

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Wednesday, 20th April, 1983.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, April 20, 1983, at 11.05 a.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott Cato, (President)
His Honour Senator J. C. W. Wickham, M.B.E., (Deputy President)
Senator the Hon. N. A. Barrow, (Minister of Information and Culture) (Leader of the Senate)
Senator the Hon. O'Brien Trotman, (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office)
Senator H. R. Linton
Senator Mrs. E. M. Lynch, G. C. M.
Senator the Hon. C. A. Griffith, (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)
Senator St. C. E. Howell (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Planning)
Senator Mrs. M. O. Reece
Senator W. W. Hall
Senator A. W. A. McClean
Senator C. D. Seale
Senator the Rev. Can. I. McK. Jones
Senator L. A. Ward
Senator C. E. Jemmott, J.P., B.S.S.
Senator Dr. W. E. Waldron-Ramsay.

Prayers were read by Dr. the Rev. L. A. Crawford.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: I merely wish to indicate that the Committee of Selection will have to meet shortly to appoint a new Senator on the Sugar Production and

Export Control Board in place of a Senator who is no longer a member of this Chamber. I will notify the members of the Committee at a convenient time.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

1. The Health Services (Communicable and Notifiable Diseases) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.
2. The Caribbean Common Market (Origin of Goods) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.
3. The 23rd Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Board of Tourism for the year 1981–1982.
4. Statement on the findings and recommendations of Inquiry into an attempted escape at Glendairy Prisons on 2nd May, 1982.
5. Statement on ex-refinery prices of Mobil Oil Barbados Ltd.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, on the Order Paper for today, Orders Nos. 1, 2 and 4 represent items which need to be read a first time, and in addition to these are Bills of which I now wish to give notice:

A Bill to remove any doubt respecting the commencement of the Education Act, 1981 (1981–25) and for related matters.

A Bill to provide for the implementation by Barbados of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Examinations Council.

A Bill to amend the Housing Act, Cap. 226.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, as members are well aware, we wish to proceed with the items on the Order Paper in all their stages today, and I accordingly move the suspension of Standing Order No. 45(2).

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.
11.15 a.m.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, the Order of Government Business for the day is: Order No. 1 and Order No. 4, both to be handled by Senator Griffith; Order No. 2 to be managed by Senator Trotman; and Order No. 3 to be managed by Senator Howell.

THE ENTERTAINMENT TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 1 was called -- to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Entertainment Tax Act, Cap. 69.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the Government has decided to make certain amendments to the Entertainment Tax Act, Cap. 69, in order to extend the coverage of the tax and to facilitate the collection of the revenue. Some time in January, the Cabinet considered proposals which would put into motion the two areas that I have just mentioned. Some of the changes contemplated would be, for one, to have a definition of entertainment and, as such, to ensure that it is clear to all concerned where the Government intends to put emphasis as far as the collection of the tax is concerned.

The forms of entertainment will be prescribed by the Minister in the Regulations made under the Act. For instance, the definition of "proprietor" will be extended to include agents and promoters, therefore foreign entertainers and so on will be caught by the Regulations made under the Act. These amendments were made necessary because the original definitions were a bit restricted and several forms of entertainment escaped the tax net. We expect to bring wrestling as a form of entertainment in the new definition.

There are also some penalties provided for under the amendment. For instance, the maximum penalty for defrauding the Crown will now be increased from \$500 to \$10 000.

As far as the revenue implications are concerned, Sir, in the fiscal year 1982-83 the Government collected \$981 370 from various forms of entertainment, and with the increased coverage, where the net will be wider, it is anticipated that the revenue should exceed \$1 million this year.

I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. President, I just want to make a very short intervention to say how pleased I am to see that somebody is catching as catch can on wrestling. That it is a form of entertainment at all defeats me. I happened two days ago to be on the same plane with a number of these phenomena on their way to Trinidad and the behaviour of people who gawked at their excesses was really depressing. I wish that we could say that we were not going to have it at all, but I suppose that would not be democratic.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. President, I have some reservations about this amendment to the Entertainment Tax Act. It seems to me to be imposing too heavy a burden on promoters. When you look at the structure, it seems to me that it is not a tax on profits, but it seems to be a tax on promoters even before they know what kind of profits they may be making.

There are few people in the entertainment field who have premises where they can have this entertainment, and it means then that they have to rent a place; they have to pay for all utilities; if there is any damage done to any of the utilities they have to incur that damage and pay for it, and then you are paying a 20 per cent tax.

The tax seems to me to be too high. That is my opinion. When you take into consideration that these people are trying to use their initiative to make a living, it seems to me to be almost running them out of business. It gives me a feeling that the Government seems to be in some parlous condition where the economy is concerned, and they seem to be looking for taxes wherever they can get them.

I personally feel that if we can get some of those millions of dollars that are owed us through this Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility, we would not have to be imposing all these heavy taxes on people, who are already oppressed. I would suggest that the Government do everything in its power to try to recapture some

of those millions and let their last resort be to increase the tax on people who are already, in my opinion, overburdened with heavy taxation.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, since the logical extension to Senator Jones' comments would be that the Minister responsible for Culture should have a specific interest in this matter of the Entertainment Tax, let me break my silence for what, I hope, will be the only time for the day.

The operators collect the tax; they pass it on to the consumer anyhow. The important difference is that at present nothing is being paid to the Treasury, and this is the point which has to be made. If you check out how, for example, the charges for attending cinemas are made up, you will find out that people who hold these big events build in for the tax which is to be paid in, or should be paid in.

What we need to look at is the collection machinery, which is in fact being looked at, because it is not as though the patron does not pay. People who go to the shows pay. They pay for the ticket and that ticket has a tax element already in the pricing, so I do not really wish Senator Jones to believe that what is happening here is that a new tax is being imposed on Barbadians.

The Entertainment Tax Act — I nearly said the original Act is as old as I am — is 1969. Whether significantly or not, that is the Entertainment Tax Chapter and in the Act there is provision for exemptions, as I recall, so that charitable bodies, for example, will not be caught by the Entertainment Tax. You have at least one theatre in this country, there may be more, registered in the appropriate way, and therefore receiving tax exemptions. It is not as though people who are genuinely participants in entertainment and cultural activity are therefore being taxed out of existence the way that some people would wish to suggest.

11.25 a.m.

In the name of entertainment, there will be the big wrestling promotion. I do not believe that Senator Jones means that they should not be paying the tax. The cinema operators must pay the tax. People organise these shows to make money. We are not saying that people are not to organise shows and make money, but we are saying that this has always been a taxable event and we are now changing the law a little bit and we expect now to be collecting rather than letting the tax go by default.

But I want to emphasise — it is not what we would like to call "the hard burden taxpayer". These are people who, when they would open the black box and show off

the black box every Budget Day, and used to take glory in doing this, would tell you to fasten your seat belts for take-off; but having lost the black box, will now tell you about the burdened taxpayer and so on. It was not burdened in those days! And people supporting that party have, no doubt, to get in a word and criticise the thing. But just remember — it was there before. The tax should have been collected. Let us look at the old Sales Tax, for example. The Sales Tax was being collected from the consumer, but it was not reaching the Treasury. Senator McClean is an Economist, so he could tell you that if you try to match what the Sales Tax should have been bringing from the volume of known sales in this country with what it actually used to bring in, that it was not reaching the Treasury. What we have to do is to collect the Entertainment Tax. Basically, this is what the exercise has to be.

But those who are organising the entertainment in the usual cultural way will not feel it. They are not going to feel the impact, because they are still going to get the exemptions on the grounds which the law provides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Seale.

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: Thank you, Mr. President. I just have a small intervention.

Sir, I think Senator Barrow missed the salient part of Senator Jones' argument. I think that what Senator Jones was making out was that a 20 per cent tax is too high and not that there is an Entertainment Tax at all.

I personally agree with an Entertainment Tax. I have nothing against an Entertainment Tax, but what I think the Government should really do is find out whether the 20 per cent as against 10 per cent, for instance, is not counter-productive.

When you have a 20 per cent tax, you have to raise the price of admission, and sometimes when you raise the price of admission, you also decrease the number of people that are attending. That is where you put the problem on the promoter really, because if the tax is too high and he has to charge too high an entrance fee, he does not really have as many people attending as he had hoped.

I believe that a check should be made to find out whether the rise from 10 per cent to 20 per cent about a year or two ago, or a little bit more, was really worth it, or whether it has become counter-productive. I think that is my point.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I think the point raised by Senator Jones is one to which Government should pay some attention. The question as to whether 20 per cent is an appropriate level of taxation for entertainment.

As Senator Seale pointed out, it is quite possible that that level of taxation in the circumstances of Barbados could result in higher prices for cinema tickets and so on — especially now that these have come under heavy competition from videos and things of that order — which would lead to such a dramatic decline in the attendance at these places of entertainment as to make the tax counter-productive, creating problems for the proprietors of these businesses and not generating any substantial amount of revenue for Government.

The question of a lower level of taxation than 20 per cent should also be examined in the context of the overall yield on that tax in relation to the overall cost of administering it. We know that the tax exists already but it is not reaching the Treasury, and, presumably, this would require enhanced vigilance on the part of Inland Revenue, if it is to reach there, and we do not know how much that is going to cost.

Sometimes we reach a point where we might have to ask the question whether that is an appropriate point of extracting revenue from the community. We know that the tax, as pointed out by Senator Barrow, is really a tax on the person visiting the place of entertainment. That is how it is conceived by Government. That is why it is a before-tax operation. It is collected by the operator, but it is perceived as being paid by the person participating in the activity, going to view the entertainment. But yet, for all that, it still has implications for the viability of the operators' business.

I know that, as this point in time, Government must be concerned with raising revenue. I know that in the last year the percentage tax take has been lower than in previous years, and this has been the source of concern in certain quarters. But I would like to suggest that that should have been anticipated and should not be seen as anything alarming.

The tax structure which we have in Barbados at the moment is essentially a progressive one at all levels. Income Tax is clearly progressive — as incomes go up, Government gets an increased take and, likewise, if incomes should decline, Government's revenue would decline more than in proportion to income.

In other areas, you have indirect taxes which weigh most heavily on luxury goods and when we go into a period of recession, those are the goods that demand for falls off most rapidly. And so, we would expect that if as,

last year, we had a decline in real income in the country, this would almost inevitably result in a decline in Government's revenue as a proportion of income. Of course, the converse is true. As soon as the economy recovers, the proportion of Government revenue would once again increase.

As such, this should not necessarily be seen as a need to search in every corner to see what is a new and appropriate tax that can be introduced, because, in my view, we have a particularly comprehensive system of taxation already which needs to be fine-tuned from time to time, to be changed so that it can remain essentially the same. That is why you get increased allowances and so on. As prices go up, you increase those allowances, which is an apparent change, but, basically, you are changing just to revert to what used to obtain before in terms of relativities.

I would not go as far as to indicate any strong objection to the Bill, but I think that Government should keep it under review and bear in mind the points raised by the various Senators this morning.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 10 inclusive were called and agreed to. 11.35 a.m.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Senate was resumed and the Bill reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On the separate motions of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

THE OFF-SHORE BANKING (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 4 was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Off-Shore Banking Act.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the Act as it now stands has certain ambiguities, and the intent of this amendment is to clear up the ambiguities and to provide, in effect, a greater certainty that offshore banking may be conducted with a resident

of Barbados with the approval of the Minister responsible for Finance.

As it is now known, Sir, there are three offshore banks registered and operating in Barbados — Barclays Bank International, the Royal Bank of Canada (Barbados) Limited and Barbados International Bank and Trust Company. Two of these banks have been involved in domestic activity as far as making loans is concerned. For instance, the Royal Bank of Canada (Barbados) Limited was a participant in a Euro-dollar loan to provide balance of payments support in conjunction with the Orion Bank. The Royal Bank of Canada also, only this year, loaned the Government of Barbados US \$13 million for the purchase of the assets of Mobil.

A third loan from the offshore banking sector is now being negotiated with Barclays Bank International.

The effect of the amendment is that it will remove any ambiguities, as I said before, so that banks may be able to lend money to residents of Barbados with the permission of the Minister of Finance.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time, Sir.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I am interested in information relating to the specifics of such transactions involving offshore banks and residents of Barbados. I presume that such transactions will be treated as foreign transactions requiring not only the approval of the Minister of Finance, but the approval, in certain areas, if it involves movement of funds out of the country, of the Central Bank in the normal way in terms of exchange control.

We know that the exchange control section is operated by the Central Bank on behalf of the Ministry of Finance also, but I rather suspect that the level of approval anticipated in the amendment to the Act is somewhat different from approval associated with foreign exchange transactions under the Exchange Control Act.

I am fearful that somebody might slip and be less vigilant in terms of the need to conform to the Exchange Control Act in dealing with foreign institutions, by virtue of the fact that they might be perceiving that the institutions they are dealing with are located here in Barbados. I do not know if Senator Griffith can shed any light on that in his reply.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I think that is what we have to do when we look at the whole area as it relates to the off-shore financial services. As honourable Senators may note, the Government has instituted four elements as far as

offshore financial services are concerned. The Shipping Act, which has recently been introduced; the Captive Insurance Act, International Business Companies Act and the Off-Shore Banking Act. We have to look very carefully at what we are doing as far as looking to derive benefits for the country is concerned.

We know, for instance, that we are very late starters in all of these spheres of activity, and we are getting into areas of activity which are more expertly handled by countries even in the Caribbean — for instance, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, and even the Cayman Islands. Our legislation was drafted with a view to trying to attract activity by people who have themselves been involved in offshore banking activity in these countries I have just mentioned.

We have set out, particularly with offshore banking, to introduce the kind of regime which, in effect, makes it difficult for sleazy operators to work through the system in Barbados.

11.45 a.m.

Now, our feedback is that our regulations may be a bit tight and restrictive, because, for instance, if foreign operators wanted to put money through Barbados, they find that the regime in Barbados is too restrictive and does not allow them the freedom of movement that they can easily get some other place. And while the emphasis is trying to keep out people who may have dubious operations, one also has to be very realistic; and I dare say that a serious effort is being made to address the kind of objections that would-be bankers would have in Barbados.

I should say also that we have had input from people who are involved in international operations as far as offshore financial services are concerned. So we are not turning a deaf ear to the input of these people, simply because they have the contacts which will be beneficial to us if we are going to have a successful offshore financial service in this country.

I believe that one concern that was expressed, for instance, was that assurance should be given that they be free from any restrictions imposed by extraneous control. Another concession that people were looking at was whether or not they would be free from the imposition of taxes, even for people who are coming to this country to provide expert services. These are some of the considerations that we have been looking at.

I dare say that this will not be the last we will be hearing of amendments to this Act, because it is a question of learning from experience while trying to ensure that the people of Barbados are not taken for a ride by any dubious characters. But we still have to ensure that

we have a product which will be attractive enough to provide the kind of benefits which the Government visualizes.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

Clauses 1 – 3 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Senate was resumed and the Bill was reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On separate motions of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 2 was called – To move the First Reading of a Bill to amend the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: On two previous occasions, Sir, we have come to the Senate and sought to vest the land reclaimed at Fontabelle, due to the extension of the Deep Water Harbour, in a company known as Land Reclaimers Ltd.

It has now been discovered that although we (in Parliament) went ahead and vested the land in Land Reclaimers Ltd., the land, in fact, was not vested in the Crown. The land should have been vested in the Crown when the work was completed. That was not done, and the Bill before us seeks to correct that situation. In other words, we gave away what we did not have at first, but we are correcting that now with this short amendment.

In my copy of the Bill – I do not know if it is in the printed copy; I have not seen that – in the margin it says "Amendment of Cap. 255". It should, in fact, be Cap. 225.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The printed copy is correct.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: I beg to move, Sir, that the Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I would have hoped that Senator Trotman would have told us how the whole thing has been cleared up from

the legal aspect. Are we now vesting this land in the Government, or are we simultaneously vesting it and then passing it over.

In other words, we have a situation where we are attempting to give land to some other party and we are now here saying that Government is taking ownership of this land. I want to know if this particular provision is going to cover our attempt to vest the land in that company some time ago.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: It would seem to me, Sir, that there will have to be a new Resolution to vest the land in Land Reclaimers Ltd. again, because at the time of that Resolution, the Crown did not own the land, technically, and therefore we could not have vested the land in Land Reclaimers Ltd. Now that the Crown does own the land, we will have that done.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let the lawyers fight it out then.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On motion of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.
11.55 a.m.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On motion of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate was resumed and the Bill was reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On separate motions of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

RESOLUTION TO COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE LAND AT OISTINS, CHRIST CHURCH

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Oistins, Christ Church, for the relocation of houses to be dislocated by the Oistins Development Project.

SENATOR StC. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, recently much has been said and much has been written about the development of Oistins. In 1979, a Resolution was passed in both Houses of Parliament so that Government could acquire the seaside properties of Oistins, that is, the properties to the south or seaside of Highway 7 at Oistins, to allow the construction of a fisheries complex.

Sir, while some of the properties were vacant lots, some were tenant-occupied and others were owner-occupied. Consideration had at one time been given to the resiting of these persons to Parish Land, Christ Church. However, it was later considered that this location would be too far removed for the persons who had been accustomed to living in the Oistins area all of their lives, and that it would also remove them from most of their friends and relatives.

In an effort to minimise the effects of dislocation, it was recommended that the relocation of these persons, as well as those who may be dislocated in future by the development of the central area of Oistins, be done within the general environs of Oistins itself. Mr. President, a portion of land was found at Oistins and identified as being suitable for the resiting. Government or agents of the Government and the owners of these lands have been in consultation from time to time and it was agreed that the land be acquired for this purpose.

Mr. President, like all the things that have been said about the Oistins development, it is pleasing that these deliberations were all favourable.

The complex is located in an area which has been known over the years as an area of congestion before the coming into being of the complex, and the operatives of the area sometimes put themselves at risk of being run over. But now with the complex fully in operation, the operatives are in a place far removed from the main road, there is adequate parking facilities and customers can go to their favourite fish sellers, and there is nothing but praise.

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

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Mr. President, in supporting this Resolution, I would like, first, to congratulate the Government for a very fine job well done in the Oistins complex, but, Sir, I am taking a different line in relation to the acquisition of lands and properties in general in Barbados.

My complaint, Sir, is that from time to time, over a period of years — and what I am saying has not just

happened but has been happening I believe for very many years in Barbados — there has been a slowness to compensate the people from whom these properties have been acquired.

Sir, I do hope that the relevant Ministries will make an effort to expedite the compensation for the people whom these lands are being acquired from. I have been hearing complaints from time to time, and if the procedures take all that time, I would like the law officers, or whoever is concerned, to look into the Acquisition Act and see if they cannot amend it whereby these things will be spelt out more readily than they are today.

I hope that the Ministers concerned will see that these things are carried out because I do not think it is the desire of any Government, this or any before or after, to deny the owners of the benefit of an income or revenue, whatever it may be, from the lands.

Obviously, some of them have borrowed money, maybe on the strength of the price of the land, maybe they may have to pay interest — I am just assuming these things may happen — and I am sure that they would appreciate the speeding up of these matters.

In supporting the Resolution, I would like these comments and observations looked into for the future.

Thank you very much.
12.05 p.m.

The question that the Senate do now concur in the Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

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

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Statement on the findings and recommendations of Inquiry into an attempted escape at Glendairy Prisons on 2nd May, 1982.

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OFF-SHORE BANKING (AMENDMENT) ACT,
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CROWN LANDS (VESTING AND DISPOSAL)
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ADJOURNMENT

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

BARROW, Hon. N. A.
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GRIFFITH, Hon. C. A.
HOWELL, St.C. E.
JEMMOTT, C. E.
JONES, Rev. Cannon I. McK.
McCLEAN, A. W. A.
SEALE, C. D.
TROTMAN, Hon. O'B.
WICKHAM, J. C. W.

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Wednesday 4th May, 1983.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, May 4, 1983, at 11.10 a.m.

PRESENT *

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott Cato, (President)

His Honour Senator J. C. W. Wickham, M.B.E., (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. N. A. Barrow, (Minister of Information and Culture) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Hon. O'B. Trotman, (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office)

Senator H. R. Linton

Senator Mrs. E. M. Lynch, G.C.M.

Senator the Hon. C. A. Griffith, (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)

Senator J. E. D. Williams

Senator Miss J. Clarke

Senator St.C. E. Howell (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Planning)

Senator Mrs. M. O. Reece

Senator E. E. Greaves

Senator W. W. Hall

Senator A. W. A. McClean

Senator C. D. Seale

Senator the Rev. Can. I. McK. Jones

Senator L. A. Ward

Senator C. E. Jemmott, J.P., B.S.S.

Senator Dr. W. E. Waldron-Ramsay.

Prayers were read by Dr. the Rev. L. A. Crawford.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, Order No. 4 on the Order Paper is:

to move the first reading of a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73. It is proposed, with the concurrence of the Senate, to proceed with all stages of the Bill today, and at the appropriate time I will be seeking leave to suspend Standing Order No. 45(2) to accommodate the second and third readings.

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

* If the Minister wishes to make a motion for suspension of Standing Order No. 45(2) at this stage, I do not mind.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE EDUCATION COMMENCEMENT ACT, 1983

The First Order of the Day was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to remove any doubt respecting the commencement of the Education Act, 1981, and for related matters.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, the Education Act, 1981, was assented to by the Governor-General on May 7, 1981, and in Section 68 of the Act, provision is made for the Act being brought into force by proclamation. It was intended that certain sections of the Act should not have been brought into force until later this year. However, when the proclamation was prepared for the Governor-General's signature, and was gazetted accordingly as a Statutory Instrument, it said that

"Whereas it is expedient that the same Act, except Sections 15 to 26, paragraph (b) of Section

59(2) and Sections 65 to 67 and the Second Schedule should come into force on the first day of January, 1983;

Now therefore by virtue of the power and authority in me vested I do hereby appoint the first day of January, 1983, as the day on which the said Act comes into force."

An interpretation of that, Sir, has been that the entire Act has been brought into force — which was not the original intention, and we have now been advised that the only way to correct that error is by legislation, and so the amending Bill has been brought to clarify that matter. What it does is to allow the remainder of this Act to remain in force while not proceeding with the sections which should have been reserved in the first place.

I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.
11.20 a.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is proposed that the Bill be read a second time. Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I think that this Bill fortuitously gives us the opportunity to speak on certain aspects of education, and certain points of view which have been put forward regarding education in Barbados in recent times.

There are two issues to which I would like to direct attention. One is the emerging view, the frequently expressed view in recent time, that Barbados is not getting its money's worth for education, that Barbados is spending too much money on education and should seek to emphasize other areas in terms of future increases in Government expenditure.

I want to suggest that the statement that Barbados is not getting value for money in education is not one that can easily be sustained, because, essentially, education and our achievements in that area are the essence of all that is good in Barbados. You cannot put a monetary value on the question of education in that sense. This is not to say that Barbados cannot achieve more in the particular area. But, quite evidently, what we have achieved by virtue of education has an intrinsic value far above the particular pecuniary costs.

But going beyond that to the question of whether or not we are making the best use of money from a cost effective point of view as opposed to a value point of view, we ask, are we spending too much, or more than is necessary, to achieve what we are achieving?

Again, I am not so sure that this is necessarily so. For one thing, it cannot be ascertained merely by looking

at the expenditure on Education and saying it is in the vicinity of \$107 million or \$108 million recurrent, and looking at expenditure in another area and saying that it is half that or less than half that, and on that basis make judgments.

If you want, really, to make a determination as to whether we are in a position to save some of the money we spend on education, you have to do a detailed analysis of what we spend it on. We spend it employing teachers. You have to ask questions as to whether we employ too many teachers or if we pay them too much money. I believe the answer to both of those questions would be, "No". If you look at the school facilities and so on, you ask yourself whether the school facilities are excessive. And, again, the answer would be, "No".

So if you made a detailed analysis of the expenditure on Education, I submit there would not be very many areas that you can say, "Well, that money was wasted." And I rather think that there are many areas where you would say, "Well, that area is under-provided for". If this business of spending too much on education gains currency, I rather fear that we might end up under-spending on Education. I believe that there are areas in Education which can do with higher levels of expenditure.

Again, this business of spending too much on Education seemed to have been linked to the question of exams; it has been indicated that Government has been wasting money on students who fail to turn up at examinations, and that something should be done about that. It has also been said that the problem of absenteeism at examinations, GCE and CXC examinations, is a major problem.

The first thing is that we should really stop to address the problem as to whether there is a major problem in this area at the level of delinquency, deliberate delinquency. I saw some figures appearing in the *Advocate* with the caveat that these were not complete figures and so on. But it seemed to me that the figures indicate absenteeism of the order of about five per cent; and that seemed to be on a subject by subject basis, not five per cent of the students. So I would be rather interested in finding out how many students absent themselves from all exams in any given year, or fifty per cent of the exams for which they are entered.

In terms of the specifics of absenteeism, I would like to know how much came about because of clashes in timetabling. Some students are registered for GCE and CXC which are scheduled to be taken the same day. Let us say Mathematics is timetabled on the same day. It must mean that there must be absenteeism because a student cannot turn up at two exams at the same time.

Students become ill, students sometimes get times mixed up, students sometimes are aware that they cannot pass the exam and they are better off spending the two hours, considering travelling time, the four hours, preparing for exams, which they feel they have a chance at passing the following day. If that is the case, one should not consider that a question of delinquency.

And if there is delinquency, we have to ask ourselves, how can we curb this delinquency? I do not think that the rather *ad hoc* measure, which has been used as an approach to this problem, of charging a \$40 examination registration fee, so to speak, for Government students and \$30 for privately-entered students could in any way approach a solution to that problem.

To begin with, I cannot see that the suggestion that you have spent \$40 in this exercise could be a sufficient consideration, weighed against the prospects of passing the certificate and having something of value. If a student should say, "I am not going to that exam", for whatever reasons — recognising that if he could pass the certificate, that is something of value to him, of much more value than \$40 — that the \$40 paid by his parents could in any way influence his behaviour about turning up at the examination on that particular day. I do not think that it could have that particular desired effect.

It is almost a penalty, and a penalty essentially on the wrong people, the people who normally turn up; because they have to pay also. I think that that particular charge should be looked at again, in terms of what it was intended to achieve. I do not think it can motivate students to turn up. I am not so sure that we have a major problem in the area of absenteeism, not from the statistics which have been published.

If it is a revenue raising measure, it is a trivial revenue raising measure. It does not do much to reduce expenditure. But it can impose an embarrassment on particular parents. Forty dollars might seem trivial, but \$40 to a person who has less than is necessary for reasonable survival is a lot. People are short of money, and if you have to look for \$40 more, that can pose a problem.

I have known people in the past who have had their education interrupted for what, in those days, might have been \$40 today — for \$5 or \$8. The parents could not pay it and therefore, they could not go to school. I feel that in Barbados, the difference in the quality of life in Barbados now and what it was, say, twenty, forty years ago is largely bound up with the idea that all Barbadians more or less have free and unrestricted access to education at all levels. All they have to provide is the food, and not even the clothing so much nowadays, but some of the clothing.

Any time you put road blocks, however small, in the way of that, there will be somebody at the bottom of the financial ladder who is going to find himself seriously discommoded as a result. As such, as a matter of absolute principle, I think we should maintain an education system in Barbados that is essentially free for people who can get into the Government stream of schools at whatever level. I see absolutely no merit in that \$40 imposition, in terms of desirable effect, of any character whatsoever. I see that it has the potential of embarrassing some people.

Its imposition, at very short notice too, compounds the problem for this year, and — up to now, there are people who have not paid yet and they are worried about not having permission to take exams and things like that — I would seriously suggest to Government that they announce that they are going to give back people the money and tell the people who have not yet paid to stop worrying about paying, study for the exams and go forward and take them.

Apart from that, Mr. President, I would want to say that essentially the whole idea behind this new Education Act, and what Government in the main is hoping to achieve in education in Barbados, is evidently along proper lines, but it should not in any way suffer detractions as a result of ill-conceived policies in any specific area.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Wickham.
11.30 a.m.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. President, the original Act which we are seeking to amend in some sense this morning is, as I see it, an effort to examine the contribution which formal education makes to our society and to, in fact, establish whether the money spent results in the achievements of the goals which are said to be desirable. The Act has provided for the appointment of an Advisory Commission, which is now looking precisely at the role of education to try to achieve some definition of those goals.

No one could agree more heartily than I with Senator McClean, that these goals cannot be quantified in monetary terms, but we do have to see whether what we think is education results in the achievement of a kind of society which accords with the world outside, which accords with internal harmony within the elements of the society and the achievements of goals which manifest themselves in the interest of humanity.

So far as the results of that education, whether it is free or not, are concerned, it matters very little whether the education is free or not, in my view, as much as

whether the results of education or the achievements of goals, are adequate rewards for being educated. Those rewards are not, in my view, seen in a number of names and letters in gold on school walls, nor are those results valuable if they consist of only high salaries and big motor cars, and the creation of a social elite who can say that they went to a university.

Somehow or other this Commission has to find out whether it is possible to educate a community to live at harmony with itself and in harmony with the rest of the world; and if they have to pay to sit examinations, whether those payments — because sometimes it seems that people only understand money — would recreate the motivation for people to attend the examinations.

And we have to remember, too, that the education system in Barbados, outmoded now as it may be, has served this country well. Whatever has been achieved has been achieved because we have created a large body of people who had a basic, sensible education, but not in terms of a university degree. It was in terms of a solid corpus of people who went throughout the Caribbean, solid citizens, contributing to the whole well being of the Caribbean.

That time may well be past for the export of Barbadians to serve these needs, but the Commission is dedicated to finding whether those old, outworn creeds can be re-interpreted to contribute to a sensible, solid mass of citizenry, who are not going to be fooled by the fashions of outside, who are going to understand their geography and their environment, and who will understand that they have, first of all, to work, and that the rewards come not from the achievements of social position but from the achievement of an inner harmony.

I do not think that the imposition of school fees, or the imposition of penalty fines, is necessarily the way to go about it. But I am beginning to see that in Barbados money seems to be the only thing that people understand. Whether the education system can reverse that trend is not certain. We shall have to see whether we can breed a new set of teachers who will return to the old days when money was not all.

But I am afraid that at the present stage, when you see the radio stations and the newspapers praising the winning of money, it seems to me that there is something wrong in our elevating money to the highest position in our code of values, and we have somehow to redefine those values so that we do not get mesmerized by sets of zeros at the end of a figure of millions and millions.

I certainly hope — it is not a secret that I am a member of that Advisory Commission — and I think that I am expressing the wish of the whole Commission, that we can do something to redefine those goals and to make

it clear that the interest of Barbadians is the interest of an educated citizenry, educated in the best sense of that often misused word.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Greaves, you caught my eyes.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, I thank you.

I, first, would want to say that I regret that I was not here for the introduction of this Bill by the Minister who is responsible for piloting this Bill in the Senate. But one of the things which strikes me as very strange in this Bill is that we are now, through this legislative process, seeking to annul a proclamation which was given on December 21, 1982, relative, I presume, to the 1981 Education Act.

I believe that this is symptomatic of the kind of confusion which exist in decision making in education in Barbados today. It is clear that there is a lack of direction. Recent decisions in the field of education, in my view, have had the tendency to destroy the kind of consensus which was developing in Barbados relative to education and the role which education should play in our national development.

It is my belief that education should be made available to everyone without direct cost. Certainly this was a policy which was pursued by the Democratic Labour Party. It is clear, if one were to examine the role of education and the whole concept of social mobility in Barbados, that one would find that educational opportunities have provided the avenue for social mobility within the society, and this kind of mobility was accelerated since 1962 when secondary education was brought within the reach of everyone, and the whole question of fees and direct payment for education was removed.

I therefore think that anybody who attempts to break this particular pattern, and it is clear to us that the Barbados Labour Party seems to be pursuing a line which would want to break this particular development, could be described as a danger — a real danger to the society.

Sir, the disadvantaged and the poor in Barbados have always regarded education as the means by which they can move up in the society. What we are seeing now, in terms of the policies which seem to be emanating from the Government, would give us the impression that some of us are attempting to kick the ladder down.

11.40 a.m.

Let us look at the question of fees and the introduction of fees for the purposes of examinations. This has been the cause of much discussion recently, and has also

been the cause for a considerable degree of concern in this society. Senator McClean made reference to it, and to a large extent I am in agreement with the position which he has enunciated in this particular regard.

The introduction of fees for examinations is a backward and insensitive step. It clearly demonstrates a complete misunderstanding of the ability, particularly of the Barbadian working class, to cope with these kinds of impositions.

It has been argued that persons registered for examinations have been delinquent and have been absenting themselves from taking such examinations, and the Government seems to have developed a policy that if they institute an examination fee — \$40 for persons in the public system and \$30 for persons in the private system — this would have the effect of making the pupils more responsible, of making them recognise, I suppose, that somebody's pocket will be hurt if they do not turn up for examinations, and, thirdly, that, presumably, they would work harder and would therefore give a better account of themselves in an examination.

If one were to follow this argument to its logical conclusion, one would see that this opens the way for a re-introduction of fees at all levels in the educational system. Because if by the payment of fees one would expect a better performance from the pupils, then one could easily argue that we could reach higher excellence in our educational attainments if people had to pay fees. That is the logic of the argument we are confronted with here today. I do not at all agree with that kind of argument.

If, as the Government is claiming, there is a problem relative to the taking of examinations, then, based on what I have said, and based on the experience of persons who have studied this particular problem, the introduction of fees will not solve anything at all. What is clear is that the Government, in typical fashion, is seeking an easy way out of a situation. That is the problem with this administration, always seeking an easy way out.

I believe that if there is a problem, it calls for a much more in-depth study. Why are pupils not turning out for examinations? It could very well be as a result of the way in which the schools are organised to deal with the selection by pupils of subjects which are taken in examinations. I believe that this could very well be one of the problems, but the mere imposition of fees will not solve that particular problem. Let us have a more in-depth examination rather than just, as it were, a glancing blow; let us try to get to the bottom of the problem and deal with the problem in a way other than the kind of financial imposition which has been placed on the parents of these students who can ill afford, as Senator McClean

has pointed out, the \$30 or \$40; and in some instances it is more than that, particularly if parents have more than one child who is taking these examinations.

The second point on this question of examination fees which I would want to identify has to do with what I would describe as a distinct lack of humaneness in the introduction of the fees. It was done without notice. I remember listening to the radio when the Minister made the announcement to the effect that the fees would come into effect immediately.

This is coming at a time when persons in Barbados, particularly these people who will be called upon to bear the brunt of these fees, are experiencing very difficult times. Financial hardships are being occasioned by a number of people in Barbados. Forty dollars might not mean very much to the Government or to members of the Government — they might see it as of little consequence, but the people on whom this imposition has been placed will find it very difficult. I would hope that the Government, on reflection, would abandon this particular course and would withdraw this imposition.

The Ministry has stated that those persons who are unable to pay the fees can apply to the Welfare Department for relief. Just imagine that, Sir. This is nothing more, in my view, than an attempt to humiliate people. There is no pride in people going to Welfare, and if persons have paid the examination fees, as we are hearing that some people have, I believe that they have done it at tremendous personal sacrifice, and in typical Barbadian fashion — not desiring to be humiliated by having to go to the Welfare Department.

In any event, knowing the time that the announcement was made and the dates that examinations began in Barbados, I am saying that the Welfare Department could not have processed applications for relief. Therefore, this was just an afterthought and not a serious proposition on the part of the Minister or whoever it was that made that particular announcement.

I think that what is very clear is that in Barbados today we do not have a clearly defined plan on education, but we have what can be described as *ad hocism*. This is further evidenced by the announcement by the Minister that she would like to see schools opened on Saturdays, and that she would want to see the vacation time cut down.

11.50 a.m.

Every time the Minister gets a bee in her bonnet, she gets up and she makes a pronouncement. This is a very clear indication that there is no clear planning in the field of education, which is a very important area in our national life. It is punctuated by *ad hocism*. This is again evidenced by, for example, what I would describe as a

kind of dismantling process which seems to be taking place.

We recently have heard announcements about Erdiston and what is likely to happen there. Here there seems to be the development of a policy where teachers would first have to go to Erdiston before they get into the Teaching Service.

This is a goal which I would imagine one could move towards in a very long process of time, but I would think that in the immediate future it is not going to be something which could be achieved. And I suspect that if this is pursued, the element of uncertainty, in terms of being able to get a job in the Teaching Service eventually after graduation from Erdiston, will lead to a reduction in the numbers who will eventually go into Erdiston Training College.

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: History will prove me right or wrong. That is all. I can stand by my statement.

The other point.....

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Unless you plan to assassinate me, I will be in Barbados.

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: That is why you are not dead yet.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: The other point I would want to make relates, Sir, to the question of the attitude of the Government in another area of our educational life, and it has to do with the University of the West Indies and the whole question of restructuring.

It seems to me that in this proposal, Barbados stands to lose. Yet, we find that the Government seems to be pursuing a policy of joining with those territories, notably Jamaica and Trinidad, which seem to be pushing the question of restructuring the system.

Sir, the Minister of Education said at a symposium at Cave Hill, I think it was in October last year, that she had no difficulty with three separate and distinct universities — not three colleges, but three Universities in the West Indies. In other words, she has no difficulty with a University of Jamaica, a University of Trinidad and Tobago and a University of Barbados.

I am saying that this goes against the very concept of regionalism, which we are seeking to promote in the Caribbean and about which the Barbados Labour Party talks a lot. Leave it at that. What we need in the Caribbean at this level is a situation where, within a regional institution, the Cave Hill Campus can grow and expand. The Barbados Government however, does not seem to be interested in this.

I just want to make a few other comments on at least one other stage of education, and two other aspects which are related directly to education and the kind of delivery which is being given to this country at the present time.

The Government has recognized, as we had recognized when we were in power, that primary education is important. This is the foundation of our educational system, the foundation on which all of the other stages of education are built, but there seems to me to be still a number of things going wrong at the primary level of education.

We are building new schools, we are expanding old ones, but, in spite of that, we are finding that, when it comes to the actual delivery of education, there are some short-comings. For example, in the primary schools, I am told that headteachers are now giving children book-lists and asking parents to purchase books which are used in the schools, and which used to be supplied previously by the school.

I left school a long time ago, but this was never something which we had to do, and certainly during the administration of the Democratic Labour Party this never existed. But this is a new development which has come with the Barbados Labour Party administration where parents of children at the primary level are being asked to purchase books.

Sir, they are making it more and more difficult for poor people with children in this system. These are not specialist books. These are books which children use ordinarily. School supplies and teaching aids in the primary schools are lacking. Many times schools suffer because supplies have not been delivered or because they cannot get delivery of supplies of any sort from the Ministry.

The Schools Meals Programme, which was introduced by the Democratic Labour Party to assist in improving the nutrition of children in schools, is on the verge of collapse. I say that without any fear of contradiction. All of those shortcomings point to something which has gone wrong in the system.

12.00 p.m.

We have a National Advisory Commission on Education, which I hope would look at all the problems which exist in our educational system and really come up with a policy which is relevant to our needs, and one which can really take us far into the 21st century. It is important that we develop and have a clearly defined policy rather than this *ad hoc*, stop-go approach, which seems to be the policy of the Government. This has been particularly so since 1981, when we have had decisions which seem just to fly off the top of somebody's head without any clear thinking or any clear understanding of the problems.

I want to conclude by indicating that we on this side believe that education is of fundamental importance in our national life. We cannot afford the luxury of decisions which can be detrimental to our young people and, consequentially, to our entire nation. I would really hope that if there is one area that the Government could really get its teeth into and make a success of it, it would be education.

SENATOR Mrs. E. M. LYNCH: Mr. President, for a considerable period in the history of Barbados, this island, even as a colonial territory, has always had to face the criticism that we spent too much on Education. This is nothing new. It has always been said of Barbados. Indeed, we were rather proud of these accusations, because, in fact, the economy of Barbados was based upon a plan. I do not know that the plan was conscious, but the result of the system was that we produced people for export in much the same way as other people produced other kinds of goods. Just as the Japanese produced motor cars, we tended to produce people, people of good quality, and these people went out of Barbados, and the economists were always puzzled about how Barbados survived. I think they are still puzzled about how we are surviving, and the Barbadian seems to be the only person who does not realize that we are regarded as something of a miracle even to achieve survival at this time.

We have moved into an era where with regards this policy of educating Barbadians, making people to send somewhere else, we are not going to be able to continue to the extent which we did before. But in looking at the cost of education, we have to remember that Barbados is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, and that therefore a high proportion of the community, which is young, is needing to have money spent on it not only in education but also in health. Providing the care of the pregnant mothers, post natal care, the care of the children in clinics, and then their education from primary, now sometimes from nursery, through to the University free is a considerable achievement for a country of our size and limited resources.

Indeed, the question which we might well ask is whether we did not merely inherit a system of education from the British and that now we are realising that we did not devise a system to suit the resources which we had. Rather, I think what we have done is to devise a system and then to look around and say, well now, how are we going to finance this?

We have to realise that there is a problem of cost where education is concerned, and we are not the only country which finds itself in difficulties on this matter of education. If you follow the articles in current English journals, you will find that their local educational authorities are having problems with the provision of textbooks, and that there are some schools complaining that they have to drop subjects from the curriculum because of the decrease in the number of teachers.

So we have got to face the fact that we are in a difficult financial situation. You know that when a boat is caught in a storm the sailors begin to throw all kinds of objects overboard in order that the ship may keep afloat. This is not to say that we should not look carefully at what we are throwing overboard. That has got to be very carefully done, but something has to go overboard when the weather gets very difficult.

We are facing very difficult financial times and situations here. I am surprised to find that the speaker who is regarded as the Leader of the Opposition chose to speak so eloquently on education. Of course, he is Principal of the Labour College, but if we remember the passing of the Education Act of 1975 and other matters, I must say that any adverse comment by the Opposition on what the present Government has been trying to do can be met by the latter holding its head high. Now, very definitely, this Government has dared to make difficult decisions and it has set up a commission to assist in looking at our problems, surveying our whole system and inviting memoranda.

12.10 p.m.

I would like to invite the honourable Member who, following the usual pattern, has departed after his speech, to publish his recommendations in the form of a memorandum to the commission, so that they can have it to look at closely and use the input, which he is so anxious to make, in the most effective manner. It does not help us if he makes the kind of speech he has just made and departs. Obviously, he does not wish an answer.

I would like to remind members, if we are going to talk about *ad hoc* decisions that we were given free secondary education somewhere around 1962, I think. This is 1983, and we have not yet got all the things we need to make free secondary education, for all, a reality. In fact, for some years, there were more children paying

fees at secondary level in private secondary schools than in the Government secondary schools. And it has taken all these years for us to reach the stage where we can now say that most children have secondary education.

Please remember that I am not speaking for the Barbados Labour Party Government. I am speaking as a person always interested in children, always interested in education and still keeping very near to the teachers; I know what the teachers are saying and thinking.

If there is one thing that I am happy about, it is the way in which this Government has gone about trying to improve the image of what was called the newer secondary schools, giving them more of the facilities which they needed, helping to bolster their confidence and their pride in themselves. Some of those schools are now doing much better than people give them credit for.

I have never, in all of my life, known Barbados to borrow enough money to build ten primary schools. People talked about primary education, people talked about how valuable it was, but this Government has borrowed the money to try to improve the physical facilities at several primary schools. Everything cannot be done at once; it is going to take time; and we need to be realistic and to help our people in the community think.

We are destroying the community by doing something to ordinary people, this is, making the kind of speeches, not necessarily in here, which encourage shoddy, superficial thinking. Speeches in here, and at meetings outside, can help simple folk to look at their problems.

One of the things I think we must realise is that if democracy is to survive, we have to educate people so that they cannot be manipulated by unscrupulous persons, and we have to put more of their lives in their own hands. We have to help them to make more decisions about themselves, to understand what is happening to them and why, so that they, themselves, can have a hand in solving some of their problems.

No government can solve all the problems of the individual. He has got to do something for himself, and in a truly democratic society, he must be given the opportunity, he must be given the information, to make a contribution to his society and to realise that, in good times and in bad, he is a citizen of his country. Times come for receiving and times come for giving. This is a time, I think, where there has got to be some giving.

I am not happy about the fact that there has to be payment by students of fees or part of the fees, because the \$40 is a very, very small part of what has to be paid. I think the examination fee per subject is something like \$18.96 — that is for each subject — and then there is

another \$28 for the entrance fee. So the \$40 or the \$30 is nothing to do with that. The \$40 or the \$30 concerns the invigilation fee, which is paid to the people who take charge of the examinations. This is what I understand.

My own experience tells me that the failure to attend examinations has something to do with the discipline of the school concerned, and with the failure to provide proper guidance for the children as they go through the school. Suitable arrangements must be made for dealing with learning difficulties, for having a timetable sufficiently flexible, and for staff, carefully selected, to guide children in their choice of subjects, especially in relation to what they intend to do when they leave school, directing their efforts towards having a properly rounded education. This is work that has to go on in schools every day.

So when the child presents himself or herself for examination, if that student is adequately prepared and confident and knows what he is about, the examinations has no terrors. And since the examination is taken on the premises of the school to which the child goes, and is invigilated by some of the staff as well, the student will know that his teachers will be aware that he has not attended the examination.

I think that the matter goes deeper than mere callousness on the part of the child. Children do not act like that. Children like to do well. Children like to pass examinations. The child wants to pass, and a child who does not attend the examination knows, is sure, that he is going to fail. That is why he does not go.

I think the matter should not end by saying that students should pay. This would, perhaps, bring home to the parents that they have a duty to look at what is happening with their children. We have to face the simple fact.

I do not know what the reason is, but I would surmise that the money is needed. That would be my feeling about it. Money is needed to deal with the problems of payment for the expenses of these examinations.

When children were taking only the Cambridge GCE at one level, in a school of 500 to 600, you had over 100 candidates. You can work out nine subjects, or eight or five subjects at \$18.96 each for each child, plus the entrance fee for each child. That is a lot of money. Multiply it by 21 schools.

And now that children can sit subjects at Basic Level of the CXC, the number of entries for the examination must be very much greater. So even changing to CXC will cause an increase, since the slower candidates who could not previously sit the GCE at Ordinary level

can now take some subjects at Basic. So there may be a much larger number of children proceeding to examinations, and it is quite likely that that calculation could not have previously been made until the CXC entries were made.

I feel that Government, or the Ministry of Education, may be faced with an exceptionally high bill for examinations. I would like the Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber to sit down and see if he can make a calculation of what the cost is. I used to have to do it. The cost must be staggering now. So Government may just simply be facing a difficult financial problem where examinations are concerned, and, quite frankly, I do not see anything wrong with the Minister saying so.
12.20 p.m.

But the problems of attendance of examinations do need to be looked at, and this is an internal matter for the schools. I really feel that schools must now address themselves to it, to see whether the children are definitely given the guidance as they go through schools so that they have chosen their subjects well.

In fact, what I would say about education at the present moment, not merely about education but about children, is that I am very disturbed at the inadequate supervision of children and the lack of help being given to them in solving their problems of growing up in a world which is difficult, in a society becoming increasingly permissive.

In the permissive society, the individual has to be a strong person, because individuals no longer then have the support of convention, which would help them to do what the community expects them to do. They are left alone. They say that one can do whatever one likes and the community will tolerate it, and so children now need more guidance than formerly. They are living in a more difficult situation. They have more responsibility. They have to be stronger. They have to have a greater measure of self-discipline, and it is difficult.

So what we really ought to be realizing is that education is not merely a matter of cost. It is not merely a matter of providing a building and equipment. It is essentially a matter of relationships. It is the teacher who is the chief factor. It is the quality of the teaching profession which is going to be the big determining factor.

I know about the purchase of books in relation to the Common Entrance Examination. There are some primary schools which make a specialty of gaining places at a great variety of the schools, and what are considered to be the leading schools. Pressure in the Common Entrance Examination is not now coming from the examination itself, since there are now enough places

that a child of average ability can easily earn one — the pressure is coming from adults who want their children to gain entrance at a particular school. That is where the pressure is!

The pressure is not in the examination. The pressure is that the child is told that he must get into such and such school, and that is what causes the anxiety. It is not the examination itself, because you may remember that not so long ago, previous to 1959, children sat 3 or 4 entrance examinations. They went around and sat an entrance examination at each of the secondary schools. We did not then hear anything about what a terrible stress it was on those children. They sat 3 or 4 examinations — not one. This is something we need to look at.

In the primary schools which habitually gain outstanding results in the Common Entrance Examinations, teachers sometimes give the children a list of books, which they use for special exercises, in which they have faith. Such children have a special book list. Now the parent wants the child to pass this examination to go to a particular school, so parents are only too willing to give them these books. If they were not doing that, they would probably be paying a private coach a lot more money to coach the child, as well as giving him the extra books.

I do not know anything about children being made to buy books in the lower classes and things of that sort, because that has never been the practice in our primary schools. Yet, I would like to remind honourable members that in many islands of the West Indies, it is only recently that primary school children have been given books. They had to buy their books at the primary level, something which we never did, except for the 8 cents Geography book. It was common throughout the West Indies for children to have to buy their textbooks in the primary schools, in countries where there were people who were poorer than some of our children.

Now if they are provided with books at the secondary and primary levels, I really do not feel that we should make a fuss. If the parent does not want to buy the books that the teacher requires for students private lessons, well, they do not have to. As a matter of fact, I can remember at the famous Wesley Hall School that children who were getting private lessons for the scholarship examinations had to buy their books.

So I think that we have to face up to the realities of our situation — our education is costly. We have made it even more costly by making it co-educational, because in a single-sex school children can make do with facilities less than the ideal, but as soon as you make a school co-educational, you have to be very careful about the provision of physical facilities for the two sexes. What

you can get away with in a single sex school, you cannot get away with in a co-educational school. We now have an even greater responsibility for seeing that our system is good, because a bad co-educational school is 10 times worse than a bad single-sex school; and in a bad co-educational school, it is the girls who suffer.

In all West Indian communities, we know how heavily the community relies on the quality of its women. We are the burden bearers, and if we devise a system in which, through lack of funds, we do not provide teachers of quality, we are neglecting the most important thing. If we shrug our shoulders and pretend that we do not know that it is not advisable to have a co-educational school with a male head and a male deputy, and nobody to look after the special problems of the girls in the school, we are begging for trouble.

This is happening, and I am going to speak about it, because I feel strongly about this. Wherever there is a headmistress and a female deputy in a co-educational school, there should be a post of special responsibility for a male who gives special attention to the problems of the boys. Where there is a male head and a male deputy, there should be a post of special responsibility for somebody to whom girls can go with their problems. 12.30 p.m.

I will not accept anything about money as an excuse when it comes to that. Cut off something else from somewhere else and see that this is done. We cannot afford to have bad co-education schools. Already the number of girls at Summervale has risen to a higher number than I have ever known it. There are now 19 girls where there used to be three or five. For all the years I was connected with that institution there were about three to five girls, and it may go up a bit because of girls being on remand. The number of girls is increasing, there are now 19, I think, there. So we need to watch these trends, we need to have some way of measuring the consequences of the decisions we make.

If we make a decision to be co-educational, we should make a decision that the children's records are so kept that we can see whether in fact either of the sexes is suffering as a result of this change. We have to make certain that we know what we are doing, we have to look at the girls' examination results and see whether girls are performing as well, or boys are performing as well as they did previously. We must not just make changes and not evaluate what is taking place, and I am concerned about the pastoral care of children.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have two minutes.

SENATOR Mrs. E. M. LYNCH: I am concerned that if we do not look after that aspect, if we feel that

we need too much money to do this, then the community is going to pay dearly for its failure to give children the proper supervision and the proper guidance which they need in dealing with their problems of growing up.

In spite of all that I have said, I still feel that this Government should be encouraged and congratulated for the courage it has shown. The one bit of advice that I would give is to warn the people making decisions to keep close to the teachers, encourage them so that the ones who are trying will not give up. If statements are continually made about how bad they are, then the ones who are trying will get frustrated and not continue their efforts.

Important decisions of policy should be discussed with the teachers. You are not saying that they are giving you orders, but you are helping them to look beyond the narrow teaching of a subject, you are encouraging them to look at what they are doing and what the system is doing. At present, teachers in schools are being pushed around like pawns. There are heads who do not even like teachers to express an opinion at staff meetings. Only a free teaching profession can educate free citizens for a democracy.

Cheers.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Mr. President, after listening to the intelligensia, I am quite aware of the fact that I will never try to measure up to that standard. I still feel, Sir, that you must have the views not only of the headmasters, the headmistresses, the teachers, and Board members, but you should really try to explain to the average man what really is going on in the educational system today.

Now, quite frankly, I believe in the concept that school is not a preparation for life, because it is life itself; and if we look at it in that way, we will see that it becomes a miniature society. It means therefore that we do really require our children to think that the process of learning is active participation and not merely a passive absorption of knowledge.

That brings me to the point of the 11-Plus that Senator Lynch was talking about. For years Barbadians have tried to keep up with the Joneses. Everybody wants the best for his child. We all say that people should not hanker to send their children to these great schools, the schools of the bourgeoisie — we say these things and yet we do the same things with little prompting. We all say that the 11-Plus is not right for the kids because when you fail the 11-Plus you are considered a failure in life generally. Nobody ever looks to see that the great Sir Winston Churchill failed his 11-Plus, and there are others who did.

Asides.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: The equivalent. Sir Winston Churchill was not a Bajan, Sir, so the honourable Minister would not know; he knows about Barbadian education. I am talking about English education, Sir. He was not even educated there, so he does not know. If Senator Ramsay had said that, or Senator Linton, or Senator Howell, then I would understand, but I am not bowing to that.

I feel that there must be a genuine interest in education, because interest stimulates effort, and children must be made aware of this. When we decide that we will take our children to task, as Senator Lynch said, the examination is not all that hard, it is the pressure coming from the parents that makes the children want to vomit before they go into the examination, during the examination, and after the examination. There is little joy for children taking this examination, and therefore we, as adults, must really look and see what we can do to alleviate the problem.

There are very serious matters that we must look at as far as education is concerned. Attendance. Why does a child not want to go to school? Is it the teachers? Is it the parent? Is it the child itself? Or is it the system? I think we have to look and see exactly what the situation is.

Senator Lynch said, and I believe her because she has many years' experience at the top level in education, so who am I to deny.....

(SENATOR Mrs. E. M. LYNCH: The bottom too).

SENATOR W. W. HALL: She has had experience at all levels, Sir, that covers it, so who am I to deny that every year children are very upset when they cannot take the examinations. For instance, they like to take examinations, but it is only when they realise that they cannot pass they get very upset and do not go.

Sir, there are some children in Barbados who put down only their names. They get nought, they get zero, while sitting these examinations. There are children in this country who will take subjects like Geography. They might like Geography, but they are not good mathematicians. They would pass Paper One and Three and cannot handle Paper Four, because they are not numerate. That is the situation in this country.

There is also the question of teachers. We talk so much about teachers. I think Senator Lynch said that we should not make so many statements about teachers that upset them. What statements have we been making about our teachers? That they cannot spell? Maybe that is true. I do not know; I do not go around to schools and I am

not usually in the company of teachers so I do not know whether they can spell or not.

12.40 p.m.

If you are alluding to the fact, Senator Lynch, that the Minister said, or is reported to have said, that they can hardly spell, perhaps the reason, for that may be the system. Because when one looks at the syllabus for primary schools, Language Arts, Spelling, simple Spelling, comes very low, Sir.

Gone are the good old days when Spelling was a joy to behold, and Mental Arithmetic also. These are things that school children had to be very good at in order to get anywhere, and it is painful to hear that they cannot spell. What it does, it lowers the morale of the Teaching Service, because the children then laugh at the teachers and say if we cannot spell, you cannot spell either, so it does not matter.

Sir, I feel that we are in different times and what a teacher would do in 1940, or what was the norm in the 1950s or 1960s, you may well find that these things are hardly likely to be done in the 1980s.

I remember the times when I was at St. Giles. St. Giles in those days, a primary school, with a roll call of 1,000 students, the college on the hill, they used to call it, and we had school teachers that were very dedicated. If I were to call some of their names now, you would see why perhaps the school was such a great school because there was the headmaster, Charles Winston Cumberbatch, and the likes of Ignatius Byer, Mr. J. O. Morris, Mr. Atherley, Mr. Greenidge, Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. Mullins, Mr. Squires, Mr. Merton Robinson and Mr. Rawle Brathwaite, such was the calibre of teachers then. Senator Lynch referred to the calibre of teachers in the teaching profession and we had it at St. Giles. When you go to St. Giles today, the roll call is 270 and, Sir, if you look down the hill, a radius of one mile, if you look down right by the Governor's gate, you will probably find that all and sundry, everybody wants to go to Erdiston. How can you tell me, or tell anybody for that matter, that you want to equalize schools, you want to think of Harrison College being spoken of in the same breath as Roebuck Secondary, you are talking about twinning, which I shall get to, and everyone, Ministers of Government, all walks of life want their children to go to school there.

Asides

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Not you Senator Trotman?

Asides

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Yes, Erdiston School, a great school, and I agree that the results are great but

what is happening, because it is a good school, is that it becomes overcrowded. And what is more, we find that those who cannot get in there feel that they are duty bound to by-pass the primary schools; and if they can afford it, they will find another school.

My three children have been educated at Senator Jones' wife school, and I am very proud of it. I will tell you why. When you look at it seriously, you will find that even though the fees of \$8 for the secondary school, and indeed the \$24 for those of you who went to Harrison College and those types of schools, were exorbitant in those days, you will find that now you have to pay a lot more to send your children to private schools today. You do not have to, but you do so because you want to be sure, you want to be very clear in your mind, that you can get them into an older secondary school. Senator Williams shakes his head as if he sends his children to a different school. Well, if he does, I am glad.

I am asking, Sir, why do the children not want to go to school. Secondly, why having gone to school for so long a time, do they not wish to take the examination?

Senator Lynch said that the Government needs money — that is an honest assumption — and maybe that is the reason why they charge the \$40.

If the Government needs money and they are charging money just like that, well, fair enough. If that is the situation, so let it be, but to charge the \$40 now when it is quite obvious that some of the parents seem to be disgruntled about the entire situation, does not augur well. It is true that you may well say that there are some people who, while quarrelling about this \$40, are using large sums of money in other pursuits, but I am saying that if you have to pay \$40, and the children are not taking the examination, the odds are that they still are not going to take them.

I think that what we have to do is look at the situation seriously and find out exactly why these children are not taking the examination. It is not as superficial as people think when criticism is levelled at the \$40 or the \$80 or \$150, as the case, or cases may be. That is not the point. The point is, why are the children doing this?

Senator Lynch said that the children love to sit examinations. I do not know, Sir. She knows, she said so, and I believe her. They love to sit exams

(SENATOR MRS. E. M. LYNCH: If they can do well).

SENATOR W. W. HALL: if they can do well. Let me finish you. I heard you. I listened and I

heard. Some people listen but they do not hear. I both listen and hear — and understand too. That is the important thing.

Sir, this question of the headteachers. She said that they push around teachers and they are not particularly well organized. I have not discerned that, Sir, that they are not particularly well organized.

In my day they seemed to me to be well organized, and having gone to only two schools, St. Giles and Combermere — I am unlike many honourable Senators who might have gone to seven or eight — I can tell you that discipline was the key note. There is no doubt about that. You had to dress properly. I do not mean changing your shirt every morning. I mean looking tidy and combing your hair, if you had hair, keeping your fingernails clean and things like that, your deportment, Sir.

It is little wonder that my sartorial splendour is so much in evidence, because it is my upbringing. Look at Senator Waldron-Ramsay, Sir, in a different way, I must add, but the upbringing is there. But what happens when you go to the schools nowadays? The headmasters have to show these children exactly what is required, and that is what I am putting forward today.

I have been on the governing body of a very prestigious school and I know the problems that you get with children, and I am saying that you have to discipline the children. You have to let them know exactly what is required of them, and if they ever come short of the law, Sir, punitive measures must be invoked so that the children would understand what is going on.

12.50 p.m.

I ask you, who is to blame? I want to know, can we then say the parents? Some parents, I do admit, in these troubled times are unaware of what is going on. They are, perhaps, totally incapable of helping the children with their school work. We have to think in terms of New Maths and we have to think in terms of children doing different content.

For instance, if my son came home and he was doing anything in British History between 55 B.C. and 1939, I can openly say that I would help him, whether it is Simon de Monfort, Henry VIII, Eric the Red — anybody. I would be able to help with just a little revision. But when it comes to West Indian History, which they are doing, and I say they should do it, I cannot help. I do not know these things, neither do I know anything about New Maths, and I dare say that very few of us in here would know about New Maths.

So some children cannot be helped by their parents, and some of them cannot get the type of additional help

that Senator Lynch talked about, and because of that, they are left to their own devices, and that, Sir, can be a problem. It can be a parental problem or it can be a problem from the point of view that children, themselves, have been allowed to go astray, or it could be the system and I am submitting, Sir, that it could be the system.

I think therefore that one has to look very seriously at having more consultation with the teachers and head-teachers. You have to consult them about certain measures, especially new ones. If you were to look at the idea of twinning, headmasters will tell you that they were summoned to the Ministry and told about that. They sent a letter in June with some recommendations, and then, having got no reply, they were told in a circular what the twinning arrangements were. Their recommendations were partially ignored, or nearly totally ignored.

If that happens, the heads of schools will be very upset, and that type of discord goes right down through the staff room, and it goes right down and redounds to nobody's good at all. It is a serious thing, and I feel that a simple matter like that could easily be avoided by consultation.

It is noteworthy, and it gladdens my heart, to see that you are thinking in terms of having an education commission whereby people with wide experience in education will be asked to share that experience with the country. And, Sir, what upsets them further is, giving this for the love of education and for the love of their country, if they are treated rudely. I say that with great seriousness.

Right now all over Barbados we have Boards. There are different names for them. We call them Boards now, but when I was at school they used to call them Governors of the school and right now there are lists and there are people on these Boards. I must say, Sir, that, before this Act, Governors had a lot of authority. In other words, the governors of the schools could appoint from the Deputy Headmaster down, they could appoint all staff. People say they had a lot of power, still they had access to the Minister and indeed the Ministry.

But in the new Act one finds that the governors or the Board of Management will no longer do these things. They can only appoint perhaps a gardener or a little office clerk, non-teaching staff. And when you ask people in this country to serve on these Boards, having asked them to serve and they have agreed, if you do not wish them any longer, I think it is quite an easy thing to revoke the appointment.

Senator Griffith laughs, he is amused, but I am not quarrelling about any revocation. As far as I am concerned, it is the principle.

Sir, at Combermere School, a big school in this country, a great school, the greatest in my humble opinion — Senator Linton confirms that — you have a case today where on May 4, 1983, you have governors of that School there — everybody knows that the whole lot of them have gone through the eddoes, and yet to this day — they should have been revoked yesterday — not one letter has been sent to the Chairman, Vice Chairman, nor any member at all of the Governing Body of Combermere School, a body that served with distinction, a body that is held high by the teaching staff. Imagine the teaching staff loving the governing body. It is not usually done. Sometimes workers try to keep far from management.

(A VOICE: Declare your interest.)

SENATOR W. W. HALL: This is no money matter. Imagine the school children themselves being very keen on the members of the governing body. Everybody knows that the members of the governing body, as I said, have not yet been asked to go, but I know that Mrs. Scott, as Chairwoman, has been going to the school and Senator Williams, the Vice-Chairman, knows that he is on the governing body — there is nothing wrong with that; he is an able man — but why, I ask everybody in here, don't they tell the present governors that they do not want them anymore?

There are some able people on that Board. You should not treat people so, people who are just giving their service free of cost. It is not a statutory board where you have six or seven meetings, as in the case with Senator Jemmott, and you get a little drawback. I have nothing against that either, because we spend a lot of time and energy, but on these governing bodies you are not paid, and it is merely that you are making a contribution; and if your services are no longer required, I think you should be told.

Imagine the chairman, with sixteen years on the same governing body, with twelve as chairman, and to this day he has not been told about his revocation! I say that is supercilious and I do not believe that it should be done, and if there is anyone in this Honourable Chamber who can tell me that is the right thing to do, well, Sir, I think we are all in trouble. I only say so because I think that when people give of their time and energies as a service to education in this country, that they should be told if they are not required any longer and know exactly what the situation is.

Another thing that is very important is that we have to understand that we have come to the stage when I think the Ministry does not particularly wish to have heads of junior schools, but I can tell you that in a school where you have 800, 900, 1 000 or 1 200 pupils, I honestly believe that there should be someone to look

after the juniors. If, Sir, this is not done officially, it is done unofficially, especially in the co-ed schools where you find that young girls come along and they have no one to turn to.

1.00 p.m.

As Senator Lynch said, this is not only a problem from the point of view of guidance. That is not particularly the problem. The problem is that kids in the junior school need someone they can go to as head of that junior school and tell their problems to.

They say that heads of the junior school is something that started in the Sixties. I submit, Sir, that that is not true. I remember in the late Forties, and indeed the early Fifties, when Lionel Gittens, L. L. Gittens, was the Headmaster of the junior School at Combermere. So no one can sit in the Ministry and tell me that. Senator Linton knows this, and so does Senator Ramsay — they know that Mr. Gittens was head of the junior school as far back as 1947, 1948, into the Fifties, and I feel very bad then when people get in the Ministry and tell me that that is not true. And we had Mr. Harold Sealy up there at Combermere. For thirty years he has been a leading light to junior kids in Combermere School. And yet, we find it so difficult to think in terms of having him as the head of the junior school again.

Sir, I also have to point out that there are people in this country with six, seven and eight O levels, but either they cannot find anything to do or some, cannot do anything. When people had six, seven and eight O levels twenty and thirty years ago, Sir, they were giants. As a matter of fact, when people came out of the primary schools at the age of fourteen — and now you have to go to school until you are sixteen, it is ridiculous — many of our young people who could not get secondary education emigrated to London. Some of them started on the buses and then some of them became all sorts of engineers and professors, because their basic education at primary level was so good that they could have afforded to go on with little difficulty, straight into the system and into higher education.

Something must be wrong with the system, therefore, that you can get a person with seven, eight and nine O levels and they cannot write the Queen's English. I say that without fear of contradiction. When you see the letters that some of them write asking for jobs, Sir, I tell you, you cry.

I once sat interviewing a teacher who was applying for a job at one of the secondary schools to teach Spanish, and when one inquired why the young lady wanted to come to such a school, why she wanted to teach Spanish in what was considered a higher grade school, she said quite calmly, "Sir, the children at my

school cannot speak English, so I find it very difficult to teach Spanish." And then one saw what sort of problem she had from day to day.

Even though teachers are sent to Erdiston, Erdiston to my mind, Sir, is not an A Level school teaching you English and Maths exclusively, and doing it every day. They teach teaching techniques at Erdiston. They assume that you know the Queen's English. They also teach Child Psychology, because they want you to understand what children will do, and when they have gone wrong, exactly how to tackle the problem. That is what an institution like Erdiston is there for, Sir.

So when we send out teachers with Scripture, Needlecraft, Domestic Science, Industrial Arts, hardly any English, no Maths; when you do that, and they tell you, "Oh, I have eight certificates," do you not see, Sir, that something must definitely be wrong with the system? I suggest, Sir, that we should look at the system.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have one minute.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: One minute! Imagine that and I was now warming up, Sir. I thought I had about three hours.

The Americans — I am not suggesting that we follow them in anything — but it seems to me that they tend to give their education to their kids when they can best understand the particular phase. They gradually prepare them, Sir, so a twelve-year-old or a fourteen-year-old American child is a joke to a Barbadian, educationally. But you will notice that the system provides for them — it is a plan, Sir, — whereby between fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, into university education by way of a college education and junior school and all that, Sir, you find that he comes out a rounded child.

What we do, or what we seem to do, Sir, is to push everything from five, from the time that they can walk, and at eleven, if they fail, their failure is for life; and if they ever come to eighteen and they cannot take the GCE, well then, Sir, we have a lot of delinquents on our hand.

And what is more, and I want to end with this, Sir, there is a problem in Barbados — it is not only with the people in the lower socio-economic grouping — where we are now saddled with people in the higher echelons of society having children, their very own, who they cannot manage in their own homes, and their only hope for survival is to be in a position to be able to ask for a chance for them. This is another reason why our educational system will have to be looked at very seriously, because not only are we producing people from the lower economic strata that are troublesome in the society, but

we are also getting people from so-called decent homes who have gone astray like lost sheep.

I know that you are going to stop me, Sir, so I will not allow you to do that today. I will stop gracefully. But, Sir, I wish to point out, in closing, that it is not a matter of any \$40 or \$80 and getting any points for that. I am saying that something is wrong in our system. On that Economic Review Society, or whatever it is, get some people who know about education on it. Not like me, Sir. Get some people who know about education. Get the people who know the nitty-gritty and let them devise a system so that our children can get back on the right path.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Applause.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I rise to close this debate at this stage. We have another Education Bill, and at this rate we will get through the work of the Senate next year.

This Bill before us permits the Government to bring into force the new scheme in relation to governing bodies. The point about this Bill is that the new scheme of Government cannot be fully brought into force until this legislation is passed; therefore, this is the Bill that we are anxious to get through. If the other one takes three days to pass, it is alright. Once we have finished this one and the Governor-General gives his assent, then the Ministry of Education can get on with their work.

I have heard a number of speeches in which there has been general comment about education, and I have not really heard points made which require much by way of answer. In fact, in explaining that this Bill is necessary to bring the new scheme of Government into force, I have indeed answered the only point that seemed outstanding.

In relation to Senator Hall's point about changes in the governing bodies, these changes cannot be effected until this legislation is passed. I think Senator Hall must recognise that it is more than just a matter of whether someone is serving on a governing body now and is going to be serving on that same governing body in the future, or whether the Minister thinks, in her wisdom, that persons who have given good service on one governing body may, under the new dispensation, be distributed around, because there are more governing bodies to service, and that persons who have not had experience in serving on Governing Bodies should be represented generally on all the Boards of Management that are being set up.

If she decides to do that, then what she will avoid is a situation in which you have the Combermere governing body re-appointed, the Foundation School's governing body re-appointed, the Harrison College governing body re-appointed — he called a few more — and then a whole lot of new faces, people who have had no experience in school administration perhaps, at any level, being appointed to staff the Boards of Management in the other schools.

So I do not think that we can reasonably argue that there is no merit in a re-organisation in the governing bodies. I think, in fact, there is a lot of merit in it. People can argue about how it can be done, but that, of course, is where the argument always is.
1.10 p.m.

The other thing I want to refer to is that, as usual, Senator Greaves has treated us to a speech in which there are a lot of wild charges, and never an attempt to justify anything.

What does he mean, for example, that the Minister cannot be serious when she says that those who need assistance can get assistance from the Welfare Department? He asserts that in the time available between the publication of the decision and the setting of the examination fees, the Welfare Department could not have processed the applications. He has not told us that under normal circumstances it would take x number of days, x number of hours, or x number of years to process the applications. But he has given us the impression that it takes a very long time for the Welfare Department to bring assistance to those who need assistance.

That is not a position, Sir, which I find easy to accept. It is not a position which, if he gave a little more thought to it, Senator Greaves would be very keen on enunciating, especially when we look at the speed in which the money allocated for Welfare housing was spent in 1976, in the three weeks of a short campaign. If they can move that fast during a campaign to provide houses in St. Lucy — I think St. Lucy was the beneficiary — then surely in a few cases of genuine need where it comes to assisting people who have examination fees to pay, I can hardly accept that those responsible for welfare administration would move so very slowly.

Senator Greaves referred to going to school on Saturdays. He referred to the University of the West Indies' restructuring. At no time do I hear the goodly Senator saying that these are things which we should throw out the window because of such and such, and give a reasonable argument against them.

Now the Press, of course, is going to support Senator Greaves very widely, and as wildly, indeed, as he speaks. The only trouble is that those who are not

hearing the debate in here do not realise that the Senator's speech is, as usual, a matter of wild charges and unsubstantiated statements.

But what does he mean when he criticises, because by the tone of his voice one would assume that he was criticising, the position that one should go to Erdiston to be trained before going into the teaching service.

I believe, Sir, that, somewhere along the line, the party to which the Senator belongs has been in support, if not stronger than that, of the position that teachers should be trained before they go into the classroom, and that we should not just pick up any tyro and stick him in a classroom and let him learn at the expense of the children.

It is true that, no matter how well trained you are, the classroom is where just as you impact, you are going to have to learn. It is absolutely true. But I believe that it is on the side of reason to state that, generally speaking, you should expect a better performance from one who has the adequate amount of training than what you should expect from one who is absolutely raw and just pushed into a classroom. How, therefore, Senator Greaves can appear to be critical of a decision to let people go through a training period first before going into the classroom is something I do not understand.

But, again, he likes the sound of his voice. It sounds good. He has 30 minutes to talk, or an hour, and he thinks he must take up the time — and the only way to do it is with a lot of padding and making wild statements. He is going to do it that way. But with all respect, Sir, I humbly submit that I have never heard such consistent nonsense as what I have heard coming from Senator Greaves today.

I am afraid that I was called out to the phone during Senator Lynch's contribution, but what I heard was, as usual, of an exceptionally high standard. Now Senator Hall, coming after Senator Greaves, who had made rather heavy weather of the examination fees, made a point — I mean the negative aspect of his point — which really got very much to the heart of the matter, when he said that it is not a matter of \$40, \$80 or \$120. He seemed to be going in a direction then of, it is a matter of whether a problem exists, how many approaches there are to dealing with the problem, and which is the one you are going to select.

Mr. President, I am not normally in favour of fees. I would like to make that position absolutely clear. I cannot, however, say that I believe that the persons who are charged with the administering of the educational system would lightly come to the conclusion that this is the thing to try. You are trying something to see if you can deal with the problem of absenteeism, and the thing

to try in this circumstance is an examination fee. So even though I personally may not be a supporter of fees, I cannot take the position that, having defined what the problem is, the Ministry of Education is not to try some means of dealing with that problem.

If I listen to Senator Greaves, I have to come to the conclusion that it does not matter what problem you have. Whatever solution you come to, he is going to come in here and tell the people that solution is all wrong and you are lacking in direction. What is the other thing that he usually says?....*Ad hocism*? Lack of planning? Those are the things he says in every debate, and I expect, that those are the things he will continue to say.

As a matter of fact, Sir, if you notice the position of the union when Senator Greaves puts it, it is really no different from the position when his boss and mentor puts it. They are now so opposed to anything the Government does, that even when there is tax put on a particular matter and that tax is put on at a level that really does not affect the workers, that the only people connected with the Barbados Workers' Union who would be likely to get \$50 000 in severance pay are the General Secretary and the Assistant General Secretaries.....

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, Order.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Anyway, the point is that even though it is a measure that hits at the kind of severance that only the employers, the people who usually file these, and the people of the union can get, even then they curse the Government.

What else does Senator Hall says? He does not associate with teachers. True, he does not associate with many intelligent people I suppose.....

Laughter.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Then Senator Hall proceeded to tell us that — what was it? Sir Winston Churchill did not pass the 11-Plus. Mr. President, the honourable Senator completely forgot that persons of the generation of Sir Winston Churchill and himself never had an 11-Plus to sit.

For all that, I do not think his contribution was a bad one. I think, generally, he tended to see that there was a problem and that something would have to be done to deal with the problem.

I believe that what we should do is pay our attention to the real purpose of this piece of legislation, and that is to bring that aspect of the scheme of management, which has now held up the Boards of Management — good or bad, with a lot of people or a few people — into operation.

Senator Greaves is quarrelling about bungling in his Government. His Government was so efficient in trying to get this same legislation through that all they succeeded in doing is getting part of it in the Statute Books — and none of it is operative. They are very few instances when the Senator can talk about bungling and look up. I think he has to look in the mirror.

1.20 p.m.

This legislation, when it comes into force, as we expect probably later today, will allow the new Boards of Management to be appointed, and that is really why we are trying to get that out of the way. The CXC Bill which comes after this can provide ample opportunity for further debate on education, Sir.

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. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate resumed and the Bill was reported as having passed in Committee without amendment; Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On the separate motions of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: I propose to suspend the sitting until 2.30.
1.25 p.m.

On Resumption:—

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

THE CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (INCORPORATION) BILL, 1983

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, the Caribbean Examinations Council, even though some persons say that it originally was thought of as far back as 1946, came into being in 1972 when the Heads of the Governments of Antigua, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Caymans, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad & Tobago, and the Turks & Caicos Islands agreed to establish the Council as a regional organisation. Since then, it has grown and has been setting

and correcting papers in various subjects for students in the Caribbean.

Just to do a quick recap, Sir, by 1979 subjects were offered in English, Geography, Caribbean History, Integrated Science and Mathematics, and 30 000—odd students entered for those examinations. In 1980, six new subjects were added — Agricultural Science, Office Procedures, Principles of Account, Principles of Business, Typewriting and Spanish — and the number of candidates had grown to 39 700. In 1981, two other subjects were added — English Literature and Social Science — and the number of students had grown to 45 800. Last year, 1982, eight new subjects were added — Book-keeping, Woods and Metals, Technical Drawing, General Electricity, Home Economics Management, Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles — and the number of students had risen to 53 000.

It was agreed, Sir, that the Council would be incorporated and the Bill before us seeks to do just that. The Agreement is appended to the Bill as a Schedule and becomes part of the Bill.

For the record, Sir, let me say that the CXC has now been recognised as the competent authority for examining students in the subjects mentioned by the following institutions: The University of the West Indies, University of Guyana, Barbados Community College, the Joint Metriculation Board, which serves the universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham, the Scottish Universities Council, the London University, several universities in Canada and the National Council for Evaluation of Foreign Students in the United States of America.

The Council offers examinations at two levels, the Basic Proficiency Level and the General Proficiency Level. In Barbados this year we expect to enter 3490 candidates from the public and private schools, and they will be taking 11 399 subject papers.

I just want to say one other thing about the Council quickly, and that is the privileges in the protocol, which is not part of the Bill, but to which, nevertheless, the country is bound. Officials of the Council who are not nationals or permanent residents of Barbados shall enjoy the following privileges when the Bill is passed: exemption from any form of direct taxation on salaries, remuneration and allowances paid by the Council; exemption from any form of direct taxation on income derived from sources outside Barbados; exemption in respect of themselves and members of their families forming part of their household from registration as aliens and immigration restrictions; exemption from National Service obligations for themselves and their children and dependents forming part of their household; and on first arrival to import their furniture and effects without

payment of Customs Duty. So the staff of the CXC are quasi-diplomatic as far as we are concerned in Barbados. 2.35 p.m.

I would also want to draw your attention, Mr. President, to the Agreement which forms the Schedule to the Bill. Article III of the Agreement sets out the duties of the Council as far as the conduct of examinations and the review of examinations being held in the territory, and Article IV sets out the general powers of the Council.

In (g) of Article IV, Sir, I think I should draw your attention to what appears to be an error, and even though we should not amend it because it is the Agreement as signed, we will have to draw it to the attention of the Ministry of Education. In (g), Article IV, where it says: "regulate the conduct of any examinations conducted under the provisions of paragraph (a), (c) and (g) of Article IV" that obviously should be Article III and not Article IV, so we will have to get that corrected at the Agreement level. We cannot amend it, because it is the Agreement as signed.

Before I sit, Sir, I just want to say one thing. I deliberately studied the question on privileges because we are getting more and more Caribbean organizations moving their headquarters to Barbados, and I know Governments like to think that if they have regional organizations in their countries, this attracts attention to them and all that kind of thing.

But I am beginning to wonder, Sir, not that the CXC has done anything to put them in this category, but I have seen other regional organisations in the Caribbean having some diplomatic or quasi-diplomatic privileges abuse those privileges to the extent where one of these days the Ministry of Finance is going to realize that they will get absolutely no Customs Duty through the Customs Department.

Some of those organizations use their privilege as a means of running their own Customs Department, their own Immigration Department, and they have taken over and compete with the Government, Mr. President. I do not believe that half of the T.V. sets in Barbados will ever pay T.V. licences, because they do not pass through Customs. It is a clear matter of an open racket in some of the Caribbean organizations that have diplomatic privileges, and I can only hope that the CXC personnel, who have shown no tendency towards this wickedness, will not join their counterparts when we have passed the Bill giving them this status.

Mr. President, with those few comments, I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR E. F. GREAVES: Sir, I just want to make a few comments on this Bill. First I would want

to say that the concept enshrined in this document establishing the Caribbean Examinations Council is indeed a forward-looking one, particularly as it deals with a system of education which has, at its foundation, the concept of the Caribbean man. It is an examination in areas where emphasis is placed on experiences, whether they are in the Biological Sciences, in the English Language, even in Mathematics, which are related to the Caribbean.

I believe that when the idea of a Caribbean Examination was first mooted, it was done against a background of people complaining about the very heavy emphasis which was placed on England, and things related to England, in the educational system. Children had to learn a lot of meaningless things, as beautiful as they might be, in terms of writing. A lot of the experiences were ones with which children could not identify and, consequently, I believe, that this had led to a lot of mis-education and a general lack of appreciation for things Caribbean in years gone by.

I believe, Sir, that this is probably one of the reasons why we, even today in 1983, are finding it difficult to accept the concept of regionalism and the concept of getting the Caribbean Economic Community to work, of getting a University to continue — and we hope that this does not happen — to function as a regional University in a real sense, and, above all, really getting things Caribbean on a wider scale to function. And I believe that if one of the major objectives of CXC can be achieved, that is, directing people towards thinking in Caribbean terms, then some time in the future the hopes and the dreams of our forefathers, as far as having an effective regional grouping is concerned, would be realized.

It has just been a matter of a few short years that we have been doing examinations set by the Caribbean Examinations Council, but, nevertheless, I believe that there has been enough time for us to reflect on our experiences and try to adjust as quickly as possible to the new kinds of situations which the Caribbean Examinations Council have thrust on the school system.

It seems to me that the system has been responding rather slowly to the new concept. I was just speaking to Senator Hall about this aspect of it. We were comparing notes on some contributions which we want to make on this particular bit of legislation and I told him that one has gotten the impression that we have some new wife, but we are still using the old bottles, with the result that we are not getting as much out of the situation as we could if the necessary adjustment has not taken place. We know that it is in the process, but I would think that much more has to be done in adjusting to the new situation.

Writing an examination for CXC is, to a large extent, different from writing an examination for Cambridge or Oxford or London. From what I gathered, in some subject areas the scope is much wider. A pupil is called upon to display a wider grasp of information, he is called upon to show a greater depth of study, and as a result this new situation has imposed a lot more work on teachers, work which is much more than existed under the old system.

2.45 p.m.

I would think, therefore, that the Government ought to be looking at that to see whether, from the point of view of timetabling, teachers are given enough time to prepare the work which is necessary to be prepared before they go to a class. This is very important. I would think that if you examine that closely, you would find that a problem has developed in that particular area. One would hope that the system would be responsive and would be able to meet the particular challenge which has been presented.

From the point of view of the public, the CXC has done quite a bit of work in terms of its public relations, but there is still a lot of work to be done in selling the idea and the general concept of CXC to the wider public. I know that under this Bill there is provision for national committees to function and to develop programmes to get across the whole idea of the CXC to the public. I would therefore hope that we would continue to do the kind of work which is being done in Barbados to educate the wider public about the CXC.

There is one aspect to which I would want to further allude, and it relates to the question of the granting of certificates. Now I must confess that I am not all that sure whether this applies to the CXC, but I have a sneaking suspicion that it does.

I suppose when one begins to make a point and starts by saying "in the old days", one begins to feel that one is getting old, but certainly in times gone by when a person wrote an examination and passed in a particular subject, a certificate was awarded for the subject which was passed, and if he passed five or six, he was given a certificate with the subjects passed listed on the certificate.

My understanding is that nowadays, and I have seen certificates made up in this way, rather than listing the subjects passed in this way, one finds that the certificates contain the number of subjects which the pupil has taken, but you have to turn to the back of the certificate for the information that would enable one to fully understand the certificate. I understand that you have to turn to the back of the certificate to get the key to understand what really has been the performance of the person to whom the certificate belongs.

I know that some time ago, I had an experience where a lady had come to the office to ask about a job for her son, and when she was asked how many subjects he had passed, she said her son had passed five subjects, but when the boy produced the certificate, the information revealed that he had failed all five subjects. Nevertheless, he had the certificate with those subjects listed.

It is a question where, sometimes, some parents can be misled if they are not careful. When they see these certificates come with these subjects listed on them, they must not be misled into believing — and some children do mislead their parents — that their children have these subjects. I am throwing this out because I think it is confusing.

Of course, we do not have any control over how the various examining bodies issue their particular certificates, but I would hope that if the CXC issue their certificates in this way, that at some point in time that particular policy can be reviewed and certificates can be issued which would really represent what a person has passed rather than a listing of subjects which people have taken. I know that it is a concept which some people would agree with and one which other people would not agree with.

Basically, I am of the view that it has been a good thing for the Caribbean that we are now writing these CXC examinations. I am satisfied that hopefully by the next generation, if not before, we will have people coming up in the Caribbean with a very strong appreciation for the Caribbean and a very clear understanding about the value of the Caribbean and what it means, and from that I would think that we would have a much stronger, regional spirit developing in this region.

SENATOR CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. President, I only want to make a few observations on all I have been hearing this morning about education. The first thing I want to say is that everybody is an expert on two things, education and religion. The only people who, apparently, they think are not knowledgeable about education are those who are involved in teaching.

We hear much talk about the quality of the teacher today, and I wonder if people realise that what may have very much to do with the quality of the teacher in days gone by, when they talk about dedicated teachers years ago — as though there are not dedicated teachers today, which is absolute rubbish — but they talk about dedicated teachers of yester year with a kind of snide remark to others teaching today implying that they are not dedicated — I wonder if they realise that one of the things that used to happen in what are called 'the good old days' when they had these primary school teachers — and you heard the honourable Member say how

wonderful was a certain primary school in this island that was called the 'college on the hill' and so on — I wonder if they remember that all these headmasters and members of staff, most of them, were people who, whether they wanted to be or not, were closely connected with the church.

That is a fact that people do not like to admit, but in those days clergymen were managers of primary schools, and you could not get any headmastership unless you were going to help in the Sunday School. I can tell you about that. Whether you wanted to help in it or not was a horse of another colour, but the point is that you were going to help in it or you were not going to get appointed.

A lot of this dedication would have come from what, even if they were not willing to do, they had to do, that is, to be connected with something that had to do with the word of God. That was definite. They had to teach in Sunday School; and you cannot teach in Sunday School unless you read the Bible, and if you read the Bible you have to hear something about God and Jesus Christ, and that had a tremendous influence on those teachers of those days.

Nowadays, what we are finding is that teachers, the majority of them, are not interested in anything religious. You will find in schools today that even when you have an assembly, teachers seem to forget that example is better than precept, and often at assemblies in the older secondary schools, you are fortunate if you get about ten or twelve teachers attending out of a staff of thirty or forty. That is not setting a good precedent to the young children. That is one of the reasons why you will find that people are not as disciplined and as dedicated today as they used to be before.

2.55 p.m.

Now, whatever anybody else might say, I personally believe this, that whatever subjects you teach in any school, they may increase your knowledge, but they do not change your personality, they do not change your attitude to life. You can know as much Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics as you like, but it does not tell you anything about yourself as a person. It tells you about certain concrete or abstract things, and certain qualities and certain knowledge that you get, information that you get — it does nothing to you as a person.

The only subject that really does do something to a person is the subject of ethics or morals or something like that. That is the subject that really changes the inner man. And if you are talking about inner quality, I am surprised to find that in all the new subjects that are being introduced into the curriculum, Religious Knowledge is not even among them.

It is not because I am a clergyman that I am saying this. I believe this to be a fact of life. I still think that God is great, that the word of God lasts forever, and Heaven and Earth would pass away but His word should not pass away. And I believe that any student that is not exposed to the greatest light that has ever come into the world has not really been educated. I do not see how anybody can call themselves educated if christianity, or if something of the life of Christ, does not come into their teaching. That is my personal belief. I am not asking anybody to share my view, but that is it.

A lot of this talk about education and trying to do this for the child and doing that for the child, and whether the child is not improving or developing as he should, is on the fact that we are spending a lot of time on scientific subjects, which only move on the superstructure of life, and we are not dealing with things that really tell man something about himself.

I was pleased to hear that with this particular Education Act they are appointing commissions to look into education, and there is a commission now looking into various aspects of education. I think that is a wonderful thing, and whatever other people might say, I think this is the first time I have known of any commission on education in this country — at any rate, one that has been asking for memoranda not only from teachers, but from children.

I think that is very, very important. You want to hear what the children think, too, about the teachers. Children have thoughts and some of their thoughts are better than the teachers' thoughts. So it is a very good thing to hear that they are seeking memoranda from all these people.

I would be very glad, as Senator Lynch said before me, if the Leader of the Opposition in here, who seems to know a lot about education, would submit a memorandum that would help the commission in formulating their views on what should be done in education in Barbados. I think that, instead of just talking, he should put it in writing so that people can see what he really thinks. It is very easy to get up here and talk all kinds of things, but when you are asked to put it on the dotted line, you do not want to do it.

When it comes to the question about the examination fees, I again would stick my neck out. I believe it is a good thing to introduce examination fees. The only thing I have against that is the timing. I do not think it should have been introduced for this year's examination. I think the parents and guardians should have been given a little time, at least a year, to prepare. But I do not agree with all this freeness; everything free; free school, free meals, free books — free everything! I think it is bad for any country and any community, and I

believe that is what has the world upside down now. In those industrial and big countries like the United States of America and the United Kingdom, where they have overdone this welfare system, that is why you have so much indiscipline, and so much delinquency, too.

I will never forget — I was in the United States of America in 1979 and I remember going around with my cousin, who was looking after the Welfare Department over there, and there were people, as I conceived them, between 19 and 25 who were receiving \$85, \$95, and some \$105 a week on welfare. I asked my cousin, "Now, if those people were working, about how much do you think they would be able to get?" He said, "Well, they get about \$120 a week." I said, "Now, you tell me something, if I can get \$105 a week for doing nothing, do you think that I am going to work for \$120?"

I wonder what is happening in the world. The welfare thing is being overdone. You are giving people so much that you are making them become lazy and indolent. And I think that is what is going to happen in Barbados if we go on giving.

When they introduced \$100 for clothes, I went to one of the Ministers — I am not going to call his name, but he is still in Government — and I said, "My goodness, are you not going to let the parents do anything for their children? You give them food, you give them clothes, you give them books, let the parents do something."

I am still one of these old people — well, not old people, because I do not think I am old

(SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Old fashioned.)

SENATOR CANON I. McK. JONES: but one of these people of the older generation — old fashioned, yes, like you — I am one of these old fashioned people who believe that you value what you pay for, and if you get everything for free, you do not value it. You can see it in the way the boys and girls are treating the books in the school now.

I teach and I have been teaching for over forty years. I know what I am talking about. I am not talking hot air. I live with it.

And then, another thing we have to ask ourselves is, "What is the purpose of education?" It is really to develop the human personality, to develop the whole being. And if you believe, as I believe, that we are triple organisms, you are body, mind and spirit, then you have got to develop all three parts of that being, body, mind and spirit.

But what education is seeking to do today is to develop the body and mind, and not regard the spirit at

all. You can only produce well-ordered people and well-rounded citizens when they are integrally developed, and that means that body, mind and spirit must be exposed to the things that will ensure such development.

Games on the cricket or football field develop the body along with calisthenics of one kind or another; academic subjects help to develop the mind, and morale; ethical and religious teaching help to develop the spirit. Our world is as it is now because we have upgraded what has to do with the body and the mind, and downgraded what has to do with the spirit.

I think that is about all I would like to say right now, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR Miss J. CLARKE: Mr. President, I think that the Caribbean Examinations Council, being still a very relatively young organisation, has been able to achieve worthwhile results so far. I have no doubt that there may still be some teething problems, but I am confident that these will be overcome and the council will go from strength to strength.

I believe that the Council is an example of true integration in the Caribbean, and I believe that the work it has done so far has been very valuable. I believe, too, that the Council, through its approach or approaches, puts a challenge to teachers as well as students which will do much in the long run to improve our educational system.

I know that there have been criticisms about the high standards which have been set, but I sincerely hope that they will not allow these criticisms to force them into a situation of lowering their standards. I believe that, as Senator Jones was saying, even though he did not say it in exactly those words, this is very much the point of the problem which faces us today, that standards have so deteriorated that it is now very difficult to correct the situation.

In my view, the Caribbean Examinations Council is in an excellent position to do very worthwhile work, and I am confident that, in the years ahead, we will feel even more proud of this organisation than we do at the moment.

Mr. President, much has been said today about education generally, and while I do not wish to prolong the debate, I would just like to make one other small point.

3.05 p.m.

I have gone on record as saying that I am not convinced that we are getting a fair return on our invest-

ment in education, and I maintain that view. However, this is not to say that I am advocating that the educational budget be slashed, so as to undermine the system — not by any means. But I do believe, and I support the views expressed by Senator Jones, that people must value something, and if we continue to provide everything free of cost, or to strive to do so, we are in the long run damaging the fabric of society.

I see no difficulty in requiring a contribution towards examination fees. As has been pointed out, the fee which has been required is minimal when compared to the total cost of such fees. I think, too, that when you consider the entire cost of putting a child through secondary school, and then look at the fee which is now required, it will be easily recognised that the fee is minimal in terms of the total cost of educating each child.

While I appreciate that there may be some difficulty borne out of the fact that the imposition of the fee may have been sudden, I feel that where there is a will, there is a way.

I see young people handling money that many working people never had an opportunity to handle. Now I recognise that this is a different day and age, but I think that if people were more careful, if people had a greater sense of the value of money, and what it costs to provide certain services, then we might be a better people in the end.

I take the view that people should have a stake in the cost of certain of the benefits provided by Government. People generally place a greater value in goods and services when they contribute or have a stake in it, and I feel that by and large they can find the money to pay the fee. In those situations where there are difficulties, arrangements can be made to provide assistance, but I see no reason why we should continue to create what is virtually a form of hysteria over the imposition of a fee.

I think it was Senator Lynch who made the point earlier today that we are living in trying times, and if we have to make concessions in certain areas to provide facilities in other areas, then we must be realistic about this and we must do so. Education, it is true, receives a very high portion of the National Budget, and I firmly believe that we may have to seriously look to find a mechanism whereby we can tighten certain areas of expenditure under Education to release funds for other parts of the economy. I think that while this may be hard to begin with, in the long run it will be worth it, because if we can do anything to enhance the economic development, it will in the long run create or facilitate job creation and, ultimately, job satisfaction, while helping to provide a better standard of life for our citizens.

The Bill which is before us is a very straightforward Bill, and I do not think it requires a lot of debate. My main concern is that it has taken so long to come before Parliament, but I recognise that there must have been a good reason for the delay. I can only hope that my confidence in the CXC and what it is doing, and what it will be trying to do in the future will be realised.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to have an input from this morning on the other Bill, but I dare say that the introduction of this Bill provides as good an opportunity as any.

This morning we were treated to some speeches on education, and I must say without fear that I thought the intervention of Senator Hall was one of the most erudite and able speeches I have heard in this Chamber since I have had the privilege to represent the Government in here. I know it would cause a little swell in his head, but I had to say it, because Senator Hall did say some things that needed to be said, that should have been said.

Now, in contrast, we have had the usual diet of how badly the Government has done on education, a partisan political speech, from Senator Greaves. I must confess that I was so wound-up when I heard the same competitive nonsense, that I walked out and told Senator Greaves a few harsh things that I could not have told him in here. I believe it might have had some effect, because he came back this afternoon and made a very impressive statement on the Bill before the House.

But when he starts talking about education, you have to think, Sir, in terms of what really a country is about when it develops an educational system. There is a widely held view that a country designs an educational system to further its own development, and it is the view which, after my own experience, I have no difficulty supporting.

I was educated in the United States of America at higher than the High School level. I distinctly remember that when I first went to the University in the United States, I was told that I had to study American History. And after studying British History through the Sixth Form level in Barbados, I could not understand why, until it dawned on me that I was being indoctrinated in a system which was not designed for me as a Barbadian, but for the people who had to live and work in that system.

I will touch on the United States of America not simply because I have had a long association with

that country, but because we find that in Barbados the consumption patterns of Barbadians are more and more copying the consumption patterns of North America — the good, bad and ugly. I should not say the good — the bad and the ugly. Whatever is bad in North America, we get the consumption patterns being copied in Barbados. What is ugly in North America, we get them being copied in Barbados.

But only a few weeks ago in the United States of America, a Federal Education Commission, after doing an exhaustive study of the American Educational System, came out and in effect concluded that the American Educational System is a process which develops mediocrity. That conclusion made a lot of people uneasy, because here it was, a country which is supposed to be the leading country in the Free World, the most highly developed, with the strongest economy, having this kind of commentary on its educational system; and they are concerned about it.

Of course, because of the vastness of that system, we find that there are all kinds of recommendations and analyses being done as to how best to solve their problems, and they are purely approaches which can be considered to be non-partisan. Look at Barbados in 1962, when free secondary education was introduced in this country. Barbados was not yet an independent country. It was a purely political act. It was ascertained that the loss to Government revenue would have been in the vicinity of \$100 000. So it was designed to gain popularity, and it did gain popularity.

I am not sorry that the then Government took the steps to introduce free secondary education. I am not sorry at all. It has had its benefits. But the point is that we should seriously look at how best this country can benefit under the present education system, and what we must do to make the changes necessary to get the people in this country away from believing that the best things in life are free.

3.15 p.m.

In his intervention this morning, Senator Greaves alluded to the fact that education should be made available without any direct cost. And, according to him, the present Administration was doing its best to break this down. He said without any direct cost, and I believe he used that word advisedly, simply because education is a cost to every person in this country. There is a perception that it is free, and this is the problem — but all of us pay for it; it is like the bus fares — and it is this perception that because you do not have to dig into your pockets and pay for something directly, you should not be serious about the value you get for it. That is the difficulty we have in this country.

In 1966, when Barbados got its independence, we heard that business was going to go on as usual. This is

not meant to be a criticism, this is an observation. I do not believe that there was any design made at the time to have an educational system developed which would have catered to the needs of a developing country.

What, in effect, we are still being faced with in this country, and what the Government is still battling with, is developing a system right now where we can be considered to be truly independent. We are still in an age where, as everybody agrees, we are turning out people with six and eight school certificates who are still looking for what we call clerical jobs, jobs in the Civil Service and jobs in the stores in Bridgetown — the same thing that has been happening long before Barbados became independent, when we were trained to be good clerks. It is still happening, the problem is not going to be solved overnight, but it is a problem nevertheless.

The Ministry of Education is making a valiant effort to deal with some of these problems, and I do not see the need for trying to attack the Government for lack of policy, because you do not have to look too far to see that there is a policy in education. For instance, you have a National Advisory Commission on Education. That kind of Commission could only come out of the formulation of a policy. You do not wake up one night and say we will have a National Advisory Commission. So there is a policy in education, and it is purely partisan nonsense to get up in here and talk about *ad hocism* and all that kind of foolishness, which, as Senator Barrow said, will only generate headlines. It is meaningless!

Education concerns us all, but we are not all experts in education. I do not claim to be an expert in education, but I know I have an interest in seeing that this country gets value for its money, and politicians in this country must be minded not to go around giving people the impression that there is a freeness out there, and, whether we like it or not, the people must be able to enjoy the freeness no matter what it takes and no matter how the country suffers.

We have a classic example in this country now, the whole situation with the garment industry, where you have the possibility of a significant number of layoffs, even though it may be temporary. When we look at garment manufacturing throughout the world, we will have to appreciate that we are not competitive, and that is why the CARICOM region is so important to us. We cannot compete with South Korea, Taiwan and those places. They have outstripped us, so the CARICOM market is very important to Barbados, but that is only garment manufacturing. Those are the concerns that we have to deal with in this country.

We have a group of private secondary schools in this country which have been doing their valiant best to make

a contribution. I know one private secondary school in Barbados which was the victim of the introduction of free secondary education in Barbados, and that is the Modern High School. I am not saying that the introduction of free secondary education was the only cause of the demise of the Modern High School, but it was a significant contributor, and when we look at the contribution of the Modern High School to this society, we cannot help but be impressed at what the late Louis Lynch contributed. We cannot help but be impressed, because at every level of life in this country – the Civil Service, the teaching profession, the healing profession, you name it, every aspect of life in this country – and not only in Barbados but abroad, and even in the Cabinet – 2/13 of the Cabinet are products of the Modern High School – wherever you look, you can see that significant contribution was made.

Not only that – I cannot help but state that when I was at the Modern High School there was a certain sense of discipline. People talk about the effectiveness of corporal punishment as against other forms of persuasion, I would say, and I am satisfied that corporal punishment was very important; it was a very important form of discipline and a very effective form of discipline. I do not know of anybody who went to school at the Modern when Louis Lynch was Principal who would not have tasted his heavy hand, but the point is that they learnt. I do not know of anybody who was at the Modern during the 1950s who cannot say that the teachers were very dedicated. We had some very dedicated teachers even though they were not around for a long time.

I have had the distinct privilege of being taught by people like Dr. Richie Haynes, Mr. Erskine Sandiford – Barbados Scholars – Orlando Marville, George Brancker, all these people. As a matter of fact, the only thing that I determined when I was at the Modern being taught by Erskine Sandiford and Dr. Haynes was that whatever political party they joined, I would not join that one, but they were distinguished. They were brilliant men in their own right, outstanding, men who had passed the Barbados Scholarship with flying colours.

I am talking about the Barbados Scholarship because I want to say this. Nowadays, because of the contacts that people have, everybody expects to pick up the phone and call a Minister of Government and get something done, and it is permeating the educational system. People want their children to have scholarships without having the ability to handle scholarships. People want us to give them Government grants and so on without being able to do service to the programme of study they want to pursue. This is a fact of life – and if you do not do it, you get castigated.

I have seen in the United States of America where the standards of admission to universities dropped,

and they are facing a problem right now because they dropped the standard of admission in the American schools to accommodate what is called the cultural lag. And now they have to deal with it, they have to deal with the Japanese, they have to deal with the East Germans in technology, they have to deal with the Taiwanese, because they dropped their admission standards to accommodate the cultural lag, which is only a tacit way of saying that black people were inferior and they were trying to help them get into universities. That is, in effect, what it was.

This is why I believe that we must have some very strict standards. Education is not something that you must play with – you are playing with a country's future.

You hear a lot of partisan nonsense. Now, the Minister of Education a few months ago made a point that not enough use is being made of the school plant – you put up a building for \$2 million or \$3 million and it is being used five days a week.

3.25 p.m.

And she said that the schools could be used on Saturdays for extra-curricula activity. That was translated as saying that she wants school children to go to school on Saturdays – just to score cheap political points!

But if they had to go to school on Saturdays, what is wrong with that? What is wrong with going to school on Saturdays? I want somebody to tell me that if it is going to mean an improvement in the children's education, what is wrong with it?

The people will criticize going to school on Saturdays, but let us look at some of the reports that we have been getting in education: that teachers, who are not teaching during the day, are telling the children to come back to school after classes because "I have a lesson programme going", to make money. They are teaching the children in the evening programmes what they should be teaching them during the day.

We will hear people, even the BUT, saying that we do not want classes six days a week because there are so many things to be done in this country. There is enforced leisure time and so on and people want leisure time, but yet, on the other hand, you will have members of the BUT guilty. This is not something that I have guessed, this is something that has been reported: you have members of the BUT who conduct classes for the same children long after the school hours are passed. But there is an economic benefit in that.

But there is criticism of the Minister of Education, who is valiantly trying to make an effort to develop a system in this country. I am not going to criticize former Ministers of Education in the Democratic Labour Party,

because I am satisfied that all of them were making an effort to improve upon a system we did not have. It is the same thing with this Government, it is an on-going process, so there is no time for partisan nonsense about *ad hocism* and that kind of crap. Let us be serious about it.

I was minded to look at some of the reactions of people well-placed in the United States of America when this shocking report came out only last week. Remember that the Americans have to think in terms of how it affects them, *vis-a-vis* the Soviets, as far as the ideologies are concerned. They have to think in terms of how it is going to affect them in relation to the Japanese because of the implications for trade.

But just let us take a look at some of the countries which have been successful, countries which are putting the United States on the run as far as manufacturing and other activities are concerned. The Japanese are considered to be the hardest working people in the industrialized world but just look at what happens in Japan. They say that more than 10 per cent of the Japanese have I.Q.s above 130 and only 2 per cent of the Americans have that I.Q. They say that in Japan, East Germany, China and the Soviet Union, the school year averages 240 days. In the United States it is 180 days. More foreigners do graduate work in engineering in America than the Americans themselves.

I am only bringing this to show how important it is to a country, if we want to compete not only in the CARICOM area, but we have to think in terms seriously of competing outside of CARICOM, we have to think in terms of the areas in which Barbadians can command jobs or, in effect, in which Barbadians can develop technology to sell products made in Barbados outside of the region, because you are competing with the Japanese. We have lost the battle in garment manufacturing to the Taiwanese and the South Koreans and so on. Even the American garment workers have lost that battle, so you are talking now about high-tech industries.

Only this morning a report came out of Canada that, within the next decade, Canada is going to lose about 2 million jobs with the introduction of high-tech industries — because they were not prepared for it. So if we believe that we are going to continue in Barbados only having exams which are literal in nature, where children are expected to regurgitate what they have learned, and where because the parents do not have the money to pay out school fees, and we are going to survive as a country, we are all mistaken.

The Japanese are way ahead of us. They are way ahead of anybody else in the world, because they are very, very serious, not only about development today, but development at the turn of the century.

I just want to quote, Mr. President, from an excerpt I picked up in the *New York Times*, just to emphasize the point I am making:

"A generation of people is growing up lacking the education needed to participate in the modern world. It is a world of robotics, optical fibres, conical chips, a computer-aided designs and aided manufacture."

Those who do not understand these things will be left behind. Countries that do not lead, will have to follow. It is as simple as that.

Barbados is a country which cannot afford to provide the funds for research and development on the scale that other countries can, but we are blessed with people who have the potential to do well whenever they are given the opportunity to do well, and there is ample evidence of it. Wherever Barbadians go in the world, as long as they have the opportunity, they do well.

So we just cannot sit back here and believe that it is all well and good to criticize the incumbent Minister just because it scores political points. It is going to generate headlines. It is nonsense. No self-respecting Minister of Education in Barbados can miss what is happening in the world, not one, and I believe that in this country, Mr. President, we are going to have to stop looking at what is necessarily popular and do what is right.

Thank you.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to speak on this Bill. CXC, in my view, is another outstanding example of regional co-operation and integration and I am sure that the Government of Barbados will pull its full weight in terms of supporting that institution financially and otherwise.
3.35 p.m.

Having said that, I would just like to indicate that the view which Governments in the region sometimes take of regional institutions falls a bit short of what is desired. I think that some regional institutions are effectively second class citizens within the region. In other words, Barbados would look at Barbadian institution as rather more immediately deserving of financial support from the Government of Barbados than a regional one, and I think one institution has suffered as a result of that, and it is the University of the West Indies.

If you check, down the years, the amount of money that has been spent by the various Governments on capital development on the University of the West Indies, or take any particular campus, you find that the University of the West Indies will come a poor second, third, fourth or fifth to corresponding national institutions. Take the amount of money Barbados spent, let us say, on the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic or

the Community College. Either one of these probably far outstrips Barbados' contribution to the capital expenditure of the University of the West Indies, and total capital expenditure at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies.

I was just glad to hear Senator Griffith speak of our moving into the age where computers are of the essence. We have a situation where we at Cave Hill are fully aware of this. We are fully aware of the direction in which we must go in terms of the use of computers in the educational process up there, and at the moment we are struggling to get hold of money to acquire a main frame computer.

Of course, proposals go all around to Governments and to agencies, EDF and all that, but the money never seems to come. It only takes about \$400 000 to get us a good computer, but the proposals are there, indications are that this body will grant this amount of money, the Government will fund this and fund that, but the years go by and the money never comes.

And the University of the West Indies is languishing in a state of benign neglect at the moment. It is going nowhere fast in terms of development and modernisation, simply because there is no money for capital expansion. It is only through the ingenuity of the staff up there who work way beyond the call of duty, in terms of giving of themselves, to stop gaps where they exist — in terms of staff shortages and so on — that the institution remains, in the eyes of many, a fine institution.

You can well understand the submission that "that regional institution is not quite mine, and therefore I do not have the same level of total responsibility." But when you add up these little bits of reduced enthusiasm on the part of Governments, they do not add up to a sufficient amount to move the institution forward, and I hope that in future Governments would bear this in mind: although it is a regional institution, it should not be regarded as any less yours than the one that is a national institution.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR W. E. WALDRON-RAMSAY: Mr. President, if I join this debate at all, it is to lend my voice to the concept which the support for the Caribbean Examinations Council by this Government would appear to be lending to the spirit of Caribbean integration.

It is timely to discuss this question of regional integration, because at the moment, if one is to be intellectually honest, one would say there would seem rather to be regional disintegration in the Caribbean. We only have to look at the perplexities which confront Caribbean Governments with respect to the economic war which is taking place in this community. This is

frightening, because this tends to presage the type of difficulty which confronted the political confederation which we created in 1958, and if we notice, a similar pattern tends to be taking place.

The experiment in 1958 went along pretty smoothly at the beginning until, as a result of provincialism, we saw the beginnings of disintegration, and that culminated in the experience which we saw in 1961. That also started in Jamaica. The economic war started in Jamaica this year. In 1961, we saw that after Jamaica had committed the political folly which she did, and Trinidad followed suit, we got into that very interesting political arithmetic that one from ten leaves nought. I am not a mathematician, my son is, but that seems to me to be strange arithmetic, although it is understandable arithmetic.

We are moving now in this economic war while at the same time we lend lip service to integration, and Trinidad retaliates to the initial folly of Jamaica by insisting upon licences for products from brothers in the same economic community. It is as if France says today it will not allow wheat products or sugar products to come in from Italy or from Germany or from England, and yet they are all in the same European Economic Community. Now the Governments that are still lending lip service to integration are fluttering around trying to see how best they can bridge the gaps in this leaky ship. So if the CXC examination is going to help with restoring any semblance of integration, I am all for that.

Education, Sir, has always been important to Barbadians. Barbadians of my race have always had to look to education for salvation. As Senator Greaves said earlier today, education was one of the processes, if indeed not the only process, after 1833 of upward social mobility. It still is. Education for the black man in this country was the only way to move away from the drudgery which was his natural inheritance. If after leaving elementary school you had no chance of moving into an educational process, which was usually a secondary education process that would lend you the possibility of entering the Civil Service as a Long Grade clerk, or becoming an elementary school teacher, your other option was to follow one of the trades and become an artisan, and you were doomed for life in that domain of economic existence.

But education has had another purpose in Barbados, and that purpose has been to train the only natural resources we have had in this country for export beyond these realms; and so by the process which we employed here, we trained economic factors for use overseas. It was good that we did that, because it had the benefit of creating a certain invisible income for Barbados; for when our people who were trained here went overseas, they were able to remit to Barbados large sums, invisible as

they were in the sense that one did not see them very readily, which worked a remarkable transformation in the life and social circumstances of their relatives and friends who remained here.

3.45 p.m.

So education was important then, and it still is important for us in the sense that we have got to be careful that we do not lose the sturdiness which we always had in our educational system.

I am one of those people who are fond of looking back at the old system of primary education which we had in this state. Primary education is the bedrock for any subsequent levels of educational achievement, and if that bedrock is not really firm and steady, any foundation you build upon that tends to be weak and shaky.

There are some of our people who live overseas, indeed in the United States of America and if one looks at the totality of people who have had some connection with Barbados, we have more people living in Britain alone, perhaps, who have some Barbados connection than living in Barbados at any given time. This has always had to be so. Not only due to geophysical ambitions but, because there was always this economic necessity for our people to go beyond the seas. There was nothing else here in Barbados beyond cane juice.

And so, when our people went overseas, the fact that they did well was due, essentially, to the solidity in our primary educational system. I keep telling people that I myself have not improved in my understanding and knowledge and use of the English language beyond what I did at St. Alban's Boys' School. I did not need to, because the educational system there was so firm, so solid, so well-structured, that what one did as one progressed in life, was to improve upon that firm groundwork which one learnt there.

Now, I tend to suspect that in the primary schools we have today, in the modern secondary schools and in the old secondary schools, we seem to have lost some of that seriousness of purpose which has always been attached to our educational system. There is a lack of discipline, and a lack of inspiration as well, both on the part of teachers and on students. I am not therefore surprised that, a few years ago, the level of scholarships was so bad that examiners felt that it would be unworthy, and indeed almost indecent, to award Barbados Scholarships.

We need to look at our educational system again to see what has really gone wrong. I am not satisfied that it is sufficient to answer that question by saying that it is free, and those things; and if you get free, you tend not to pay a lot of attention to.

That is good in principle, but in most countries of the world, the United States being the only exception, education is free — totally free. And the irony of this situation is, the poorer the countries are, in terms of general, economic circumstances, the freer the education seems to be.

Education in the United States is astronomically expensive. Education in all of the states of Africa is free, in most of the states of Asia, it is totally free. And the standards are high. Therefore, I cannot succumb to the argument that because we attempted since 1962 to make education free in this country, the standards have fallen. I do not think that is the real reason. Something is wrong.

And, as Senator Hall was saying earlier, we have got to look beyond the imposition of an impost of a tax, a punitive measure, \$40 or \$100 or \$1 million. Let us look beyond that to see what is the causation of this problem. Look at the method, the principles and the psychology of education. See what is wrong.

Something is wrong with the system, and that something is inside the practise of education itself, the teaching in the schools. You may well say, for the sake of a facile answer, that there is too much politics on the part of the teachers in the schools. I do not know that that is so, but you may say that. You may also say that the approach by the parents and the attentiveness of the parents to the school and what is happening to their children is not what it should be. You may say that the method of instructing the children in school leaves something to be desired. There is a certain style.

When I used to teach myself, one had to pay a lot of attention to methods in teaching; and the methods you apply to the children who were at the top of the class, the bright children, you do not apply to the children who are in Grade D or so, who really cannot respond.

There was a time, I recall, when I taught a certain grade of children from classical comics. That is the only way they would respond. But they responded and they were able to have a certain identification of themselves and their personalities as a result of this picturesque system of teaching and understanding.

But what is wrong in the schools? Why is it that children today do not want to appear in examination rooms? After all, one of the purposes of education is to instil this element of competition, the question of winning and succeeding at the end of a race, and an examination usually marks the end of the course, and a child normally works towards that end. The examination is that end, and there was a time when children sought to find that end, to reach that end.

That a child, or even a grown person, nauseates in an examination room cannot be used as a part of a general rule. Usually — Senator Lynch started on this — children like examinations. It is the end of the contest. You are able to match all that you have acquired, or you ought to have acquired, over a certain time span, usually an academic year, against the challenge set you by your teachers.

And, of course, one of the important things in the psychology of education is that a child feels much more comfortable in circumstances and environments that he understands, if the invigilators are his own teachers. The locust of the examination is the school room that he goes to school at normally. He needs a certain familiarity around. Then, he does not have to combat that nervousness which usually is concomitant with examinations.

Why are students not attending this final contest, this final challenge between themselves and their teachers, between themselves and the examiners? And why is it felt that the imposition of a penalty — because that is what it seems to me to be — of \$40 or \$100, or \$2 000 will get the child there? I think we ought to move away from that and have a serious look at the cause. You see, we are losing the whole process. If a child at the end of the race does not want to face the tape, well, then, the whole purpose seems to be pointless, it is lost, because if he does not face the tape here, he will not be consistent with our historical practice and tradition. When he leaves these shores and goes beyond the seas, he has got to face the tape there.

3.55 p.m.

Our people have distinguished themselves in foreign lands and strange places because they have had the bed-rock and strength of the education system here. Therefore, we should do nothing at all to derogate from the strength and the tried and tested consistency of the system. We need, therefore, to look very seriously at this problem, and putting on a tax or imposition in my respectful submission, is not the answer to the question. We need to look at what causes this whole problem, and, in my respectful submission, it lies in the school.

What is the school after all? Is it the building? Is it the teachers? Is it the pupils? Or is it the combination of all these? I have written at length on this question in this country and other places. What is really the school? If it is a combination of all these, well, then, should not this combination be examined in depth to see what part in the system of linkages is weak and is wrong.

Where is the weakness in the system? Are the children any more motivated in going to school? Are you saying that they are not motivated because the system is free? I do not buy this argument. There is something

wrong and we have to be serious about this. I am particularly serious about this because, for people of my era, education was our only salvation, and it has endured over the ages, and it still is in my view, and in Barbados this is all we really have.

Sugar is going. We can no longer rely on the garment industry, because the economic community in the Caribbean is collapsing around us. There is no question about this. You need not be euphemistic about this. It is collapsing. We cannot rely on the oil that we are getting, because we can only supply about one-third of our positions.

We need to look at our educational system, because we must be able to train people in this country who understand what is happening even now in the outside world. The world has become one narrow, small neighbourhood. So when we teach in our system here in our schools, we must make sure that this level is not far below the level in the United Kingdom or the United States, and the other places where we go to seek our economic salvation. We must be able to move readily into that system.

Our people who have gone overseas have done well because of the strength of the system in Barbados. Why is it weak now? Who is responsible for it? What can we do to remedy the weakness of the system?

Children in the school nowadays have no respect for the teachers. Teachers have very little respect for children. Teachers dress as they like. They talk as they like. Most of them cannot speak English, the language of instruction. The Press, too, sometimes is very derelict on this question of the utilization of the English language. Something is wrong with our system. Something is not well in the state of Barbados. We need to look at this question deeper. It has nothing to do with any partisan politics. We must look at this from a national point of view.

In Tanzania, we talk about "Education for the Nation." What is the national purpose of education? Education must be able to lift the state to that level of development which we desire. It must therefore be a microcosmic effort on the part of all in the system. There is no partisanship, no provisionalism. There must be a totality of effort in this system.

But before we can do this, before we can marshal all of these forces, we must make a very careful analysis of what is wrong in the system. Something is wrong with our educational system, and has been for some time. It so happens that this present Government is now presiding over weakness of the system. But this has been going on for some time — long before this Government came into power. So it is not the question of any partisan politics here. This has been noted for some time. We are

here. This has been noted for some time. We are woefully moving away from the principles in education set by our fore fathers, which have redound to our benefit over the years. We need to grapple with this question and look at it seriously.

I was very pleased to see that the present Government has set up this Advisory Council, under a very distinguished Barbadian, Sir Alexander Hoyos, and I sincerely hope that it works well. They seem to be already very industrious and very serious-minded as they go about their labours. I would hope that they would look at this question very seriously and deal with it, because this is a serious problem. Money is not going to solve our problem.

I agree with Senator Barrow that if we identify a problem, that in itself is pointing towards a solution. If having identified it, it is felt that setting a fee or penalty, as I see it, of \$40 for examinations, or what have you, will help, well you try that; and if it does not work, you move away from it and try something else.

But I think that is too haphazard a way of approaching the problem. I myself would have liked to see an in-depth, serious analysis made of the system first to see what caused this. I want to identify the chain of causation. What is the real problem? How is it going and where is it likely to end? Therefore, you need the proper educational psychologists and all of the other elements in education to come in and look at this question. And having identified this, and they said that perhaps the problem is the freeness in the education and therefore an impost would help, then I can understand that.

But I am not sure that this is necessarily the best way of approaching this. In any case, Mr. President, as I conclude, I must say that we need to look at this from a nationalistic point of view, from the point of view of the health of the nation, for this is still our only salvation — the education of our people.

Thank you, Sir.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and agreed to.

On the motion of the Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.
4.05 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate was resumed and the Bill reported

as having passed the Committee without amendment; Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On the separate motions of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

THE HOUSING (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, the purpose of the Bill is to expand the membership of the National Housing Corporation in an effort to provide that corporation with a more efficient administrative body.

At present, the Schedule to the Housing Act, Cap. 222, provides for a minimum membership of five and a maximum membership of seven persons in the corporation. The Bill proposes to revise that structure to provide for a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and not less than seven, nor more than nine, other members of the corporation. Accordingly, Sir, the second clause of the Bill before us seeks to bring that intention into force.

The National Housing Corporation is at present doing its best to provide some accommodation for Barbadians. The corporation is fraught with difficulties because of weaknesses at the administrative level, and the new Minister is of the opinion that it is necessary to increase the membership of the corporation if it is to be strengthened, and if the corporation is, in fact, to deliver better housing to the nation of Barbados.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I will crave your indulgence to make a short intervention on this important matter, maybe about ten minutes or so.

The Bill before us seeks to expand the membership of the National Housing Corporation to provide, according to Senator Trotman, for a more efficient administrative body at that corporation.

Housing is a very important area in our national life. Every Barbadian likes to know that, to a large extent, he has a roof over his head that he can call his own. The development of a housing programme designed to fulfill the needs of the society is of paramount importance in Barbados.

I have constantly advocated both in this Chamber and in the other Chamber that we need to look at housing and raise our priorities in housing to a much higher level. We need the injection of large sums of money in housing if we are really going to make any

impression — not the odd-million dollars here or the odd-million dollars there. We need millions of dollars for new housing, for house repairs, for extensions to existing housing and for loans to persons desiring to build their own homes. That is why, when the Barbados Labour Party Administration announced some time ago that it was preparing, and would have produced some months ago, a White Paper on housing, this was welcomed by the Democratic Labour Party. We wanted to see what plans the Government had for housing in this country, not what they had in the Manifesto for 1976 about the number of houses that they would have been building per year — 800 houses, I think was the figure. When we questioned it, and attacked what they did not achieve through the National Housing Corporation — and that particular statement which was contained in their Manifesto — they said that they did not only mean housing provided by the National Housing Corporation, but they meant the entire housing stock in Barbados.

So we wanted to see very clearly what this White Paper would have contained. But up to this point in time, we are still hearing about it, and we are no further advanced as far as that is concerned.

What I would say for the new Minister of Housing is that he seems to be a man who is prepared to take up the challenge, and one would hope to really get housing on the move. For one thing, he has given the lie to pronouncements by the previous Minister of Housing, for example, about the question of the collection of rents. 4.15 p.m.

Some time shortly before he left office, the former Minister told this nation that the rents were coming and were being collected like they were never collected before. But what the new Minister of Housing has said clearly indicates that what the previous Minister was telling this nation was not the truth.

We have learnt that there are millions of dollars outstanding in the area of rent collection. And this has nothing to do with the Democratic Labour Party. The people who owe the rents, according to the Minister, are the people in Fernihurst and the new developments which have been built by the Barbados Labour Party.

You know, whensoever this question of rents come up, we hear a lot about the Democratic Labour Party did this, they did that and all of this sort of thing. You had time enough to get rid of all of that; the rents which are owed, and rents which have accumulated, are rents which have accumulated during your Administration. But the former Minister was telling us that this was all under control. Now that he has been removed from Housing, we are now getting a little nearer to the truth.

The present Minister has recently been talking quite a bit about West Terrace and what has been happening

there. From what I gather, there are a lot of very shady things which have been happening at the West Terrace development, and a day of reckoning is going to come.

In 1976, when the Barbados Labour Party won the Government, they conducted an investigation into the operations of the National Housing Corporation. They have a report. I believe, Sir, that things are so rotten at the National Housing Corporation that if ever there was a need for a public investigation into the National Housing Corporation, it is now.

Matters at the National Housing Corporation, Mr. President, stink to high heaven, and we need to have an investigation into what is happening there. Rents and West Terrace need to be investigated. The distribution of houses in the developments which we have in this country, whether it is Bonnets, Britton's Hill, the Ivy, Fernihurst, or the one across the road from Fernihurst, wherever there is a new development, the method of distribution is scandalous, and ought to be investigated, too.

Can you imagine a situation where if you try to get a house to rent in any one of the housing developments, Bonnets or the Ivy, to give you an example, anybody going to the National Housing Corporation, a taxpayer, what are they told? They are told that the NHC does not have any control over the allocation of houses. You have to go to Henry Forde for Bonnetts or you have to go to Don Blackman for the Ivy!

Sir, this is a very serious development. We have to recognize that there must be some standard which must be followed in the allocation of houses. I am saying that houses are not awarded to deserving cases. There are other criteria which seem to be used.

Sir, furthermore, when persons go to the National Housing Corporation even to apply for a house, they are treated like dogs and are embarrassed by some of the officers there. It is a very serious matter. I am saying that without fear of contradiction.

The Minister talks about the "dead wood" that he wants to remove from the National Housing Corporation. Those are his words, not mine. There is a lot of "dead wood" out there, a lot of people who are standing in the way of progress, and he wants to remove them.

This Bill seeks to increase the size of the Board, but increasing the size of the Board of the National Housing Corporation from 7 to 9, even from 8 to 10, is not going to solve the problem. The size of the corporation, in my view, is not what is wrong at the corporation. If the Minister finds that he has been experiencing some difficulty in probably putting two of his trusted people on

the corporation, there must be another way of doing it. As they have done with Straughan at the Transport Board, they could revoke someone's appointment and the Minister could put who he wants to put there, or he could do like what they have done at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

The point is that you do not have to go and increase the size membership of the board of the corporation in order to accommodate people whom you want to bring in. Get rid of who is there, who you do not want, and put on who you want. That is the point. So if you are saying, and we are saying, that there are very serious problems at the National Housing Corporation, the way to deal with it is not this way. This is not going to solve anything.

I said at the outset, Sir, that housing is very important in our whole national life, and we on this side would certainly want to see something done very urgently in this area. We want, and we hope, to see the development at St. Cecelia move on at a rapid pace and opened. That has been delayed for some time now, and now I understand that there is a plan to open it in phases.

Maybe we could hear a little bit about the proposed swimming pool which was to go with that development. A definitive statement could be made about it. If the Minister is afraid to make the statement, I will make the statement that the swimming pool has gone through the eddoes.

The hole that had been excavated for the swimming pool has been filled back up, so there will be no more swimming pool. We say that because we know that the swimming pool could not work. Public swimming pools are very costly to maintain and could be a very serious health hazard if you do not know what you are doing. That is a fact.

Nobody is opposed to people in the City having access to a swimming pool, but it is a question of what we can manage and what we can handle at a particular time. But the Government does not really like to take advice from the people who know better and who want to give proper advice.

4.25 p.m.

We further think, Sir, that the commercial banks should be encouraged to lend more money, and lend on easier terms, in the area of housing. There is a serious problem in the area of bridging loans, which, as I understand it, at present are treated as ordinary loans. This creates a very serious problem for potential house owners. As I understand it, this is one of the problems connected with the delay in the handing over of some of the houses at West Terrace. We also want to see the Government keeping the pressure on the commercial banks to drop

their interest rates, particularly for loans in the area of housing.

I want to allude, Sir, to one aspect, on which I would conclude, and that is the matter which came up in the Budgetary Proposals last week, and which has some relationship with housing. The Prime Minister, as I understand it, removed the Consumption Taxes from shingles, and, to use his own words, to make it easier for those old age pensioners to be able to shingle their houses and what have you.

I wonder if the Prime Minister lives in Barbados. I know that he does not spend much time here, and when you are flying all over the place, you do not have an opportunity to really sit down, at least to go around and see what is happening here. I am saying, without fear of contradiction, that there are few poor people's houses in Barbados with shingles.

This morning I drove from Mangrove down here, and I was reflecting on what I was going to say on this particular aspect in the debate, and I observed housing right through Woodbourne, St. Patricks, Edey Village, Collymore Rock, right down; and out of the hundreds of houses I passed on the way I was able to count twelve houses with shingles on them, and out of those, two were dilapidated.

Asides

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I am serious. You can do the route yourself. There were two dilapidated houses with shingles. What I am saying is that shingles are not a feature of working class people's houses in Barbados.

Now if you were to check with the people who sell shingles in Barbados, you will find that there is very little trade in that area. As a matter of fact, what they have indicated is that the only major project on which they have been using shingles recently has been the project at Heywoods. And an investigation will further reveal that shingles seem to be more a feature of the large houses in Sandy Lane and in those kinds of developments, because, I suppose, of the particular characteristics that one would want to include in these houses.

I have further been told that carpenters today do not have as wide an experience of putting on shingles as the carpenters of the past and they prefer to put on the galvanise sheets, which are easier to put on. The art of putting on shingles seems to be something of a dying art, and other forms of roofing, from what I can find out, seems to be cheaper. I think that people are realistic when it comes to expenditure.

A further point which has been made by people who have to make a choice, when they are putting a

roof on a house, between using shingles and other forms of covering material, is that they regard shingles as a hazard, particularly if you are living in an area surrounded by sugar cane. The fear is that, if a fire starts, it is more likely to catch a roof which is shingled than one which is not.

I am only throwing these ideas out, because it seems to me that that particular budgetary measure is not going to have the kind of impact which we are told it is designed to have. Certainly what could have been done would have been to make the galvanise and other forms of roof covering cheaper. That would really be making an impact in that particular area.

So it is clear we need to have something done in the area of housing urgently. We need to revive construction when Heywoods is finished. I do not know when the Post Office will finish. I remember some time ago in here when they told me that the Post Office would have been ready in 1982, or some time like that, I indicated that I could not see that taking place, and today we still have an unfinished Post Office. But the point is that we need to revive private housing development, and the Government needs to also get into the area of really accelerating their housing programme. If this is not done I am satisfied that we will be in even a worse position than we are in at present.

As I said, I do not see that the increase in the membership of the National Housing Corporation will solve any problems in housing. We need to do much more to get to the root of the problem there, and, as I said, there are many, many problems.
4.35 p.m.

I would hope that we can get serious about this and do something urgently, because there are literally thousands of people out there who see their hope for house ownership and generally speaking, being able to have access to a rented apartment provided by the Government disappearing day by day.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Jemmott.

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Mr. President, I was wondering if Senator Greaves has read the Burton Report and the Hanschell Report when he talked about there should be an investigation into Housing as it is. I think he has been a member of the Democratic Labour Party long enough that he has seen those two reports.

I do not think the Labour Party has much to be ashamed of in relation to housing, because when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, they in their Manifesto, I think of 1966, said that they were going to

build houses at the seaside for the workers to live in. I do not know if they are going to build them at the seaside of St. George or St. Thomas.

(SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: At the seaside.)

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: They came into power and they have gone out of power and they have not done them. And it will be a long time before they get back into power, too.

Sir, I am an employee of the National Housing Corporation. I am a rent supervisor. I was Assistant Loans Supervisor.

(SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: You are the culprit.)

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Yes, I follow the Dems pattern — as culprits!

Mr. President, I will ask you to ask Senator Greaves to behave. He is confusing me. I do not know why he does not behave himself. He is a principal and he should know better than that.

Anyway, Sir, when the Barbados Labour Party took up office, there was a loan limit of \$3 000 for people to repair houses, but today the Labour Party has it as \$12 000.

They are talking about paying the rents. The people who are not paying the rents are members of the Democratic Labour Party. You will be surprised to know this. They are in Rosemont and Fernihurst, and they are the ones telling us that they were told in 1961, when the Democratic Labour Party came into power, not to pay the rent. I have people who come in today and say, "Mr. Barrow said not to pay the rents."

They were dealing in the purchase of houses. They had two companies, one was run by Mr. Edwards and another run by a lady named Mrs. Rock, who has just died. They had a system whereby money was paid to these companies for houses that were not delivered, and they are the ones who should be ashamed of themselves where housing is concerned.

They are accusing the Barbados Labour Party of not doing anything for housing. When the Barbados Labour Party came into power, they saw fit to raise the loan limit and I am sure that more people have been able to acquire houses, both at rental and purchase rates since the Barbados Labour Party came into power.

There is one other aspect, Sir, which Senator Greaves mentioned in relation to people treating people badly. Sir, outside, I would like to use unparliamentary

language, but in here I would say that it is an untruth right. It is a pity that people are taking these things and making political issues out of them. They should get the facts. If he can bring a case where people were treated badly, why not report it to the Chairman of the NHC body?

This is what I know the Democratic Labour Party has been doing. One of his sitting members in the Other Place wrote a letter — I can tell of this — asking that his aunt be exempted from paying rent because she was an old age pensioner. When the investigation was done, the aunt had a niece working in the Civil Service for something like \$1 000 a month. Yet, they wanted the rent taken off. It is a well furnished place, with telephone and things like that. And these are the people who are telling us that we are not doing the right thing.

(SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Tell him the name do.)

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: I am not going to tell you. You will know in the process of time. If you come down St. James you will know.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Another thing, Sir, is this. If some of the politicians would make the people realise that they have a moral obligation to the country to pay their rents, to pay back their loans, these things would not be happening, as Senator Greaves is trying to make us believe.

They have set the pattern and the Barbados Labour Party has taken up a legacy which is going to take us a long time to clean up. I do not know, Sir — I am not too old and I am not too young — but I doubt if I will live to see it cleaned up, because they are still going around night after night encouraging the people not to do the things that are right — obviously saying they are not to pay. There are people who have had a loan in there, Sir, for twelve years, fifteen years, and have not paid one cent — and they are all Democratic Labour Party members. He is talking about not giving people a fair break. There was a former Chairman, Sir, who, when an application came up, the first question he asked was, "Are you a member?" to find out from the officer "Is this person a member of the DLP or BLP?" I will call his name, Mr. Griffith. He is dead. The dead cannot answer.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just a minute, Senator Jemmott.

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Sorry, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I must appeal to members to obey the Rules of the House and not interrupt speakers. The last thing I would want to do is to ask any member to withdraw, but if I am forced to do it, I will have to do it.

Continue, Senator Jemmott.

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: I am not trying to say that the people are right not to pay their rents and their loans, but what I am trying to establish is that the Democratic Labour Party has set such a pattern for people not being responsible for what is right, and that is wrong.

Even here with education today, Sir, Senator Greaves said a lot of things which, knowing that he is a principal, made me wonder what sort of example he shows to his students. I did not expect to hear some of the things he mentioned here from him. I personally feel that what is happening in this society is that the leaders — political, religious and trade unionists — are not projecting the right attitude and spirit to the people, and this is what we are facing today.

He is talking about a delay in doing things. How can you get ahead if, when you have workmen and you ask a fellow to do something when he should do it and you speak to him, the first thing he does is to run to the union, and the union is going to defend him although he may be wrong in certain respects? How can you get results? You are paying out the money and you cannot get these results.

I have to contradict some of the things he said in here. If he dealt with a policy at a certain level, I might not have had to get up and say anything. But when he is getting up and saying that the Labour Party has done this and has not done that, I have to say that the Labour Party has anything to be ashamed of in relation to housing.

I repeat, Sir, we have done a lot. I still think that a lot can be done, and I think that the reason that the Minister is trying to increase the numbers of the board is because you would have a wider scope to work on. Your sub-committees may be a little more effective than they have been with a small number.

And I will appeal to people like Senator Greaves to, instead of going to the public and giving them wrong directions and wrong advice, appeal to them to pay the monies, and the people who he wants to get houses will get houses. He can go and check in the same Rosemont, the same Fernihurst and Haynesville, and he will find that a lot of members of the Democratic Labour Party have been given houses down in those areas, contrary to what

he has been thinking, because the Barbados Labour Party is not a party of John or Harry. It is a Labour Party of the people of Barbados and, as such, everybody is entitled, according to the conditions, to get a house.

This will surprise him: it is the ones who are for the Dems who tell you, "Well, we are not paying the rent." We have some people down there who have been down there for a year and they owe over \$1 000.

(SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Put them out.)

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: He says, "Put them out". He would be the one to come on a platform and say that we have put the Dems out. This is the type of behavioural pattern we are getting with the leaders, Sir. I hope that they will pull themselves up; the trade union leaders, the political leaders — even the religious leaders themselves want pulling up, Sir.

I had a sad experience, a few weeks ago, a Good Friday, where a priest got up, he was to preach about the Cross, but he was preaching about the Government in respect of what your Government is doing, and you are sitting down and taking it quietly. This should not happen. He was talking about the Youth Service. And he ended up with this, "I am not telling you to go and destroy the Government," but earlier he said you are sitting down and asked what you were doing. So this is the type of leadership which you are getting.

Senator Greaves, I think, is a preacher also, I think he is an Adventist, and I believe that is why he was complaining about having the schools open on Saturdays. It is against his religious principle.

But, Sir, I might have been straying. I am supporting this Bill, and I am saying that the Labour Party has nothing to be ashamed of where housing is concerned. It is there to be seen, and if people would just give the Housing Corporation an opportunity to carry through its programme, rather than the interference which it is getting from certain levels, I am sure, Sir, that a lot of us would be proud, even the Dems would be proud, of what the Labour Party has done in relation to housing.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Applause.

4.45 p.m.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, this is a matter of clarification. For the benefit of Senator Jemmott, I am not an Adventist and I never had any connection with the Adventist Church.

(SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Nor any church).

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, the brand of religion known as "nothinarian" has its supporters.

I want to just speak very briefly about the business about the shingles which Senator Greaves talked about, not because Senator Greaves spoke about it, because I do not take comment of that sort as serious at all. It is evidently nonsensical.

I heard Father Hatch, in a call-in programme on Monday, I think it was, Monday Bank Holiday, with I was sure it was Senator McClean, in which he made comment critical of the removal of Consumption Tax on shingles.

I have risen on this point because it is clear to me that there is obvious misunderstanding about at least one aspect of building in a country like ours, which falls within the hurricane belt. All of the people who had done any studies on housing, who advised CERO and who advised Government, and who have advised people in Barbados generally, advised the use of a light roofing material and also advised against the use of flat roofs. This is the technical advice available. Anybody who cares to give the matter any thought would understand that, in consideration of safety for one thing, this would militate against the continued use of galvanised sheets.

There is more to it than just the advice of persons who advice what kind of buildings there should be in all kinds of weather conditions. There is also the fact that shingles last longer. Up front, you put out more money; but, in fact, the value you get out of them is much greater than the value you get out of the galvanised sheets.

Wallaba shingles are imported from Guyana, and if we wish to encourage persons to buy them, we must provide incentives. The Prime Minister mentioned one aspect of it in his Budget Speech, one aspect of it, and I think he assumed that intelligent people in this country would understand the use for these shingles, but obviously he assumed a little too much where people like Father Hatch and Senator Greaves are concerned.

If we are going to encourage the use of lighter roofing materials, how are we going to do it without giving some incentive to people to use wooden shingles? Secondly, since Guyana, a CARICOM country, is a source of wooden shingles, and of quality shingles, then what is more logical than that there should be some incentive to use Guyana shingles, especially since we have a lot of money locked up in the CMCF, and Guyana is a debtor to the CMCF, and I believe that it will make a lot of sense to encourage trade that would allow us to use our credit in the CMCF.

I do not think that I need to say any more, Sir, but it is obvious that there is every good reason for taking off the Consumption Tax on shingles. I really do not understand. Even if we were just taking it off and the value was immediately apparent, is Senator Greaves quarrelling about something that would be designed to encourage people to do something in terms of improving the quality of their housing by getting a better quality roof?

I was listening to him, and I heard him say about throwing out these ideas. I did not hear one single idea. He just went on ranting and raging. All I could get was that he was genuinely against removing the Consumption Tax on shingles.

But why? If, Sir, it is only going to help people who have shingles, and they fall into two categories — those who own the houses that we think are of some value, whether they are poor or rich, houses representing outstanding examples of Barbadian architecture, or, again poor and rich, those who can afford to build houses for a lot of money and still use shingles and those poor people who have continued to replace shingles with shingles as years have gone on — even if that was all, I still cannot understand why anybody would want to argue against the provision for encouraging people to use shingles.

SENATOR St.C. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, I have often said in this Honourable Chamber that although I am on this side, I have always appreciated the fact that the Opposition are outnumbered; and, in particular, in relation to Senator Greaves, I have always said that we could never expect him to put a case for the Government, because that is not his function. At the same time, it has also bothered me that it is almost two years now that we have been sitting in here and we have been hearing criticisms levelled by Senator Greaves, left, right and centre, about the Government.

For an experienced parliamentarian he has never once been able to put forward a single alternative to any Government programme. It can be summed up quite simply by saying, according to him, that as far as the present Administration is concerned, every thing that is done by this Administration is wrong. Senator Greaves can easily say that on each and every occasion and sit down.

I think that when statements are made during serious debates without any attempt to rationalise them, if such statements are denied the headlines, we will get less of those statements. The truth is, Sir, that the demand for housing in Barbados outstrips the supply of houses in this country. This has always been so, not only under this Administration, but under the Democratic Labour Party as well.

Indeed, Sir, this is the problem as regards national housing in all countries. There is no country in the world

today, faced with the international recession, which is able to build houses to the same extent that it could have, say, 10 years ago. Moreover, there is no country in the world which has ever been able to supply all of the houses and therefore cater to the needs of the country.

This Administration has acknowledged that the time has come when Government will have to move away from the old concept of providing homes for our people. Government will be introducing a White Paper, and Government has also showed its hand to some extent by saying that it will undertake, along with private enterprise, to try to provide homes for this country.

We have the USAID programme, which will shortly come on the stream. I have spoken on that already, and I would not go into that, but it is important to point out that there are other means of catering to the housing needs in this country.

4.55 p.m.

We, for example, have introduced a system whereby for people who are earning around \$16 000 a year, there will be low grade housing provided up to \$35 000, and \$24 000 will be provided to assist. There is also a system where up to \$8 000 will be provided to assist people in the repairs of houses.

The logistics of housing we have acknowledged, must be changed. Government simply cannot provide everyone with a home. We would like to do it; we do not have the funds to do it. The Opposition knows this, but rather than saying this, just as in Education to come together with a sort of common policy, everything that is done is criticised and no alternative plan is put up. I think this is very unfair and it really detracts from any serious debate.

All the countries in the world are reeling and trying to maintain a housing level, and none of them are succeeding. I have said time and again, Mr. President, that the people in this country must understand that we are affected by the effects of the world recession. We in this country cannot go along with the idea that one can exist in a vacuum, and when things are good, things will be better in Barbados and Government will provide more housing. We simply cannot do this when things are bad all over the world.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I would have welcomed a fairly clear indication of the reasons for wanting to increase the size of the board of the National Housing Corporation. A board of 11, maximum size, and nine, minimum size, I think is rather large. It is almost as large as the Cabinet of Barbados at the moment, and probably as large as it was some years ago.

I do not believe that you need so many people to run a Housing Corporation, five men and women of quality are more than adequate. The range of skills which you need to be included on a board can be found in a number rather smaller than nine or eleven people.

As such, one is left to wonder as to the precise reason. It could hardly be related to problems in management; and to the extent that reasons other than management considerations predominate in the determination of such things as the size of boards and so on, one could expect that the board will function less than efficiently. As such, I myself could not be too enthusiastic about the merits of this particular provision.

That leads to the point about the general approach of Governments in Barbados over the years to boards. We know that over the years there has been a belief within the wider community, shared by, presumably, various Governments, and politicians, that there is a place on boards for recognising the work done by faithful party members and that kind of thing. But even if there is some place for that, it should be a subordinate consideration of the selection of members of a board.

When we talk about dead wood at the Corporation, as we have been hearing, we usually must ask some questions as to the fundamental reason why that situation arose. We might discover that it arose because, in the selection of people from board members, considerations other than merit and ability to perform a clearly specified task, might have predominated. I think that at some stage in the political life of Barbados, Governments will have to come around to a view that they must treat boards with a greater level of seriousness, and that when they select people they select them because they have something to offer boards — not because the boards have something to offer them.

On the wider question of housing, I would like to note with appreciation that there is an indication — I believe it is a fact now — but there was an announcement that the business of bridging loans would no longer be classified as personal loans. I do not know if this has been given to the commercial banks as a directive as yet, but there was an indication that that was going to happen. I welcome it, and I know that there are other supporters in here, apart from myself, of that view. It is a step in the right direction.

But I believe that this will have to be accompanied by other additional and positive measures to ensure that an adequate amount of the financial resources in Barbados go in the direction of housing. Not only that, but it should go in the direction of housing at a price that people can afford.

In this regard, as I came in here today, it was suggested to me that I should not say anything about the IMF. Maybe that is an indication to me that I should say something about the IMF. There is a recent tendency for people to believe that Barbados is over the hill as far as the IMF is concerned, and the whole thing is no threat to Barbados. But even in the area of housing, the hands of the IMF stretch very far, and I think there is a document, which was made a document of Parliament in the Other Place some time ago, which is an International Monetary Fund document about Barbados, called *The Use of Fund Resources Request for Stand-by Arrangement*, prepared by the Western Hemisphere Department, which gives an indication of IMF thinking on the whole business of mortgage interest rates and so on.

Their view is that the mortgage rate of interest should more or less be on the same level as other interest rates in Barbados — there should not be any ceiling on mortgage rates below the general rate of interest in the country. They have the further view that Barbadian interest rates should be in line with international rates, so that if international rates go back up to 18 per cent and 20 per cent, the International Monetary Fund will be expecting that our rates will go up there, including our mortgage rates. I am saying that people in Barbados would not be able to afford those types of rates.

There are other strange indications within this document as to the reason why — and I will not read it out, but I will just direct attention to the second paragraph on page 12, giving reasons why Government permitted a differential to exist in our mortgage rates during last year. It is a very strange explanation which, to me, would have called a consequence a cause. It might have been necessary to do that to satisfy the IMF, but it is a strange type of explanation.

I am saying that even in the area of housing, the possibility is that we might have to buy by conditionalities of the IMF. If we do not try to run our affairs in the way we have been running them up to now, and ensure that we do not deplete our international reserves and so become truly dependent upon the IMF, we may find that, even in this area of housing, the community might be seriously discommoded.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: The Opposition raised just two points and one has been handled already by Senator Barrow, the question of shingles. I only want to say something about the shingles business quickly to supplement Senator Barrow's comment — that he seems to have forgotten that the party which Senator Greaves represents in this place is consistently against acting, in fact, on things that help the small man, as it were.

They voted against the freehold legislation because they did not want the small man to own his own plot of land, and now they are against the poor people being able to buy shingled roofs for their houses, as the people in Sandy Lane, as he said, buy shingled roofs for their houses. It is all right for them to see shingled roofs in Sandy Lane, but now we shall be seeing shingles at St. Patrick's, and Edey Village in Collymore Rock. But they quarrel when we do something to improve the quality of the roof, because that is what it is all about.

5.05 p.m.

The only countries with housing that have galvanized roofs are poor countries. None of the well-off countries in the world have housing with galvanized roofs. Galvanized roofs are a sign of poverty, and if we seek to improve the quality of housing in Barbados, we hear from the Democratic Labour Party that we should not take off the Consumption Tax off shingles because only the rich should have shingle roofs.

The other non-starting point which Senator Greaves tried to raise was the question of consultation between representatives of constituencies and the NHC on what happens in constituencies. If representatives in the Other Place have constant contact with their constituencies, I want to know, Mr. President, what is wrong with the National Housing Corporation having some consultation with the representatives of a constituency, whether it be Mr. Henry Forde or Dr. Don Blackman, as to what allocations are fairer in a particular constituency.

They must know if they represent the people. They must know better than a person on the board of NHC who comes from St. Lucy. If the representative does not know the housing needs in his constituency, I want to know how he got elected to the Other Place. But we have all of these non-points that we have to tolerate in this place from the Democratic Labour Party.

I beg to move, Sir, 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. O'B. TROTMAN the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill; Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate was resumed and the Bill was reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On separate motions of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Item No. 4 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, this legislation is really embarrassing in that it is a 1982 budgetary measure now being enacted, and, therefore, one would have hoped that it would have been here much earlier than this.

Sir, it is this time of the year that Returns should have been filed and I think there has been a grace period so that they should be filed by the end of this month.

The main amendments to the Act, which are enshrined in this Bill, are that there is a new Section 7A, which provides that where, in respect of his office or employment, an individual enjoys the benefit of a rent-free residence; in calculating the assessable income of that individual, the value of the benefit shall be limited to an amount not exceeding \$14,400 per annum, calculated at such a rate as the Minister may prescribe in relation to the improved value of that residence.

Under the present provisions of the Income Tax laws, these employees are subject to full Income Tax on the value of the accommodation, either on the actual rent paid by the employer or the improved market value of the rent attributable to the property if it is owned by the employer and occupied by the employee.

At present there is no ceiling or limit on which tax is charged on rents paid by the employer or on the improved value of accommodation. Employee-occupiers of such properties therefore find themselves suffering heavy tax burdens even though the occupation of the accommodation does not increase their disposable incomes.

It is believed that the present application of the law results in distortions which affect, particularly, the attractiveness of Barbados as a location for international business. The figure of \$14 400, which will be adjusted for inflation, has been set at a level which covers the long term value of the majority of rentable properties in Barbados.

This new section also provides for the Minister to exempt, by order, certain categories of employees, such as clergymen, factory and plantation managers, hotel managers and housekeepers, from the rate limit of \$14 400. The Minister may delegate to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue the power to fix the taxable benefit of any rent-free residence enjoyed by such individuals.

Next, Sir, there is Section 12(1) (c), which states that:

"Provision is made for deduction as an initial allowance in respect of income year 1982 and any subsequent income year an amount equal to 40 per cent of the capital expenditure on the construction, adaptation, alteration or reconstruction of buildings."

This is the new provision to encourage private individuals to develop industrial estates. "The remaining 60 per cent will be allowed for tax purposes at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on a straight line basis so that the building costs can be written off over 15 years.

It is considered that the Industrial Development Corporation should no longer be seen as the only landlord authority for the construction of factory buildings for industry. Over the years, the rents charged by the IDC for factory space have contained a substantial element of subsidy. Due to changing economic conditions the Government can no longer afford to subsidise factory construction, and it is necessary to move away from subsidisation to a position where the cost of providing the buildings is reflected in the rental charges.

The Industrial Incentives (Factory Construction) Act, which provides for the grant of Income Tax relief and depreciation allowances to certain approved builders of factories, was passed in 1965 — but has never been used. Within the last two years, Government has received a number of requests from private sector investors who wish to construct buildings for industrial use, and it is clear that incentives superior to those in the present legislation are needed in order to encourage private persons to construct, alter or adapt buildings for industrial use. Hence the new provision with respect to initial allowances.

Section 13, sub-paragraph II, sub-section 1, raises from 3 per cent to 4 per cent the annual allowance on capital expenditure on all industrial buildings.

Section 14 limits to \$75 000 the amount which can be claimed in respect of the expenditure on a motor car. Expenditure in excess of this amount cannot be considered as part of capital expenditure on machinery or plant.

A new Section 37D is introduced, and provides that in calculating the taxable income for income year 1982, and any subsequent year, in respect of an individual who rents a residential property, these shall be deducted from the assessable income:

(a) an amount equal to 20 per cent of the rent paid in respect of that property; or

(b) an amount of \$18,000 whichever is the lesser.

5.15 p.m.

The provision does not apply to an individual in the service of the Crown or of any agency of Government who rents from Government or that agency.

At present, owner-occupiers of houses are able to claim certain expenses such as mortgage interest up to \$7 200 per annum and repairs and maintenance up to 4 per cent of improved value per year against their tax liability, and no rentable value is now imputed to their income for tax purposes as had been done in earlier years. On the other hand, taxpayers who have to rent their accommodation get no allowance for rent paid although this represents to the tenant the cost of shelter which is similar in the case of the owners-occupier, to the cost of the loan repayment and upkeep.

The provision seeks to address this problem and allow tenants to claim as an allowance up to 20 per cent of rent paid for a dwelling house of \$1 800 whichever is the lesser in an income year, to be deductible from total assessable income.

New section 46C provides that, in addition to the tax payable under the Act by a company, there shall be paid by such a company in respect of the income year 1982, and every subsequent income year, a surcharge equal to 3 per cent of the profits of the company in that income year.

This provision does not apply to a non-resident company in respect of income derived from Barbados and subject to tax under section 46A as well as to companies engaged in agricultural business: an approved enterprise under the Fiscal Incentive Act, an international business company; and approved lenders within the meaning of the Mortgage Insurance Act.

The taxes to which this section applies shall not be paid later than:

(a) 30th June 1983 in respect of income year 1982;

(b) 15th March in every subsequent year.

Business corporations in Barbados have felt the squeeze of the economic recession in the same way as other sectors of the economy. However, it is considered that in these times of need the corporate businesses of Barbados should make some further contribution towards the alleviation of the country's fiscal problems. The surcharge which is being imposed is temporary and will be revised as soon as circumstances permit.

Those, Sir, are the provisions of this legislation.

I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to move that, in accordance with Standing Order No. 59, this Bill be not committed and be read a third time forthwith.

The question that the Bill be not committed was put to the Senate and agreed to.

The question that the Bill be now read a third time forthwith was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, while we get Senator Howell, who is dealing with the acquisitions, I would like to ask that at this stage we re-commit *Presentation of Papers*.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If there is no objection, the item *Presentation of Papers* will be dealt with again. Apparently the Minister has had some late instructions.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Consumption Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1983.

The Defence (Rate of Pay) Regulations, 1983.

Barbados request to the International Monetary Fund for a Standing Arrangement.

Barbados Economic Report, 1982.

The Post Office (Inland Letter Post) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Overseas Letter Post) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Overseas Parcel Post) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Miscellaneous Service) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Post Office (Private Letter Box) (Amendment) Regulations 1983.

The Post Office (Mail Notice Service) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CHEAPSIDE, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 5 was called – to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Cheapside, St. Michael.

SENATOR ST. C. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, the property at Cheapside known as "Alma Cot", comprising of 228.1 square metres, was formerly the property of Mr. St. Clair Weekes, but it is now owned by Miss Glendora Harding. It is being acquired to facilitate Government's road improvement programme for that area.

Sir, with the new General Post Office project in progress, their technicians are advised that for aesthetic reasons, a suitable area should also be made available between the building and the road area for landscaping. The initial design of the building did not permit a separate entrance and exit for vehicles; and also the entrance to the building being only ten feet wide, that entrance is unable to accommodate two heavy vehicles simultaneously.

For these reasons, it was considered that the distance between the Post Office and the road should at no point be less than 14 feet and at the maximum 24 feet. The compulsory acquisition of "Alma Cot" would improve the area of the Post Office and the immediate surrounding premises. The Statutory Notices required under Sections 3 and 4 of the Land Acquisition Act have been sent out.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT PRESIDENT KENNEDY DRIVE, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 6 was called – to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at President Kennedy Drive, St. Michael.

SENATOR ST. C. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, for several years Government has been renting an area of land at President Kennedy Drive, St. Michael, which it uses as a depot for the storage of materials and equipment belonging to the Ministry of Transport and Works. This parcel of land is owned by the estate of Mr. Carlisle Atwell, deceased, and is 1 315 square meters. 5.25 p.m.

Sir, the Ministry of Transport and Works' depot at Country Road is situated on a low-lying area of land, which is quite susceptible to flooding. This depot itself

is considered to be unhealthy. During the flood of October, 1970, the Country Road depot was completely submerged in flood water. It was therefore imperative that an alternative storage depot be provided.

There is an open area of land comprising some 1 190 square meters, which is also owned by the estate of Carlisle Atwell, which joins the depot at President Kennedy Drive. This was considered to be adequate for an alternative location for the Country Road depot.

Accordingly, it was decided to acquire both the area of land presently rented by Government as the depot, so as to make it the permanent site of the depot, as well as the open adjacent area, to accommodate the relocation there of the Country Road depot.

Notices under Section 3 of the Land Acquisition Act have been sent out and have already been published in the *Official Gazette* and the Press.

Mr. President, I beg that the Senate do now concur in this Resolution.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

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

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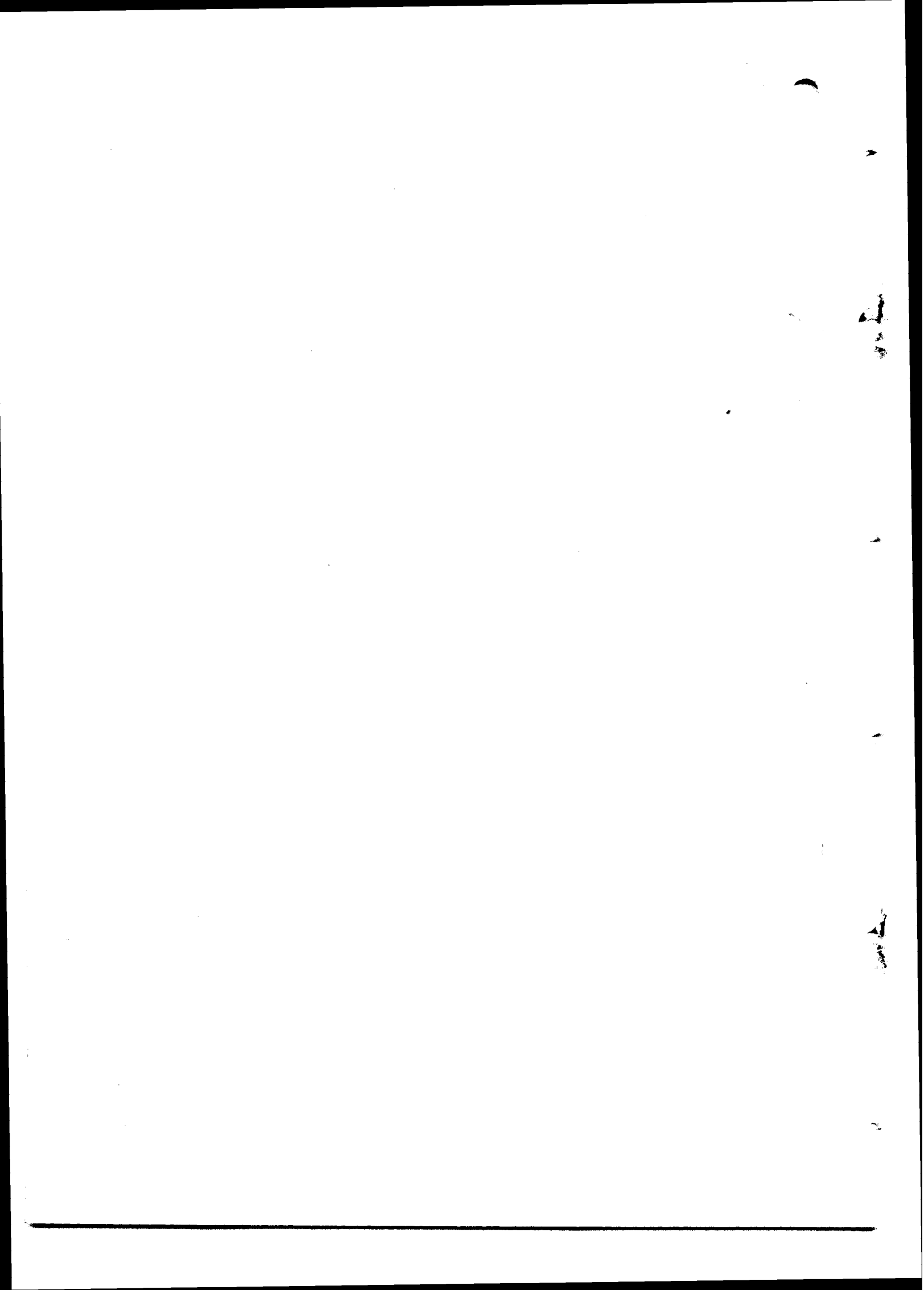
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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 1, 1983

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, June 1 1983, at 11.05 a.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott Cato, (President)

His Honour Senator J. C. W. Wickham, M.B.E., (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. N. A. Barrow, (Minister of Information and Culture) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Hon. O'B. Trotman, (Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office)

Senator H. R. Linton

Senator Mrs. E. M. Lynch, G.C.M

Senator the Hon. C. A. Griffith, (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)

Senator J. E. D. Williams

Senator D. A. C. Simmons

Senator Miss J. Clarke

Senator St.C. E. Howell, (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Planning)

Senator Mrs. M. O. Reece

Senator E. E. Greaves

Senator W. W. Hall

Senator A. W. A. McClean

Senator Mrs. G. G. Reader, M.B.E.

Senator C. D. Seale

Senator the Rev. Can. I. McK. Jones

Senator L. A. Ward

Senator C. E. Jemmott.

Prayers were read by Dr. the Rev. Lionel Crawford.

ABSENT

Senator Dr. W. E. Waldron-Ramsay.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The National Insurance and Social Security (Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank for the year 1981.

Guarantee dated 14th April 1983 regarding the future taxing of the Royal Bank of Canada (B'dos) Ltd. as a Licensee under the Offshore Banking Act.

Reports of the Registrar of Trade Unions for the years 1980–1981 and 1981–82.

The Annual Report, Auditors' Certificate and Financial Statements of the Central Bank of Barbados for the year ended 1982.

The Erdiston Teachers Training College Board of Management Order, 1983.

The Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic Board of Management Order, 1983.

The Public Secondary Schools Boards of Management Order, 1983.

The Education (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Community College for the year 1981–1982.

The Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Mr. PRESIDENT: I believe Notice of a Question was given by a Senator, but the Senator is not here so we will defer that Item until he comes, if he should wish to ask for leave.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, Sir, on the Order Paper, notice of the following Bills has been given, and they are down for First Reading:

A Bill to provide for the imposition of a tax on certain remittances from Barbados and for related purposes.

A Bill to amend the Property Transfer Tax Act.

A Bill to amend the Cinematograph Film Censorship Act.

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I do not know how honourable Senators feel about proceeding with any of the Bills which have just been given a first reading.

The Film Censorship Bill is rather simple and straightforward. I am not going to be here next week, in the event there is a meeting, and I would wish to ask for co-operation in proceeding with that one. As to the other two Bills, if members have an objection, and they state it when we come to them, then we will decline to proceed with them. But to facilitate Order No. 5, and in the event that there is no objection to proceed with Orders Nos. 3 and 4, I will move the suspension of Standing Order No. 45(2).

I would also wish, at this point, if you will permit me, to say that I propose the following order for today's business: Orders Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9, because of their urgency, Order No. 5, and then the others starting at No. 1 seriatim.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended for today's sitting.

The question that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE ERDISTON TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983

Order No. 6 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Erdiston Teachers Training College Board of Management Order, 1983.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, in moving the passing of this Resolution, I intend to confine myself very strictly to the terms of the Resolution.

As you are aware, after many years of negotiation, in 1981 it was possible to have the Act, 1981–25, which is the present Education Act, legislated. As far as I am aware, this is a piece of legislation generally satisfactory to all parties, the people who have to administer it, the people who have to work under it in the schools, parents and the public at large.

Arising out of that legislation, Section 27 applies to all tertiary institutions that are maintained wholly or mainly out of monies voted by Parliament. Section 28 authorises the Minister responsible for Education to provide by Order for the management of any tertiary institution.

11.15 a.m.

Erdiston Teachers Training College is at present administered directly by the Ministry and has an Advisory Committee. It is now proposed that a Board of Management should be established comprised as follows: A Chairman, a Deputy Chairman, a representative of the Heads of Secondary Schools, a representative of the Heads of Primary Schools, a representative of the School of Education at Cave Hill, the Chief Education Officer or his nominee, and three other persons to be appointed by the Minister in a personal capacity. Clearly, Sir, the representation reflects both the institutional interest and the public interest; the public interest being representative by the Minister's nominees.

The establishment of the Board will have the following advantages: to help bring about uniformity in the style of management among the tertiary-level institutions and to ensure that these institutions enjoy a status no less favourable than that enjoyed by the secondary schools; contribute to more efficient administration of the college, since the Board, acting within the broad policy guidelines laid down by the Minister, will be responsible for its day-to-day operations; and, the third advantage, the principal would be free to concentrate on the professional and pedagogic development of the college.

It is proposed that the teaching staff remain public officers. Teaching staff have raised no objections to this proposal. However the non-teaching staff, both administrative who at present hold established posts, and ancillary, who hold unestablished posts, will become employees of the Board of Management. Steps are being taken to ascertain the wishes of these categories of staff in this matter.

These non-teaching posts will be retained on their present basis for a period of six months, and during this period, staff will be required to exercise an option whether they wish to continue employment with the Board or to be reabsorbed elsewhere in the Public Service. Discussions on this matter have already been held with the union representing the non-teaching staff.

The creation of the Board of Management will require consequential amendments to Regulations 58 and 59 of the Education Regulations, 1982. The amendments are reflected in the Erdiston Teachers Training College Board of Management Order 1983 which has been laid here today.

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

The question that the Senate concur in the Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983

Order No. 7 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic Board of Management Order, 1983.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, as in the previous Resolution, similar reasons relate to the establishment of a Board of Management for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. Similar conditions would also apply to teaching and non-teaching staff at this institution as apply to the Erdiston Teachers Training College.

The Board, in this case, will comprise a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and seven other members to be appointed by the Minister in a personal capacity. These persons will be drawn from the business, industrial and educational sectors of the island in an attempt to ensure that the curriculum of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is relevant to the needs of the community and the world at work.

To give an idea, it reflects, for example, an engineer of the Light and Power Company, who is Chairman; it

reflects industry in the person of Mr. Frank Butcher, the Director of the National Training Board, and others on that side.

The Polytechnic facilities are partly financed by a loan from the IADB. The contract price is Bds. \$11.6 million, and while the final cost has not yet been determined by the quantity surveyor, a cost overrun of \$43 600 may be incurred. Accommodation is provided for 3 000 students in various disciplines.

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

The question that the Senate concur in the Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT ORDER, 1983

Order No. 8 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Public Secondary Schools Boards of Management Order, 1983.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, Section 16 of the Education Act, 1981, provides that the Minister may by Order establish Boards of Management for the management of public secondary schools. The constitution, procedure and functions of the Board of Management established under Section 16 of the Education Act, 1981, are set out in the Second Schedule to the Act.

The Order now establishes Boards of Management in respect of twenty of the twenty-one secondary schools in the island. The exception is the Lodge School. The terms and conditions for the management of the Lodge School, including the composition of the Governing Body, were set out in the lease of the property for this school, and although this lease expired in 1979, the Ministry of the Attorney General has advised that these conditions must continue to apply until a new lease is entered into or the property is acquired.

Steps are being taken to acquire the property, and I should also add, Sir, that steps are being taken to repatriate the Codrington Trust, and legislation is shortly to be brought before Parliament in relation to this. All the negotiations with the church have been completed and there is a Bill in draft, so that we anticipate that within the month we will be able to bring the legislation down for the repatriation of the Codrington Trust.

A separate Order establishing the Board of Management to the Lodge School will be made as soon as the procedures relating to the acquisition of the property of that school have been completed.

Mr. President, I refer to the Codrington Trust in the belief, and I hope it is a correct belief, that we all understand that I am referring to the trust arising out of the will of Christopher Codrington by which Codrington College and the Lodge School and so on were initially endowed. The lands covered by the trust are to be found in the St. John, Society and College Plantations, and in addition to the Lodge School, Codrington College and Holy Cross Church, Codrington High School is on lands of the trust.

The trustees at present are the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in the United Kingdom, and it is now considered that it is time indeed that the trust, which is meant to operate here for the benefit of persons here, should be repatriated.

Sir, discussions, rather than negotiations, have been taking place over, I would say, the last two years, and these discussions have now terminated and have brought forth the draft Bill to which I referred.

The teaching staff at the older secondary schools will become public officers, but teachers already appointed will continue to be employed on terms and conditions of service that are as favourable, or no less favourable, than those on which they were employed immediately before the commencement of the Act. These teachers will not be subject to transfer without their consent in writing. Teachers appointed after the sections of the Act relating to the management of public secondary schools come into force will be subject to transfer from one school to another. These provisions were made with the agreement of the teachers' union.

11.25 a.m.

The members of the non-teaching staff will become employees of the Boards of Management of the schools, and such persons have been given the option of remaining in the employment of the Board, or seeking to be re-absorbed in the Public Service.

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

MR. PRESIDENT: It is proposed that the Senate concur in this Resolution. Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to direct attention to what should be obvious, that this measure constitutes a significant structural change in educational arrangements in Barbados. As such, it ought to have implications for the way in which the Ministry itself organises affairs and defines the activities of officers at headquarters. I am speaking more specifically now of people called Education Officers, some of whom used to be called Inspectors in earlier times and

performed functions which were so defined as functions related to an inspectorate.

There are many instances in Barbados of legislation setting up statutory boards which clearly indicate the manner in which such boards should function and should relate to the Ministry and to Ministers, and there are almost in every instance a substantial distance between what seems to be stated in the Act and the actual practice. The distance always seems to bring a higher degree of ministerial involvement in the activities of these boards and so on.

I would hope that in the case of the schools we would not just simply have these things and proceed as usual, and the Ministry functions as it always functioned in relation to those twelve newer secondary schools, as they used to be called. I would hope that those schools would be given greater autonomy and that the views of teachers and headteachers involved would be fully respected, and that the management of the schools would be given sufficient leeway, so to speak, to allow them to develop distinctive styles at these schools within some general policy framework. They should be able to make decisions which, ultimately, would lead to the development of some distinctive feature within their school which, hopefully, would be desirable.

I believe that, as a result, you would probably find that some of the duties of existing officers at headquarters ought to be analysed with a view to redefining them. My observation of what goes on up there suggests to me that the Education Officers, those who are in contact with the schools, as opposed to those who work at duties within the Ministry and Examinations and so on, perform more of a kind of inspectorate, supervisory type role than a research role.

I believe that the Ministry should get involved in research, basic research, basic information gathering and also research at other levels; analyse what is going on within the community so that not only the Ministry can be informed of emerging trends in the country, but also the schools themselves would have information which could be useful to them in their deliberations as to how they should introduce new things in the school, modify existing practices and so on.

If this is done, I am certain that our educational system will only benefit. It is not going to happen by itself. People have consciously to be aware of these things and do them.

I sincerely hope that we do not have a situation, such as I indicated before, where you set up new Regulations, but work as though they did not exist.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR MRS. E. M. LYNCH: Mr. President, we all welcome the appearance of this Resolution, which testifies to Government's efforts to unify the educational system at secondary level. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that the true test of the system is the quality of the schools and the extent to which the children benefit as a result of these changes.

There is a need for governing bodies to understand that the increased size of the schools makes it essential that the heads of these institutions must follow some management practices. It is unfair to single out one school for adverse criticism continuously. When this takes place, the school has very little chance of repairing any damage that has taken place and of taking the necessary action to stage a recovery, if I may put it that way.

There are a number of schools which seem to be going out of control. They are large, the buildings are widely spread, and it does seem as if the safety of both children and teachers may sometimes not be receiving the attention which they should be receiving.

One of the most important problems is the maintenance of good relationship between staff and heads. I remember that there was a time when, on some governing bodies, there was a member who was specially selected as a representative of the staff. This member was not an active teacher, but someone who understood the problems of teachers, and he had the right to secure permission to interview members of staff on any matter about which they were specially concerned.

I notice that this practice has been discontinued. I see no mention of such a person on the Board of Management, and I wonder whether this is not a serious omission.

It is also a matter of concern that when a school deteriorates, the governing body does not seem to be aware of it and does not seem to request the Ministry for an inspection. Such an action would be helpful to the school, since an inspection team would be able to discuss the problems of the school and, as educationists themselves, give some practical suggestions as to how the school might set about improving its performance.

With the introduction of zoning, it becomes much more than necessary to ensure that all schools attain an acceptably good standard. So it seems to me that they should all be monitored in some way — continuously. Governing bodies should see themselves as being under an obligation to take action when serious problems arise.

More than ever at this time, they have the solemn obligation to choose heads and deputy heads wisely. The schools are now too large to allow heads to be regarded as the sole authority in the running of the schools. Heads need good deputies. They alone cannot run a good school. The schools are too large for that, and too complicated.

11.35 a.m.

I have already spoken about the failure to see that both sexes have an even chance of supervision when two of the administrators, both the head and deputy, are of the same sex. Attention must also be paid to the careful selection of ancillary staff. In these days of drug abuse and other problems, it must be borne in mind that children come into very close contact with ancillary staff, and these people need to be well and carefully chosen if certain problems are to be avoided.

There is also a fairly noticeable deterioration in the maintenance of schools. Children are not being properly trained if they sit at dirty desks, if the laboratories and cloak rooms are not maintained throughout the day, while ancillary staff seem to be idle.

So the head of a school now has a very complexed institution to supervise. We must not under-estimate their difficulties, and parents and other members of the community must not fail to support the efforts of the teachers, especially in matters of discipline.

It is interesting that children seem to be capable of conversing with newspaper reporters about the changes they would like to see in their schools, and I wonder whether the schools themselves have no mechanism by which such observing children pass on to head teachers and their deputies the matters about which they are concerned. Certainly they seem to need to be told that they themselves are participants in the creation and the making of their school community, and certainly they need to have the opportunity of assuming certain responsibilities of entering into discussion with staff and the head about how they, themselves, can help to develop their own school.

Nevertheless, as I have said before, while we need to be aware that Resolutions such as this — the unifying of the system — are very good moves, the final test is going to be whether schools improve and whether we can avoid producing an atmosphere that is impersonal in these very large institutions, so that the children do not develop emotionally, and so that they incur the criticism of a certain member of this Chamber, who points out that he observes that as the children go up in school, they become less and less intelligent, less and less joyful and bright, because this points to something wrong in the whole atmosphere of the school.

I welcome this Resolution. It is very necessary and timely, and I hope that it will strengthen the hands of the governing bodies and inspire the heads to undertake, with greater confidence, the very difficult task which confronts them.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I just rise to reply on one point. There is absolutely nothing objectionable as far as I am concerned with the comments made by Senator Lynch, but there is just this one point on the representation of teachers on the Board. The teachers' unions were consulted on this point. The Barbados Union of Teachers made no submissions in respect to the point. The Barbados Secondary Teachers Union submitted a long list of names, and what the Ministry did was to distribute those names which had been submitted among the various Boards of Management. So that the Ministry, evidently, quite clearly agrees with the principle being advocated by the Senator.

The question that the Senate concur in the Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1983

Order No. 9 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Education (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, the amendments before us provide for a clearer definition of one of the categories of persons who may be admitted as pupils of public secondary schools. It also provides for a number of consequential amendments in the original regulation in respect to the operation of Erdiston Teachers College, as a result of the decision to establish a Board of Management in place of the Advisory Board.

The amendments also make provisions for the revision of the standards applicable to the awarding of scholarships and exhibitions. Under the present standards, a candidate who obtains two Grade 'As' and one Grade 'C' in the A Level Examination may be awarded a scholarship. Exhibitions may be awarded to candidates who obtain as low a grade as 'E' in their third subject. As a result of these low standards, especially in which Exhibitions have been awarded, candidates may experience severe difficulty in obtaining places in reputable universities.

Last year there were three cases in which candidates requested deferments for a year or two, during which time they have tried to obtain admission to tertiary level institutions. Indeed, one person specifically requested

deferment of accepting the award so that she might resit the A Level Examination this year in the hope of achieving an improved performance.
11.45 a.m.

The situation now is that with the cut backs, particularly in the United Kingdom, on expenditure on university education, entrance has become fiercely competitive. Universities in the United Kingdom have also raised their admission standards, and this has resulted in increased applications to polytechnics, and many of the popular courses in the polytechnics are fully subscribed.

Overseas students now face further difficulties in obtaining places in such areas as Engineering, Computer Science and Business Management. For example, a student with two grade 'Bs' and a 'D', who holds an Exhibition, is unlikely to gain admission into a dental school in Britain.

I should mention the United States equivalent, because even where one is talking about going to North America, quite often while those qualifications would get you in, the requirement is for a Bachelor's Degree before getting into the course the student may want to study, and therefore an extension by two years of the period of study with consequential costs would be incurred of course.

The qualifications for the award of scholarships and exhibitions should be revised, and winners of Government awards should be capable of holding their own in competition for university places in the best institutions. These awards should recognise true excellence and the raising of the qualifications will itself act as a spur to raising the standard of performance of students.

What I have just referred to there in my brief about the awards recognising true excellence, is indeed a way of stating what a lot of people are saying very bluntly, which is that one time we knew what it meant when you said somebody won a Barbados Scholarship and it is not always true now that you understand what it means.

I believe that when people talk about the general situation in education, some emphasis at some point has to be placed on whether awards that are meant to recognise excellence still recognise excellence, and the Minister and her staff are evidently quite concerned at this stage about the fact that people win awards and then cannot get into the institutions of repute with the usual ease. There was somebody who had some difficulty getting into the University of the West Indies after winning an award also, so as I said, if you have difficulty getting into institutions of repute, one can well imagine that something will have to be done.

In addition, there is the other problem of those who get in and then cannot complete a programme without a number of supplemental examinations, when indeed you are supposed to be drawing at that level of your population, people of intelligence who are supposed to get through university programmes with relative ease.

No limitations will be placed on the number of awards, and these can be in all or any of the following categories: Science and Technology, Language Studies, Modern Studies, Mathematics, complete freedom of choice of subject combinations. And, of course, there is the special scholarship reserved for girls. That has been so since, I think, 1950 or 1951.

A number of students spend their time putting together courses of study deliberately in order to avoid having to attend the University of the West Indies. I believe that this has taken some students into the study of what some of us regard as exotic subjects. Certainly it took one student into the study of Portuguese when the student might ordinarily have read Spanish, which is of more direct relevance to the area, and to the career pursued by the student.

That is not meant to be critical of the student, because at the same time, as far back as the 1950s, starting with people like Champ Alleyne, who is a 1950 Barbados Scholarship winner, students who won Barbados scholarships have also freely opted to go to the University of the West Indies when they had an option to go there or to any other approved university.

So the point I am making is that while some students freely wish to go to the University of the West Indies, there are some who do not. And there is a view, which I share, that if we are talking about award of excellence, it really does not make much sense to have a system of coercion which then virtually forces those who do not wish to go to a particular institution to try every trick and subterfuge, even though later on it may not be in their best interest, in order to avoid going to the national institution.

The amendments accordingly will remove the requirement of scholarship winners to attend the UWI, and free winners to pursue any course of study of their choice at any institution of higher learning. The other advantage of that, Sir, is that it is healthy for the society always to encourage some of its sons and daughters to be educated outside of the society itself, so that there is exposure to what some of the more reputable universities abroad have to offer, especially in those areas for which training and research are vital to our own national development.

After 35 years of existence, the University of the West Indies does not need those special arrangements.

The university is quite capable of standing on its own merit. Where Exhibitioners, on the other hand, are concerned, they will continue to be required to pursue their course of study at UWI when such courses are available.

The standard for the award of Exhibitions of the UWI will also be revised so that exhibitions will not be awarded to students with rather weak A Levels in some cases, grades ranging between 'D' and 'E', which weakness has been reflected in their subsequent performance at the university.

There is a reference in my brief to an Exhibitioner experiencing difficulty in gaining admission to the UWI. He had managed to pass the minimum matriculation but satisfying the faculty requirement proved another hurdle. 11.55 a.m.

We also have a problem, for example, associated with the fact that with an 'E' grade, a student may obtain a place in the Faculty of Arts, but may want to do Medicine; and he certainly would not get in with Grades lower than 'Bs'. As I recall, the same thing is true of the Law Faculty. So although we may matriculate and get into university, then to get into the faculty of one's choice may prove a little difficult, to say the least.

There is just one more point I want to make in this Resolution. I was listening — I think it was two Friday evenings ago — to a CBC programme called *Youth Rap*, where the guest on the programme who was supposedly guiding young people, was Mr. Frank Alleyne — Senator McClean would know the gentleman — and if I had not heard it myself, I would not have believed it!

Mr. Alleyne started that programme trying to answer a question as to whether the Education Act had been sprung on people, an Act which, incidentally, had been the subject of negotiation long before the Democratic Labour Party lost the elections of 1976. In fact, legislation had been brought to Parliament, I believe, in 1974 or 1975, and the negotiations continued until they were legislated in 1981.

I thought that Mr. Alleyne would have thought that he had a duty to the public to explain this to the questioner so that the questioner would have been given objective, factual information. However, Mr. Alleyne, at whose feet students sit every day in his professional capacity as a teacher at the university, moved past that point by simply saying that his objection was not to whether the thing was sprung on people, but to the Regulations!

He then went on to say that there was a regulation, but he believed it is now withdrawn. Having said it was withdrawn, I would have thought that, even if

it had been true that there was such a regulation that had been withdrawn, the matter would have ended there. But he went on to the effect that students who are absent from school for two days or more would have to get a Medical Certificate by the afternoon of the second day, and he then went on to make his points about the hardships of people, of requiring people to have to go to the doctor and spend \$45 to get a Medical Certificate.

I just wanted to refer to that, because that went out all over Barbados, and it is important that the record be set straight. Had I been speaking outside of this Chamber, I would not merely have described Mr. Alleyne as a prevaricator; I would have been more accurate about what he is.

It is my view that all that he had to say had to do entirely with political motivation. There are some people who will have to learn that what they achieve in politics is something related to whether they conduct themselves with any regard for truth and honesty.

There never was any such regulation. There was a circular that went out to secondary schools seeking to protect against communicable diseases by saying that schools could ask for a Medical Certificate — not making it mandatory — in cases where a student had been absent for more than two days; and after discussion, it was changed to where a student had been absent for over a week.

I do not believe that we live in a country where measles are unknown, where a whole number of communicable diseases are uncommon among children. And certainly when I was at school, at the beginning of the term, we had to take a Medical Certificate to Lodge School to establish, to the satisfaction of the headmaster, that we had not been in touch with persons who had communicable diseases. And I remember the morning that I forgot to take mine and spent the whole day in the sanatorium!

So what we are talking about is a simple matter, the protection against the spread of communicable diseases in a school population. And it is wicked of anybody to get on the air or any other place and suggest to the public of Barbados that people are now being so unreasonable that they want to make students go to the doctor without cause, and that all you are trying to do is to put great hardship on the people.

I believe that everybody around this Table and everybody out on the street will understand and support giving a school the authority to ask for Medical Certificates where a student has been absent for something over a week, and where, therefore, there is a chance, a very high risk, that there may be a communicable disease being spread through the school.

As I said, it is not even mandatory. The headmaster or headmistress, who might well know that there is another reason for the child's absence, because he or she might have been in contact with the parents, or the parents in contact with him, may know well enough that illness is not the reason for being absent, so they would not require any certificate.

If the parent does not communicate, if he has no way of knowing, but, in fact, has reason to believe that there should be a background of illness of the sort that could spread through the school, what is wrong with his having the authority to require a Medical Certificate?

I cannot understand how anybody, except Mr. Alleyne himself, who was probably on the verge of another nervous breakdown when he went on the radio anyhow, should object to this.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR THE REV. CAN. I. McK. JONES: Mr. President, I am not very happy about the kind of false impression being spread that the standards of the Barbados Scholarship have declined, and that when you spoke about a Barbados Scholar years ago, you know what you were saying, but now-a-days you are not too sure. I do not buy that at all. I do not accept it, because it is not true.

It is not true of Harrison College. I will make no apologies for saying this. In the last examination just past, we had at least three boys who got three 'As' for scholarships. We have been having boys and girls with three or two 'As'.

I would like the Ministry of Education to come out with facts and figures for the past ten years of boys and girls who have won Barbados Scholarships and let the people in the country see what grades they have achieved. I am sure it will give the lie to the idea of standards and excellence having dropped.
12.05 p.m.

With the Exhibitions, I am not going to be so dogmatic, but I am positive that where the Barbados Scholars are concerned, they have lived up to the highest reputation of excellence. We had at least three boys with three 'As' last year, I am certain of that, and one with four As; so I would like them to publish the results and let the people judge for themselves. That is all I have to say.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: In making a comment, Mr. President, on the Resolution before me, I start at the end and respond to Senator Jones' comment merely by saying that the level of education in a country cannot be gauged by the results of a Barbados

Scholarship. Excellence in the Barbados Scholarship is no indication whatever about the level of standards in the country.

I myself have spent a most fruitful and enjoyable year as an officer of the Federal Government in London responsible for the processing of applications to universities throughout the Caribbean, and have had ample experience of young people from the Caribbean coming up to London thinking that they were geniuses with six O levels and who find places, not at Oxford or Cambridge, but places much lesser known, provincial universities crowded with ordinary students who have ten in one year. This occurs not once or twice; this happens all the time.

We have allowed ourselves to be seduced by some kind of argument which says we must say that everybody, however mediocre, is a genius. For my sins I see the work of people who say they want to write poetry or want to be writers. Some of these products are the products of people who are as nearly illiterate as you can be without really being illiterate, and yet if I do not say that this person is a T.S. Elliot or a Shakespeare I am accused of being hard.

Something has gone wrong with our standards. We know well enough in the media examples of people whose command of language, whose simple knowledge, is a great risk to the people who hear them and read them, and I am therefore delighted to see something which says that the standards have to be raised. They were once higher than they are, so there can be no difficulty about our people rising to the heights which we now claim they should have. It really is time that we get away from this thing that all of us are geniuses. All of us are equal, but some of us are certainly more equal than others.

There is another point which flows from this. The responsibility for this levelling down has to be placed fairly and squarely, I think, on the public media. For some reason or other, the Press, both the print and the electronic media, feel it necessary to say in the interest of democracy that everybody is a genius. They find it hard to say that this thing is no good and we shall not have it.

In a recent international competition for an essay sponsored by an international body, I happened to be a judge of it and I could not honestly recommend that any of this work be sent forward. Now there was some pressure on me to say "yes" — 'you know it looks bad if Barbados does not send forward something.' I said it looks worse if we send that. Somebody has to stand up and say this simply will not do.

Teachers get angry when you say their schools have not performed well. Well it is up to them to make them

perform well, and I have great pleasure in supporting the spirit of this Resolution.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution, but I would like to throw out one suggestion in relation to an area in which I would like to see tightened further as far as scholarships are concerned.

I believe that the award of a Barbados Scholarship should be restricted to people who obtain three 'As', as indicated here, at the first attempt. There was a time when we did not have a University of the West Indies, and the question of winning a Barbados Scholarship had an entirely different type of significance. It often made a difference between becoming a Long Grade Clerk or becoming a doctor or something like that. That is not the case anymore.

The Barbados Scholarship is not the gateway to professional advancement in the way that it was in the years gone by, and as such, there can be no reason why we should encourage someone who, let us say, obtains three 'Bs' or two 'Bs' and an 'A' at one particular sitting to return to school another year to try to win a Barbados Scholarship. To begin with, getting two 'As' and a 'B' on second attempt does not really indicate that that person is all that brilliant, especially if they choose subjects where, basically, what you did in the previous year will remain, like Mathematics, where you do not have to study new texts and so on, that you can keep on practising and you get a little better.

I think the time has come when we should restrict scholarships and awards of excellence to that type of person on their first attempt. Maybe this might go some small way towards reducing the cost of our secondary education and reducing the number of people we have in the Sixth Form the second time around, using up the public money for no good reason in terms of their overall social perspective.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, after Senator Wickham's contribution, it really is not perhaps necessary for me to reply, but there is just one point.

I think Senator Jones needs to direct his attention to the fact that the Ministry is obviously not saying that there are no people performing outstandingly; so the information which he has given us sits very neatly within what the Ministry is saying.

What the Ministry is saying is that there are also people winning scholarships who are doing so with, say, two 'As' and another grade, and even if you thought that

was not significant, when you look at their performances overall, you recognise that the falling off in the third subject is significant. So we are not dealing with these people who have three or four 'As'. Obviously people who perform like that, if they continue to work well during university, normally do pretty all right, but we have to deal with the others.

I am very glad that Senator Wickham made the point which he made, the point of comparison, because I have felt for a long time, and I wish to make the concession right at the outset, that it is not my intention, however, to suggest that we can gauge what is happening in the educational system, or gauge how relevant our educational policies are, just by what happens at the top. There is what is happening to the mass of people within the system and how they are being geared for life which make a whole lot of difference — and, in fact, in many ways makes most of the difference.

If you do not have standards of excellence, you cannot have satisfactory performance. I would hate, for example, to see us continue in this country to go down a road in which don't let me say continue to go down the road because I believe that has been arrested, but just let me put the point this way. I went to Lodge School, which has a lot of faults when I went to Lodge School, but in many ways it was a good school, and unless we can look at certain schools in the society and say that that is an outstanding school, then what we would be doing is not setting standards which can take us anywhere, but one will be doing a levelling down process.

Those of us who feel that Harrison College is a snob school, or Queens College or something of the sort, had better stop and ask themselves whether we are not advocating tearing down until we reach a level where nobody can have any pride in what is happening within the educational system. And all of us who are concerned seriously about educational matters have to understand that there is a place for mediocrity and there is a place for excellence, and that we must not transfer the two. When we seek to transfer the two, mediocrity will take the place of excellence and excellence will be found nowhere.

12.15 p.m.

Sir, we are not arguing with Senator Jones' position. What we would wish to know is that we set standards which reflect excellence insofar as these can be reflected.

The publication of results. I thought, in fact, that when the list of those who won Barbados Scholarships, was published, what grades they got were also published. It may be because as a member of Cabinet, we get the information as to who won what and with what grades. I was of this impression. I really thought that that information was publicly communicated. But I am quite

sure that the Ministry of Education would have absolutely no objection when they publish the results, to publish what grades people won the Barbados Scholarship with.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: They are published.

But the implication of what Senator Wickham said is that we have to be very concerned that we do not just continue to fool ourselves that somebody who gets five and six 'O' Level passes has done well.

There is another thing I am concerned about. I do not want to stretch this out, I really do not, but when I did 'O' Levels, the people who were bright were not allowed to do less than nine subjects, and if you were doing Mathematics and you had Additional Mathematics with it, you did ten. But now you hear about five or six subjects — and you hear about people who are bright! If they are really bright, why are they not carrying a proper workload? I have a feeling that this general reduction in the workload over the years has been hampering the system, and overall, I believe that there has been a general falling off. I cannot give the statistical information about who is at fault, but I believe so.

I am also speaking as one who has had the opportunity to teach at university level, and I say without fear of contradiction that what used to be written in the Fifth and Sixth Forms when I was at school was far superior to the English which people like Senator McClean have to be faced with when they are dealing with scripts at the university level. If it is one place that we can see this very serious falling off, it is in written English. There is bad sentence construction. Some of them do not know the meaning of ordinary words that you use in everyday conversation, even if you could put up with the spelling.

So I think we need to understand that insofar as we can use certain objective standards, we must not fool ourselves, there has to be falling off.

The question that the Senate concur in the Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

CINEMATOGRAPH FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 5 was called — To move the First Reading of a Bill to amend the Cinematograph Film Censorship Act.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, much has been said about these two lines of

legislation in another place, and I am not in doubt that those who have spoken have spoken with a great deal of concern in this area.

In the Ministry, we also share the concern which has been expressed and, therefore, very recently, we took steps to completely reshape the Board from which film censors are drawn. We found a situation in which some censors had been on there for something like twenty years. The Board had been left there, and it seemed as though if you did not die, you continued.

What we seem to be forgetting is that everybody, of course, has his views or her views on censorship. I do not think you could produce a single film which, if you let half dozen people go to see it independently, you would not find at least a dozen grounds on which it should not be shown. Therefore, it is necessary in choosing a panel of censors to find a sufficient range of personnel who, when they sit down to discuss what they should look for in the censoring of films, can have advanced a sufficient number of intelligent suggestions that they should be able to combine those with guidelines which would be generally satisfactory. All we hope is that the people we choose are sufficiently representative of those areas of life that we wish to have represented, and that they can do this job.

It was therefore recently decided to have a panel running, perhaps, of up to sixteen or eighteen persons. I have made the initial twelve appointments. I believe this week that the rest would be probably added.

Aside

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I will see if I can answer that question about the women while I am at it. We have in fact made a number of female appointments, because so much of the business of viewing films has to do with the family, and because we accept the fact of Barbadian life that the real head of the family in that sense is usually the woman. So we have put a number of women on the panel.

I do not seem to have the list of the various areas represented in this file, but as I recall, a discipline like Sociology is represented — by about two or three persons. There are, people within the information field. There are a couple of community leaders. I think there must be a couple school teachers. We have tended to spread the membership around so that we can get a good enough mix whenever you select the two or three people who normally view the film. The present practice is that two or three people see the film and then if the cinema operator objects, we can ask that it be seen by a full Board.

The other thing is that, previously, the Board never used to meet. We just used to have people go and view

films. They never met to discuss any objective criteria which they should apply in censorship. We have made provision for them to meet at least every three months so that they can discuss what criteria they should employ. In that way, we should get an improved operation.

Those persons who were on the Board before did a good job and worked hard at it, but we believe that the two things which were lacking are that the Board was not kept sufficiently under review, so its representative nature was never fully emphasized, and, secondly, that the absence of a formal meeting session also weakened the overall process.

12.25 p.m.

We have also pushed up the rate which the cinemas pay when films have to be viewed, because although this is a service for which the cinemas are to bear the cost, we had reached the point where we were subsidising it. So we have increased that fee.

At the same time, we have pushed up the rate of remuneration to the censors. So when somebody leaves home in the morning to view a film, at the end of the couple of hours he has to do that, he would at least have, I think it is \$35 in his pocket to show for his pains, a minimum fee of \$35.

We also went right through the legislation and discovered that the disincentive provided in the legislation was previously a sum of \$480. And when, for example, the censors said that something should not be shown, or was not to be shown to children, the cinema operator just ignored them and went ahead.

So we have brought that penalty in line; at least what this Bill seeks to do is to bring that penalty in line with other penalties of a similar nature. Penalties of that nature for which the fine used to be \$480, now carries a fine of \$10 000. Obviously, there must be a real disincentive if a man is not simply to ignore what the censor says and go ahead and do what he wants.

Mr. President, we look forward to some improvement and we look forward to a general application of standards that all of us can understand and subscribe to in the censoring of films. I believe that what the censors are particularly concerned about at present, from what I have heard them say, is the violence and they also pay a lot of attention to matters of the tastelessness and crudity which you find sometimes in these films.

As I said before, it is not an easy job, and even though we may be able to agree that there has been improvement by the time this set of censors really find their feet, we are still likely to find that a lot of people will have criticisms to make, because we are dealing in an area of art where it is how one sees it for himself or

herself, and a number of things on which some people are sensitive, they are others who are less sensitive. I think we will have to understand that we are forever going to have some lively discussions and some disagreement in this field. But what we are seeking to do is to have applied standards which, generally, can be subscribed to by all Barbadians.

I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is proposed that this Bill be read a second time. Senator Jemmott.

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Mr. President, in supporting this Bill, I want to say, as the Leader of the Senate mentioned, that a lot was said about it in the Other Place, but I think we should let the public know that we are concerned about the censorship of the films.

I think that we have fallen down very badly in relation to films, I would say within the last 10 years. I remember that when I was a youngster and I did go to the theatre, I went to see something which was educational, or the lighter ones, which were a matter of entertainment. But I think that all we are seeing these days is sex and violence, in the Kung-fu pictures and things like that, which, in my opinion, is not leading our young people, and adults also, in the right path of life.

I wonder if these films are not responsible for the amount of violence which we are having today. I do hope, Sir, as the Leader has mentioned, that this new Board — because it is no use of making amendments to the Board not get the right people to function — will make a great effort to function in the interest of our country and disallow some of these films which we are seeing each day.

Even CBC, I notice, put on some films which I think are not also in the best interest of our country. Even the calypsonians have some very suggestive and, in my opinion, sensitive songs which CBC broadcasts, and I hope there will be scope where CBC can also be censored in relation to the showing of their pictures.

I welcome the amendment to this Bill and I do hope that in the years coming we will be able to see better pictures. We just had a very lovely story of Ghandi, and it hurts me to think that, within the period which that picture was shown, the attendance which we got was exceedingly poor. I think these are the things we have to watch. People are prepared to go and see the Kung-fu, or whatever you may call it; violence; sex; but when there is a film which is educational and showing us the life of a great man, we find that there are very few people who were prepared to go to see things like this.

I hope that the cinemas will be able to bring back films that will enlighten us and encourage us to live a better life than we are living in this country.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Simmons.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: I just want to make some observations on this Bill, more by way of questions than by way of any substantial statement. As I understand it, this Bill deals with Cap. 299. We are seeking to amend Section 9 of that Act. All we are doing in this Bill is increasing the penalty for exhibiting disallowed films, according to the Objects and Reasons of the Bill.

In the definition section of Chapter 299, film means a cinematograph film and includes any part of a film, so that the scope of this amending Bill, as well as the apparent legislation, is limited to dealing with films shown in cinemas. Now I wonder if the time has not come for Government to take another look at the whole question of film distribution and what is put out for public consumption in the light of the widespread use of video machines and video films.

The Government has sought in the Budget to obtain revenue from the taxation of the video films which are distributed to the public. But my information is that the operators of some of these shops also indulge in the widespread dissemination of what is popularly known as "blue films", films which show the very seedy side of life, which are nothing but pornography and can certainly be disruptive of the moral fabric of society. Some of these blue films are hidden under the counter of the distributors of video tapes....

Asides.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am being told that they are not even being hidden. I do not know. I do not deal in that material.

12.35 p.m.

I think that perhaps this Bill is a little hasty, and may only mean that shortly Government will have to come, if what the current rumour in the society about the dissemination of blue films is true, to take steps to amend legislation, or introduce legislation, to ensure that this area of looseness is tightened up. Government, of course, has to be careful about how it tries to impose moral values on society, but at the same time Government cannot abdicate its responsibility to be as it were, an arbiter of last resort.

Sir, I would be grateful if the Minister would tell me whether his Ministry has any information that there is quite substantial dissemination of blue films in Barbados

and what, if anything, the Ministry has in mind to deal with the situation.

You see, it is possible to say that the blue films can be treated under the law of obscenity, but the law of obscenity is a quite unruly horse, and it is very difficult — certainly I have been told by the police in Barbados — to convict anybody of obscenity, and perhaps the law needs tightening up. But it seems to me that there are one or two areas open to Government: either a further and substantial amendment to Cap. 229, or some tightening of the law on obscenity.

I know that there is concern about the violence which is shown on television and in the cinemas, but I am not a cinema goer. I intend to see Gandhi, but I have not been for about six or seven years. I am not interested in films, nor do I particularly watch television.

I think one has to be careful in drawing a conclusion that because there is an increase in violent crime in the society, necessarily there is a nexus between the violence shown on television and the violent crime that is erupting in the society. I think there have been enough studies done all over the world, particularly in America, in which the criminologists certainly report that there is no necessary correlation between the two, and I think that it is accepted now that there certainly is no one single explanation of the cause of crime. Contemporary thought would seem to suggest that it is more a multi-factor theory that would explain criminality than any single factor such as television violence or sex on television or whatever.

I am not saying that it does not play a part, or that it may not be one of several of those factors, which I call multifactors, which may conduce to criminality, but it is doubtful, in my submission, whether it is the single predisposing factor to criminality. I think we must not get hysterical about it. We have a responsibility to limit the amount of criminal activity that is shown on television or in the cinemas, or obscene behaviour and excessive reliance upon sex and so on, but I do not think we should get too hysterical about the relationship.

I am obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. President, while it may be true, in a kind of theoretical way, that the pollution of modern-day film which is available to people all over the world may not be the single factor contributing to a decline in the moral standards in public behaviour, there is no doubt that the decline in the quality of films is part of the wholesale pollution which surrounds us.

A man cannot separate his taste for a kind of thing from his taste for another kind; he is part of that. When

you get corrupted, you get corrupted totally. I defy anybody to walk down Broad Street without hearing three or four, at least, expressions of the utmost obscenity. It is impossible to do that! And this comes from people who are not angry, who are not quarrelling, who have no fight, but who, simply because their minds and their language are polluted, come to think that that is all right.

I have overheard a young man talking to his friend saying that he was going to a fete because he was going to get some cursing down there. It seemed to him that that was something that he enjoyed, and when you hear this cursing, it is like the use of the word "right" — "It is compulsive, right?" It is not that they mean anything by it, it is that they are all corrupted. I frequently have to tell people who speak to me with those obscenities that those are words I know too. They are not shocking me or telling me something I do not know, but I do not feel the need to use them. They do not say anything that I want to say.

That pollution is part of the physical pollution or disrespect for people in authority, or the way we keep our houses, the way we keep our cars, the way we treat life in general. It is all part of the total thing, and even if it is only one part, it is such an important part, because it is so highly visual and visible, that I think we ought to do something about it.

The cinemas in which these films are shown are themselves dirty, because they are also saying something about their care for the people who use the cinema. They do not have to do anything about that, they pack them in like cattle, it does not matter, so it is an important aspect, although it may only be one. I am not going to pursue the argument that it should be neglected, because it is only one part of the total pollution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I just want to make a short contribution to this debate, particularly since it is one which is of national significance in terms of what it means for the standards which we are seeking to promote in this country. Lest it be said that the Opposition in this part of Parliament cared nothing about it, I would want to just make the contribution to indicate our concern about this very important and serious matter.

I agree entirely with the concerns which have been expressed by those honourable Senators who have spoken so far in this particular amending bit of legislation, and I would want to support the position which has been enunciated by Senator Jemmott relative to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, because for one thing people who view television have no choice if they do not want to see what is put on CBC other than to turn it off. You could, for example, decide whether you would go

to the cinema or not, but I have noticed over the years that there has been a gradual diminution in standards at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, particularly in terms of the kinds of films which are put out for viewing.

12.45 p.m.

Even some of the ideas which are being transmitted in these so-called soap operas, I am submitting are dangerous for the society, and I would agree with the view that we ought to pay much closer attention to this kind of information which is being put out to the people. Certainly the Opposition is supportive of the Government in this move to raise the standards and to ensure that we get a better kind of film shown on our screens.

Right now there is a film being shown at the Globe Cinema call "The Class of 84". Now, I pass by the Globe on mornings, and I am sure that on two or three occasions I saw a group of school children going to see, I believe, that film, and it appeared to be an organized visit.

(*Aside:* It was Ghandi!)

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: It was Ghandi? I am relieved. But even so, "The Class of 84", to my mind, seem to be directed towards children, and from what I have been hearing about "The Class of 84", if that is going to be the kind of idea which we are projecting to our children in 1984 or beyond, even now, if this is how they have to behave and relate in the classroom, I believe we have some very serious problems on our hands.

I am saying this in relation to the kinds of things which are being expressed relative to the corruption which may set in, and which is setting in now, as a result of the types of films which are being shown in the cinemas and on television in this country and, as I said, certainly the Opposition should be supportive in this particular move.

I agree with Senator Simmons that the mere idea of an amendment which seeks to increase the penalty for showing films which are unauthorized, does not answer the problem, because the people who operate the cinemas may very well be able to find the \$10 000. I would like to join him in suggesting to the Government that we ought in the near future to do a total review of the legislation — tidy it up, maybe — I do not know in a number of areas where questions have been raised in the society about films; look at the whole question of censorship.

Countries have set up commissions to get the broad views of people and inputs from various groups of people within the society. I know that this is one of the

Government's favourite methods of dealing with problems, and this is certainly a problem of sufficient import that we ought to pay some very serious attention to this without delay.

Relative to the videos which seem to have flooded this country, and this is evidenced by the number of video clubs in existence in Barbados, I again am satisfied that there should be some control over the kinds of films which are not only being put on display, but are available for rental. Those of us who are concerned with the standards in this country must sit up and take note of these kinds of influences which can certainly be corrupting, and which are indeed corrupting. And I would hope, Sir, that this matter would not be treated in any partisan way, but certainly some attention ought to be paid to the views which have been expressed here, and by the Opposition in the Lower House.

I believe that the Government is serious in this particular area and I have no doubt that there will be movement in the direction of cleaning up this cess pool, which is in need of urgent cleaning.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. President, my views are very much like Senator Simmons'. I think that these video shops are a menace now, and they are going to get worst, because I understand, like him, that these blue films are available in some of these video shops.

I, myself, would not know, because I do not own a video, but the danger is that teenagers, young school children, can go into these video shops and rent these films. I even understand that some of them that would run the risk of their parents catching them showing these films, would arrange with others when their parents are out, have a party and show these films. I think it is very dangerous and something must be done about it.

But, Sir, in supporting this Bill, the idea of \$480 was completely out of line in today's world; \$10,000 is more like it. But if you had a penalty of one million dollars and no one was ever prosecuted, it would not matter. I wonder how many people have had to pay this fine of even \$480.

I am sure that teenagers are going into some of these cinemas to see films that they have no right to see, and, like other Senators, I am fairly certain that what the people are viewing is making a difference in their outlook and moral degeneration. I do not know if it is on record how many times people have been charged this \$480, but it is no use increasing it to \$10,000 if it is not going to be enforced.

Some people will have to pay. I do not think that any cinema can afford a \$10,000 fine once a week and survive. I feel that if they are breaking the regulations, they should be charged; and if they can pay the \$10,000, we would know they are doing very well indeed.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. G. G. READER: What I want to say here is that very few of the responsible leaders in this community ever go to the films. We select a film that we want to see and we go to it, but there are very few of the well-to-do people and the leaders of this community who go to very many of them.
12.55 p.m.

Is it because of the very poor quality of films which are being shown or is it because they have not got the time to waste sitting down looking at films? All I can tell you is that from what I have heard from young people with whom I work, who do go to films regularly, is that the films which they see today are horrifying, they are filthy and they are really disgusting, and very violent as well.

Now we do not make films in Barbados. We are being used. We are allowing ourselves to be used by being fed with these films from overseas. Is this what we feel is right for our people? I am sure it is not. When people, not fully mature, go to these films and see these things, they consider this as approved behaviour. This is how things are done in the United States, this is how things are done in Canada. This is approved behaviour. It is bound to have an effect on their mind.

There is another thing I would like to bring up. I walked into a shop the other day and there was a bookstand there. As you know, I am a bookseller, so naturally I was interested, and I walked over and looked at it, and out of the 48 titles in that bookstand, 30 of them were pornographic literature. They were filthy, filthy books that had no business in anybody's bookstand, and there were school children standing up there, opening those books and giggling. I went to the manager of the shop and asked him if he knew what was happening. He said: "No". He only wanted to put some books there because he heard that books sell, but he hadn't taken the interest to go around and see what was actually being sold in his shop.

How does this pornographic literature come in. I know we have ordered books at our book shop, and when they came in, looked through them and took such books and tore them up. I personally was not putting them up on the stands, because I was not going to feel happy to know that any child could pick up these books and look at them. I think something has got to be done to

clean up what is coming into Barbados. We can and must enforce these laws somehow, so that people are not fed absolute trash all the time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: I simply rise to support this Bill, but I do not wish to be regarded as jumping on the bandwagon or anything like that. Surely you may recall that last year during the Estimates under Education, I was quite strong on the point of view that our kids were allowed to go to the cinemas and see all measure of violence, films portraying greed, selfishness and sex somewhat unabated. At the time I voiced my concern because I felt it was bad for the country, and I felt that if it continued, we would become a sick society. Perhaps when I said that, it was the first time that I had spoken in this Honourable Chamber in the Estimates and I do remember having spoken at length, therefore the content of my speech might have been missed.

Sir, today I am happy to say that I would have to support this Bill if only to emphasise my absolute horror at the things our kids are exposed to. I remember talking about "The Blue Lagoon", and "Endless Love", with youngsters involved in love affairs on the screen like old hands, like the Leader of this Chamber. I was shocked. I hope he does not get up to contest that. I am very heartened today to see that honourable Senators are of the same view — somewhat belatedly, but nonetheless of the same view.

I must congratulate Senator Reader on her having denounced pornographic literature. I do feel that some parents are completely unaware of the seriousness of this situation. Some of them seem to think that it is okay to show blue movies in their homes in front of their children; they think it is a colossal joke. When we come to this situation, I think we can be classified as a sick society.

There is no point in our saying that the cinemas are showing blue movies or the type of movies which do not augur well for the future of our kids. We say that every day, and people are now also saying that there should be some monitoring of the situation. We have even now increased the fine from \$480 to \$10 000, a fantastic increase, not unlike the inflationary trends that we see nowadays, but, Sir, what I am asking is, is this enough?

Do you know, Mr. President, that there are people who just show video films without any regard to the sickness that it really brings to the minds of our children? I am calling for a revamping of the situation. I would like to think that the Government would see it fit to make sure that our children are not exposed to this

situation. Perhaps this fine may deter those who have practised these things from being involved in it, but what I would like to see is some parental control. However that can be worked out, I would like to think that the parents in this country will be in a position where, to some extent, they can control what the children see, even in their homes, and give the necessary guidance that will make these children understand that it is not in their best interest to walk around the place seeing everything.

If you were to look at some of the shows that are in the cinemas, I admit that most of the Kung-Fu shows are rated "X", but when adults go to the Kung-Fu shows, they have to jostle with youngsters to see those very shows. Sir, the theme of these shows is always one of revenge. Somebody killed a star's uncle or his grandfather and he grows up with it in a revengeful way, and as soon as he becomes a man, he sets out almost single-handedly to destroy a mob of people.

It is amazing how one Kung-Fu artist can beat another 60 Kung-Fu artists. It is preposterous, it is ignorant, it is nonsense that one man of the same discipline can defeat 300 people, and I believe that this is not good for our kids. I do feel that if they say it is for adults and adults wish to be stimulated by that sort of thing, well, fair enough, but I do believe that our children should be brought up in such a way that they are given an opportunity to watch decent movies.

I have said this simply because only last year I made the point and perhaps it was missed, and that is why I am so happy to see that the Senators in this Chamber are now of the view that we do have to do something. If the Government has to invoke measures which will guarantee that the parents of this country can offer guidance to youngsters, well then I say it would be a step in the right direction. If they have to control the type of video shows that openly go on display, that, too, will be a help.
1.05 p.m.

I am glad that I have actually lived to see the day when people are now concerned about what is shown not only in the cinema houses, but certainly what video shows are allowed to go into people's homes. I know one may say that it is very hard to police this, but I think that there are measures that can be taken to ensure that our children are given a better deal.

I would like to compliment the other Senators who have voiced their opinions on this matter. I think that the Government, in instituting these punitive measures, have gone half way towards alleviating the problem. I think it is time that a call could be made for the establishment of a National Commission on Censorship. If this is done, I am quite sure that if we, especially

people like us who have some say in guiding the destiny of this country, can show the way, the parents in this country and indeed the children will emulate the efforts that I spoke of this morning.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, my Ministry will undoubtedly be heartened by the support which honourable Senators have given to this piece of legislation.

There are one or two points which I need to make in all fairness. Let me start, Sir, by taking Senator Ward's point. I think, if I understood what Senator Ward was saying, that he regarded the penalty of \$10 000 as realistic, because he said that you could not very well pay a penalty of that sort every week and still stay in business. And this was the whole point, that the \$20 or \$480 was not realistic and therefore we thought we should have a realistic penalty.

I not only acknowledge that point — obviously I agree with it, but I also acknowledge the further point that unless the legislation is enforced, then it does not matter what penalty you have. I would like to take that along with an observation made by Senator Wickham, that the cinemas are in some instances dirty. Both of these points are things to which I am currently addressing my mind.

The censors have passes which allow them not only to attend and favour or disqualify films, but allows them to go to see shows as they wish. And one of the things which I am hoping they will do — and this is a point which at least I have communicated, and I believe it has been communicated to them; whether it has gone any further, I do not know — is that when they attend the movies, if they observe that there seem to be people among the audience who should not be there, where there is an age restriction for example, they should let us have a formal report. Then you would be able to take it a step further; perhaps discuss the matter with the Commissioner of Police to find out whether he has adequate arrangements for policing the cinemas.

What you can have done voluntarily, you do not want to do by coercion. But if we do get complaints indicating that it is a rule not observed, then we would certainly wish to do something about it. I certainly have not been receiving complaints of that nature, but this does not mean that the situation is not so.

The other point I said I would take with that is the point made by Senator Wickham. It is only about three days ago that one of the film censors, in an informal chat, mentioned a cinema by name and remarked on its disgusting condition; bugs and all manner of other things;

the general condition of the furniture or furnishings and the general unsanitary condition in that cinema. What I asked was that this person should make known these views to the other censors when they meet — I believe, it is about the middle of June that they have scheduled a meeting — so that they can come to me with some positive proposals.

I also intimated to the censor concerned that there is sufficient power within the Public Health Act to deal with the situation, but that I did not know that for a fact — and I would wish to be advised. I would have to wait on a report. But there are problems of that sort.

The point which was made by Senator Reader, with some force, that we do not make films here, is a point to which we must necessarily address our minds. It is a point, an aspect of which I had to deal with in a speech I made at the Telecommunications Conference in Jamaica recently, because with all of the advances, the whole technological revolution in information, one has to be satisfied that in countries like ours, we have an opportunity to deliver our message to the public abroad, and not just to be the recipients of a message from other people. It is time, in fact, we tried to get some kind of two-way flow going because, as it is, it is a one-way flow; it is all coming straight at us.

When people talk about blue movies, when you go through an airport in Europe — Senator Greaves has obviously been through Frankfurt and those other airports — what do you see? Just look! You do not have to go into an airport shop. You might not find anything to eat, but you can surely find a whole lot of blue movies displayed publicly. In fact, pornography has completely overrun Europe. It is not possible that we should escape completely, and I think we have to understand that.

When we talked about the falling standards, Senator Greaves referred to CBC. When you look at the films on CBC, there is a tendency for people to argue and quarrel about the selection made by CBC. If you transfer some of those people to the United States where the same shows are coming from, they suddenly realise that what they are seeing on CBC are the best of what the film industry in the United States is producing. So you are dealing with the decline in standards and, as I said, it is impossible that we should escape.

1.15 p.m.

Senator Greaves also said that fines were not the total answer to the problem. Senator Hall seemed to be calling for some kind of commission, and he called for a look at the entire legislation. The point is that we are not only dealing with the fines. As I said before, we know that we intend to appoint the Board every three years. We intend to keep the personnel under review.

We have now decided, for the first time, to have a number of interests and a number of skills represented on that Board. We recognise that it is women and it is the youth who are the main cinema clientele and, therefore, the Board is heavily weighted in their favour. There are, I think, two persons, who are older persons on the Board, who were there before. But all of the others tend to be going down in age, and this is because their input is absolutely necessary in an assessment of this sort.

There are two other points which I must make. One is that we have to be very careful that we do not equate sex with smut, and I would like to believe that the comments made where Senators have referred, for example, to shows being full of sex, that they really are referring to smut and not to sex, because I think we all agree that sex is a good and clean thing.

The point which we need to turn our minds to is that the case involving the book, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, was not an accident, and that is because the question is always there to be answered as to whether something is art or whether it is obscenity. This is why I was saying earlier that even when the job being done by censors is generally acceptable, there is going to be room for contention, and we have to understand that. And, of course, finding the answer to the question as to whether it is art or when it is obscenity is sometimes very difficult.

Senator Hall, while making the same kind of call as Senator Simmons, partly provided an answer to the point made by Senator Simmons, because his assertion was that there are cases where parents show blue movies in front of their children. That seems to me to get very close to the difficulty of the point.

We listened to the comments being made when the approach made by the Ministry of Education to the problem of absenteeism is one of imposing a fee. But, really, I do not know if the Ministry of Education or anybody else will be able to successfully deal with situations in which parents fail to exercise their responsibilities. If a parent is not interested in the progress of the child in school, the child will continue to be an absentee at examination time in the same way that the child will be indifferent to their studies during the term.

We have to understand that at the centre of all of this is the role of the parent. When fourteen and fifteen-year-olds, as I was being advised, go to a movie that they are not supposed to be seeing, it is idle for us to believe that this is done without the knowledge and consent of the parent. And I cannot stand up and preach to parents, and this is where Senator Simmons' point is so difficult to deal with, because we cannot police what happens inside of somebody's home anymore than we can make parents behave in a responsible manner.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation, Sir: I was not asking the Government to police what is happening in anybody's home. Indeed, I said that in the matter of private morals, Government could only be an arbiter of last resort, or words to that effect. What I am saying is that I want the Minister to answer whether Government intends to do anything about the video films before they get into the people's homes; deal with the problem at the shops?

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: We are talking about video tapes coming in. They will come through and very few Customs Officers, if any, will be competent to determine whether they contravene the law in relation to obscenity; and, short of seeing the films, there really is no way of doing that anyhow. Therefore, it is a very difficult role to put on a Customs Officer, and I find that we are going to be asking a whole lot of somebody — I do not know who it is — to police at that level. But what I am really saying is that even if I accept the argument that if they are blue movies, they are essentially to be banned — and I must accept that as an argument but I am not sure if I believe so — but if I accept that, then how do we deal with it if parents are not prepared to stop, because if parents were not prepared to do business with the shops which are renting any kind of movie, those shops would not be able to continue in existence.

But I must come absolutely clean on this and tell you, Mr. President, that I do not know if I should tell a man what he should decide to go and look at in the privacy of his home. I want to make that very clear. I know that everybody in here will not agree with me on that, but I do not want, ever, to be given the power to tell anybody what he should look at in the privacy of his home. So I am not too strong on that point.

What I do believe is that where a place is a business place of entertainment, there have to be objective standards applied to control what is shown there. Therefore, this amendment to this Act is limited specifically to the cinemas.

As to whether the video shops should carry certain kinds of movies, I think the police would have to see if the obscenity laws can be successfully tested. But I do not regard that as part of my brief within the present terms of my portfolio.

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 in Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.
1.25 p.m.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, the Senate was resumed and the Bill reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On the separate motions of Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: This seems an appropriate time for the suspension. I propose to suspend until 2.15. The sitting is suspended until 2.15.
1.27 p.m.

On Resumption:—

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 4 was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Property Transfer Tax Act.

SENATOR St.C. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, in his financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals delivered in the House of Assembly on March 31 last year, the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning stated in relation to the operations of real estate agents that there is evidence which suggests that some real estate agents currently get substantial commissions without necessarily paying any taxes on them, because they are able to secure their payment in taxes outside of Barbados by receiving monies in such places, and also by receiving it informally in Barbados.

Since there is no paper the Commissioner of Inland Revenue has great difficulty in verifying their income, and the Minister of Finance and Planning went on to state that he was proposing legislation which would require all vendors of land to indicate the amount of commission which had to be paid to real estate agents.

The amendments to the Property Transfer Tax Act are a direct consequence of the proposals made by the Minister of Finance and Planning. As a result, a new subsection 12A has been inserted in the principal Act, which provides that where on the transfer of property by way of sale, a registered real estate agent, auctioneer or any other person acting for the transferor or the transferee in the sale has been paid a commission, the person paying the commission shall notify the

Commissioner of Inland Revenue in the approved form of the amount of commission so paid in respect of that transfer.

Mr. President, the section also provides that where no such commission has been paid, the transferor or transferee should notify the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to that effect within 14 days.

Section 13 is amended by deleting the existing section and substituting a new one in its place. It provides that the Registrar shall not register, record or file or stamp any instrument referring to the transfer of any property unless the property transfer tax has been paid or security for the payment of such tax has been given, or unless the requirements of section 12A have been complied with.

It is believed, Sir, that the amendments will result in the Commissioner of Inland Revenue being better able to assess the annual income of real estate agents.

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

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: In his introduction, Sir, Senator Howell said that the purpose of this was to catch real estate agents who sold properties in Barbados, obtained commission and then paid tax overseas. It did not sound right to me, Sir. As I understand it, he meant that they drew income, agents' commission, overseas, but he said taxes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think there was some misunderstanding on the Chair's part itself. I did not understand what he meant. Anyway, I think he can clear it up afterwards.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator St.C. E. HOWELL, the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called.

SENATOR ST.C. E. HOWELL: Just a correction, Mr. Chairman. The rationale of the new Section 12A is because real estate agents can obscure their part in the transaction by receiving monies overseas, not that they pay taxes overseas.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Senator Howell, of course you know we are dealing with Clause 1, and that reference is to clause 2. Never mind, I take the point that it is in response to Senator Simmons' intervention earlier.

The question that clause 1 stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clause 2 was called.

SENATOR St.C. E. HOWELL: I beg to move that clause 2 stand part.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, does Senator Howell have any figures to indicate how much has escaped from the clutches of the Income Tax Commissioner by reason of the former practice which it is now sought to stop?
2.25 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: I believe that if Government had to make an amendment to get agents to pay the correct amount of tax, the amendment would not be necessary, because the Commissioner would simply assess the real estate agents through Income Tax and ask them to pay the correct tax on the monies they collect. It is because we do not know how much is collected that we are seeking to make the amendment to the law.

SENATOR St.C. E. HOWELL: Mr. Chairman, Senator Trotman clearly answered my colleague, Senator Simmons, but I take the point he was trying to make because I know that Senator Simmons is one of the very good commercial lawyers. But we who are in this area know that commercial agents give trouble because it is not easy to put your finger on this, and I did say in my opening comments that it is because there is no paper trial.

Thank you.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clause 3 was called and passed.

On the motion of Senator St.C. E. HOWELL, the Senate was resumed and the Bill reported as having been passed in Committee without amendment; Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On separate motions of SENATOR St.C. E. HOWELL, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

LEASE OF LAND AT LODGE HILL, ST. MICHAEL TO AHI (CARIBBEAN) LIMITED

Order No. 1 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve of the Lease to AHI (Caribbean) Limited of a parcel of land at Lodge Hill, St. Michael.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, AHI is at present occupying some lands at Lodge Hill, and since the company is expanding their output in decramastic tiles and other construction material, it is necessary for them to get additional space to continue their operations.

The area of land involved has already been identified for industrial use and there are other industries in the area, Ready-Mix Concrete and Adams Construction, and the Resolution really seeks to accommodate the expansion of AHI Limited.

Just let me say quickly, Sir, that the company forms a fairly important part of our export promotion business. About 90 per cent of all its products are exported to CARICOM and it is one of our large foreign exchange earners. We would therefore want to accommodate AHI wherever possible.

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

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Mr. President, however I would like to support this Resolution, which I would like to do, from Senator Trotman's remarks about industries, I would like to bring to the notice of the Ministry or Ministries concerned the conditions that are prevailing in Lodge Hill in relation to Ready-Mix.

The people in that area are finding it very difficult in relation to the amount of dust that is going into their homes. There are three built-up areas, Friendship, Eden Lodge and Lodge Terrace, and I know that the dust has affected the health of many people in that area, plus their furnitures and their household materials.

I would like the Ministry or Ministries responsible to take a look into this, whether it is the Ministry of Health or Transport and Works, whichever Ministry, or both, and have this remedied, because I do not see why we should, so to speak, sell the people's health for other means.

It is of grave concern. I happen to know a few of the people up there well. In fact, I was told that a few days ago, one of the residents had to take one of their children to seek medical aid because of the amount of cement dust that is going into the homes and things like that. So I would hope that the Minister would take a note of this and see if something cannot be done from the right quarters.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I just want to thank Senator Jemmott for drawing that point to our attention, and I promise him

I will raise that point with the Ministry of Housing, because they are the landlords and they might be able to have some sort of dust control measure to put on Ready-Mix to bring some relief to the residents at Lodge Hill. That is as much as we can do at this stage.

The question that the Senate concur in the Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

GUARANTEE DATED 14th APRIL, 1983 REGARDING
THE FUTURE TAXING OF THE ROYAL
BANK OF CANADA (B'DOS) LTD. AS
A LICENSEE UNDER THE OFF-
SHORE BANKING ACT

Order No. 2 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the guarantee dated 14th April, 1983 regarding the future taxing of the Royal Bank of Canada (B'dos) Ltd. as a Licensee under the Off-Shore Banking Act.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, Section 6 of the Off-Shore Banking Act provides for licences to be issued to eligible companies in Barbados, and Section 102 provides for certain exemptions from taxation in Barbados — Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax and other direct tax, and provision is also made for guarantees to be given to licencees.

Section 108, subsection 1 — this is the actual Act, Sir — says

"Subject to the opinion of the Minister, if it is in the public interest to do so, the Minister may, by agreement, give such assurance of guarantees regarding the future taxing of a licensee, as it may require before commencing the new offshore banking from within Barbados."

The Royal Bank of Canada has requested that they be given a guarantee in terms of their offshore banking operations in Barbados. The agreement was signed on the 14th April and Parliament is being asked to endorse the agreement which was given to the bank.
2.35 p.m.

The tax relief given to companies to whom licences have been issued under the Off-Shore Banking Act is to be regarded in the same light as those tax exemptions given to companies under the then Pioneer Industries Act, or under the present Fiscal Incentives Act, or, in fact, Sir, even the Hotel Aids Act. It is a way in which the Government encourages companies in Barbados to get into particular economic endeavours in order to develop the economy of Barbados. So that the tax exemptions which are being given to the Royal Bank should not be regarded as any specialist treatment to any particular bank, but should be regarded in the general

context of tax relief to companies moving into approved enterprises.

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

The question that the Senate concur in the Resolution was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE TAX ON REMITTANCES ACT, 1983

Order No. 3 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the imposition of a tax on certain remittances from Barbados and for related purposes.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, this Bill seeks to give authority to a budgetary measure.

The Minister of Finance in his Budget of last year, made the point that some insurance companies were not paying their fair share of taxes in Barbados because of arrangements to collect premiums in Barbados through what were no more than agencies, and then seek to remit the funds out of Barbados.

In the Schedule to the Bill under consideration, the specifics of the taxation are stated, but the principle of the Bill seeks to ensure that companies operating in Barbados as agents for overseas companies do not remit money, which should be remaining in Barbados, without the proper authority of the Supervisor of Insurance, who is authorised to advise the Central Bank on the quantum of remittances which should be made overseas.

The Supervisor of Insurance is empowered by law to make sure that only those funds which would cause some embarrassment to the company in its operations if they were not remitted to headquarters, are allowed to leave Barbados. In other words, the Insurance Department will be keeping tabs on the agencies here before advising the Central Bank on what remittances they can make to their overseas companies.

I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, in rising to support this Bill, I would like to suggest that Government should look carefully at the present arrangements in relation to the regulation of insurance companies, which is handled largely through the Supervisor of Insurance and his department.

I do believe that the insurance companies are highly important financial institutions, financial intermediaries, and should be brought under the direct control of the Central Bank. The authority which is

now given to the Supervisor of Insurance should be placed under the Central Bank. The Central Bank, for obvious reasons, will have more human resources available, intellectual resources, to ensure that the insurance companies are properly regulated.

Not only this; the regulation of insurance companies should be harmonised with the regulation of commercial banks if you want to have your financial system properly regulated. As such, the present arrangement which we now have, in my view is sub-optimal.

I thank you.

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, Mr. President left the Chair and the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 5 was called.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, on the question of the power of the Supervisor of Insurance, it does seem to me that any alternative arrangement in fact would be the equivalent of making the Department of the Supervisor of Insurance a section of the Central Bank, because there are other functions, which he would have to carry out with the insurance companies, which could not be easily dispensed with. There seems to be a small choice whether the Supervisor of the Insurance Department keeps its identity or whether it be absorbed entirely into the Central Bank, but I do not think the Senator wanted to have any reduction in the functions of the office generally.
2.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Yes, actually my submission accords with what Senator Trotman just said, that that department effectively should become part of the Central Bank. But remember then that if it is part of the Central Bank, it can avail itself of the services of the Central Bank, let us say the Research Department, and services of other departments, so that it can more efficiently do what it wants to do. And there will be certain officers in the Insurance Department who need not necessarily be located in there, because that department can receive a service from the wider Central Bank in carrying out its function.

The question that Clause 5 do now stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 15 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate was resumed and the Bill was reported as having passed the Committee without amendment, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

On the separate motions of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Earlier on, I intimated that we had had notice of a question. If there is no objection, we will recommit Question Time and give the member leave to ask this question. Call "Questions".

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Greaves.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Thank you very much, Sir. The question is:

"To enquire of the Minister of Immigration

1. Is the Minister aware that non-Barbadians are working in the construction of houses at the Spring Hall Land Lease Project?

2. Will the Minister state whether or not work permits were granted to these workers?

3. If the answer to 2 is in the affirmative, will the Minister outline the factors which led to the recruitment of non-Barbadians to build these houses?"

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I assume the Minister will answer in due course.

Put the question on the Order Paper.

Senator Barrow.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to and Mr. PRESIDENT adjourned the Senate accordingly. 2.55 p.m.

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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 22, 1983.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, June 22, 1983, at 11.05 a.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator J. C. W. Wickham, M.B.E.,
(Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. N. A. Barrow, (Minister of
Information and Culture) (Leader of the Senate)

Senator the Hon. O'Brien Trotman, (Minister of
State in the Prime Minister's Office)

Senator Mrs. E. M. Lynch, G.C.M.

Senator J. E. D. Williams

Senator Miss J. Clarke

Senator St. C. E. Howell (Parliamentary Secretary
to the Minister of Finance and Planning)

Senator Mrs. M. O. Reece

Senator Mrs. G. G. Reader, M.B.E.

Senator C. D. Seale

Senator the Rev. Can. I. McK. Jones

Senator L. A. Ward

Senator C. Jemmott

Senator Dr. W. E. Waldron-Ramsay

*Prayers were read by Senator the Rev. Can. I. McK.
Jones.*

ABSENT

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott
Cato, Senator D. A. C. Simmons, Senator E. E. Greaves
and Senator W. W. Hall.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Honourable Senate
is called to order.

MESSAGES

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The following Message
has been received from His Excellency the Governor-
General, addressed to the President of the Senate:

7th June, 1983.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I will be
away from Barbados on vacation leave with effect from
9th June, 1983 to 20th July, 1983.

Senator The Hon. Sir Arnott Cato has been
designated under the provisions of Section 29(1)(a) of
the Constitution to act as Governor-General during my
absence. As you know a formal message cannot be for-
warded to the Honourable The Senate because that
Chamber has been adjourned sine die, and so I am con-
veying the information by letter instead.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

D. H. L. WARD
Governor-General.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have an announcement
to make which is in the form of a letter received from
the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office
addressed to His Honour, the President of the Senate
dated, 2nd June, 1983:

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Cabinet
at its meeting on 12th May, 1983 concluded that the list

of persons eligible for diplomatic passports should be amended to include Members of both houses of Parliament and their spouses. In the case of a spouse the diplomatic passport may be used where the spouse is travelling with the Member in respect of whom the privilege is extended or when proceeding to join that Member outside the Island.

2. I am further directed to inform you that the holder of a diplomatic passport is required to be in possession of an ordinary passport as well and that the latter should be used when the holder is travelling other than on official business.

3. Members of your Chamber who wish to avail themselves of this facility may apply to the Chief Immigration Officer for the passports..

Yours faithfully,

C. R. EDWARDS
Permanent Secretary.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I have the honour to lay the following:

The Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The 8th Annual Report of the National Housing Corporation for the financial year 1st April 1980 to 31st March 1981.

Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the year 1980.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, there are three items on today's Order Paper. Order No. 1 will be managed by me. Order No. 2 will be managed by Senator Howell and Order No. 3 will be managed by Senator Trotman. We are supposed to take them in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper.

RESOLUTION TO CANCEL RESOLUTION No. 64 OF 1982

Order No. 1 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to cancel Resolution No. 64 of 1982 and to approve the guarantee by the Government of the repayment of a sum not exceeding the equivalent of U.S. \$7 500 000 00 and the principal and the interest and other obligations in respect thereof, to be made by the Off-Shore Banking Unit of Barclays Bank International to the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, essentially there is not much point in inviting, from this Senate at least, a debate, since this represents something which Parliament has already debated and given assent to. As it states in the Addendum, we are amending the guarantee because the terms and conditions must conform to the legal document which has been assented to by Parliament. Since that was not the case, it is necessary for us to come here today to seek an amendment so that the two would be in the same terms. That is really all that we are asking.

By way, however, of refreshing the memory of honourable Senators, the reason for the loan is to meet cost overruns in the construction of Portvale and the modernisation of Andrews Factory. The original estimate of the construction of Portvale was \$19 million, but the final estimated cost was \$27.5 million. This excludes transfers to the factory valued at \$1.5 million.

When the original estimate was made, it was felt that any excess expenditure would partly be met in the 1981 crop, but this did not materialise due to the poor harvest and the decline in export receipts, as everybody knows. As a result, the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited resorted to its working capital facility at the Barbados National Bank, the overwhelming part of which became locked up in capital expenditure.
11.15 a.m.

Indeed, this is in the nature of a refinancing of the undertaking, so that the account of the BNB which is intended for working capital would no longer be locked up and it would be used for that purpose.

I do not propose to go any further, because the terms are set out in the Addendum. We have already approved the purpose of the loan by giving assent to the previous Resolution, and since this Resolution is of an amending nature, merely to ensure that everything is in the legal form it should be, I move that this Resolution be now concurred in.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. Deputy President, I wish to support this Resolution.

As the honourable Leader of the Senate has said, this has been debated in this Chamber already since I have been in here. I have nothing much to add other than to say that we in Barbados Sugar Factories required this money since the latter part of last year, and it is essential that we have it as soon as possible. We are carrying it in our working account, and really and truly it should be a long term account, and we are finding it extremely difficult to operate without this loan.

Thank you very much.

The question that the Resolution be concurred in was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE SUM OF US\$10.5 MILLION
FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RE-
CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
(IBRD)

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the borrowing by the Government of the sum of US\$10.5 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for the purpose of assisting in financing the Industrial Credit Fund (ICF) to be managed by the Central Bank of Barbados.

SENATOR St.C. E. HOWELL: Mr. Deputy President, Section 2 of the Special Loans Act enables the Government of Barbados to borrow money from time to time, providing that such sums do not exceed \$200 million. The Act also makes provision that Government should make arrangements for the repayment of such funds as agreed between Government and the lender.

In April this year, an agreement was signed between Government and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, for a loan of U.S.\$10.5 million to assist in the financing of the establishment of an Industrial Credit Fund (ICF). The fund would be managed by the Central Bank.

Broadly speaking, Sir, the purpose of the loan is to assist Government in financing such productive facilities and resources of Barbados as will contribute to the economic development of the country, and also to encourage commercial banking systems to take part in giving intermediate and long term loans.

The areas particularly mentioned are agro-industry, with reference to such things as food processing; manufacturing, for example the construction of factory space; fisheries department, special emphasis on the conversion of smaller boats to larger boats – I think they are thinking here in terms of the ice boats, as it is considered that our fleet should now consist basically of 36 and 40-footers.

Other areas are the tourist industry, with special reference to air conditioning, hot water systems, and in particular energy conservation – the energy conservation is a direct link with that energy conservation programme, Sir – mining and quarrying, and enterprises providing services directly related to the above areas I have mentioned.

The terms of the loan have been set out in the Addendum. Basically it is seen that the loan will generate

employment by creating new jobs. Where the manufacturing sector engages in the export of materials, this would increase our export earnings.

Mr. Deputy President, I beg to move that the Senate concur in this Resolution.

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support this Resolution.

I welcome this loan, I think it is a very timely loan, and at this time I certainly would like to extend our thanks to the World Bank. I think we are indeed fortunate to get a foreign exchange loan of this size to help us in our development.

Unlike some other loans, the Barbados Development Bank is going to be one of the recipients of these funds, as well as the commercial banks, so from that end I am also very pleased.

I would also say that at this stage in our industrial development, the industrial sector here has got to spend lots of money. This loan is going to be able to help them with working capital as well, for a certain number of projects, and this is very exciting to us at the Development Bank. I can assure you even now that we have already started to attract some investors, and I am aware of the fact that we already have about nearly Bds. \$3 million in the pipeline. We have not confirmed the applications, but we certainly have that working on now, Sir. We move quickly at the BDB.

There is just one point I would like to get back at. I have raised it before and I am raising it again, because it is topical at this time. We are aware that the Barbados Manufacturers' Association has a trade exhibition going, and I think it is a very worthwhile exhibition, very well put together, very professional and they must be congratulated, but I think we must have a permanent trade exhibition centre in Barbados. This is a must to send our industrial effort forward, so that people can not only come here just at times of exhibitions, but can come here always and look around and see what Barbados has to offer.

We can become the Miami of the Caribbean in which St. Lucia, Martinique, Grenada and those smaller islands can come here and buy from us. Miami does not actually produce anything, but because of its contacts and because of its centres, it brings business people and it makes a lot of business for the United States.

I think that we could do that here, but we must have our trade exhibition centre, Sir, and I would appeal once more to the Government to consider the need for a permanent trade exhibition centre.
11.25 a.m.

We have seen the example of the furniture manufacturers getting together and starting up on the Spring Garden Highway. They have chosen a very popular place to start their factory, where it will be seen by everybody, and I think that is going to help the furniture industry considerably. But to help the whole industry we need a trade exhibition centre.

I think one of the problems with our manufacturers in Barbados is that they do not have enough brochures to show off their work. A brochure is an expensive thing to produce, but it is a very necessary tool for manufacturers. I am hoping that maybe the Government will consider a project in which they will produce brochures for the industry at this time to get them going, especially for the small fellows who cannot really afford the cost of such brochures. But they are very needed, because we can post them overseas and create business in that way.

So, as I said, the loan is timely. It has a very good feature of long maturity which is needed, and I am quite happy that it is going to be very popular with our industrial sector.

I thank you.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TWO MILE HILL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE BARBADOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Two Mile Hill, St. Michael, for expansion of the Barbados Community College and for housing development.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. Deputy President, the Barbados Community College started classes in 1968. At that time the college had a roll of 600 students and it offered subjects in three divisions, Commerce, Liberal Arts and Science. At present, the college has approximately 1 740 students and there are two new divisions added to the college.

At present, Sir, the college has two campuses. One operates in Two Mile Hill, the new headquarters opened in 1976; and the Health Services Division, which is being taken over from the Ministry of Health, is operating out of Jemmott's Lane.

However, you will appreciate that this does cause some difficulty to the administrators, who have to operate three miles apart, as well as the students, who

are at some disadvantage since there are no laboratory facilities at Jemmott's Lane, which are considered necessary for the students if they are to give us the best results in terms of our input.

It has now been decided that "Morning Side", which is now owned by the Pilgrim Holiness Church, should be acquired to allow the college to expand. At the same time, opportunity would be taken to use some of the acquired property to accommodate an expansion of housing, probably from the Ivy, where all the houses at the Ivy have now been located, and that basically is the reason for the acquisition.

The Hospitality Division, which also is new to the college, has operated for years out of Marine House, and it is considered that the proper place for it is at Two Mile Hill where it can be properly supervised.

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

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: I am just wondering, Sir, I see that this is for the extension of the Community College and also for a housing estate, and I would like to know from the mover of the Resolution if the housing is going to be very close to the Community College.

I really do not think that would be a wise thing to have people living too close to the Community College where a lot of education is being carried on, because it can be very disturbing. And then, depending on the kinds of people living there, you may find that the students might not be able to get on as well as they otherwise might; plus the fact that there might always be the chance of some kind of breaking up of property and loss of very valuable things.

So I would like to know from the Minister responsible here whether the housing estate is going to be very close to the Community College expansion itself, or if it is going to be a reasonable distance away from it. That is all, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. Deputy President, it is my understanding that there is enough room for the housing as well as the college expansion. And whereas the Senator expressed some concern that the housing might be a distraction to the college, I believe that the Ministry of Housing has the view that the people who live around the Community College want to feel that they have something which is a part of them and not an alien institution. So for that reason, it is felt that there should be housing around the college and it should not be cut away from the rest of Barbados and set out at Two Mile Hill.

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: Sir, it is normal practice in a Resolution like this to pass around the plan so that we can look at it, but it does not really give you much idea as to where the property is, and it is put on you a little sudden.

I am wondering, Sir, when our Papers come out, whether they could not be a small plan when we have to do acquisitions, so that one could take a look to see where it is before we come here.

In all honesty, I am at a loss as to where the property "Morning Side" is. I know where the Community College is, but I am not too certain where "Morning Side" is, and from what I have seen of the plan I cannot get it right in a few moments. But certainly if we had a plan, not that large plan, but a small plan printed that would come out with the various Resolutions, we could really go and take a look.

We read about a housing development. The Minister has explained to us that it is not going to be any problem, but I think we should be able to see for ourselves before we come here whether it is a problem or not. So, on this Resolution, while I will support it, at the moment I really do not know what we are acquiring.

I thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I thought the Senator knew it was the Ince's property he did not buy. The property "Morning Side" is one of those properties on the right hand side coming down Two Mile Hill after you pass the place where King Ja Ja stayed and Judge Hanschell's place.

You come into the corner. When you come to the two other properties — the one where Judge Hanschell was, of course, was a former residence of Sir Herbert Greaves, and where the college is is the former residence of Sir Conrad Reeves, and the old Ince property is the property adjoining these two — so that when you come down on the right, there is the rather longish entrance that goes in. I think the property next to it on the main road is the property which used to be Dobbie Douglas' property, but there are few houses along there, so it is very easy to identify the place.

11.35 a.m.

I think one of the churches — was it the Pilgrim Holiness or Wesleyan? There are many, many churches — have bought this, and at the same time the Community College had need of room for expansion because they have got certain things not being done on the main campus.

There are two factors to be considered in this. I heard Senator Trotman refer to the one about housing. I do not know whether Senator Lynch is going to speak

on this Resolution, but certainly she is in a position to enlighten us as to what happens when people in the community are not encouraged to treat an educational institution as though it is part of their community, and therefore the idea of integrating housing with it is evidently a good idea. If people feel that this institution is part of their community, they will take pride in it, and in those circumstances you do not get the vandalism that otherwise seems to take over these days.

The other thing is that if we do not buy this property for the expansion of the Community College — if you look to the north side there is Tichbourne, to the west side there is the general district of the Ivy, and indeed east is Haggatt Hall generally, and again Wonder Bakeries is out there in Haggatt Hall, so you can run straight in there — you will find that you would have either to dislocate a business enterprise or seriously to dislocate people who have lived in that area for a very long time, because the pattern of housing both in the Ivy and in Haggatt Hall is all pretty well settled.

So there really was not much scope in terms of what we would choose for the expansion of the Community College, and it seemed an excellent opportunity for Government to take this other property in for development. But before we could move, we found that somebody else had moved in, so before they got too settled, and therefore before it became too difficult to dislocate them, the Ministry of Education got its business done. This is why the Resolution is before us now, Sir.

The question that this Resolution be now concurred in was put to the Senate and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, I think both Senator Waldron-Ramsay and Mr. Armstrong are going to be a little disappointed, because we have reached the end of the line rather before lunch time. Mr. Armstrong is hoping that Senators will not leave immediately so that his efforts will not have been in vain, and if we do not leave immediately, Dr. Waldron-Ramsay's efforts will not be in vain either.

I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn sine die.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is just an announcement, commercial you might say. The Leader of the Senate who is the Minister of Culture, wants to offer some tickets for the Crop-Over Festival to members of the Senate. They have not yet arrived, but they will be here shortly, and he has asked you to hang on a little until he is able to give this thing.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to.
11.40 a.m.

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