method of analysing reality which has become very complicated and very sophisticated in the 20th century.

I myself must not be taken to be arguing that the method of quantification does not have its limitations. The mad quest for mathematisation tends to overlook the qualitative aspects of human life, and I do not believe for a single moment that the quantitative should be used to the exclusion of the qualitative. But is the quantitative necessarily different from the qualitative? Take the case of man who is mal-nourished. A mal-nourished man may improve in health simply because he is given more food. You can measure the quantity of the food that he is given, and yet the quality of his physical condition improves, and so in the area of Government and economics the development and improvement of the qualitative presupposes the exception of the quantitative, and there is no way in which one is going to present an argument about economy of a country except by using quantitative analyses.

It is for persons like himself who will begin to discuss the implications of these policies from a sociological perspective who will add the qualitative dimension to this discussion. I think it is necessary for me to outline this conceptual frame in order to answer what Senator Connell said and at the same time locate my point of departure from what was said earlier. Now what about this qualitative aspect that I am talking about? The point Senator Connell made that I take is that growth cannot be identified with development. The point he did not make is that growth is an indispensable concomitant to development; before we can have meaningful development we must have growth, although development does not necessarily accompany growth. But I am going to show that development is accompanying growth in this case, as a result of conscious policies of this Government. I will ask you therefore to accompany me on a tour of the Ministry of Labour and Community Services.

Not so long ago, a few months after a general elections in 1976, an ex-Leader of Government went on television in Barbados and with tears in his eyes and with a wringing of his hands he said words to the effect that the young people of Barbados had done him in and that had he been more sensitive to the needs of the young people of this country he would really have embarked on a programme which would deal with the problem of unemployment and the alienation of the young people. To the unthinking and the purblind such a proposal might well have political attraction but it is a programme which is the very antithesis of social development. Which of us in this hallowed Chamber today would want any of our sons or daughters, our sisters and brothers or any relative to be converted into a parasite on the body politic to receive a pittance of \$30 a week indefinitely? The doctrine of welfarism which I will show we have radically departed from is the very antithesis of development. Therefore it rings passing strange on the ears to hear a spokesman of that

political organization whose very stock-in-trade was one of a commitment to a static welfarism castigating a government that is committed to and is implementing programmes of social development. So instead of looking at the thousands of young men and women in this country and saying "these young people are restless, they have dreadlocks, they are committing crimes therefore it is incumbent upon us to pacify them by giving them \$30 a week", we made an analysis of the problems which seemed to have produced the alienation among the young people and we came to the conclusion that unemployment was the genesis of alienation of young people in this country. We therefore embarked upon a training programme because we recognized that most of this unemployment was caused by the absence of skills and not because of any congenital perversity on the part of young people. We are embarking on a two faceted programme one, a highly intensive short term programme to get as many young people in the labour market and the other a longer term programme which has as its aim the revamping of the apprenticeship system in Barbados. I do not want to tire you with the details of this particular programme as I have talked about it before. It will suffice to say that we have trained 230 persons, 225 of whom have entered the labour market in Barbados and five have entered the labour market abroad. We have extended the number of centres at which these programmes are held from three to eight and they are currently 150 young people in training, and when the crop comes to an end we expect that number to be doubled. The Training Board, which is the vehicle which will be responsible for the revamping and modernizing of the apprenticeship system, has been launched and we hope that by the end of the year we will have a thousand young people in apprenticeship. At the same time we have set up a particular section within the Ministry of Community Development with a view to making a special study of the problem of rastafarianism and the existence of other esoteric cults in Barbados. We have been promised funds for the establishment of youth centres by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. We have revitalized community centres which had degenerated into places where people had sex and which were used as public latrines and which had generally fallen into a state of decay. Most of these centres have been built in the 1950s and my colleague Senator Cox had a hand in conceiving the new concept of community development at that time. Unfortunately, during the fifteen barren years of social development in this country or fifteen years of welfarism under the Democratic Labour Party regime, the community centres never fulfilled the promise of their architects. It is different now. We have established a Children's Theatre at the Rock Hall Community Centre in St. Thomas, and very shortly viewers of television in this country will be seeing our young people perform. These community centres will be the instruments of development of mass culture as

distinct from the institutional culture for which the Ministry of Education and Culture has responsibility. This Community Development Division is responsible for mass culture, and this can best be done by us because we have the human resources to do it as well as the contact with people in the field.

The Ministry of Agriculture is better suited for dealing with Institutional Culture and now I am on the question of culture, somebody asked what the Ministry of Culture was doing. I cannot quite remember who it is but I wondered whether that person, if they are interested in Culture at all and is not simply scoring a political point has been in Barbados at all.

Prior to 1976, the Vote for the Ministry of Culture or Cultural Activities was almost zero and that is not an over statement, Mr. President. It was almost zero and now we have in the 1980/81 Estimates on Current Account a sum of \$464,254 voted. Such a person could not be making a serious point at all.

That is not all, Mr. President, \$1 million is voted for the renovation of theatres and other buildings which will be used during the celebrations of the CARIFESTA Festival. Eight hundred thousand dollars, Mr. President, is voted under Capital Expenditure under Ministry of Culture for the construction of a National Auditorium which will be an Art's Centre. Then, can you imagine one of the Honourable Senators was so bold faced and brazen as to want to come in here and pose a question as to what the Government is doing. I would hate to think that Senators come into this Honourable Chamber and insult you, our Honourable President, by not doing their homework and reading the Estimates before they come into this place.

Not only that, there is another \$1 million for the establishment of a Festival Village and other venues. Now these things are not going to vanish like the grin of a Cheshire Cat. There are not unsubstantial things. Once the people from the other Islands of the Caribbean who participate in CARIFESTA have left, they would constitute expensive infra-structural equipment for the continuation of the development of our culture. These figures suffice to dismiss the foolish claim that nothing is being done in the domain of Culture. Another spokesman asked what has been done to develop interest in the cultural heritage of Barbados. Again, I do not believe that that spokesman could have been unaware of the indefatigable energies extended by the Ministry of Culture in Barbados in having UNESCO host a Conference on the Black Diaspora of Barbados.

It is one of the most significant vents in this hemisphere as so far as the development of African Culture in the Caribbean is concerned. I am quite sure that that spokesman is either dishonest or monumentally ignorant if he is not aware of the fact that this very important

event took place in November last year in Barbados under the auspices of UNESCO.

I will get back to the Ministry of Community Services, Mr. President. A reference was made to old people. It was claimed that the Government should do more for old people but what are the facts, Mr. President? The facts are that when the Barbados Labour Party went out of Office in 1961, old aged pensioners were receiving \$1.80 a week. When the Barbados Labour Party came back into power in September, 1976, fifteen years later, they were receiving \$13 a week. If my arithmetic is correct, Mr. President, that is \$11.20 over 15 long barren years, over a period when there was raging inflation, \$11.20.

In 1977 the Barbados Labour Party Government increased it from \$13 to \$16. There are still Democratic Labour Party spokesmen who are in such a serious psychological maladjusted situation who claim that Mr. Barrow introduced it. If I am not mistaken, in 1977 Mr. Barrow no longer had any responsibility for the Government of this country and yet we are told that he was responsible for the increase. Little did I suspect, Mr. President, that the trauma of the defeat was so great as to render so many people clinically insane. It is a very serious thing when leading spokesmen of a Political Organisation do not know whether they are in power or are not.

So in 1977, the Barbados Labour Party Government increased old aged pensions from \$13 to \$16 and again last year, Mr. President, from \$16 to \$20 and I do not know what will happen but something is going to happen but I suspect that whatever happens will put us well in excess of the \$11.20 increase that old aged people got for 15 long years. It will be done within five years.

That is not all, Mr. President. Those who have the temerity to come in here and ask us what is being done for old people, may I mention that the age of eligibility was reduced from 68 to 65 bringing another 2,000 old people on the roll. You will have heard, Mr. President, some irresponsible elements walking around saying that the Pension Cards of old people have been taken away. Yes, in 1977, seven hundred people no longer received the old aged pensions because it was found that they were getting the National Insurance Pension as well.

As the Law which was enacted by the Democratic Labour Party prescribes, persons cannot get two of those pensions. But what you have not been told is that in every case the Ministry of Community Services has taken upon itself to ensure that people who have suffered a loss of income as a result of the withdrawal of the old aged pensions, receive the equivalent of assistance in time so that they would not suffer a great hardship as a result of any loss of income.

That is not all. There were more people who became eligible for old age pensions. In the past, if a husband were getting an old age pension, his wife was thereby rendered ineligible for getting old age pension. In furtherance of a policy of giving equal treatment to women, we have introduced a system whereby the wife is evaluated of her own right, so that we have a situation where married couples who are eligible in every other respect get old age pension. What this means in concrete terms, Mr. President, is this, that in one household in 1976, before the Democratic Labour Party was unceremoniously thrown out, a household was getting thirteen dollars a week, a household with a husband and wife who were of pensionable age were getting thirteen dollars a week, or in other words, \$52 a month. That household is now getting \$40 a week, or \$160 a month. These are the facts Mr. President. Not only that, there are yet more people who became entitled to old age pension in early 1978.

In the past, blind people got old age pensions in Barbados when they reached the age of 25. The first thing that the Barbados Labour Party did was to extend it by adding another category of disabled people, deaf mutes now get the old age pension and not only that, the Barbados Labour Party Government has reduced the minimum age of eligibility from 25 to 18. These are the facts as distinct from the lies. What this means is that a net increase of some 4,000 people has been added to the rolls of recipients of old age pension.

We do not believe that it is arguable that giving a man more money necessarily develops that person. So what have we done with respect to the aged in our Social Development Plan? Rejecting the hypophysis which informed the decision of the previous regime with respect to the aged, we came to the conclusion that old people were human beings, they had to be re-integrated into the social mainstream and as long as they are alive, they had to be treated like human beings. The society owed them a debt for the contributions they made during their most energetic years. What have we done? We recognised that housing was a serious problem for the elderly. We found there bequeathed to us, by the previous administration, a house repair programme. We call it a Housing Welfare Programme. I do not want to deal with the scandal that is contained in the Hanschell Report on the House Repair Programme. I do not want to tell you how beastly those charged with the responsibility of seeing that the aged did not get wet when it rained treated them. I do not want to tell you, Mr. President, how they deflected funds into their own pockets. The whole business is too nauseating for me to talk about at any great length.

What is significant, is that the concept of development was totally absent in the conception of the programme. Indeed the programme was conceived as a political gimmick. You pushed a few boards on to an old person's home and

you do not paint it. You do the job anyhow and then you take that person at Election time and say, remember, we put a board on your house and therefore, you must give us a vote in return. This programme started in 1969 Mr. President, and it was carried out under the Ministry of Housing. When the Barbados Labour Party came into power, we found that they had constructed about 110 houses in seven years for the elderly. Millions of dollars lost and have gone, God only knows where. It was then put under the Ministry of Community Services where it rightly belongs because we deal with problems relating to the aged. In a period of 16 month, Mr. President, the Ministry of Community Services constructed 116 houses, more than the Democratic Labour Party did in seven years.

We do not know how many houses they repaired because no records have been vouchsafed to us in the chaos that existed during the Edwards regime. Records were either not kept, or if they were kept, they were not properly stored. It is a matter for conjecture as to how many houses they have repaired.

During this period we have repaired 500 houses — during the 16 month period, and in the coming financial year, Mr. President, the Ministry of Community Services will build more in one year than the Democratic Labour Party did in seven years; and then there are people so shameless as to come in here and ask what is being done for the aged.

Mr. President, these people are either clowns or dishonest individuals. Not only that, Mr. President, we have come to the conclusion that the old people in this country are treated shabbily. We found in our investigation of the condition of old people that whenever the energy resources of an elderly person became diminished that person was placed in a district hospital. It is our view that if these institutions are really to deserve the names of hospitals, then they must cater exclusively to the sick; but as long as they become lodging places for the destitute they will still in fact be almshouses. We want to extirpate from this society the existence of almshouses, and that is why in the new financial year immediately we will introduce a home, service programme for the aged. The home service programme for the aged for which \$100,000 is allocated will ensure that all of those healthy old people who apply for admission to the almshouses because nobody knows what to do with them because they are too weak to do their own work, they are not ill, will have an opportunity of remaining in their own homes, and the Government will pay people to clean their homes and cook for these people, and in cases where that destitution extends to their incapacity to provide themselves with a meal, we have substantially increased our subvention to the Salvation Army for them to organise a home delivery service for those people. The

fear of growing old will be removed and old people will be able to live out the rest of their lives in dignity and without the spectacle of ending their lives in shame and humiliation and loneliness in an almshouse. From this financial year those days will be gone forever, Mr. President. This is what we mean by social development.

Social development, a fundamental and radical equalitative improvement in the conditions of people, taking young men from a condition of alienation and making them productive workers through the instrumentality of training, taking old people from the jaws of an almshouse and letting them live in their community in a house without holes, well painted and looked after by paid members of the community in a situation where they can live in dignity and retain the social support system of their community. This is what we mean by social development. This is the qualitative dimension that I promised to talk about, Mr. President. But that is not all, Mr. President.

In the disintegration of the extended family, many old people have no social life. They are alone, there are things going on in the community which do not cater to their particular interests. Included in these Estimates, Mr. President, is a provision for the establishment of a senior citizens day care and recreational centre. We are starting small and we are starting small for one good reason. This is a project that has never been undertaken before. We are breaking new ground, but the problem of organising the social life of the elderly is such an important one that we could not wait for the protracted studies of an expert, so social workers within the Ministry of Community Services will have to pursue the development of this programme by a process of trial and error. And in this centre we will after a period of time through its functioning determine what the social needs of the people of Barbados are who are elderly. We plan for them various forms of recreation. The Police Department has undertaken to make the Band available. We plan to show them movies; we plan to institute discussions and to give these people a full vibrant life as any other member of the community, and we hope to establish a number of these day care centres for the elderly through Barbados. That, Mr. President, is what we mean by development, a situation which transforms and improves the lives of people in this society.

Allied to the abandonment of the elderly in this society is the problem of the increase of troubled children, rebellious children, hyperactive children, the kind of children who either have no parents or whose parents are not competent; children who eventually find themselves in children's homes. Last year when we debated the Estimates I indicated then that we were moving in the direction of de-emphasising institutional care, and I am happy, Mr. President, to report now that in these Estimates provision will be made for the

implementation for the first time in Barbados of a fully fledged foster care service. The sum of \$35,000 is included in the grant to the Child Care Board for the establishment of a fullyfledged foster care service.

Let me indicate the rationale for developing foster care in Barbados. Historically such children of whom I spoke were consigned to mass residences like the Nightengale Home and other similar residences throughout Barbados. We have found that these residential places constitute a poor substitute for the family matrix. We found that the children in these institutions have problems in relating to their peers, they grow up feeling a sense of shame and inadequacy. We have found that when such children leave these institutions at the age of 16 the majority of them find it very difficult to adjust to the rest of the society, they fall into acts of social deviance, and some of them become permanent criminals.

We have also found that the substitute of the small group home which was experimented with in 1975 is not the answer to this particular problem because even though it is an improvement on the mass residence yet the house parents are really fictitious parents as far as the students are concerned. The children in these homes come quickly to realise that the house mother and the house father are parenting them for money, and if there is no money then there will be no love, and so they become increasingly disgruntled about this situation and even although it is an improvement on the mass home, the feelings of inadequacy and inferiority still persist.

We believe that a foster care programme would create a situation where the most effective alternative to being parented by one's own natural parents would be available to children who have no parents or whose parents are incompetent. Now, fostering is not unknown to Barbados, all of us in this room, Mr. President, know of somebody who has taken an abandoned child and raised him or her, but the problem has now reached such dimensions that it is absolutely necessary to create conditions where public-spirited Barbadians can be encouraged to look after such children. We hope to be able in the first year to pay foster parents in the region of \$35 a week for each child that they are prepared to parent. It is hoped that in a very few short years thereafter we would have seen for ever a disappearance of the mass children's home. It will still be necessary to have public institutions but we would hope that such institutions would be restricted to the group home type.

There will always be those intractable children who would be wanted by no one. In this way too those of us here who believe that social matters are for policy

makers with a scavenging mentality or are for soft-headed policy makers, those of us who prefer to talk about economics because it is something hard-headed, would be interested to recognise that in this programme it costs the taxpayer less to have a fully operative foster care programme than to have mass residential homes. Just as it costs the taxpayer less to have a home help service than to have people consigned to a district hospital, for the cost to the taxpayer of a district hospital is approximately \$5,000 a year per person whereas the cost of keeping a person in the community in a state of dignity in a home help programme is a mere \$500 a year, so not only does this social policy make sense because it is based upon decency and a proper concern for human beings, but it satisfies those desiccated hard-headed people who believe that we should always do things efficiently. It satisfies, Mr. President, the test of efficiency as well as the test of humanity, a confluence which is often difficult to achieve.

These things are, Mr. President, what we mean by social development, not simply doing more but in addition to doing more doing such things which bring about a qualitative transformation in the lives of the people and not a transformation for the worse, but a transformation for the better.

We propose also to make the question of adoption much easier than in the past, and I hope very shortly to be bringing before you the legislation which will give us a new Adoption Act and which at the same time will amend the Child Care Act so that we can have a fully fledged foster care programme. At the time I bring the child care legislation I will indicate to you the other things, the increased and expanded duties of the Child Care Department.

The matter of rehabilitating, if I may use that awful word, the matter of rehabilitating delinquent children or abandoned children cannot be under-estimated. Those of you who want to sleep in your beds peacefully at night and to be comfortable with your family will support this programme, because we in the Ministry of Community Services are responsible for keeping the social peace as much as policemen are within this particular society. Our responsibilities may be distinct from those of members of the Police Force in that we deal with preventative aspects of this problem whereas the police deal with curative aspects of the problem.

It is extremely important therefore that these social development policies be supported.

Now having talked about the Police, it is incumbent upon me to respond to certain statements with respect to the Barbados Police Force. Since the notorious Commission of Inquiry the Police Force in

Barbados has become the whipping boy for everyone, and indeed several policemen have made complaints about being insulted by members of the Public. This attitude on the part of the public will do nobody any good, Mr. President; it is necessary for this community to have an efficient and respected Police Force, and I think that the predicament of the Police Force today resulting from that Commission of Inquiry is in large measure due to the incompetence of politicians and I will tell you what I mean by that. Between the period 1970-80 there were some 45 courses offered to members of the Police Force but only two of these courses — which were very abbreviated courses — dealt with criminal investigation. We are developing in this society at a rapid rate, and we have seen what problems have resulted from our failure to establish a mechanism to provide the society with an adequate supply of skilled people in order to undertake the developmental task for which their labour is required. We have seen how Government projects cannot get off the ground because there are not enough trained people. And just as we need new expanded and diversified training activities in the economic sector we also need such training in the area of policing, and our policy makers have been very myopic in not preparing the Police Force for the duties which would devolve upon them in the 1980s. The present personnel numbers 882 and this number has been in existence since 1969. The staff is inadequate to meet the increasing responsibilities that they are called upon to bear. Not only is the staffing inadequate, Mr. President, but a policeman on the day shift has to work between 50 and 60 hours a week, and when on the night shift about 70 hours a week. All of us know that if this happened consistently in areas like the Port or other heavily unionized areas of the economy we would have a strike on our hands more quickly than you could say Jack Robinson. These situations which were perhaps all right in the old days when Barbados was merely an agrarian society are no longer adequate for Barbados in the 1980s. This Government therefore is moving in the direction of a substantial increase in the numbers in the Police Force and 141 new members will be added over the next two year period. At the same time the Government is moving in the direction of the institution an eight hour shift. We do not believe that it is possible for a man to function satisfactorily when working for very long hours, especially in conditions that are less than congenial. Conditions in the Police stations have been allowed to run down and that is why the Government is rapidly pushing the implementation of their programme to humanize the conditions under which the policemen work.

During the last twenty five years, Mr. President, there were only four opportunities for training in criminal detection at the middle management level in the Police Department, two under the old Barbados

Labour Party Government and two during the fifteen year term of office of the Democratic Labour Party. You can see therefore that there is a very serious problem with respect to training; there are simply not enough training opportunities for the Police Force. The Police Force is further handicapped in its duties by the absence of a forensic pathologist. No Police Force, particularly a Police Force conducting murder investigations, can do its work properly without this type of equipment, and there are many other features of the Police Force activities which indicate that the machinery with which policemen have to work is archaic and completely inadequate to deal with the problems of the last two decades of the twentieth century. I therefore believe that much of the difficulties within the Police Force comes from the shortsightedness of people at the political level and I think that they are going to have to place many more resources at the disposal of the Police Force in order to modernize it. Senator Hatch in an otherwise admirable speech declared with much heat — more heat than light — that crime had increased in Barbados, Mr. President, it is my duty to inform you that this is not the case. Crime in Barbados — this is a confidential report, Mr. President, — I can xerox these two pages for the benefit of Senators — with those qualifications, Mr. President, am I permitted...

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, a Minister is entitled to regard his document as confidential unless he is willing to impart any portion of them to the Senate.

SENATOR THE HON. D. G. BLACKMAN: My colleague tells me that this report is inaccurate, but in the absence of any other data that is scientifically compiled I will have to rely on this rather than on the subjective feelings of Senators.

Mr. PRESIDENT: So long as you take the responsibility for the information that you are giving the Senators.

SENATOR THE HON. D. G. BLACKMAN: I take full responsibility for what I say. The information source is the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police and this draft shown "Recording," I repeat, "Recording Crime" and we see that in the year 1975, Crime, Mr. President, reaching its apogee and there is a sharp decline in 1976 followed by a moderate rise in 1977 and then a steep decline in 1978.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I presume that that is in the totality of Crime and not in any particular field of crime.

SENATOR THE HON. D. G. BLACKMAN: That is the totality of crime as recorded, Mr. President. The point I am trying to make is that there are problems in making our Police Force more relevant to the

1980's, as there is a problem in making the rest of our labour force more relevant in the 80's.

Low productivity as a result of antiquated methods can be found in virtually every sector of our labour force and it is precisely the failure of Barbados to modernise the techniques as employed by its labour force in other sectors as well as the Police Force that I submit is the basic problem with the Police Force and that it is the duty of Government to ensure that these problems are corrected at the earliest opportunity.

I do not believe as has been suggested elsewhere that there are congenital defects in our Policemen and that Policemen are simply bad as men. Their conditions of work have to be improved and updated so that our Police can operate effectively in accordance with the demands made on the Force in the 1980's and this Government is moving on swiftly by updating the status of the Training School to that of a College by providing additional training for the Director of that School and making more opportunities available to the Police Force for more training in modern techniques of crime detection particularly improved training for those who work at mid-management level and those, Mr. President, must be accompanied by an increase of the size of the Police Force up to an optimal size.

By the same token, Policemen have to be relieved of many extenuating duties. Policemen find themselves in some areas working as Carpenters. They used to work as Immigration Officers but the Immigration Service is becoming civilianised and the question of the relationship of the Police Force operating here within the precincts of the Public Building is also a matter under consideration and we hope also to improve the conditions under which the Policemen work by reducing the number of hours worked and improving the conditions under which the Policemen work and we believe that the accumulated effect of all of these would be to restore our Police Force to the level of efficiency of days gone by.

Mr. President, Senator Hunte whose absence is much regretted, in his characteristic fashion declared that on page (xiv) dealing with the Current Estimate's Revenue for the Ministry of Health, the Item, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which shows a projected increase of revenue of \$250,000, Senator Hunte told this Honourable Chamber, Mr. President, that it seems strange that at a time when the Drug Plan was due to be introduced that there will be such a substantial increase in revenue from the sale of Drugs.

At that point, Senator Hunte having scored by hitting below the belt interpolated his speech with one of his criticisms and having thrown the Senators off track

by amusing them he preceded to say very weakly that there are some other Items as well and then moved on, but the damage had already been done.

Now this may all be very good politics but it is the responsibility of the Government to deal with the truth and in our commitment to the truth it is necessary for me to point out that the other Items referred to are receipts for paying patients, X-ray Examinations and treatments, special nursing, sale of drugs, sale of meals, rental, fees of consultants and other miscellaneous sales and receipts.

Within that context, obviously, the fear of proper construction to the Item "sale of drugs" would be a sale of drugs to paying patients and this is what Senator Hunte did not say. This Revenue will not be increased as a result of the sale of drugs exclusively nor does it involve the sale of drugs to poor people. It involves the sale of drugs to paying patients and to the best of my knowledge, Mr. President, the introduction of the National Health Service and the National Drug Plan were never meant to exclude the existence of paying patients.

Senator Wickham, with his usual great care, espied the fact that there had been a reduction in the allocation of monies under the item Grants to Regional and International Organisations in the Ministry of External Affairs. There is good reason for this. Hitherto, the Ministry of External Affairs used to pay from its Budget, Grants and Contributions to Regional and National Organisations, even although those Organisations were serviced by other Ministries. For example, Barbados makes a contribution to the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ILO is serviced by the Ministry of Labour. Barbados also makes contributions to the United Nations Development Programme. The United Nations Development Programme, in its IPF allocation, conducts its business with the Ministry of Finance.

In future, the situation is that where a Regional or International Organisation is serviced by a particular Ministry, that that Ministry will in future, pay the contributions from its own Budget. If you look under the other Heads, you will see new items for contributions in Ministries which were not there in the past and that is why the vote with respect to Contributions for Regional and International Organisations is a much reduced one.

Mr. President, I do not want to go over ground that was well covered already, by Members of the Senate, or Members particularly on this side of the Senate. It will suffice me to express my gratification to be associated with the Government that once again has rescued this country from bankruptcy. There is money once more in the coffers and this money is being used to develop the

country and to provide better service for our people. I hope, Mr. President, that I have demonstrated here that there is a proper concern for development and that when Members on this side make presentations with respect to the economic development they will see that the nature of the analysis necessitated the use of quantitative tools and that when one realises the social gains that have been made from economic development, that one will see that it is difficult to quantify those gains even although the mad drive for Scientism has overtaken the Social Scientist and many Sociologists cannot now get Post Graduate Degrees, unless they have demonstrated a mastery of statistics, so there is the quest to achieve the impossible and that is to quantify the qualitative. These are the analytical tools that are available to us. If you present your evidence in as objective a manner as possible, there is no escape from the rigours of quantitative analysis.

I believe that I have tried to correct that seeming imbalance in my presentation and while I could not free myself altogether from Statistics, I hope that I have been able to show how the quantitative gave rise to the qualitative and therefore make out a case that the Government is concerned and is making significant achievements in the area of humanistic development as distinct from economic development. The point needs to be underscored. The two things happen simultaneously and very often, it is impossible to separate the one from the other, except in one's own thought. We all know that water is not the same thing as ice. They are qualitatively different things. Yet, water becomes ice under certain conditions. The same matter undergoes a qualitative change under certain conditions and it either becomes ice or water and the water can become ice again. The conjecture of qualitative and quantitative is always there and therefore it is not an act that does not represent fidelity to the truth to argue that to talk about growth in order to demonstrate economic progress, is at the same time to demonstrate the existence of the qualitative dimension of development. As we proceed during the coming year, Mr. President, within the Ministry of Community Services to emphasise the gains from the qualitative developments within our society, then, it would become clear to all the doubting Thomases that our Social Development policy represents a serious philosophical departure from the static doctrines of welfarism that prevailed in the past. It would take too much time for me to get into it now.

As I begin to introduce social legislation, the Child Care Act, the Act relating to the Regulation and the Supervision of Senior Citizens' Homes by the Ministry of Welfare, this would afford me the opportunity to make expository accounts of the fundamental distinction between the Democratic Labour Party and the Barbados Labour Party to the area of social development.

I look forward to a year of continued management in the finances of this country because it is within this context of sound management, that all of the dispossessed and weak elements that our social policy is designed to rehabilitate and strengthen will be provided with the resources for us to achieve this objective.

Thank you Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, there were times within the last two days when I was rash or brash or whatever enough to think that by this time today debate on the Appropriation Bill would have been concluded. Any targets in relation to time which I might have had in mind have certainly proved not to have been properly set. There is one good thing and it is this, that in a Chamber where no debate on the Budget takes place, opportunity has certainly been taken by each and every Senator to have a look though not at Government fiscal policies, though not perhaps in any indepth manner at economic direction, certainly to have had a look at what plans Government has as reflected in the allocations provided within the ambit of the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill. To that extent, therefore, in my view it has been time well spent, and when I rise I rise in fact to reply to a number of questions which have been raised and which have not yet been dealt with by either of my colleagues on my right, and in dealing with these issues which have been raised it will unfortunately become necessary at one point for me to dwell on a particular issue at greater length than I would have wished because towards the end of his speech last night Senator Connell, I am sorry he is not yet in his place and I hope he is by the time I come to deal with the matter, introduced into the debate in a rather charming and pleasant manner something which I could only categorise as nastiness, not nastiness on his part, but nastiness in that it reflected an entire campaign which has been waged by the party of which he happens to be a member for a number of months.

Let me therefore at the outset state that I have sought, I have had consultation this morning as a result of which I will make reference to a specific aspect of the Interim Report of the Commission of Enquiry into Unsolved Murders. I will come to that. I will not go into detail, but what I am going to say is going to be a definitive statement.

Secondly, Mr. President, I am going to take the opportunity not by way of reply because nobody has raised it since everybody except Ministers had spoken by the time the Nation appeared this morning, but just so that we do not get any mischief out of a perfectly straightforward matter, there is in fact a new official car for the Prime Minister, a Cadillac the photograph of which appeared on the front page of the Nation

this morning, at a cost to the taxpayers of between \$40,000 and \$50,000; the exact figure is not yet available. Quotations were received from a number of manufacturers of suitable vehicles, Mercedes Benz, Jaguars, BMW, — I mentioned Mercedes first because it is a very popular car in certain circles; and so indeed is the Jag — the Peugeot, the Datsun among others.

It was established perhaps because of the blows which the dollar was taking that the car which in terms of those in that whole category that we determined to be suitable which came to us with the best features at the best price was the Cadillac, and therefore a Cadillac was chosen. I want to make it very clear it makes a lot more sense to me to spend even if it comes out in the end to \$49,999 on a Cadillac than to spend \$75,000 on the Jag or the Mercedes which also comes out at \$75,000, or the BMW whose ex-factory price started above \$40,000. So I just want to make that position clear so that people should not at a later date believe the suggestions that are bound to come from the Democratic Labour Party platform that somebody is enjoying some extra thing. In fact, it is another example where the money has been spent prudently; you buy the best for the best price.

Mr. President, in relation to the Ministry of Defence and Security, few questions were asked and Senator Hunte With your indulgence I had better just deal with one other matter first.

A great deal of fear has been expressed in this Chamber in relation to the development of tourism. I should infact say concern rather than fear. I believe, Sir, that it would be ostrich-like for any of us to stand up here or anywhere else and to seek to claim that when you have a large influx of people into your country year after year, perhaps more accurately day after day there are no strains on the services and there would be no effect on the way of life of the people. It is for this reason that I am particularly gratified to see the serious approach to the subject of tourism which evidenced itself in the debate. Senator Adel Lynch made a point in relation to language, and I have for a long time thought that an important effect of the development of a tourist economy should be that we should take the opportunity to widen the educational opportunity of the children in relation to endowing them with gifts related to language if you can endow them with gifts in that sense, but certainly training. If you take a small country like Luxemburg, it is because of the educational policy and also the fact that so many people speak so many different languages go in and out of the country that children come up speaking something like four different languages, and I believe that when we talk about tourism and when we recognise quite rightly the strains which operating a tourist economy puts

on your health services, puts on your transport services, then I think it is beyond doubt that a great deal of the increase in traffic in the public transport system is related to the fact that a number of tourists use the public transport system rather than take taxis for a number of their journeys, and after all, any of us who has gone abroad only has to reflect on how often we may have hopped the bus in New York City or how often the tram in Toronto or the subway in London or what have you. So we have to accept that one effect will be the increased use of the public transport system, that the expansion of hotels and ancillary services will put a strain on public health services, and that the fact that there are more people, some of them operating not too carefully and displaying a level of wellbeing which every Barbadian certainly does not enjoy will mean there are temptations in the way of those who are a little weak and who will snatch a handbag to mention a crime at the same, I cannot say, less harmful level.

If you want to put it on a scale I suppose that is what it will come to. I am not dealing with the more serious crime directly, the point I am making is that with all its means that there has to be a greater body of persons to police the country. Where a more serious crime comes in is that as you strain your present police resources then they will not be able to deal either with relatively ordinary crime or with the serious major crime. This is one of the reasons, Sir, you will find that when we have made the immigration service a civilian service we have not reduced the number of posts on the police establishment, because for years there has been the need for a substantial increase in the police service in order to deal with the problems of simply more people, not to mention the problems of greater complexity because of the burgeoning visitor industry. It is not therefore as though the Government does not recognise it, but the Government benefits as indeed does the whole community, but there is an expression of views such as there were in the course of this debate which can indicate to us a range of problems and dimensions which perhaps we might otherwise not have paid attention to.

Indeed, it leads me, Sir, to make a point that in matters of this sort it is really more of a co-operative effort than anything else, because how the community as a whole views the things that ought to be scared to it, how the community as a whole sees its own well-being is ultimately going to determine how much those who exercise the power at the level of Government will be able to do. Tourism is a serious money spinner, but it can also bring serious problems, so there is really nothing about tourism that is not serious, and I would be the last one, and indeed this Government just simply would not think that it could ever be possible just to look at a tourist industry and think purely in terms of money

coming in. We have to have money to run the country, therefore you will hear a great deal of emphasis being placed on that, but if you wish an indication as to the sensitivity with which we try to organise and manage an industry, I think it was given in the course of Senator Field's speech when he mentioned the immediate steps which were taken in relation to the way the tourists dress, or are not dressing in many instances, on the beaches and which to a lot of us it may not be a big thing, but the society as a whole seems to have a particular attitude towards this question of nudity on the beaches, and as long as that is so, and it is the values of the society which have to be protected against the incursions of the visitor, then we have to ourselves recognise that it is the values of the society and not the more liberal notions of some other people that have to be regarded as the norm in this case.

I do not, however, Sir, believe that the fact that there are justifiable fears, that this can lead us to where it seems to have led Senator Hatch, into a charge about down playing the increase of crime in order to promote tourism. I am sensitive to the statement, Sir, because I read fairly recently in a Canadian publication that this was in fact happening, and it went on to quote me specifically as having expounded such a point of view. Fortunately, when you are a Government Minister your recorded word is usually lodged with GIS, because when people make these statements so emphatically, even though you know that it is alien to your thinking, you know you have never done it, and you know you could not have done it, you still begin to believe 'I must have said something, otherwise how could they have made this charge'. It is not a question of suppressing any information, because if we suppress information which is unpleasant it will not help the development of tourism, it will create problems at a later date, problems that we will probably not be able to handle after they have surfaced for so many years after being kept underground, and they will then come up with a force that will do the kind of damage to the tourist industry as indeed in my view has happened to the tourist industry in Jamaica.

I do not believe it is just a matter of attitudes to the tourists that has led to this fantastic fall in the Jamaica tourist industry, I believe the problem goes much much deeper than that, and I believe, Sir, that what has happened in Jamaica is something incidentally which some of us feared, who know and like that country and have lived in it, some of us for some time feared that precisely that would happen. What has happened in Jamaica is something that can happen in any society where the gap is allowed to widen between those who have, the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. It is allowed to widen and then at some point in time everybody comes face to face with the fact that something has to be done, and those who know how to do things overnight with

prudent action are not confident that they can achieve in a number of years and they are given the opportunity to impose their solution on a society to its utter ruin and detriment.

It is unfortunate, Sir, that one has to reflect on a Caribbean country in this way, but when we talk about 'have-nots' in Barbados and talk about 'have-nots' in Jamaica we are not talking about the same thing. I have seen people living in old cars in that country, I have never seen them living in old cars in Barbados. I have seen levels of poverty in that country down on the flat, down in the slums, and as you begin to climb the hills all of the worst examples of conspicuous consumption, the lavish homes complete with swimming pools, with the Jag in one part of the garage and the Mercedes Benz as the small car. This is something one has to have seen in order to understand that the problems you are dealing with are such that every day the man who had nothing was sorely tempted to take away what he saw other people with. We are accustomed to a society here in which there has been a certain level of cohesiveness and in which the people who are really wealthy have never flaunted it in the faces of those who are less advantaged, in which people have always shown time, no matter how big they were, for the problems of small people, and my information is that even in the worst of times in Barbados this has been the case, that there has always been that kind of thing.

The marxists may say that has resulted in producing a situation of patronage deeply rooted in this society and what has made the society a conservative one without hope for evaluation. If that is so, just let me state emphatically that revolution, and in particular Marxists revolution is a thing to attract those who are still at school or at university, or still at the level where they have not yet managed to assume any responsibility. Those who live in the world of realism are not able to afford the luxury of revolution. And it is that kind of cohesion that I hope will continue to keep the society together, even in spite of what is happening in so many parts of the Caribbean. But we as a Government believe that we can only remain a strong force if there is not skillful and careful management of our finances and detailed planning of the economy, but an enlightened social policy that is based on a genuine understanding and a lasting care for the interests of the people of the society. That is why we are able in these Estimates to reflect both hard economic thinking and carefully thought out social policies.

Before we go to lunch I want to deal with another point raised by Senator Hatch. I believe I have got the Senator as close to verbatim as makes no difference when he says "I am not as happy as the Leader of the Senate who said this morning that if the newspapers are not locally owned they should be Trinidadian owned." I did not say they should be Trinidadian owned, I said

where they are not locally owned they should be West Indian owned. But I go one step further: Whether the West Indian ownership reflects a group of West Indian countries or one West Indian country, be it Trinidad or not, it is not the simple facts of West Indian ownership that will determine whether you can get the support of my Ministry but rather three other conditions. One is whether it reflects treating the communications industry seriously as an industry or whether it is just another investment of the sort that should obtain anywhere else in the economy; secondly, whether the level of local participation in the share capital is sufficiently high — and by that I mean not less than 40% as preferably not less than 45–49%; and thirdly, whether the people who have to work on the newspaper, whose job it is to produce that newspaper, will become partners in the equity. It was a formula which held good for Barbados Rediffusion and it was known that the new owners of Barbados Rediffusion would be offering shares to the staff of Rediffusion. My Ministry feels that "The Advocate", the last of the media not locally owned, ought to become locally owned or at least Caribbean owned, with a substantial share of local ownership and that the staff ought to become part owners in the equity. So it is not just a matter of exchanging the name Thompson for some other name; it is a matter of a completely different approach in the communications media and how they ought to be treated. I believe, Sir, that had I spelled it out in these terms, Senator Hatch and I would not have had any apparent difference. But these are the terms which we have intimated and the terms we intend to stand by.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: This seems an appropriate point to have a suspension. The Sitting will be suspended for forty five minutes.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Sitting is resumed. Mr. Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, at this stage I will move on to deal with a few of the specific points raised by Senator Hunte. Senator Hunte raised a question which is important to us concerning the printing of the debates and I believe it was revealed in the Other Place that there had been problems in the Printery.

The one most acute in relation to the publication of debates centered on a particular Proof Reader who was more often ill than not or absent on account of illness and this gentleman, I gather, is now being transferred to another part of the Government where it is hoped that he will not do a fraction of the damage

that his inactivity has managed to cause in the Printing Department.

There are plans for the expansion and re-equipping of the Printery which plans are awaiting the provision of space by the removal of the Town and Country Planning Department and we hope that we will soon be able to say that complaints about the printing of debates and printing generally will be a thing of the past.

In relation to the CPA, and Senator Hunte's reference to the secret visit to Cuba, a Delegation which, mark you, had as a member a representative for St. Philip South, a member of the Democratic Labour Party, I am moved to the conclusion that Senator Hunte is complaining really about his colleague keeping secrets from his other colleagues. It was a Delegation, Sir, that had a member from this side, as well as the Deputy President representing the Independent Senators and a member from the other side. I would think, Sir, that even if you could keep a secret, three would find it difficult and three representing all three areas that are represented in Parliament would find it impossible to keep a secret.

He wanted to know whether or not the Governor-General will so be attired in ceremonial wear but in all this Senator Hunte raised a serious point and I wish he was here because in so doing he enlightened not only myself and I think shortly this Chamber, but he enlightened the entire Cabinet because his alertness allowed him to fasten his attention on the Note in the Estimates which referred to a function of the Defence and Security Department as screening and when I sought to be enlightened on this, I learnt that one of the Notes is understandable where it referred to the screening of persons wishing to emigrate because it would be a logical function of the Department to provide such information as the Police Records, as was relevant, which the potential host country would wish to be informed of.

The second proved a little difficult. I discovered that even at the level of Cabinet, it was assumed that this reference was to the appointment of non-nationals of the Public Service in the few instances where this took place. I have now been informed and so has been the Cabinet, that in making appointments to the permanent employment in the Civil Service, the Public Service Commission sometimes ask for a check on Police Records before the matter is finalised but that the record of a conviction would not necessarily prevent the relevant Service Commissions from making an appointment.

In other words, it has nothing to do with the policy or the policy makers. It is a check which in their

wisdom the Services Commissions have practised from time, not quite time immemorial because I have not existed from time immemorial, and I believe that the reasons Senator Hunte who was a Parliamentary Secretary in the last Administration raised this question was that quite possibly even the Cabinet in those days did not know about it. It has nothing to do with any Cabinet past or present.

The Senator asked further about the Hospital for the Defence Force, whether there was a Hospital or a Sick Bay. He readily understood by the terms in which he couched his questions that it was not a full Hospital in the context of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but the reason it is termed a Hospital instead of a Sick Bay is that there will be a provision of emergency rooms where minor operations can be undertaken, nothing expensive but to be able to have immediate attention and that there will also be Dentist Offices so it has a slightly wider character to it than a mere sick bay.

He asked about the duties of the Special Assignments Officer and in the main these duties have to do with the expansion and upgrading of the Security Guard Service, responsibility for on going training, for experience guards as well as recruits and for the development and administration of selection tests. Also, he is looking at ways of improving career prospects within the Service.

MR. PRESIDENT: I was wondering whether you would want to answer the question about the Assignments Officer in view of the fact that the same question arises in one of the subjects in the Civil Establishments Order for today and you might not want to anticipate what you want to say in regard to that one. This is just a matter for you.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: The reason that I am dealing with it now is that if I deal with it now there should be no need to refer to it again. I thought that although Senator Hunte had raised the question that other Senators would also be interested in hearing the answer but it is not a lengthy one.

The Senator also made great play about the retirement which he referred to as the resignation of the Chief of Staff. I just want to state a number of pertinent facts. Hon. Senators will remember that when the Chief of Staff reached retirement that a special Act of Parliament had to be passed to permit him to continue beyond that age. He is a gentleman of 57 years. Like most gentlemen of 57 years he might wish to retire and the provisions under which he operates permit him to retire voluntarily. It is a matter of public record that Public Servants quite often choose to retire before reaching age 60.

Mr. Monty Williams recently retired, Mr. Fred Cozier retired, Mr. Harley Moseley retired and Mr. Oliver Browne retired recently. I am only referring to a few. I am sure Sir that around here, many more names can be supplied.

What has made this a matter of significance is that there has been suggestion of difficulties which the Chief of Staff is experiencing. If, at age 57, when one may retire, and go into more peaceful circumstance, one does not wish to make certain adjustments which are inherent in moving from one post of Commanding Officer of the Regiment to being the Chief of Staff, then I consider that Sir, to be perfectly and reasonably within the right of any such person to opt for retirement. I do not have any doubt that there were adjustment problems and I do not think that anybody is necessarily to blame, but the way that these things are usually presented to the public, is a completely different matter because while Senator Hunte or Senator Connell say in here, things which are reasonable, outside there, it is a different ball game. We know that the suggestion would be that Colonel Banfield was experiencing difficulty with the political bosses.

I am not in a position to state, as a categorical fact whatever, the problems which may have existed of adjustments. There might have been. There have been no instances of difficulty between any of the Defence Force personnel, top or bottom and any of the political leadership of this country. That is a categorical statement which I am in a position to make. None Sir. No problem of adjustment, such as to justify the unfortunate slur about Sandhurst trained people because it will be necessary for me, at this point, to say that we are doing the country a disservice where persons who have received the training relevant to their calling, are required to do a particular job and in doing that particular job are being sniped at for nothing but political reasons. A disservice is being done to the country.

I too may be accused, as the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was accused, by Senator Connell, of what were his words, I do not want to misquote him. He accused the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of treating it as his pet. I do not know of any sensible Government that can expect to operate on the basis that when unjustifiable accusations are levelled at persons in the employ of Government, the Government does not come to their defence. I want to make it very clear that such charges as the Opposition wishes to level at the Defence Force, they are free to do so and I wish to remind them that if they see themselves as a potential Government, they should be careful not to tear down and not to seek to destroy the very institutions that they would have to rely on, if ever they should again be in the seat of Government.

We have had too much of that kind of irresponsible Opposition prior to 1961. You told people not to pay

rent. The indictments in the Hanschell Commission Housing Report have their roots in that attitude of irresponsibility. People who are irresponsible today to not automatically become responsible tomorrow. I wish to make it quite clear. It is legitimate in my view for persons to discuss whether or not differences exist among people, but not to seek to make political capital to the detriment of the nation and in so doing, to run down and seek to destroy the reputations of persons who happen merely to have the opportunity to be trained in an institution where such persons are supposed to be trained.

Senator Wickham asked where was the reference to Ilaro Court in the Estimates, Senator Hunte found reference and raised the question of whether sub-head 3, page 10 of the Estimates, reference to the Prime Minister's residence meant Culloden Farm and then went on to raise the question about page 74 sub-head 6. What was the intended use of Ilaro Court.

Mr. President, one of the good ideas of the last Administration and in fact, the former Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, has been credited with the idea, was that they would purchase certain substantial properties, rather than allow them to fall into the hands of private developers for next to nothing and be destroyed. This was done with the Eyrie, which is now where Barbados Community College is. Culloden Farm was purchased at a very good price and used as the Prime Minister's residence, but the development that is taking place in, and around Culloden Farm, has been office development; Flodden, Maxwellton, the Headquarters of the Barbados National Standards Institute and the Canadian High Commission. What is more, although the place was officially occupied by Systems in 1976, Culloden Farm itself was in a serious state of disrepair, requiring a lot of money to be spent on it.

What happened to Culloden Farm is in fact what has been happening to the substantial properties which the Government had so wisely accumulated. Dalmeny in Dayrells Road where PAHO headquarters is now is a case in point, and Abergeldie. These Scottish names. The Government has had to spend quite a lot of money to put that back into habitable state so that PAHO can use that as an office. And so we come logically to Ilaro Court which was allowed to stay there with the roof rotting. Senator Hunte talked about some mahoganies that had to be pruned. It is only now when you pass down Two Mile Hill that you can tell there is a house in there. You didn't know it before, and Parks & Beaches to their eternal credit went in and have been doing quite a job landscaping.

Senator Connell said the Parks & Beaches has two arms, an horticultural arm and a political arm. I am extremely proud, Sir, that this administration has been able to add an horticultural arm because previously it only had one arm. Senator Hunte drew attention to the very close relationship between the cost of materials and the cost of

labour. The point is that in the renovations of Ilaro Court a great deal had to be done which was labour intensive. It is not a matter of lack of productivity as he concluded. The landscaping is one aspect of that labour intensive activity. But there is another matter and it is this: unfortunately for the Nation newspaper we could not announce it before because a decision had not been formally taken. Ilaro Court was in the Estimates under the Ministry of Education because for a long time it was thought that it would have been used for cultural purposes, but there has been a great deal of study and reporting since then, so the national auditorium is going elsewhere; it is going to Church Village, but now a decision has been taken, Ilaro Court will be the official residence of the Prime Minister. It is a suitable place for such a residence.

As I pointed out, the whole development of Cullo-den Farm area has been office development. You have a suitable residence and it gives us an opportunity to have a suitable Prime Minister's residence and also to be able to keep up one of the important buildings in this country. Because it is going to be a residence, Sir, certain labour intensive things had to be done. The whole of the top floor becomes living quarters with a guest wing for official guests. You see, there was a stairway going up because there was a servants' wing upstairs. I do not know who knows the property and how you can recognise the modifications, but upstairs will be living quarters and if any official guests wish, there are quarters for them; and then the public area and the reception room and so on are on the ground floor.

There is one other point which Senator Hunte raised which again I think is of importance and which although he is not here should not go without reply. He referred to an incident of an apparent expulsion from Lodge School. Having to reply on this point imposes a little bit by way of restriction on me, because it is a subject which I would discuss more frankly and more easily if I were not on the Ministerial benches. The trouble is that I don't believe in the expulsion of kids. I believe that we create a great deal of the problems which a society has to pay dearly for when we throw children out on to the street. Such attitudes in this society have bred the horrors of Dodds. I went to the same Lodge School and so did Senator MacKenzie, and I believe, Sir, that the Senator will agree with me that there were bad boys at the Lodge School in our day, but you had to be pretty bad before somebody even considered expulsion. If the hon. member were talking after me I would risk to state that over ten years in the school you would not know of more than one or perhaps two and probably none at all expulsions, and when I heard of expulsions for what? Something to do with stealing lunch. If I had not been a schoolboy I would not be able to understand that school boys play all sorts of stupid little tricks, and some of them do not fall on the right side of the line; but thank God I went to

school and I really seriously wonder how a child can be so bad that he is kept in a state of limbo where he is not expelled but the school is looking for an alternative place for him in another school and meanwhile he has to remain at home.

As a Minister, Sir, I do not believe I can call that arrant nonsense nor can I perhaps describe it as insensitivity in a developing society, but I would like to know, Sir, how you can expect to keep a child thirteen years old in that state of limbo. As far as I am concerned it is inhuman and the people who are doing it had better stop and think of the end of education and not just see children as objects on some particular board. If what I have heard of that case is correct, it would justify the Government in taking away from every school in this country the right to expel children without the approval of the Ministry of Education. I cannot possibly agree that a situation should be allowed to continue where a community is asked to sanction that kind of high-handedness.

Every child's life and every child's future is valuable. To me it is a matter of the gravest importance. Some of the children that Senator MacKenzie and I went to school with, I do not believe have ever behaved properly in their lives, certainly never in class and certainly outside of school, and what we are seeing, they never learnt to behave, but nobody expelled them. I believe it is an extension of the social attitudes that cause so many children who are children of what I call no name to be picked up and thrown into institutions like the correctional school at Dodds and then to be there neglected until they become full time criminals in the service of the society. I find it a very serious state, a serious and sad commentary on the state of the educational administration of this country when that can happen. I know the grief and the pain that it causes the Minister of Education, because unlike me he has to work with the people involved and therefore cannot deal with the problem as I know he wants to deal with it, but I would ask the people involved to reconsider and not to push that man too far, because the good of the society is what will ultimately have to be considered. If the boy had been expelled he would be in a position to say okay, you have done it, I do not perhaps agree with you, perhaps we should look and see how we should exercise this power of expulsion, but to tell me that you are going to throw a little boy out and tell him when we find another school to put you in you will be all right, but in the meantime you cannot come back here? That is heinous in the extreme.

Mr. President, there are two points raised in the area of health which I shall very briefly advert to. The first question was raised by Senator Hinds who wanted to know whether within the free health scheme we

can expect the provision of health foods. Sir, I regret that the only known rate the Government would not be able to afford is the inclusion of health foods within the health scheme, because if you remember the cheques from Mr. Sydney Alleyne to the living poetess of Barbados totalled some \$20,000, and if it is going to be a cost of \$20,000 per head the health scheme would not have long to last. I am sorry, but we cannot really afford to bring them in.

The other question was raised by Senator Connell, and it relates to something which a number of us have heard, and having heard it some of us have had the opportunity to seek the truth of the matter. It refers to sterilization without informing the lady that it was a pretty well final business. I think, Sir, some of us have seen — I did not actually see the television programme — but I heard the radio version when the gynaecologist, and I think there was more than one programme indeed, in which it was explained to the public that it is a final step, tubiligation, and that there is a consent form which needs to be signed. Therefore, in a general sense one cannot state that people do not know that it is a final situation, but I think the whole burden of Senator Connell's point would be that we are dealing with particular persons of several levels of intelligence, and that while some people will know this and understand it through that kind of method and just by the mere fact of having to sign a form, there are others who will not, and I take it that the burden of his point was that his information was that such persons were not having it properly explained to them and were in fact being virtually compelled.

I believe, Sir, there is a very deep and abiding concern where a lady has about three or four children when she is still a child to all intents and purposes, except perhaps one, and that the burden therefore has to do with the 17 and 18 year old mothers of three or four children, and I believe therefore that there is some point in Senator Connell's believing what he has heard, in that it would be difficult at times to communicate with such persons because their mental development is often such that they cannot readily grasp what it is one is trying to tell them. But what is clear is that if any such thing has happened it is accidental, and there is a serious, deliberate and conscientious attempt in each case to explain that the operation will mean that you cannot have any more children. If, therefore, the charge has merit it would mean the merit is that the people administering this business ought to take into consideration the level of communication, because it is certainly not the intention either of the doctors performing or of the policy makers that anybody in this country should be forced into sterility.

Mr. President, in moving on to my next area, I thought for a while as to whether I should enlighten

Senator Linton in relation to a point he made, because talking about Senator Hunte in Christ Church, what he was saying was that it was said that Senator Hunte did not go to university. I know what it was that was being said, Sir, it is not something to Senator Hunte's detriment and therefore I could mention it, but I am still not going to mention it here and now because I believe the explanation will come later, Sir. I repeat, it is not by any means to Senator Hunte's detriment.

The explanation I think would better come at another time and in another place. It perhaps has to do with education only insofar as it has to do with books; nothing at all to do with university education.

Mr. President, when next I deal with a comment coming from Senator Connell — I mean after this — Senator Connell is there upsetting Senator Deane. Senator Deane had made a number of points some of which I contributed to myself in the course of a debate in here recently, and Senator Connell accused Senator Deane of living in an ivory tower of sugar agriculture. The point is that I have been sitting for a long time listening to Senator Connell and heard him making noises about a tractor scheme and I wondered about his close knowledge of the tractor scheme, and it only made sense to me when Senator Lynch said that Senator Connell was a sheep farmer. These gentlemen who leave Bridgetown and go to the country do not understand that you don't need tractors for sheep. But that is not the basic flaw in the Senator's approach to agriculture, the flaw is this: You cannot just talk as though the antithesis is between the sugar agriculture and non-sugar agriculture. Come from the country when you believe you are a little brighter than somebody else and you ask people why keep that quarter acre of land in canes when you can grow vegetables and do better. Because the large farmer and the small farmer, the 500 acre man and the fifth of an acre man are all in sugar agriculture and in non-sugar agriculture, and it seems to me to be a very serious problem how we are going to arrive at a sufficiently economic situation of those very small lots so that they can have the kind of social and economic impact that is desirable. And I believe that is where the big problem in agriculture is; it is not just a matter of sugar agriculture or non-sugar agriculture. You find a big sugar farmer like Ian Robinson at Constant who is also a non-sugar farmer, producing high quality vegetables: As you go around the country you see the large producers of vegetables — Edgecombe with all the 1,000 acres; these are also large sugar farmers; and the problem is to find the proper approach to the economic organization of small lots. The last Government did not find it, but then they did not try. This Government has not yet found it in my view, but we are trying; and I believe this is the important distinction. When Senator Connell referred to a particular item to do

with cooperatives and I jokingly said 1000% increase last year and this year, that represents a token vote but a token vote in an area in which there should have been significant activity a long time ago unless we can prove that the economic approach to cooperatives through small holdings is a failure. I do not have the knowledge that this is so, so I believe therefore that he is making a mistake because he is going from the wrong premise and this leads him into confusing Government's contribution to agriculture because he is looking at it in terms of what you do in non-sugar agriculture and what you do for the small man. This is not so because there is this activity where you find two little quarter acre lots with one man growing cane and the other growing vegetables. I believe Senator Roy Brathwaite could speak on that with even greater knowledge than I can because in his part of the country he can see it in a day to day sense and I think he is also a small farmer. There are strictures with the BMC and strictures in the ADC; indeed there has been; indeed there have been strictures and charges everywhere. There is the point in relation to both the Agricultural development Corporation and the Barbados Marketing Corporation which need to be met and it is very simple. Senator Connell himself made the point that there has to be a limit; the taxpayers cannot keep pouring money down the drain. Some years ago when I was in this Senate we looked at a report of the BMC for two successive years, and trading losses came to \$888,900. I am not talking about net losses, I am talking about a trading loss. Those were the days when a Chairman took out a little five or ten thousand dollars you hear it referred to as an infelicity — hence the introduction of the term into our political dictionary. We are now at the stage with the BMC where you don't talk any more about trading losses; that is a thing of the past. Such losses as you are dealing with now are reflected by depreciation, etc., that is, accounting losses. In these circumstances it is not understandable why either Senator MacKenzie who is extensive in his criticisms of the BMC or Senator Deane who referred to the BMC as a disaster should really have taken these positions because they are two people who from the positions which they normally occupy would normally give credit to an enterprise that is coming out of the red, unless they are satisfied that it had no black to go into.

I believe, Sir, that in the circumstances of the BMC to have turned around the situation like that could be nothing but an indication that there is blacks to go into. What needs to be done in all such Institutions, Sir, is that the developmental role and in this particular case it is the marketing role, should be kept separate for accounting purposes so that when we, as a Legislature want to deal with the matter we would understand that the place in being properly run whether it is because of the efforts of Mr. Richards or Mr. Johnson is of no

concern to me. It is being properly run or so much better run than it was before that there is hope for the Institution at a business level.

Then you look at the other exercise which we evaluated in its own terms. I want to make a statement, Sir, which perhaps Senator Connell, if he approached agriculture from the position that I intend to would see and it is this. The fundamental problem of the BMC in terms of the role of marketing in which it has to perform is that it was not established as a Producers' Co-operative. I think that it is from its inception that one finds the problem.

I have no way of proving it but it is my belief that it is more expensive to seek to develop the thing as a Marketing Institution organised as it is now and not only more expensive but expensive because it is less effective than if was organised as a Producers' Co-operative and I believe that we should be implementing that kind of situation where we can recognise that we have a commercial arm and to monitor that arm and help to use that arm to keep prices down in the market at a competitive level so that you are making money without exploiting and to ensure at the same time that as a Producers' Co-operative you can provide the opportunity and the facility for the marketing of the produce in the country generally.

I believe, Sir, that now that the BMC has been taken to that level that it is an expression of confidence in the management that it should be allowed to operate a depot at the Airport and that there should be a significant investment in its new Headquarters at Lower Estate.

Mr. President, let me at this point refer specifically to the business of the BMC and Lower Estate. It is quite probable and certainly possible that the people who make certain statements on political platforms and then when they meet you are all hail fellow well met believe that you do not know what it is that they are saying on platforms. Now I have no argument with either of the two Opposition Senators inside this room, Sir. Senator Hunte to begin with is not on the platforms. I do not believe with the present circumstances that he wishes to be on the platform. Senator Connell, unfortunately, is on the platform but there is nothing that I know of in the speeches of Senator Connell that reflects the venom, the lies, the innuendos and the nastiness of his colleagues who share the platform with him.

Can you imagine in this day and age somebody regarding himself in an eminent position in this country getting up on a platform and telling people that the only person working in the Royal Bank when he left school was a browned skinned girl called Jan Waldron who used

to go out with a friend of his as though this is not a small society and everybody understands what point he is trying to make. What foolishness is this.

Senator Connell yesterday made a very interesting comment. He accused a Senator on this side of political mud slinging that is prevalent in the lowest strata of the political order. I do not believe that Senator Connell had thought of that comment before he made it because he would not wish any one to put his political leadership, or his whole political party so far down in the political strata, the lowest strata indeed of the political order.

The intention clearly in that is to reflect on the first family of the country. The Governor-General's family, you do not bring that on to the platforms and so on and so on, not to mention that the young lady had a perfect right to go and work like anybody else, and not to mention, of course, that the point the gentleman was trying to make was a foolish point because people like himself, Senator Hewitt and myself were at school at the same time as him and are aware of the time when the Banks first started writing the schools to recruit people so he was also lying, but that is another matter.

The real issue here is that the issue of the BMC, when it comes to the BMC Headquarters is handled at one level and that is Parliament. When they get out on the platforms, Sir, do you know that there is a Dr. Haynes who is walking around and calling my name in relation to the BMC Headquarters?

I want to make a very simple definitive statement. In the first place the BMC had to be built somewhere in Barbados. In the second place, Government sought to locate the BMC on its own land. When the Experts thought that the Pine was not suitable, they recommended Coverley. When they thought that Coverley was not suitable they recommended somewhere else. There were a series of recommendations to the Experts that BMC should be located on Government owned land.

The experts, on whose advice you have to be guided, eventually recommended two sites. The matter came up before Cabinet and I declared an interest because if one of those sites, or both happened to be anything to do with any member of my family, I just wanted it to be known that I would take no part in the decision. The decision was taken on a triangular site which lies to the North on lands owned by my father at Lower Estate. Not on the North, to the North of lands owned by Mr. Evelyn of Lodge Road, nothing to do with me, nothing to do with my father, nothing to do with any member of my family and Dr. Richie Haynes knows this but he gets on the platform and says that Nigel Barrow's father is a partner in Lower Estate, which is not true. He owns other lands in Lower Estate, Mr. Powell owns other lands in Lower Estate.

He talks about the Development Bank and Powell. Powell is the same person that he went to in 1976 and told that when they won the Election, they would buy the land that he had already promised the fellows for a playing field. Of course, he did not talk about if, he talked about when, political neophyte. Some people like Dr. Haynes have to understand that the time has perhaps come, when people like myself will no longer put up with lies. He has made reference in the context of the Integrity Legislation to people passing Legislation after the fellows have feathered their nest. He asked about apartments, referring to apartments I built up in Upton before I became a Minister and sold since I became a Minister because I cannot afford to keep them. I would have been able to spend the time to manage them if I were not a Minister. There are some people who have entered political life in this country who are going to have to be dealt with fairly and squarely. They will find that it is not possible always to get away with smut.

Let me go on Sir to deal with a reference by Senator Connell about excessive preoccupation with Foreign Exchange. I wish to counsel the Senator not to pursue that line because it is established that in countries that do not wish to concern themselves with Foreign Exchange, at least, those in this area, the IMF takes over and when, as in Jamaica, they wish to get away from the IMF, the great Marxist Morgan had to take over the Ministry of Finance. What you were trying to do with money before, you have to try and do with Marxism. It is a fact of life that if you are an importing country, Foreign Exchange is an extremely important matter. Those of us who have spent any time at all following the global economy have to make mental adjustments, when we consider today's concern by the United States of America as to the strength of the dollar and as to its trading relationship with other nations because for years, the United States of America operated without reference to the world economy at large. The United States of America talked for years in terms of its market of so many hundreds of millions and its high level of productivity. Now, since 1974 and the new dimension introduced into the world economy by the Arabs in their oil price hikes, no nation large or small, can afford to ignore the importance of the strength of their currency and its Foreign Exchange position, even where you have closed economies and you organise yourselves into a block. The influences still penetrate that quickly.

Senator Connell did something in here the other day which was very interesting. It was a repeat performance. I would normally have wished to let it slide Sir, but I cannot, as he says the record is important. When he talks about the sleight of hand, he refers to the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party at page 10 and he reads paragraph 1:

"The Barbados Labour Party believes that every Barbadian has the right to decent housing at reasonable cost. The Party will therefore, on being returned to power embark on a programme for the building of at least 800 houses per year."

Senator Connell goes on to state that this sleight of hand trick then results in one hearing that when we made that statement, we were not only talking about public housing, we were also talking about private housing. What he should have done, was to read not one paragraph, but two or three paragraphs or indeed he could have read the whole thing. I know Sir, that Senator Connell had time to read it, I know that he read it all, but I know Sir that sometimes your memory plays tricks, or you only remember what you want to remember.

"The Barbados Labour Party believes that every Barbadian has the right to decent housing at reasonable cost. The Party will therefore, on being returned to power embark on a programme for the building of at least 800 houses per year. Necessary steps will therefore be taken to direct finance towards mortgages for owner occupied buildings and in this way, provide a badly needed stimulus to schemes for privately financed housing."

It is there in the document on which we were elected that the thrust would have two arms, privately constructed housing and publicly constructed housing. It is not therefore reasonable for anyone to come now and say that there has been any sleight of hand. The final paragraph states:

"The Party's programme is therefore designed to attract both public and private funding with the task of housing the nation in achieving this goal. It will not only bring to the country a great social benefit but will also provide a much needed boost to the construction industry which has historically been such an important provider of jobs to the people in this country."

Look around at the construction about you, look around at the way in which housing is going up. Tell me if that policy is not succeeding. Do not just quote the opening paragraph read it through. If you are going to read any aloud, read all aloud.

And now, Mr. President, I come to the final point to which I wish to address my mind in the course of this reply. I do not want to get involved in anything to do with the Hanschell Report on housing. The Democratic Labour Party has or had, I am not sure about the status of Mr. DaCosta Edwards. If he is still a member they have; if he is not still a member they had, the best publicist for the findings of that Commission. I would like to see him tomorrow night on TV again too. They tell me that one important aspect of teaching is repetition, and if Mr. Edwards would please go again to-

morrow night, by then he will have cemented in the minds of people the levels, the depths of corruption to which housing administration had sunk during the tenure of the Democratic Labour Party.

When the Barbados Labour Party established the Housing Corporation that can invite builders to put up model houses and on the basis of the cost and on the suitability of the project award a contract for 30 houses, public, so public indeed that somebody from Florida was one of the people who competed, do you mean we are now to be subjected to the suggestion in here that this is something of the order of Philip Greaves awarding contracts to his friends at Homex and then putting an ante after the man starts the contract. I am sure that Senator Connell was no going to advise any of his clients to enter into a contract for a fixed price and then vary the price upwards before the goods are delivered. I am sure about that. But it is public money, therefore it is a red herring. A fellow is a draughtsman, leaves his job at Housing Authority, becomes a professional builder overnight and goes and builds on some mud in Wildey and all the houses crack up. How did he get the contract? Philip so gave his buddy. You see, the Democratic Labour Party decided to throw out Mr. Arlington DaCosta Edwards so by the time the Commission report hit they would not be burdened with him, but they did not know that they had Philip in the bag too. They cannot throw out everybody, and what I like is that Philip went up to talk to his former constituents and carried a lawyer with him. I would not carry a lawyer before my constituents or former constituents if I had any. I am sure Senator Connell would not either; he would go and defend himself; but then Senator Connell would not be in that nor any other Senator in here, and I appreciate therefore why none of them got in that sort of difficulty. But as I mentioned to Senator Connell I had no intention whatever, none, of referring to the Hanschell Report. I had none. If the suggestion was not made about Free Hill I would have said nothing about it; it is not necessary, not when Mr. DaCosta Edwards having explained that he would do it again if he had it to do again has explained that he would only do it again if he had to do it again.

Now, Sir, the point which I wanted to deal with last and which I intend to and which was the one that causes me greatest concern is a point made by Senator Connell. I referred to it as having an element of nastiness and I make no apology for that. At the same time I said I was not attributing the nastiness to the Senator in any way, and I am going to show you why, Sir. He has shared platforms with people who have been extremely nasty on the same matter and never once to his eternal credit has he made any suggestion in any way, even a second cousin to the kinds of suggestions which these people have been making. It just happens that the point he makes is really, and I am sure it is unwitting on his part, one of the more vicious remarks spun out by

the agency of James Cameron Tudor, who is on the one hand of Dr. Richie Haynes and Eric "Fly" Sealy who is on the other hand of Dr. Haynes, and I have therefore, Sir, as a matter of serious public duty to make a few comments today which I do not care if Dr. Haynes speaks to me again, but I am going to make them because it is very important that we start to get this whole Pele business in context.

According to Senator Connell who is calling for the resignation of the Attorney General, I know that Senator Connell did not really mean that; I think he understands what is going on. You do not have to be derogatory of Dr. Haynes to tell the truth about him necessarily. Senator Connell says persons feel that the Commission was abruptly brought to an end, people are asking why it was brought to an end before it could point an accusing finger at the perpetrator of the crime.

Mr. President, I do not know who feels so. I know that people like Cameron Tudor, the queen of Barbados, feels and tells people they should feel so, because there are some old humbugs in this society who do not understand the damage they do to the society when they spend their time manufacturing lies and rumour, and it does the society little credit that in order to keep a worthwhile issue alive, and that the Nation newspaper should be forced to quote from such a totally unreliable and perverted person does the society little credit. That is what is meant when I say I am going to be very direct. The issue is one that deserves to be kept alive. Because the Nation newspaper has helped to keep it alive, we have had the thing reaching the kind of conclusion which otherwise it might never have reached, and I would be the first to admit that. That something like Tudor should be associated with such an effort is to do a serious discredit to the people of this country. The Commission of Enquiry has concluded that as far as the Commission could go.....

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: On a point of order, did I hear the Hon. Leader of the Senate use the comment "something like Tudor"? Is he allowed in a public place to insult members of the public? What do you mean something like Tudor, a former Deputy Prime Minister of this country? I object to that remark "something like Tudor".

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Rules of the Senate refer to members of either House. I am not aware that his particular gentleman is a member of any House.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Sir, I am concerned with the sensitivities of all members of this Chamber. I do not really regard him as anything and therefore I am pleased to withdraw the remark.

I would like to make one point, that is, that neither Senator Connell nor anybody else in here can bring forward anything laudible with which the same gentleman has ever been associated. The Commission determined that there were certain things left to do, it therefore sought of the Government permission to make an interim report, in other words, to have its terms of reference altered so that it could make an interim report, because as the Commission stated, it had gone as far as a Commission could go and further investigation into the Pele matter would therefore have to be left to the police. The Commission indicated lines along which the police might usefully proceed. There can therefore be no question of a Commission being cut off, as it were, in its stride. They filed a memorandum with the Director of Public Prosecutions and in this memorandum I am permitted to say that they specifically recommended a number of prosecutions. It would be unwise to go beyond that point, and indeed because I have other observations to make I have sought no further briefing.

Just let me make it clear the duty to prosecute in criminal offences is a constitutional duty, a constitutional right, an exclusive constitutional right of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Commission having come to the conclusion that there was enough evidence on which to recommend prosecutions has so done. We leave it to the appropriate authorities to act according to their conscience and according to the best interests of the country as they see them.

While all this was going on, Sir, we have had several statements being made, and Senator Connell's repetition of one is an example, but I want to sound a warning that those who have ears can hear. There are people who perhaps believe that they can get out there and run down a political party and unfairly accuse it and that they will come out and state our side of the case. We do not believe while a Commission is yet to report that we ought to be out there talking, but when Senator Connell got down off the platform at Redman's Village a Dr. Caddle got up on that platform and made a lot of interesting statements, including 'I am saying to you that if an ordinary man in this country had been found guilty of such an act the police would have already found.....' — he will find the man guilty before the police find him —! and he would have already been arraigned in court. Another set of people like yourselves would have pronounced him guilty,' and so on, and he went on to say: 'while we are here let us ask Mr. Henry Forde if it is true that he is the second cousin of Hyacinth Goring.' This is on the same platform with Dr. Richie Haynes, her first cousin. Dr. Richie Haynes, whose counting agent she was, never mind that at the same meeting Richie Haynes said he did not believe he had seen her more than six times in his life, his own first cousin who was his counting agent. (ASIDE). I am making a point, Sir, that the statement which perhaps innocently Senator Connell

brought in here is a statement which comes out of the same malevolent sources.

SENATOR J. A. CONNELL: Mr. President, if the member will give way, I spoke in connection with the resignation of the Attorney General on the ground that he made a statement that no enquiry was necessary, the Prime Minister said an enquiry was necessary, and then the Commissioner of Police came at the Enquiry and contradicted the Attorney General. That was the ground on which I called for the resignation of Mr. Forde, and I am still waiting for him to deal with that, the conflict between the position of two Ministers of Government as to whether the police discharged their duties efficiently in an important murder enquiry, and he has not touched it yet. I am waiting for him to touch it.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I will also deal with the submission on that point made by Senator Connell, but I am dealing with the submission made by Senator Connell that people are asking why it was brought to an end before it could point an accusing finger at the perpetrator of the crime. (ASIDE). Well, if he says that he also said that, is he going to tell me the order in which he will get licks? He is going to get licks on both. I am not joking about this matter, Sir, Senator Connell is not to allow himself to be used as an unwitting tool of the nastiest people of his party, those who go all around the country seeking to identify the Barbados Labour Party with a killing. I have never known politics in this country to sink so low before, and it all arose because the St. Michael South Central bye-election was being fought at the same time, and had it then emerged who might be involved in the killing it could have done a great deal of damage to the candidate of the Democratic Labour Party, as a result of which we find that a man who is very closely associated with the same person went up and down this country slandering DeLisle Bradshaw and the Barbados Labour Party, and I have seen Bradshaw suffer. I have seen Bradshaw on tranquilisers, I have seen him under close medical attention by Dr. William St. John, I have seen the man almost destroyed by this vicious attack, and then people are going to come in here and tell me what, Sir? If this is the way that people like Dr. Haynes and his cohorts in the Democratic Labour Party want to play politics, they are going to find out about it, and if Miss Tudor wants to write whatever she wants to write from week to week we will find out about that too. She has a right to say whatever she wants to, we will deal with her on the platforms in time. That is not a laughing matter, we are not going to have people's reputation destroyed by these vicious and spiteful types, and then they go from place to place talking all sorts of nonsense.

Dr. Haynes should remember that I come from St. George and I know he is a Goring and the Gorings like money, so if Uncle Charles was involved in the drugs,

or Cousin Hyacinth is involved in the drugs, he would know what we mean by that. I grew up in St. George, I know the difficulties, I know who is practising obeah in St. George and who was obtaining money by false pretences. He is fortunate his mother did not go to gaol. If this is the level it is going to reach in politics in this country, because it is going to be all no holes barred, because I for one am not going to stand up and see any colleague of mine destroyed by a vicious campaign of lies and slander. If a man wants to get a seat there are ways in which people have won seats in the past and there are ways in which they will win them in the future, and it does not have to involve this type of vulgarity, this nastiness, this viciousness.

Let me deal now formally with the point about the Attorney General. Senator Connell quite understands that in the administration of a department we are all the captives of advice and he quite understands that the most significant aspect of the quality of that advice is the fact that the Assistant Commissioner of Police who was really in charge of the investigation — he is the man on whom the Commissioner of Police must rely, and the Commissioner is the man on whom the Minister must rely — the Assistant Commissioner of Police assured us all that the police were doing all they could. But having so advised, the man who was not prepared to come back when the Commissioner of Police asked him to do so. Of course the explanation to that as given by Dr. Haynes on the public platform is that Broome, Cummings, Clarke and Callender are all members of the Barbados Labour Party. We are not fortunate to have police support at that level. But when Senator Connell comes in here and talks about the damage that is being done to the Police Force, does he think that the same platform which he shares is not contributing seriously to that damage when instead of asking people to recognize that, even if there are a few bad apples, that is not peculiar to the Police Force but is applicable to any institution and does not justify them in their disrespect for the Police Force? Instead of telling them that, they are running down the Police Force, Dr. Caddle is telling them that the Barbados Labour Party is going to fall on the Pele issue, and Dr. Haynes is naming a whole list of policemen and saying that they are members of the Barbados Labour Party. Do not forget that it is possible for us to deal with the fact that Mark Stokes disappeared and that certain police officers identified with the then Prime Minister were the last people known to have seen him alive. So it is a dangerous road to travel. And as of now I want to make it very clear that once the Commission has reported, they shall no longer have the sanctuary they think they enjoy. We are not going to allow you to destroy every vestige of respect for the institutions in this country for the purpose of reaping political gain.

Unfortunately a man was killed. As far as I know no politician had anything to do with it and we have

never sought to establish that just because the person with the dead man was first cousin to a politician on the other side that meant he had something to do with it, even when we know he is not telling the truth when he says he had only seen the woman about six times in his life. We know that she was his polling agent, we know he telephoned her lawyers immediately after this thing broke and asked them to go easy on her because she was his cousin. And to come and tell this sort of thing to the public! And what is worse, instead of letting the Commission follow its course, you have Eric Fly out there saying you don't want any Commission and seeking to involve other members of the Government. And everyone knows that Eric Sealy is the unofficial arm of the Democratic Labour Party — it is no point pretending otherwise. And in addition to that you have Dr. Caddle telling you that the lady is Henry Forde's second cousin. Something must be wrong with Caddle's head.

The reference to this Pele murder has forced me to speak in here on a matter about which I did not intend to speak in here for some time. I, like other members of the public, want to see justice done. I do not believe the cause of justice is served by introducing the matter into the political forum, but the person who stands the nearest to it of any politician in public life has been behaving in a very sad manner and had better watch it, for we are not going to stand for it. The Barbados Labour Party is an old and well-established institution in this country and will not be destroyed by this foolishness. The neophytes who have just come into politics and think they know it all are going to have to begin to learn it all. That is all I have to say.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

BILL TO AMEND INSURANCE CORPORATION OF BARBADOS ACT

The Second Order was called — to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Act, 1978 and to validate certain acts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, we have a number of matters which are, I believe, non-contentious and which in about four instances it is necessary for us to pass before the end of the month or at any rate are matters of urgency. However, I believe we can try to get them through this afternoon and so obviate the need for meeting in the coming week.

The first of these Items on the Order Paper is not one of which I am referring to but this is one which is

relatively non-contentious and therefore I am presenting it at this stage rather than jumping at any other Item.

This Bill is entitled an Act to amend the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Act, 1978 and to validate certain acts of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados. The Insurance Corporation on the 1st April, 1978, took over all the assets and liabilities of the Standing Insurance Committee of the General Insurance Fund as well as the Insurance of all Government property and property belonging to Statutory Bodies formerly insured by the Committee.

The Committee has been settling claims arising out of the Insurance of such properties. At its final Meeting on the 20th February, 1979 the Standing Insurance Committee resolved that the Minister of Finance and Planning and the Attorney General should be invited to proceed with the action to give effect to the provision of Section 33(2) of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Act, 1978.

The Committee also recommended that in view of the fact that the Committee had assumed functions provided under the Act as of the 1st April, 1978, the proclamation provides for the handing over of assets and liabilities of the Standing Insurance Committee General Insurance Corporation of Barbados from the 1st of April, 1978 although the repeal of the Property Insurance Act will come into effect at a later date.

As a result of this, it is proposed that the necessary legislation be enacted to legalise the take-over of the assets and liabilities of the Standing Insurance Committee of the General Insurance Funds by the Insurance Corporation as of the 1st of April and also that a validated Act should be enacted to amend the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Act so as to validate the taking over of the assets of the Standing Insurance Committee.

In other words, Sir, what this legislation is for is largely regulatory in so far as it also has a validation aspect. It is not a matter of principle as to whether the Insurance Corporation should exist or whether it should carry out its functions. It is a matter that now that the work which is a sort of transitional period of work has been concluded, of setting the position right and leaving the Insurance Corporation to go forward from there on.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Senate resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill SENATOR THE REV. A. HATCH in the Chair.

On the motion of SENATOR R. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was taken as read.

The Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Senate was resumed and the Bill reported as having been passed. Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

LANDLORD AND TENANT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Item No. 3 was called to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act, Cap. 230.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: The Administration of Justice Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1979-33 increased the Civil Jurisdiction of Magistrates from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and at the same time Section 35 of the Landlord and Tenant Act, Cap. 230 should have been amended to provide similarly and this was not done as a matter of an oversight.

What this legislation seeks to do is merely to amend that Section to bring it in line with the provision of the Administration of Justice Act, 1979-33. This is really again a non-contentious matter relating merely to the civil jurisdiction of our Magistrates' Courts.

I move that this Bill be now read a second time.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Senate resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill SENATOR THE REV. A. HATCH in the Chair.

On the motion of SENATOR R. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was taken as read.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. NIGEL BARROW the Bill was taken as read.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. NIGEL BARROW the Senate was resumed and the passing of the Bill was reported.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. NIGEL BARROW the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Order No. 4 was called — To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1980.

SENATOR THE HON. NIGEL BARROW: Mr. President, this Resolution relates to the provision of posts for the Immigration Service, the new Civilian Immigration Service.

As it says on the face of it:

"Although the Immigration functions of the Police Department will be removed, the strength of the Force will not be reduced because of the need to provide additional staff."

It also relates to the Security Service in that it relates to additional officers. The duties which I gave earlier in my speech today are in training for Security Guard Service tests. This is two fold. I am not referring to special assignments office, I am referring to the main Resolution. In the first place, this Government has recognised that the training which an Immigration Officer requires is not the same which a Police Officer requires. It is hardly necessary therefore, to maintain a system where you train people in detection of crime and then put them in Immigration which deals with grant or refusal of permits, grant or refusal of issue of passports, visas and such matters as Immigration Services deal with. It seems the training of Immigration Officers, though adequate, and though it could be spread over a short period of time and be less costly, you should provide somebody to administer such functions. It would also mean that those persons who are trained as policemen, if they opted, or if there were no room for them in the Immigration Service, they could then put their training to general police purposes. It would also mean that it would be a de facto provision of increased numbers in the Police Force.

On the 14th March, the Civilian Immigration Force was initiated. People were on for some time under the general authority of the Commissioner of Police. Mr. Hutson who used to be the Superintendent of Police in Charge of Immigration is now Chief Immigration Officer. A number of posts have been provided. We will be requiring a slightly higher level of qualification of entry into the Immigration Service than in the general service. One can get into the general service quite often with less than three 'O' Levels. We are trying very hard to ensure that we build up a service which has the kind of personnel that can make it a credit to the country.

A number of police officers have come across, I think 40 of them in all. The largest depot at present at the Airport has some 58 Immigration Officers. Of

course, 90% of the tourists come through there, so that would be the largest depot. We are taking over Customs House by the week after Easter. The new Immigration Officer should be in Customs House. It would mean also that more physical space would be released to the Police at Coleridge Street so that when plans for the physical development for the Police go through the mill, at least, we would have been able to do something towards an increase in accommodation.

I would also like to mention that the new Headquarters has an interesting feature which is abundant storage. It is not generally recognised that if you have some 400,000 people coming through Barbados in a given year, that this means that they are being asked to process something like one million E.D. cards. You need additional storage and you also need, for the amount of traffic that is going on, more useful accommodation.

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

SENATOR THE HON. DON BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is proposed that the Senate approve of this Resolution.

SENATOR D. H. G. HUNTE: Mr. President, just one brief point. I am very glad to see that the Government has done something about this matter, because I too believe, that the time has come when we should relieve the Police of some of these extra duties which they have to perform and I am looking forward to the day when other areas of the Police Service will be put into the hands of our civilians to administer. Another point that bothers me and which I want the Hon. Minister to take up is that when I was winding up on Tuesday night, I said that when I came back yesterday, I wanted to speak about the Police. I was late and you offered the opportunity to me, Mr. President, but I did not take it because after listening to Senator Linton, you would have had to use a lot of your power to constrain me from replying to him.

The question of the Police at Government House too, is another thing which I think the Government should look at and perhaps the Defence and Security Division should take over the duties which the police are doing at Government House at the Gate.

I think it is about time Defence and Security take over that and relieve those policemen for general policing duties. The other one is that I saw the Minister in one paper today briefly at Customs House and I saw Mr. Hutson pointing across. It was in one of the papers this morning.

There was a lot of criticism about Customs House some time ago before the Customs Department moved out. I do not know if it is the same building with water coming in and the place was in disarray and things like that. I am not sure if it is the same building, but with the assurance he has given us that the week after Easter the people will be in the Customs House, I just wanted to be sure that all the necessary remedial work has been done in order that these officers go into good surroundings. We know they are going to have a big building, Mr. President, but what is important is not the size of the building but the comfort inside the building for the people.

We heard Senator Linton yesterday talking about the Airport Manager in a little room at the airport. Now I just want to be certain that when we put persons to work in offices that they are as spacious and as commodious as possible, because we do not get the best results if we have people working in conditions that are not conducive to proper work.

I wanted to make one mention of the police, and since it is mentioned in this I want to make one appeal to the public of this country. I am very concerned at the attitude which has been developed by the public to the police in this country. I have a lot of friends in the Police Force and quite a few of the youngsters are opting now to work at night, and when I asked one or two of them why they prefer to work at night they indicated to me that it is because of the attitude of the public to them particularly as a result of the Pele enquiry. I myself happened to be talking to one in uniform and he had to speak to a couple of school children for the way how they were conducting themselves and things like this and not taking his instructions, and you should have heard the comments which they made to him about who killed Pele and things of that sort. While it is true, Mr. President, that the Force has just gone through a very difficult time, I think that we as citizens and responsible citizens should make a strong appeal to the general public of this country that they should not allow the doings of one or two members of the Police Force to stand in the way of the other 800 odd men who make up that Force, and I think that we should reinforce our support for the police. They have a very important job to do in this country, that is, the preservation of law and order, and if we get the morale of the Police Force broken down any more than it is today, and if we find that we cannot get the support of the general public, then I believe that we are going to be in a very bad way in the not too distant future; and so I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the general public not to let the actions of one or two members of the Police Force put them against the total establishment, but that they must realise that these officers still have their duties to perform and that we must try as far as possible to give them our support.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I wish to assure Senator Hunte that a great deal of

work has been done. In fact I was myself quite amazed when I saw the general condition of the accommodation at Customs House. I in fact never believed that it would look like that. You have been in there a few times yourself from your comments and I have certainly been in there a few times myself and believe me I always thought it to be a fairly dreadful place, but a great deal has been done and I think there is no need to fear for the comfort of staff.

I would also like formally and directly because I think it is implicit in some of the remarks I made earlier to support the call made by Senator Hunte in the interest of the forces of law and order in this country. We cannot do without them. There is no point pretending we can, and there is no reason for people who are normally reasonable and intelligent people suddenly to appear as though the whole Police Force is a pariah. We have to depend on the Police Force for the general protection of law and order in the society. It has so far served us well and the fact that there is reason to fear that it has not served us quite as well as it should in one or two particulars is no reason for us to view the entire Force with discredit. We have to recognise that important institutions have to be supported, have to be protected.

The question that the Senate concur in the Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE LAND TAX VALIDATION ACT, 1980

The Fifth Order of the day was called – to move the second reading of a Bill to validate certain matters relating to land tax.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, this Bill again is not one very contentious, and at this point I would like to ask that we take after this Items, 7, 8 and 9 and leave Item 6 for the end. This I do not think there is going to be much discussion on and we can get them out of the way so that we can then have a look at Item 6 on which one or two members have indicated they wish to speak.

The Minister of Finance in his 1979 Budgetary Proposals noted that the introduction in 1973 of a new system of land taxation based on charging taxes as a percentage of the value of the property contributed to an inequality in the burden of taxation for smaller house and land owners who were paying more while larger property owners were paying less absolutely. The Minister therefore made the following proposals on the basis of a sliding scale for land taxation. For unimproved properties, the first \$50,000 of site value will continue to be taxed at the current rate of 1.25% annually and so on. I think, Sir, that we will remember these proposals from the Budgetary Proposals of last year. Improved properties, the first \$250,000 of site value continue to pay tax at the current rate of 0.5% and the rate at 1% afterwards; and then a general policy of encouraging the

development of agriculture led to a rebate on the increased rates being granted on application on any agricultural property owned by Barbadians, permanent residents of Barbados and any company incorporated and resident in Barbados which is controlled by Barbadians. Applications for rebate of tax on agricultural property to be supported by a certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs and the incentives to companies and individuals who build stone houses for sale by way of rebate of land tax payable during the year preceding completion in respect of the site value of each parcel of improved land in which two or more stone houses are built, the rebate of land tax payable in respect of the site value of improved land on which single or condominium units are constructed for sale.

I believe, Sir, that the measures there reflect quite clearly three things: firstly, we wish to ensure that while there is a fair relationship in the tax structure those better off should pay more; secondly, that there should be a stimulus to agricultural development by way of tax relief, and thirdly, that we should stimulate the building of houses for sale by way of tax relief.

The Minister made the necessary Orders on the 27th August, 1979, they were approved by Cabinet, but the Orders were never gazetted. The new tax was collected, rebates were made according to information received from the Collector of Taxes. Because the Order was never gazetted, it has become necessary for us to come to Parliament with a Validation Bill. This is why there is a Validation Bill. The policy was made quite clear, and it is a policy which generally I think has been agreed to, but certainly a policy from which we stand to benefit.

I move that this Bill be now read a second time.

SENATOR THE REV. A. HATCH: Mr. President, the Minister has the figures in front of him, can he remind us from the Schedule of the existing rates as contrasted with these new rates?

SENATOR D. S. MACKENZIE: Sir, I am not the Minister, but I thought that I would mention, and I did take the opportunity, in answer to Senator Hatch's question, to look up to see what the tax bills were preceding this, and it was a flat rate for the improved and site value of .5 of 1% and there was never the part of the site value on each parcel of undeveloped land. This is a new aspect, as the Hon. Minister just pointed out, with a view to putting unused land back into agriculture, but before that it was .5 of 1%.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I move that this Bill be now committed.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

The question that the Bill be read a third time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I move that this Bill do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, these two Bills, Items 7 and 8, relate indeed to the same budgetary measure, the measure which introduced a flat rate of duty assessment on passengers baggage under certain conditions. At its meeting in Georgetown on the 24th and 25th September, 1976, the Common Market Council endorsed the recommendations of the Customs Committee that the rate should be reduced to 30%. The rate at the time proposed was 45% and a special rate of 5% on foodstuffs was provided for. This decision taken in April 1976 was never implemented and so in September 1976 they agreed on a reduction of 30%, and the system should be applied only where consignments consist of items falling in at least three different tariff headings. The proposal to provide a special rate for foodstuffs was withdrawn.

The question of the collection of consumption tax in order to process the flat rate was raised and it was revealed that some Member States had implemented the flat rate, had collected the tax, others had not. The idea of a flat rate was thought of for expedition and facilitation of examination of passengers' baggage and it was therefore thought, in Barbados at least, that it should be a single rate. The revenue would be collected and the consumption tax would be foregone in the interest of quick, simple examination of baggage. As a result, and since there is precedent for such action in that consumption tax is not collected on liquor and tobacco, products which comprise the passengers' duty allowance notwithstanding the liability of those items to the tax, it was decided to amend the Consumption Tax Act to give effect to the proposal, and so at the same time that we amend the Customs Act we have to amend the Consumption Tax Act, so we have this Item which has to do with the Customs Act, and Item No. 8 which has to do with the Consumption Tax. The object is to bring the flat rate duty assessment in relation to the passengers.

Mr. President, I move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time and agreed to.

BILL TO AMEND THE CONSUMPTION TAX ACT

The Eighth Order was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Consumption Tax Act.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, in introducing the last measure I took the opportunity to introduce Order No. 8 in that the two measures are related.

We introduced the flat rate as a Customs measure with the consequential effect on consumption taxes, so that liquor and tobacco, the items subject to the flat rate of customs duty would now, if the measures are effected, be exempt from Customs duty. The same rationale for one measure is the rationale for the other.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time and agreed to.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION

The Ninth Order was called — To move the second reading of a Bill to provide for membership of Barbados in the International Finance Corporation.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, in moving the second reading of this Bill, let me explain that the International Finance Corporation is an affiliate of the International Bank for Reconstruction, commonly referred to as the World Bank. Membership in the Corporation is open to all governments who are members of the World Bank.

The framework within which the Corporation operates is as follows:

In association with private investors the Corporation assists in the financing, establishment, improvement and expansion of productive exercises which will contribute to the development of member countries concerned in cases where sufficient capital is not available. The Corporation seeks to bring together investment opportunities, domestic and foreign private capital and experienced management. The Corporation seeks to stimulate and help create conditions conducive to the flow of private capital — domestic and foreign — in the productive investment of member countries. Its special purpose is to further economic development by encouraging the growth of productive private enterprise in member countries, particularly the less

developed countries. The Corporation works with wholly-owned private and mixed private/public enterprises, and also, where circumstances justify, uses wholly owned government enterprises as a channel for assistance to the private sector. It does not depend on and will not accept government guarantees on investment; it will invest only where its investment criteria can be met. Every venture in which the Corporation invests must be financially sound and potentially profitable and must benefit the economy of the country in which it is located. It will also invest in a venture only if there is immediate or eventual local participation. It does not come tied to the purchase of specific equipment or to a specific country; the requirements is that IFC funds must be spent in any of the 132 member countries of the World Bank or in Switzerland.

When the government of Barbados recognized that the IFC was operating in areas which indicated that it could be of some — let me put it this way — countries like Barbados were critical of the fact that the operations of the IFC did not seem particularly relevant to their needs, and a whole lot of introspective analysis went on until there were modifications in the attitude and outlook of the IFC, with the result that it became attractive for countries like Barbados to seek membership since we would stand to secure benefits.

We have to pay what at first we thought would be \$74,000 but what turned out to be \$93,000 in order to join the Corporation, but this is one of the ways of providing opportunities for investment of local funds.

As I said before, that is the emphasis the IFC puts on its investment. The Bill before us is therefore one to permit the country to join the IFC. The Schedule to the Bill is the Articles of Agreement we are to enter into in order to become members of the IFC.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Senate resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill SENATOR THE REV. A. HATCH, in the Chair.

On the motion of SENATOR R. BRATHWAITE, the Bill was taken as read.

The Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Senate was resumed and the Bill reported

as having been passed. Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1980

Item No. 6 was called — to move the First Reading of a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, Item number 6, the last for the day. I hope that I will be as relieved when this is finished this day as I am now. We had a rough three days. The Item before us, Sir, I wish I could say that it is non-contentious. I am sure that even those who feel that it should be more will be so prepared to say at this stage but we hope for the next little while that they are not going to worry too much about how much it is now.

I believe that this debate is likely to reflect the relief of the Accounting Profession. They do not have to go into April, 30th without having this bit of legislation on the Statute Books. I well understand how difficult it must have been for people trying to conclude their income tax returns a little earlier than the law requires and I gather that the number of people who were proceeding along the lines of the Budget Speech and Companies which would have had a March 15th end of year deadline would have had little alternative.

I am sorry therefore that this legislation did not come down before but it reflects the Income Tax changes which were made in the Law in the last Budget. I will call them out quickly:

Incentives to Companies and individuals who build stonehouses for sale.

National Saving Certificates.

Deposits and Banking Statements of the Barbados National Bank.

Workers' Bonus shares.

Gross Incomes of corporate employees.

Savings of Co-operative Societies.

Complete separate assessment of income of husband and wife Tax credits.

Personal allowances for married persons.

Single person allowances for single persons.

Husbands and wives filing separate returns.

Children allowances.

Dependant allowances.

Housekeeper allowances.

Dependant relative allowances for single persons.

Insurance Allowances.

Insurance on Life for child.

Registered Retirement Plans.

Tax relief and dividends.

Home ownership.

House repairs.

Revised rates of income bonus shares.

Everybody, including the Minister of Finance is at a disadvantage at this time of the year in introducing any such measure because if you talk too much, even if you do not know what is going to be in the Budget, you will be talked of as giving hints. If you do not talk at all you will still be accused of selling the Senate short because at least you should have said something in introducing the Bill so we are all caught in the dilemma.

I believe the Senate will bear with me, especially when everybody must be as tired as I am. Remember, Sir, in 1977 the Tax Credit was introduced \$60 per person with Gross Incomes of \$6,000 or less and the amount of Credit was increased in 1979 to \$100 but the Regulations necessary to give effect to the decisions were never made.

Appropriate Regulations are drafted for making by the Hon. Minister, so even there, the accounts — except that someone is looking for a Tax Credit, would hardly need the services of an Accountant, or if you need them, you can hardly afford to pay for them. The point is that the Legislation is here and instead of coming yesterday, as it should, we can hardly truthfully say it has come today because it is tomorrow, since the Budget is around the corner and I think there is little to say.

Senator Connell has made a point in here which I have communicated to my colleagues. It is a point which I agree with entirely and it relates to an opportunity to debate the Budgetary Proposals and at that point, serious considerations were given to bringing down a Bill with the Budgetary Proposals in which case, it would have facilitated debate in both Houses. I do not believe that this year that we are going to be able to do that, although in principle, it has been accepted. My colleagues have accepted the validity of the Senator's point and agreed that there should be an opportunity in the Senate for full scale debate on finance policy. This is extremely important when measures of this sort come so late in the year. As I said, it is not a matter of coming today, it is a matter of coming tomorrow, it has barely made it in time.

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

SENATOR THE HON. DON. BLACKMAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is proposed that this Bill be now read a second time.

SENATOR J. CONNELL: Mr. President, I do not propose to debate the Bill, I simply want to make a comment. When an attempt was made last year to debate the Budget, the Leader of the Senate said that procedural objection was taken because it had not been made a document of the Senate and therefore, the Senate technically had no notice of it. I think that all that is necessary to obviate that happening again is for the Budget to be laid in the Senate almost immediately after it is delivered and thereby afford us the opportunity to file the necessary resolution to debate it.

SENATOR K. R. HEWITT: Mr. President, the first point that I would like to make pertaining to the Bill before us flows from comments by Senator Barrow pertaining to the timing of this legislation. Without trying to rub in anything, it is obvious that legislation pertaining to 1979 income tax should come before us much earlier in the year. I do not mean in 1980, but sometime about three or four months after the Budget itself. Obviously, the Budget itself is pretty public and one can argue that those who are concerned can obtain copies and hence appraise themselves of the various proposed changes, however, in the final analysis one has to look at the specific legislation before one can come to the final conclusion of what in fact, is the legal situation.

Without dwelling too much on this point, we would sincerely hope that the amendments which would flow from the 1980 Budget Speech would come to the Hon. Senate some time around mid 1980. The second point is a general point relevant to the Bills which may amend legislation, subsequent to the current year of the revised laws or bound copy of the laws. What I am saying is that sometimes we are asked to make amendments and unless one has a particular interest in the area, one may not know where in fact to find the particular clause that we are supposed to be amending. I think that where this situation pertains, the Hon. Senate could be afforded the service of an indication giving the number of the amendment so that one can look to see where to find the amendments. I am sure that those who might have looked through here to find what was in fact meant to be amended might have proven to be a little time consuming. That is a general point not only pertaining to this particular amendment of course.

Sir, the Bill under review seeks to incorporate into the Income Tax Act various Budgetary Proposals for 1979. The nature of the amendments indicates the

desire to mobilise funds and to channel them into particular areas of endeavour. Secondly, the need to ease the tax burden and therefore to obviate or to prevent the incentives of certain individuals being blunted. This latter point stems from a recognition, I think, that various marginal rates of taxation, coupled with high inflation rates that we have been experiencing, have resulted somewhat in a growing burden of the salary of the wage earner who could be bearing a somewhat disproportionate part of the tax burden. This observation is borne out by figures contained in the recent Estimates and a comparison over the years would indicate that the percentage of income taxes to the total Revenue for 1969 to 1970 would have varied from 32.9% in that year to a situation of 42% in the 1978 to 1979 year. In absolute terms, it would have increased from \$25.8 million in 1969 to 1970 to approximately \$132 million in 1978 to 1979. I think that the percentage increase is perhaps more relevant than the absolute increase.

I am saying that this relative increase and the burden on individuals and corporations is such that those in authority would have from time to time to seek to ease that burden lest it becomes out of proportion to total revenue. In fact it definitely recognises the adverse effects that could flow from not recognising the need to maintain some reasonable balance between direct and indirect taxation.

Now the Leader of the Senate has already referred generally to the particular areas of incentive or tax exemption and these generally speaking would have to do with national savings certificates, the national development bonds of the BDB, certain increases in dividend credits, the proposed development of a secondary mortgage market, and tax rebates to land developers and concessionary rates of corporation tax in the case of the building and selling of two dwelling houses in a particular year.

Now I just want to make one or two brief comments on some of the particular areas. Now, Sir, the first area I would look at is that dealing with the bonus scheme. Putting it generally it has to do with the tax relief on bonus if that bonus is taken as shares rather than as cash. The particular sections involved here, the amendment, would be section 3(b)(1) on page 2, and also the effect of page 4 dealing with the bonus as far as employees are concerned. Now obviously my observation here is that this is an obvious attempt to encourage investment in limited liability companies, at the same time to give workers an opportunity to have a stake in the company which employs them, but it raises certain questions: one is the valuation of the shares. No doubt provision may be made for these things elsewhere I do not know, but I am going to raise the question. At present

there is no stock market in Barbados although we understand this is something in the pipeline, and so the question is how would one determine the value of the shares? Would it be par value or would it be some agreed value between employee and employer? Secondly I am going to raise the question which in fact any individual employee would have to raise himself as to whether in spite of the tax concession an investment in the company is worthwhile. I am not too sure who has the option or whether it must be a meeting of the minds between employer and employee to effect the bonus issue, but I believe that in this area the employees or the employees representatives, the Workers' Union, may have to play some part and ensure that where shares are being made available that the transfer price if you want to put it like that is a reasonable one. In other words, that where the employee accepts to take shares in lieu of cash bonus that the shares being taken are value for money. I do not think that we should sort of give the impression that all shares are worth having. It may be that a different type of investment may be more worthwhile, but the incentive of the tax there is limited to the bonus shares and hence one may be less costly and one may be tempted to take the shares without adequate investigation.

Now if the purpose here is to attract people generally speaking into investment opportunities, my query is why shares and only shares. Specifically not obviously that I am knocking the limited liability company or the concept of shares and so on, but perhaps it may be more beneficial to any particular employee to invest in a piece of land, to invest in some tools, to invest for argument sake in the same national savings certificates or national development bonds and so on, but in all of these cases the exemption like in the cases of the national development bonds or saving certificates or what-have-you, the exemption has to do with the interest on the investment, whereas as I understand it in the situation with bonus shares the exemption has to do with the investment itself. In other words if you took up 41,000 in shares you have that exemption up to \$1,000 investment whereas if you invested \$1,000 in national savings certificates the exemption is on the interest and not on the investment itself. So I can see the need to encourage the investment or a broader mass of investors if you want to put it like that, or encourage people to invest generally, but I am not too sure that I see why the preference for the shares of a limited liability company as opposed to any other type of investment that I might have mentioned.

I therefore feel that some consideration should be given to expanding this incentive to investment and to more or less make the net wider even if it is to just initially widen to include other things mentioned in the Act namely, the national savings certificates and what not. The other thing one has to remember is that this particular measure has to do with employees and the com-

pany with which they work, but a large and substantial amount of the work force in fact does not work with companies and not to widen the net in fact is not to induce that wider work force to the investing concept.

I think during the debates one of the Senators for argument sake referred to the need to have a proper primary education and she pointed out that the facilities would not only be the building but the teachers and so on. One may ask the question where is the particular attraction to hold people in that area. And more widely than that, the point I am making, Sir, is that the enticement is to a narrow group. We agree with the concept, but it is restricted to a narrow group. We feel the net should be widened to other workers and to other investment opportunities.

Another area where some preference is given again to the limited liability company has to do with the incentives for building and selling houses. Now, as I understand it, the intention here was to encourage the building and selling of stone houses, and the incentive was twofold. On the one hand there was an incentive pertaining to rebates of land tax, and in that case both individuals and companies are eligible for the rebate, but in the case of the concessionary tax rate of 20% that has been reserved for companies. Now, whereas again we agree with the policy of giving the incentive to build and sell the houses, again we do not see why it is limited to a limited liability company. I don't have anything against limited liability companies, as a matter of fact, I have a direct interest in having as many limited liability companies around in that it is mandatory for each limited liability company to have an audit, and whereas in most cases that legal entity is the best framework for a business operation, it is not necessarily so in all cases, and if the policy is to give an incentive to the building of houses, I do not see why the distinction or the limitation of the tax exemption or the concessionary rate of tax to the Corporation and not to the individual.

On the top of page 5 in the amendments there is an attempt at some incentive to foster deposits with co-operatives, but I do not know based on the history of co-operatives in Barbados whether this would generate too much activity, and obviously there is much needed work to be done in this area before one could reasonably expect that people would be too prone to take advantage of this particular section.

Sir, on the question of separate filing, previously section 15 — well, as we see in the amendment section 15 is to be repealed — previously this section provided the option to married women to file separately with regard to earned income, not all income. Now, section 15 is being repealed and one is permitted to complete a separate assessment of earned and unearned income — in other words, unearned income, investment income and so forth — but I seem to see one anomaly in this area of

separate assessment. Previously it was optional and now, according to my interpretation, it would seem now to be no longer optional and it could affect some people. I doubt that the amount of people it may affect would be too great, but nevertheless it seems to me like some small anomaly and I would indicate how I see the situation.

The new provisions indicate that in the case of an individual — this is on page 11, section 12, amended section 38 — in the case of an individual whose spouse during the income year had no income, etc. then the amount of allowance is \$3,000. Then it went on to say that in the situation where section 8 does not apply, for an individual the allowance is \$1,600, but the point is that a spouse could have some small amount of income. For some reason or another somebody might be working temporarily or whatever and could in fact have worked, let us say, for \$600 in a particular year. Now, having worked for that \$600 the husband, let us say, no longer is entitled to his \$3,000 claim, he can only claim \$1,600 so that the net loss in allowance to that couple is \$1,000, which limits it to dividends and interest, on page 13 as the Senator points out.

Obviously it was recognised that this could happen and the exemption from that was put in but limited to income from interest and dividends up to \$800, but the earnings of a spouse who might have earned \$600 to \$800 might not necessarily come from dividends or interest, it may come from anything else, and it would mean then to have earned that \$600 would have resulted in a loss of allowances between the husband and wife of a further \$1,000. This might have been intentional, I do not know, I do not know how many people may be affected, but to me it seems an anomaly, and I am wondering for argument's sake if permission to file or to retain the option would not eliminate that anomaly.

Sir, in the area of registered retirement plans, previously the maximum allowed was \$1,000, the new amount is \$1,500, which in a sense is a pretty substantial increase, but since the premium from pension funds, if you want to call them that, in fact acts as an accumulation of savings which are available for investment and so forth, it obviously to my mind serves a dual purpose, to encourage as much savings in that area as possible, and also at the same time to encourage people to provide for their old age at the same time. The increase, as I say, was from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and who can be not thankful for that increase, but I hope that it would not and that a more meaningful maximum be applied. I say more meaningful, because on checking with the insurance agents it would seem that a \$1,500 per year could buy at age 65 — or let me put that differently — if a man at 40 years started to contribute \$1,500 a year, at age 65 he would be entitled to \$580 a month, and age 65 would be 25 years hence.

At age 65, twenty-five years hence, and with the rapid rate of inflation and so on, one can hardly accept \$580 would be an adequate pension provision. For a forty-five year old man, twenty years down the line would be buying a monthly income of \$397. Looking at the fact of the case, we recognize that someone buying a pension now will be receiving the returns twenty or thirty years down the line when the dollar would be less valuable; and it would seem that the intention should be to permit further increases in this area of registered retirement plans.

In the case of the taxable value on residential houses, the system until the 1980 income year was such that a taxable value is imputed on a house of residence, and based on that imputed income people were allowed to deduct certain expenses, because theoretically having earned income you were permitted to deduct the relevant expenses, the relevant expenses being things like repairs and maintenance, interest, taxes, insurance and so on. That whole concept is going out and I don't think anybody will quarrel with it too much. However, apparently we are still going to be permitted to claim the interest and repairs and maintenance in 1980 and subsequent years. Now it is obvious that a limit should have been put on the amount of interest that should be permitted, and I think that was alluded to in the Budget that the community at large should not be expected to finance or cater to those with too expensive taste. So whereas I do not query the concept of having a limit I do query the actual limit itself. The proposed limit on interest is \$6,000, but I think that with today's construction market with materials and labour cost rising at rapid rates one can see that even those without expensive tastes will be called upon or forced to build houses or take mortgages resulting in interest rates above the \$6,000 amount. So whereas we obviously must concede the need for a limit, I feel that the present limit is too low and that perhaps an amount of around \$10,000 would be more reasonable in the climate of increasing costs in the construction industry.

As far as repairs and maintenance are concerned there is no limit in the body of the Act and this will be left to regulations or be given by order. In this connection I would hope that when the time comes and a limit is placed on the amount of repairs and maintenance to be allowed in any one year, any excess in any one year should be permitted to be carried forward. I say this because repairs and maintenance are not something to do at X hundred dollars a year evenly. In any one year a householder may be faced with a lump sum repair and the next year have little or nothing to do; so it would seem only reasonable to permit the carry forward of these expenses.

Now nothing has been said which would indicate what would be the situation with regard to property taxes and insurance. I do not know if these are going to

be allowed as expenses or only the repairs and interest and maintenance will be allowed.

Just a general comment on the various rates of taxes and the intervals between the increases in rates. In these amendments nothing much has been done with these intervals and I do feel that one reaches the 40% or 50% much too quickly; in other words I think there is a clear case for widening the intervals, perhaps so that we would rise to the upper rates a little more gradually. In this context we could also ask whether any consideration has been given to indexing the rates and allowances. The concept of indexing rates and allowances is nothing new; it has been practised elsewhere and it seems particularly relevant in the context of continuous inflation. In other words, an allowance of \$100 in year one, if in fact that allowance remains \$100 in year two when the rate of inflation has gone up considerably, technically speaking in real terms is a reduction in the allowance. So I am wondering whether this is under consideration; if it is not, I suggest that some thought be given to it, to the increasing of the allowances and tax rate.

One minor point here is a technicality more than substance, and has to do with page 18 of section 19, "Elimination of the definition of taxable value." It seems we have removed the definition of taxable value in 1979 even although for year 1979 we would still have to use taxable value. But since I guess we all know what taxable value was in all the years preceding 1979, I assume it is no more than a technicality.

So much for the actual amendments. I would just like to raise two other points about areas which could have been amended perhaps. One has to do with depreciation. Now the Income Tax Act permits depreciation on industrial buildings, and under the Hotel Aids Act, one is permitted to set off the costs of buildings against the profits; so that industrial buildings and hotels or rather the expenditures on these things do result in income tax allowances or a claim against income tax. But other business buildings — whether department stores, office buildings, etc., — depreciation on these buildings is not allowed, and one may ask why is depreciation allowed for all other assets which in fact do depreciate or have a limited life but is not allowed for buildings.

Now even although a building might last for a long time I think it would be conceded that it has a limited life whether it is 30, 40, 50 years or whatever and I do feel that the depreciation on a building should be allowed. The particular rate obviously will be a lower rate in that a building would tend to have a much longer life than a desk and so on but the concept of depreciation as an allowable expense on all buildings I think is one that should be looked at.

Finally on these specific points, Sir, is the question of the allowance permitted or to be claimed permitted for children who are studying overseas. I think that is \$1,000. I believe that allowance for children studying overseas, and I would say studying approved courses at approved colleges should be substantially increased.

There is a whole vast area of interest or skills which are lacking here and to me this could be an incentive or this can act as an incentive in encouraging people to go into the area and we are dealing with subjects which would not be available in the area. I think of Actuarial Science. I think of Computer Science. I think of Dentistry, Management Accounting and so on. I think that to limit the claim to \$1,000 overall no matter what a person may do is not really good enough.

I think there are fields of endeavour where the community as a whole would stand to have great benefit and I feel that for approved courses at approved schools ensuring that the individuals maintain reasonable progress — one can have reports on that — the claim of \$1,000 should be increased substantially in those particular areas. I am not saying that the claim should be increased substantially generally but it should be increased in specific areas which should be identified by the powers that be.

Now I am sure that no matter what concessions are given and how great the concessions, we can always ask for more. I do not think that I am particularly greedy. We recognise that the concessions given in 1979 were substantial. It was substantial for one year but perhaps they were just trying to start to put a situation right, a situation which for a long time was going quite wrong.

The costs according to the printed Budget of the Income Tax Concessions and so on, were something in the nature of \$11.4 million and as I said, with that type of concession who can really ask for more in that particular area but you have to recognise that there are certain areas which still need or could do with further concessions and we look forward to having relief in those particular areas.

SENATOR J. D. MACKENZIE: Mr. President, I know that it is late in the afternoon and we have been here for the third day so I will try to be as brief as I can be. I would like to make just a few comments.

Personally speaking, Mr. President, I would like to support the remarks of the preceding speaker and also the acknowledgement of the Leader of the Senate concerning the lax way in which the bringing down of legislation to give effect to Budgetary Proposals is being done.

As you know, Sir, under Cap. 85 of the Laws of Barbados I think that any new tax imposed or any increase in the rates of existing tax made at the time of Budgetary

Proposals should cease to be so payable if the enabling legislation is not passed in Parliament within four months of the date in which time it was introduced. When this enabling legislation comes so late it makes life very difficult for the people who are involved in order to interpret what is meant and what in fact the Law says should be done.

I would just like to make an appeal to ask the Hon. Leader of the Senate to try and see if he can communicate this message to those who are responsible for the bringing down of the legislation in a reasonable time.

I would also like to make a few comments on the Bill itself, Sir. I will touch on one or two of the points that Senator Hewitt made but in a very slightly different aspect. First of all on page 3, Mr. President, Section (iv)(s) "without prejudice to section 27, the profits of a company that are converted into bonus shares issued to existing shareholders of the company." This paragraph, Mr. President, covers the issuing of bonus shares.

The Law of Barbados, Mr. President, has not been clear on this point ever and in the past bonus shares were issued but it was never known for sure whether in issuing the bonus shares whether they were taxable in the hands of the shareholders or not and a couple of years ago the Assistant Commissioner of Inland Revenue made a directive that in his interpretation the Law was such that if persons were issued bonus shares out of the retained earning of a Company, that they would be taxable in the hands of the recipient.

As a result of that, no one at the General Meeting wanted to have any shares issued to them so the issue of bonus shares ceased. The matter was taken up, legal opinions were obtained and I think the Prime Minister on one occasion was asked what the Government's view on it was and in his Budget last year the Minister of Finance said, I think it was on page 21, on the question of bonus shares and we discussed it in here and I quote "I have carefully considered this matter and have concluded that the prospect of a tax free issue of bonus shares has been in the past and is a powerful inducement to investing in ordinary shares of a Company. I have accordingly instructed the Commissioner that it is the policy of the Government not to have bonus shares assessed for income tax and legislation to put the matter beyond doubt is now under consideration" and this is the legislation and I must say that I am very happy and very pleased to see that that decision has been taken.

Again, Mr. President, on the same page 3, Section 4R: "Subject to Section 8(1) Annual Bonus payments of an employing company converted into shares issued to employees", and so on.

This was referred to by Senator Hewitt. Again this refers

to issue of bonus shares to employees. If I may refer to the Hon. Minister of Finance's Budget Speech, he said on this matter:

"I now turn to the mobilising of direct savings for development in the private sector. I consider that my previous Proposals which essentially consist of placing money in the hands of institutions for further investments should be matched by Proposals which would give direct opportunities for personal development in productive activity through share ownership of the wealth of our country which I view as an important objective in itself".

He also went on to say:

"I therefore intend to throw the full weight of the Government behind the establishment of the proposed Stock Market to provide for free trading in securities and shares in public companies."

Mr. President, I have absolutely no disagreement with this Proposal. I do not think anybody could have any disagreement with its principle. I think that I and all of us completely support the idea of encouraging workers to hold shares in the productive sector. I am firmly committed myself and I am sure many people are, to the principle of broadening the base of ownership of the productive sector, it is a most necessary thing to do but in relation to the Scheme that this Bill is making into Law, I feel it is a little bit restrictive. I would like to make a few comments relating to this particular aspect. I think it is restrictive because a bonus is usually paid by a company when a company makes a profit. When a company does not make a profit, it does not pay a bonus. The question of the sincerity of bonus being paid to employers is an unknown factor. Secondly, in some instances, bonuses are not paid to employees because some companies have fallen upon hard times and they do not make any reasonable levels of profit. They have to embody the bonus that in the past used to be paid to the employees at the end of the year, they have to embody it into the payroll. I speak under correction but I think one such company is the Light and Power Company. I do not think the employees there receive bonus. I think I am right in saying that.

The third point I would like to make in relation to this Mr. President, is that employees of private companies are precluded from enjoying this Tax Free benefit simply because they work for a private company. I think that is wrong. One of the criteria of a private company Mr. President is that it must have 50 shareholders. If you have more than 50 shareholders, then you must become a public company. Private companies which have large staff would tend not to issue bonus shares in lieu of bonuses to their staff because it would force them into public companies which they may not want

to do. If they had a small staff and they did issue some shares to the staff, then, although it may not take them into a number of shareholders of exceeding 50, the actual share given to the employee cannot be used as collateral by that employee, if he needs to apply for a loan because it is not free and tradable on an open market. He cannot go to the bank and say I have so many shares in company 'X' would you lend me some money to repair my home because the Bank Manager knows that if he lends against it, it is not a valid collateral and if he had to cash them in as it were, that they are not easily sold or they are not freely traded, so they do not generally accept the shares of private Companies as collateral.

Again, Mr. President, if we look at a whole body of workers, Senator Hewitt said that public companies did not by any means embody all of the workers and that is a very true statement because if we look, Mr. President, at the Civil Service, the number of public service posts, less teachers are 6,207. The number of temporary posts 1,190. The teachers, I understand, are 3,005. The people who work at Statutory Boards 2,360, so we are talking altogether about 12,700 odd people. All of these people are precluded from making any sort of tax free into the productive sector of the country and also, being Civil Servants, it also raises the question that even if they did receive bonuses, which they do not, the question would be, what would they invest in, what does the Government have that they would invest in and what shares would they get in lieu of this bonus? (ASIDE) Because of that aside, I thought it was very important that I make this remark.

Again, Mr. President, I am of the opinion that all people, irrespective of where they work, they should be entitled to participate in any such Tax Free and I do not think that the Scheme should be discriminatory as it now is. It is restrictive and it involves but a few people. The majority are not involved, nor have the opportunity for this investment which I referred to when I read just now where the Prime Minister said:

"Which view is an important objective in itself. This is for people to invest in the productive sector of the community."

I think that all the objectives — the objective of mobilisation of personal saving, the creating of an even greater opportunity for personal investment in the productive sector through ownership and also in a concept of broadening the base of ownership to a larger number of people could all be achieved, if all workers could be given equal opportunity to invest in such schemes. I think that the existing scheme can be amended in such a way, that some percentage of their income or their earnings have a maximum level of \$1,000 that is embodied in this Legislation. I would allow up to

\$1,000 to anyone on proof of investment into equity in any one year in any one undertaking. If it were amended in that way, the questions that Senator Hewitt raised would not become important.

First of all, it would give freedom of choice of investment to the individual and would also permit the employees of a particular company not necessarily having to invest in the shares of the company which he or she works. Usually, they would do so, but I just would like to make a further point that if, for some reason, the company in which they work should fall economically, close down, and go into liquidation, not only would the person have lost their job, but they would have lost all the money that they had saved and invested in that company.

I do not think it is a good idea for a Government to dictate that a person must invest in the company in which they work. I think that naturally they would do that, but do not tell them that they must do that, give them an opportunity, and by giving them the opportunity, the problems which Senator Hewitt raised would be solved.

The question of the value of the share. The value of the share would become what is the market value of the share. If a person wanted to invest in their own company, I am sure the companies have schemes and will make the investment of the share to the employee at a lower level than the market value, if they bought those shares, but if they bought those shares outside, then they would have to pay at the normal level, so the valuation of the shares would not have to be solved or sorted out by a Trade Union or anybody. It would be sorted out by the Free Market System.

The only thing is that by including a much larger number of people we will be mobilising a larger amount of money for investment in the productive sectors, and this broader basic activity of necessity would give greater support to the stock exchange that is envisaged that should be set up. It would make it more economically viable; the greater the number of shares you put there, the more you will support it and the more viable it will become. So those are some suggestions that I would like to make that would solve some of the problems. In answer to Senator's Hewitt's question it will give employees the option of buying not necessarily within their own place of work, and also share values would be set by market values but in their own place of work I am sure that people will try to encourage their employees by reducing the price below market level to take their own shares.

The other thing that this Act says is that they have to hold those shares for five years because if they sell

them before that, then they would have to pay income tax on the sale of them. I would like to think that that would not be necessary, that people would be able to buy and if they want sell shares in a shorter period of time than a five year period.

On page 19 of the Bill, Mr. President, we have here Section 20 which covers the Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Act. This Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, Mr. President, we passed in this Senate on Wednesday, 22nd December, 1977, and it became law on December 28 or 29, 1977, and in that Bill it did not state that the Corporation Tax from 40% to 45% was applicable as corporation tax for that year. They omitted in the Bill to say so. This is a piece of retroactive legislation coming two years later to validate something that we passed and became law in December 1977. Now some companies because it was intimated in the Budget Speech of 1977 that it was intended to be effective for income year 1977, the Bill that came before us did not say that it would apply to the income year. It merely said that the 5% surcharge would be applicable to the income year 1977. So the law did not become valid until it was signed on 29th December.

Now some companies went ahead and paid the tax at the corporate level of 45% and then they made a claim for a refund because the enabling legislation had not come down. Now you had to pay your tax on the 15th March, so from the 15th March, 1978, until 15th March 1980 or until whenever this becomes law, this piece of legislation, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue has had from various companies that did pay at the higher rate contrary to what the law said to do 5% of their corporate profits which he would not refund, and he has had it for two years. This here I think is unjust. I think that is wrong, but it only goes to show the reason that it is most important that when Budgetary Proposals are made that the enabling legislation should come down because there are a couple of companies that paid at 40% and only now that this becomes law will then have to pay at 45% because this now says that it shall apply as from 1st January, 1977, and applies in respect to any company whose fiscal year ends in the fiscal year 1977, something that Amendment (No. 2) never said, and this is retroactive, and from this point of view I think these things are all wrong. They cannot be justified in any way.

Looking at the Bill as Senator Hewitt says basically the Bill has only made token allowances for relief to the whole problem of income tax in Barbados. Again if I may refer to his speech, Mr. President, the Prime Minister I think is well aware of the retrograde effect that this level of taxation has in Barbados and I quote what he says:

"In 1979 Budgetary Proposals will seek to build on the improvements so far achieved and to push the economy further along the road to recovery. The major

objectives which policy will seek to achieve may be summarised briefly as follows:"

I wouldn't read all of them, but I will merely read two of them:

"The need to mobilise additional domestic savings and channel the resources so realised into productive avenues of investment for employment generation; and

(2) The need to promote higher productivity by providing incentives, tax and otherwise for greater personal efforts by Barbadians."

So he realised that he has to provide some incentive, tax or otherwise for greater personal efforts by Barbadians. That is what he said. Well there is no way by anybody's stretch of imagination no matter how vivid your imagination is can you expect that having a tax scale that is written on page 13 and 14 of this document where it shows you the various steps for taxable income that we can achieve greater personal efforts by Barbadians in this situation. That I think is an impractical and unrealistic approach to take. I do not think that anybody in this Senate could possibly doubt that the greatest single deterrent to the continued progress of Barbados at the level at which we would all like to see it progress is the level of taxation, the level of personal direct taxation that now applies in this country.

This opinion and this viewpoint has been expressed over and over again by many people. The high rate of taxation I think everyone knows and appreciates is responsible for poor productivity, the unwillingness of people to work overtime; they are not interested to do that because it means they pay more tax; high absenteeism from work by people who have skills such as mechanics who work outside, put the money in their pocket and do not pay tax; the lack of initiative by the mid-management to the productive sector because of their tax level and the inflation that has occurred; they too are disenchanted, and there is a lethargy in the expansion and the development by investors because as I showed in this book the Economic and Financial Statistics for February, deposits in commercial banks have increased considerably and it is held in the hands of individuals and they are not investing it, and the question is why. And again top management are again saying, why have we got to go and look for and go to the trouble to expand their business or set up new businesses or do something like this which will create more employment we know, but for what and to what avail! For the amount of work and effort and responsibility the rewards are too little. And so I maintain that the greatest constraints and the greatest deterrent to the kind of development that we would like to see still lies in the area of the level of direct personal taxation.

I have said it before and I have to say it again, Barbados really and truly is becoming a land of entrepreneurs a land of speculators.

Everybody has sideline jobs, and I am speaking here of skilled people. On the last occasion I gave examples of what is happening, people who repair stoves, TV's, cars, all of them, they all work on their own, and I will say this, that there is a whole host of people now in the lower echelons who object strenuously at the level of income tax that is being deducted from them at their level, and they are only just coming up into the level. I have known cases where people have refused to work overtime because they say if they work overtime the amount they get out of it is not enough, it is not worth their while, so they are not going to work overtime.

Another thing is that in the building industry people will not work very satisfactorily, and to get jobs done very quickly we have to resort to do more and more of it by job work, and these people then come in and take on the job work as self-employed people. You pay them and that is the last that everybody will ever hear of them, they pay no tax on it whatsoever, so really and truly the whole concept of income tax on a personal basis is something that is getting into a state of being ridiculous, because there is avoidance right, left and centre, not at the top level where you work in a corporate structure where you are caught, but where you have skills.

Earlier on, Mr. President, Senator Blackman said — he said it last year and he said it again this year — that in his view indirect taxation is regressive. He then went on and corrected it to say that in most instances it is regressive, because he felt that if you raise taxes by indirect means then the people at the bottom echelons of the society would have to pay more or pay the same as those at the top echelons of the society, whatever the commodity is, and as such it was in his opinion regressive, and he used the word "regressive" in that context as I understood him, but he has not in any way expressed an opinion. He has completely omitted really to express an opinion as to his views on direct personal taxation. He has not said whether he thinks it is regressive or not.

I think he was a little harsh in what he said to Senator Hewitt because Senator Hewitt saw that we had an excess of Current Revenue over Current Expenditure, and he thought that Senator Hewitt automatically went for the idea of a tax relief. Senator Hewitt did not go in my opinion for a tax relief because he saw an excess of Current Revenue over Current Expenditure; I think that he realised from his going around and working in various companies, he realises the problems that people in the management and the production sectors of this community have recognised now for a long time, and I

am not speaking here about something that is personal or my own level of income tax, I am talking about problems that he sees which we all know exist, and that is the problem of getting people and being able to pay them a reasonable salary.

Whenever we go to discuss even at the good Hon. Senator's Training Board, we have to look for a Director, but we have to look for a Director and recommend a salary for him that would attract the kind of person we want, but the salary you have to pay to attract that kind of person, if you just offer it to him as a salary you would not get anybody at a reasonable level; you have to make some in salary, some in allowances, some in all sorts of things. You have to go through the whole gamut to find out how you can make this give a little mileage in terms of take home pay, and it is difficult to get and to retain good people, and if you have to look outside for anyone then you might as well forget it altogether, because when they see the level of taxation, away they go.

So I think that to use the same word "regressive" I would like to point out that I think we must agree with Senator Blackman to some extent that direct taxation can be regressive, and I think you also have to agree that the high levels of direct taxation that we have now are, if not more regressive from the point of view of the development of our country, then they are equally regressive as indirect taxation, so we have a situation that both direct and indirect taxation is regressive. So we have the position now, Mr. President, where we find that both types of taxation are regressive in the community, so we have to balance now what we wish to collect by way of personal taxation against the diminution by so imposing it on the individual and his efforts, and you have to balance on the other hand how much you collect by direct taxation in relation to poor people or the poorer people, or the people at the bottom end of the scale where you have to make certain exemptions and not increase the direct taxation on the commodities that they would have to buy, but there must be some level of balance maintained between the two, and it is my opinion that the balance between the two is weighted much much too heavily on the side of personal taxation and more of it must swing over to indirect taxation.

There is one further point that I would like to make, I do not know if we will discuss the budget when it comes out or not, but I took this opportunity to say what I did concerning the issuing of bonus shares to workers because I think that maybe some thought or some adaption to what is omitted in this Bill could very well be considered at the next budget, although it may be too late, I do not know, but on the other hand there is one point I would like to make, and again it concerns the level of direct personal taxation.

I think that when any community takes away more than one-half of a man's total income that it is going beyond what is reasonable. I am not saying that you should have a tax limit that stops at 50, what I am saying is that any community in my opinion, as is done in Trinidad, that no community should extract from an individual human being within that community more than one-half of his total income in any one year by way of taxation, and I think that some limitation to that level ought to be included and enshrined in our tax legislation.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I believe that when I rose I heard a voice suggest to me to make it short. That voice did not come either from the Government benches or from the official Opposition benches, it came from the third party, and I want to make it clear — the third party in here being the Independent party — that it was a source of interest to me that at this time when over here we are wilting and over there have wilted, wilted away to one indeed, half way, 50% — I think we have wilted worse than that, I cannot make the point too strongly — the only people still going on with stamina are the Independents, now we know who the real politicians are, Sir.

I have listened with interest to the points made, and I have noted them. As I intimated before, so shortly before the budget, it really is not easy, even if I were not at this stage tired, for me to deal with matters of taxation.

What I will do is to ensure that these points, particularly the point relating to the tax concession and bonus shares, be relayed to the proper source. I just wish to make one observation, that in making the argument it might be well for both Senator Hewitt and Senator MacKenzie to recognize that the form in which concession is made probably has something to do both with the wish of Government to ensure that companies after they pass a certain size go public, and also, since there is no free trading mechanism for shares, to seek to condition companies to encourage their staff to participate in equity ownership and thereby inculcate certain habits of investing in shares among employees. So although the Bill is not a complete package in the way both hon. Senators have mentioned, it has to be seen in that context.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of SENATOR the Hon. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I wish at this stage to thank hon. Senators very much indeed for making this performance, in terms of stamina and contribution, which they have made over the past three days. To us it is an extremely good thing for

the country, and it is something like this that makes the argument for continuation of the Senate worthwhile.

At this stage, Mr. President, I beg to move that this Honourable Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

The question that the Senate adjourn *sine die* was put and agreed to.
6.05 p.m.