

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Wednesday, 9th March, 1983.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, March 9, 1983, at 11.15 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 J. E. D. Williams

Senator D. A. C. Simmons

Senator Miss J. Clarke

Senator St. C. E. Howell

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 K. A. Rouse

Senator L. A. Ward.

Prayers were read by Rev. Canon I. McK. Jones.

ABSENT

Senator A. P. L. Reece.

OBITUARY SPEECHES RE THE LATE SAMUEL VICTOR ASHBY

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, in the course of the past week we learnt of the death of a former member of the Senate, Samuel Victor Ashby, who was a member of this Chamber from 1966 to 1976.

Mr. Ashby, who was a businessman, was for some time the Chairman of the Board of, the Industrial Development Corporation, and spent a life of public service. I did know him personally, although I did not know him particularly well, but he was someone who was generally well spoken of and who has certainly given a great deal of time and effort to the affairs of this country in the area in which he had greatest expertise, and that is in the business area.

He was the head of an insurance agency and had connections with other business enterprises, BIM beverages company is one that comes readily to mind, Accra Beach Hotel is another, and in all his busy schedules still found time to be seen on the tennis courts.
11.25 a.m.

I believe that Mr. Ashby, who was honoured with the C.B.E., was one of those persons whose passing has certainly made the country poorer, and I would wish to extend condolences on behalf of us all to his bereaved relatives.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Greaves.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, in joining the expression of condolences which has just been made by Senator Barrow on behalf of the late Samuel Victor Ashby, I would like to repeat that this country has lost an outstanding citizen. The late Mr. Ashby, as it were, prepared himself for a world of busi-

ness, if one were to look at the kind of training which he had from very early. He began his working career in the business world, having founded in 1938 the Standard Insurance Company in Barbados, and he was in the insurance field in many other areas up to the time of his death.

As Senator Barrow has said, the late Mr. Ashby played an important role in promoting the industrialisation programme of this country. He was first appointed as a member of the Barbados Development Board in 1958, in 1962 he was appointed Deputy Chairman and he attained the position of Chairman in 1964. Of course, during that time the name of the Board was changed to the Industrial Development Corporation.

He functioned on this Board during the time when one could really say that Barbados' industrialisation programme took off, both in terms of the way in which it provided a number of jobs for many of our young people who were leaving school and in providing a meaningful alternative to the sugar industry. And one would not want to underestimate the kind of contribution which the industrialization programme made towards our general economic welfare and well being.

Mr. Ashby also played an important role in the political affairs of this country. I think it is well known that he was an active member of the Democratic Labour Party and he sat as a member of this Honourable Chamber, I think, on two consecutive sessions, from 1966 – 1976.

But this is not, of course, all of Mr. Ashby's involvement in the life of this country, because he also played an important role in a number of service clubs in this country. He was a founder member of the Rotary Club of Barbados in 1962 and was President of the same club between 1964 and 1965. In the 1950's he was a member of the Executive Council of the Barbados Fire and Accident Association and in 1960 he was elected Chairman of the Executive Council of the Barbados Fire and Accident Association. From 1958 – 1964 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Barbados Automobile Association and, between 1962 – 1964, he was a member of the Barbados Road Safety Association. Of course, he also played a role as an executive member of the Barbados Employees Confederation.

As Senator Barrow has said, with all of these busy activities, yet he was able to find time for recreational activities, and he was a founder of the Lawn Tennis League in 1953 and was an honorary secretary of the Barbados Lawn Tennis Association from 1956 – 1963. He was a keen yachtsman and he also was an executive member of the Barbados Sailing Club from 1960 – 1964. During this time he also found time to serve the Scout

movement, having served as Chairman of the St. Michael's East branch of the Boys Scouts Association from 1960 – 1961.

I think one could see in this kind of activity a citizen of this country who has made an outstanding contribution, who was not selfish in the kind of activities in which he got involved, but whose life was a life of service.

I think that the kind of involvement which he has had in this country is one which a number of people, who are serious about the development of our country and who want to participate actively in the life of our development, could certainly emulate, and I, on behalf of myself and the Democratic Labour Party, want to join Senator Barrow in extending condolences to his relatives.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would wish to associate the Chair with the tributes paid to the late Mr. Ashby in respect of his contributions to public life, political life, business life, and sporting and other activities in this country, and I would direct the Clerk, on behalf of myself and the Senate, to send the usual letter of sympathy to his relatives.

I also regret to inform the Senate of the illness of Senator Mr. Reece. I know you will join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

I now ask the Senate to stand in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect to the late Senator Ashby.

The Senate stood in silence.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 8 and 9 months ended 30th November, and 31st December, 1982 respectively.

Film Censorship (Charges) Regulations 1983.

Film Censorship (Fees and Travelling Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 1983.

The Road Traffic (Road Tax Registration Fee and Permits) (No. 2) Order, 1983.

Report of the Audit of the Accounts of the National Insurance Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1980.

The Estimates, 1983-84.

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Linton.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Mr. President, the report of the Select Committee which was appointed last week to look into the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry Act and the Agricultural Society Act will be ready later on in the day, the Committee having met earlier this morning. In the circumstances, Sir, I seek leave to have this item deferred until later on in the day.
11.35 a.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If there is no objection, this item will be postponed to a later stage in today's proceedings.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, last week the Chamber adopted the Report of the Standing Orders Committee and it is now necessary for us to adopt the Standing Orders as amended in order that those amended Standing Orders can become the effective Standing Orders of the Senate.

I therefore move that the Standing Orders as amended be the Standing Orders of the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This is a formal motion to put into effect what the Senate agreed on at its last meeting.

The question that the Standing Orders as amended be now the Standing Orders of the Senate was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, there is in circulation a Resolution concerning acquisition of land at Waldrans, Christ Church, and we should be asking permission later in the day, Sir, to deal with this.

In the Other Place, there is legislation which has been circulated and which we cannot therefore formally have read a first time right now, but I wanted to draw members' attention to it. It is a Bill for the better administration of land tax, the Land Tax (Amendment) Bill, and it is essential that that be enacted before the 1st April. For that reason, when we meet to do the Appropriation Bill on Monday, March 28, — members should be aware that we will be meeting on the 28th and the 29th, and the 30th if necessary — we will want not

only to deal with the Appropriation Bill, but also with the Land Tax (Amendment) Bill during that sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Sir, we would wish the first Order of the day to be Order No. 2, which is the Cultural Foundation Bill. We are not in a position yet to say whether Order No. 1 will be proceeded with next.

Pause.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Since the amendments to the Factories Bill are here now, I believe that members would prefer to get that out of the way before proceeding with Order No. 2.

At the time when we suspended further debate, we were in Committee, and Senator Simmons had raised a point which had to do with the removal of evidence, which was worded in such a way in the Bill as to suggest perhaps some interference with the powers of the coroner, for one thing, and the Bill had been taken back at that stage. But it was at a very advanced stage in Committee and therefore I prefer, and I am sure members would prefer, if we got that out of the way rather than move to Order No. 2 at this stage, so I would like to reinstate Order No. 1 as the first Order of the day.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Committee reported progress and was given leave by the Senate to sit again on this Factories Bill. The Committee may now resume.

FACTORIES ACT, 1982

Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate resumed Committee on the Factories Bill, SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.
11.45 a.m.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am now satisfied with the amendment that has been submitted in the light of my criticism last week. What the draftsman has done is to remove that wide phrase "any evidence" and has particularized it in the new draft as follows, "any machinery, equipment or substance". So he has limited the powers of the Chief Labour Officer to the removal, or disturbance of "machinery, equipment or substance that is likely to be of assistance in the investigation of an accident", and, to that extent, the supremacy of the coroner's function still remains.

I am obliged to Senator Trotman for having the amendment done so speedily, Sir.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a short observation on this amendment that

we have here and to state that at least I can say that I am happy to see that one of the substantial suggestions which was included in my amendments has been adopted.

There is a bit of a history surrounding this because this was among amendments which were suggested by the Barbados Workers' Union in 1980 when we were asked to make a comment on the first draft to the new Factories Bill. Indeed, the almost exact wording was included in the 1981 Factories Bill and we were very surprised when we read it to discover that this section was taken out, the one which is now being put in.

One of the new recommendations which were made related to this particular sub-clause which is causing this difficulty, and we did submit the idea about "any evidence". But certainly the amendment to the amendment, which we now have, to the extent that "no person shall disturb, alter or remove any machinery, equipment or substance that is likely to be of assistance in the investigation of an accident in a factory unless authorised to do so by the Chief Labour Officer" is acceptable.

Sometimes it might appear as if one is seeking to put all sorts of abridgements on employers, but the whole background to this kind of legislation — for example, making evidence available to trade unions representing workers at the work place, or to the injured person, or friend, or what have you has a history of which we in the Barbados Workers' Union are very conscious, and we have had a number of cases in the past relating to accidents at the work place.

I remember one in particular where one of the Vice Presidents of the Barbados Workers' Union, known as Prior Jones, who was, incidentally, a prominent member of the Barbados Labour Party, was killed at his work place by a fire. To this day, we, as the union representing him, have never been able to get a copy of the Chief Labour Officer's report.

As the law stands at present, the Chief Labour Officer is under no obligation to give us a copy of his report on any accident. As a matter of fact, the law is very, very explicit in this regard, that he cannot disclose information to anybody at all, at all, not even to the relatives of the person, to the attorney-at-law representing the person or to the trade union representing the person. So even if you come to a point where one would need evidence to pursue a matter, that has some difficulty. We have had that experience.

We have had experience where employers have removed evidence after accidents to frustrate the investigations of the Chief Labour Officer. That accident at Central Foundry was one of them. There have been a number of other accidents where the employers go in and

remove evidence so as to either relieve themselves of responsibility or to make it appear as if they are better in terms of keeping equipment in the factory and so on than they really are.

11.55 a.m.

I think this is a fundamental amendment, one which will do a lot to ensure that this section of the Bill has some strength and one which, I am sure, will be welcome not only by the Barbados Workers' Union, but workers, generally speaking, and attorneys-at-law will be pleased that this particular amendment has been included.

Thank you.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I just want to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that there is still the amendment making provision for the new subsection 5: "Any person who contravenes subsection (1) or (3) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$250 or imprisonment for six months or both."

The question that Part XI, as amended, stand part was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Part XII was called.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, earlier in the debate in the Committee we agreed to change the definition of "safety organisation" and we agreed then that we would call it "health and safety". It would therefore mean a change in the various clauses of this section. Wherever "safety organisation" is mentioned, it would now become "safety and health organisation".

I beg to move that Part XII as amended stand part.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Again, Mr. Chairman, I think the amendment which I had proposed earlier on, relative to including "health" before "safety" as the description of this Part, is an amendment which will tidy up the entire Bill, and also wheresoever "safety" appears in this section we will want to add "health". It has the effect of impressing upon the minds of people that we are concerned not only with the safety of workers relative to the use of machinery, but we are also concerned about the safety of workers in the use of substances and chemicals and whatever, and that the organisation which is established in this particular section, health and safety committees as they will now be called, are committees which are designed to promote safety and health in the work place.

I want to make the point that, for practical purposes, this section as it exists has been written by the

Barbados Workers' Union. However, there are still a couple of amendments which I would like to suggest. I had made some proposals to include some other words which would, in my view, strengthen the entire application of this particular section, and I know they were submitted to the Government. Senator Trotman had a copy of the amendments. Judging from the document which has been circulated as the motion for the amendments to the Bill, I do not see this included here, but I would like to prevail on Senator Trotman and the Government benches for a little time to argue my point about some of the proposals which I had suggested for amendment.

Let us not necessarily deal with them in the order in which they appear, but let us turn to page 154, at the bottom, 3(e). At present it says "The employees' representative may conduct tests and take samples of hazardous materials" and then it goes on to (f). I think that this is an important development, and an important inclusion in this particular area.

Now one may ask what capabilities would the employees' representatives have — presumably they could either by trade union representatives or the representatives on the Health and Safety Committees — to take and conduct various tests. The point is that certainly they can draw on a number of areas to get the various tests done. I think it is a substantial inclusion here, but I would like to think that we could go a little further — it would not do violence to any of the subclauses in this particular section — and add, after "and", may accompany any Government inspector on a tour of inspection". Of course you would add "and" after that to tie in with (f).

The reason why I am suggesting this particular amendment is that it would complement this particular area, because you give the employees' representative at the work place an opportunity to conduct tests and take samples of hazardous materials. These would be tests to do with chemicals, noise levels, ventilation, heat, light and those kinds of tests. You will also give them an opportunity to take samples of materials that could be hazardous to their health. But there is also another aspect, the question of machinery, and there could be dangerous machinery, there could be slippery floors, where maybe an inspector going through might not be as thorough as he should be, but a person who is working in the work place would be able to point these things out and demonstrate to the inspector some of the areas which might need to be looked at in the particular factory.

Some people might say this is being disloyal, but I really do not see how this could be regarded as being disloyal, because, as I said in my original presentation, it is the responsibility of the employer to provide a safe and healthy working environment for the worker. This is his major responsibility; he has to do that. Nobody can help

him do that except the help comes when it comes for investigating or for looking at this. This is where the factory inspector comes in, and the rôle which the health and safety committee would play would be like a watchdog, to ensure that all these things are observed, and that proper standards are kept.

I think that it would be useful to give the representatives of the workers an opportunity, if they so desire, because we are not saying that they must accompany, but if they so desire they should be given the opportunity to accompany the Government inspector on a tour of duty. The inspectors are not going to be touring the factories every day or every week. As a matter of fact, they might not even tour the factories in accordance with the legislation, which I think is every year, because they might just not be able to get around, but I believe that when such an inspection takes place, the representatives of the workers should have an opportunity to accompany the factory inspector on the tour.

I would also like to ask the Government to give some consideration, if we turn back to page 153, to adding after (b) a clause (c) and the wording which I had suggested to that (c) in the amendment that I had put up is as follows:

"To co-operate with the trade union in arranging training programmes for workers in the area of occupational safety and health".

I think this will have the effect of strengthening this particular aspect of the Bill.

12.05 p.m.

You will recall that I referred to the fact that there can be a fine imposed on a worker if he breaks any of the provisions of the legislation. It is our belief, Sir, that if you are going to impose a fine on a worker in this particular situation, the worker should be given an opportunity to know about the legislation and about a wide range of things relating to safety and health. It is for the benefit of the worker and, I am also submitting, to the benefit of the employer, because any employer who is progressive would recognize that it is in his interest to ensure that he has people in his work place who are very well informed in the area of occupational safety and health.

We believe that since a lot of training has to be done in this particular area, since, for example, workers have to be brought up to date and become *au fait* with this legislation, and if the safety delegates are going to be able to function in any meaningful way, then they have

to know what is provided for in this Bill, time has to be taken to go through this Bill to do a synopsis of it in order to explain various aspects of it.

I am submitting that this opportunity is an opportunity which, at present, is being created solely by the Barbados Workers Union in the training programmes at the Labour College. But I believe, Sir, that we ought to be able to have a situation where we can institutionalize this particular arrangement and insure that the employers know that this is something which has to be done. I am submitting that it would be for the betterment of the employer, for the improvement in the work place and, generally speaking, of the working environment, and I am proposing that some more mature consideration be given to this, and the point that I made be included in the proposed amendments.

If we can go to page 155, I have proposed three amendments to this section - (g), (h) and (i). Under (g), I am proposing that we should add the following words: "Employees shall be guaranteed full wages in the event that his work place is closed by a health and safety stop work order."

Let us look at that. Again, it might appear that this is something which is designed to get at an employer, but it certainly is not. I think it will have the effect of impressing upon the employer the seriousness of safety and health in terms of what it means to the people who are working at his place.

We could conceivably have a situation where a factory inspector will go into a factory, or into a working situation covered by this Act, and see something which is taking place. It could be a process or, who knows, he could visit the Barbados Nail Company and, in testing the noise levels there, discover that it is 110 decibels, when it is generally acceptable that people should not be exposed to a noise level above 85 to 90 decibels. You are sure as night follows day, or the other way around, whichever way it is, that people who are working in that situation are going to go deaf after a certain time, and it could very well be that the factory inspector based on the powers which he has under this legislation, might decide that this factory has to stop operating until the employers can get this thing right.

I know that there have been situations where factory inspectors have asked employers to put a number of things right in the factory, things which are clearly wrong, and which they have refused to do. But I do not believe that the factory inspector has the kind of power under the existing legislation to institute a stop.

What I am saying is that if you have a situation where the factory inspector takes this kind of action, then that is not the responsibility of the worker. If the worker goes on strike, whether it is a strike which is authorised by the union or a wild cat strike, he does not get paid. This is very, very clear. He does not get paid by the employer, he has to look for other means. Therefore, if something happens through the fault of an employer, through his carelessness, neglect, or through his insensitivity he is carrying on a process which could be dangerous and damaging to people who are working in the factory, and the factory inspector, using the authority under this legislation, stops process and as a result people are not able to work, I am saying that the worker should be guaranteed his full wages in that situation.

This is what this amendment is seeking to do. It is a very very reasonable proposition, and I will hope that that will be taken care of. I realise that Senator Trotman is sleeping, but I hope, Sir, that, since he is piloting the Bill through the Senate, he would at least wake up and pay some attention to what I am saying.

Sir, under (h), I would not be particularly forceful on this one, but I think it has some merit, I am proposing the following words:

"Employees carrying out health and safety responsibilities shall be paid their full wages and shall not be discriminated against for carrying out such functions."

I would not bother to push that because I think this is something which would be almost axiomatic.

Knowing the kind of people we have to deal with, and the kind of experiences which we have had, sometimes you have to spell out every little thing for people. I am not one of these people who believe that everything should be included in legislation. But when you are dealing with people who are so difficult, legislation must give some very clear direction to such persons.

Even though I think that the amendment is a useful one, I would not be as forceful on it as I would be on (g) and on the other two which I had mentioned. As far as I am concerned, I would not bother even to propose that one. I would withdraw that particular one. But I hope, Sir, that the Government would look at the suggestions which I have made, to add a (c) under (b) on page 153, with the words which I have indicated; to add on page 154, at the bottom, (e) with the words I have indicated, and to add (g) on page 155. I would like to move those amendments and hope that the Government would take kindly to those suggestions.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, I think I understand the two amendments that Senator Greaves is seeking to have accepted by the Government. Although I understand them, Sir, at this stage I wish to record my

dissent from them. As I understood it last week, the Government intends to have a continuing surveillance of the operations of this legislation, and I believe it may be complicating the legislation unnecessarily at this stage, Sir, to include the proposed amendments.

12.15 p.m.

Now, take the first one, page 153. I believe that even though Senator Greaves is seeking to have some specificity – is that the word, Sir? If it is not a word, I have just made it up and you will hear it being passed into the language according to Simmons – but as I understand it, he is seeking to have as clause (c) some words like “co-operate with the trade union with the development of training programmes.” I understand his zeal for having the classes at the Labour College increased. I do not believe, of course, that that was a primary motive for the submission of this proposed amendment, but what I wish him to consider is whether what he is proposing is not really already covered in subclause (a), not spelt out as he would wish, but, in my submission, covered.

“Every employer in a factory shall (a) consult with his employees or their representatives for the purposes of developing measures to promote the safety and health at such factory.”

Can we not envisage, Mr. Chairman, a situation where the workers' representatives, properly briefed in this Act by persons like Senator Greaves and members of the union, will be told one of the things you must consult with your employer about is to get training programmes organised? I do not believe that there are any employers in Barbados now who resist, or resist vehemently, the opportunity to give their employees training at the Labour College.

I think that embraced in the words “to consult for the purpose of developing measures to promote safety and health” are such things like the organisation of training programmes. I believe that Senator Greaves' specific requirement is already met by the general language of 102(1)(a), and to that extent I would say to the Government that I do not believe that at this stage it would be necessary to further complicate it, having regard to the premise I used earlier about ongoing surveillance on the Bill.

Secondly, he was trying to suggest that if a factory inspector orders the closing of a business, then the employee should not thereby suffer financially because it has nothing to do with him. That is a point that is worthy of consideration, Sir, but again I think it involves a lot more than we around this table should today just accept by way of submission from Senator Greaves and say, “let us include it”.

Sir, I have not given it the depth of thought perhaps that it would require, and I am not volunteering a legal opinion, but I wonder, and perhaps Senator Barrow or Senator Howell might consider it. Where Government intervenes and brings to an end a contract, is not that a circumstance which renders the contract frustrated and to which the provisions of the Frustrated Contracts Act – I do not remember the chapter – would apply?

Aside.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: My learned Q.C., Senator Trotman, says yes. He is leading me in this. If that is so, Sir, then I think the situation is covered by the Frustrated Contracts Act, Cap. 202, so that the employee would have recourse already in the law, to the provisions of the Frustrated Contracts Act, and would be no worse off.

I would just counsel Senator Greaves that even though there is merit in the recommendations, definitely, I think that for the time being they are already taken care of in a very wide way, albeit in the existing legislation, in terms of 102(1)(a) already providing for the first situation that he envisages, and the Frustrated Contracts Act perhaps governing the second situation he put before us.

I am obliged to Your Honour.

The question that Part XII stand part of the Bill was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Part XIII was called.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Part XIII stand part of the Bill.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, this is the Part dealing with Regulations and Rules. This is a very, very important part of the Bill, because some of the replies which were given to some points which I raised in the main debate on Second Reading indicated that a number of these areas are going to be covered under the Regulations and the Rules.

There are provisions under this section for a wide range of regulations. I would want to get a response from Senator Trotman on the question of the preparation of these regulations and how soon – I do not mean next week or tomorrow – he can give some indication as to what we can look forward to as far as early preparation of these regulations are concerned. If these regulations are not prepared, then almost the entire Bill, will be frustrated. It will have little or no effect if the regulations are not prepared.

There is a lot of work to be done in the preparation of these regulations. I know that. I know, for example, that in some countries where regulations have to be prepared it has taken a number of years, but I think what should be done is that a number of key ones, which would make the Bill operational almost immediately, should be drafted and put into operation as soon as possible, and work should continue privately on the others. Because, as I said, it is a very important area of the Bill, and I would just want to indicate to the Government that they should move full speed ahead in this particular area.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. Chairman, I know that some work has been started on the regulations, and I believe that the Ministry is trying to do comprehensive regulations. However, I do take the point mentioned by Senator Greaves that maybe some regulations could be advanced while the others wait a bit, and if he would indicate what interest he has I could get the Ministry of Labour to consult with his organisation as to the speeding up of those particular regulations rather than wait for the comprehensive regulations to be prepared. If he could indicate that privately, I will have it done for him.

The question that Part XIII stand part of the Bill was put to the Senate and agreed to.
12.25 p.m.

PARTS XIII - XV were called and agreed to.

The First, Second and Third Schedules were called and agreed to.

On motion of Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN, the Senate was resumed and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, Sir, I beg to report the passing of one Bill in Committee with the following amendment:

In the definition Section, "Safety Committee" has been amended to read "Health and Safety Committee" with the resulting effect that in Section 102, Part XII, the caption becomes "Health and Safety Organization." rather than "Safety Organization", and wherever "safety" is used in that Part, it now becomes "health and safety."

The other amendments, Sir, were circulated earlier:

In Clause 67(1), delete the word "clear" appearing in the second line of paragraph (d) and substitute therefor the word "clean".

In Clause 76(2) (a) delete the words "where they are used in common by employees of more

than one factory occupying the building." and insert immediately after the words "clean state" appearing at the end of subclause the words "except where they are used in common by employees of more than one factory occupying the building."

In Clause 94, delete the first four lines of subclause (2) and substitute therefor the following:

"Notwithstanding subsection (1), where the circumstances so require, the Chief Labour Officer with the approval of the Minister or the Chief Medical Officer with the approval of the Minister responsible for Health, may".

In Clause 101(a) by deleting sub-clauses (2) and (3) and substituting therefor the following:

"(2) notwithstanding subsection (1) an inspector or other person referred to in that subsection may disclose information respecting any process carried on in a factory,

(a) in the case of a person injured while engaged in employment at a factory, to

(i) an attorney-at-law representing the person,

(ii) the injured person or any relative or friend authorised by the injured person,

(iii) any trade union representing workers in the factory, and

(iv) the personal representative of the deceased in any case where an injury results in death, and

(b) to an attorney-at-law representing the occupier of the factory.

(3) No person shall disturb, alter or remove any machinery, equipment or substance that is likely to be of assistance in the investigation of an accident in a factory unless authorised to do so by the Chief Labour Officer.

(b) by adding the following sub-clause as sub-clause (5) thereof:

"(5) any person who contravenes subsection (1) or (3) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$250 or imprisonment for 6 months or both."

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: This Bill as amended has now been passed. The Clerk will take the usual steps to have the amendments sent.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I move that at this stage we take the item Report from Select Committees.

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Mr. President, the Reports of the Select Committee, which was appointed to consider and report on the Bill to replace the Barbados Chamber of Commerce (Incorporation) Act 1868 and the Bill to amend the Agricultural Society's Act 1890, have been prepared and sent to honourable members.
12.35 p.m.

These reports, Mr. President, are self-explanatory, and it is my task to seek the leave of the Senate to lay them this afternoon. But before seeking that leave, Mr. President, I would just like to draw the attention of Senators to the report concerning the Barbados Chamber of Commerce Incorporated Act 1868.

Members will observe from the final paragraph of that report that the concern which was expressed by Senator Greaves regarding the absence of any provision relating to commercial enterprises in section 4 (d) of the Bill was discussed and fully considered by the Committee. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. President, the Committee was of the unanimous opinion that although Senator Greaves' point was quite valid, it would be very inconvenient to amend the Bill in such a fashion as to accommodate his point at this time.

Members further felt, Mr. President, that Clause 4 (p) of the Bill, if used properly, would in fact be adequate to take care of the genuine concerns which were raised by Senator Greaves. In the circumstances, Mr. President, the point was not pursued any further and the Committee closed discussion on that Bill.

So far as the other Bill is concerned, the Committee examined the various clauses of this Bill and it was passed without amendment.

I now therefore beg to lay the Reports of the Select Committee.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The usual procedure under our Standing Orders is that when reports from Select Committees are laid, they are printed and circulated. Under

the present circumstances, since no amendments have been made to these Bills, the Senate may well feel that it is prepared to accept that motion that the Select Committee reports on these Bills be adopted so that the matters could be cleared today. I would like to take the feeling of the House in regard to the procedural aspect. Is it your pleasure that we may be able to proceed with a motion to adopt these reports and continue the further stages of the Bill? Is that the pleasure of the House?

The Senate indicated agreement.

BARBADOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ACT, 1982

On the motion of Senator Miss J. CLARKE seconded by Senator H. R. LINTON, the report of the Select Committee on the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bill was adopted.

On separate motions of Senator Miss J. CLARKE seconded by Senator St. C. E. HOWELL, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1982

On the motion of Senator Miss J. CLARKE seconded by Senator H. R. LINTON, the report of the Select Committee on the Barbados Agricultural Society (Amendment) Bill was adopted.

On separate motions of Senator Miss J. CLARKE seconded by Senator St. C. E. HOWELL, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, there are three other Bills standing in my name. Order No. 2 is going to be handled by me, Order No. 3, the Captive Insurance is to be managed by Senator Griffith, and the Town Planning Bill by Senator Trotman. After that, when we come to deal with the Resolution on Waldrons I shall take care of that. So Order No. 2 should be the next Order.

THE NATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION ACT, 1983

Order No. 2 was called – to move the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of a cultural foundation.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, the Constitution of Barbados guarantees that every person is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms

of the individual, that is to say, the right, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, but subject to the respect of the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest, to each and all of the following, namely, life, liberty and security of the person, protection for the privacy of his home and other property and from deprivation of property without compensation; protection of the law, freedom of conscience, of expression and of assembly and association.

Sir, the fundamental rights protected by the Constitution, one can see immediately are very wide, and the reason I refer to them is that if we talk about culture, we are talking about the totality of man, and therefore we need to understand how our own Constitution sees the individual and sees what are his essential attributes.

No document is ever complete when it comes to dealing with matters of this sort, and therefore we cannot expect even in our Constitution to find any sufficient description that would lead us all to unanimity as to exactly what culture is and what cultural policy therefore should be. But suffice it to say that, as a Government, we see our duty as the interpretation of culture in its widest sense and to give real meaning to the universal declaration of human rights to which Barbados is a signatory, and which states that everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and share in scientific advancements and its benefits, hereby implying not only the right to enjoy the products of others, but the right to produce for others.

The development of the individual must therefore be, Sir, at the centre of policy considerations, and in order to develop and consolidate these individuals into a nation, our policy must be to try and develop the talents of each individual of which the nation is composed, and to influence his or her attitude in such a way that he or she would be motivated to use these talents for the good of the community. If that sounds familiar, it is because it is the stated philosophy of the Ministry of Education as spelt out in relation to primary schools in Barbados.

12.45 p.m.

It is an appropriate statement because it shows the essential linkages between cultural policies and educational policies. Of course, the linkages do not stop there, because there are essential linkages between cultural policies and economic policies. If we talk about national development in any sense, whether we are talking about national economic development or what, we must understand that the acceptance and participation in policy formulation by the country at large is essential, because development that does not relate to the culture of a people is development which will, at the very most, be short lived, and at the very worse, will introduce alienation.

So, Sir, we freely recognize in this country the right to an education at all of its various levels, the right to engage in intellectual and ecstatic activities as audience or as participants, the right to freely participate in the cultural life of a community and, as stated before, the right to human rights, economic, social, civil, political and cultural.

That, Sir, is as far as I intend to make any statement which reflects in a general philosophical framework. I do not think that it is necessary to say more than that, and I believe, indeed, that it would be pedantic to continue any longer in that vein. Just let me say that cultural development should provide a greater fulfillment in life, more creative satisfaction in work and leisure, more citizens' participation in decision making, greater community participation in planning, and a better conservation of the resources of nature and a more attractive and less polluted environment.

The objectives, therefore, of our cultural development policy are to achieve national unity and identity through the recognition of cultural diversity, to attain a high level of cultural awareness among Barbadians through the harmonization and co-ordination of cultural policies and rehabilitation of cultural practices, to realize high standards of aesthetic excellence as well as economic viability for cultural activities, to develop a cultural system capable of protecting the cultural heritage of a country, respecting the cultural initiatives of Barbadians, and making culture an integral part of national development.

I could go on to say more in terms of objectives but that would lead me to the Government's pledges on pages 21 and 22 of the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party for the General Elections of 1981. We will find there, set out in the way that a manifesto sets things out, so that specific things meet the eyes, that the Government is committed to a number of things: scholarships, international assistance for studies in the creative arts, a National Arts and Cultural Council to be made a statutory board, and that of course, is the point at which we are today.

We have varied our direction there in that we have now quite definitely come to the conclusion that it is essential to have a national advisory body in culture. We must never allow ourselves to be exposed to any kind of thought that says two or three people can determine cultural policies for this country are or should be, and we must therefore have a national advisory body on culture, which would advise the Minister in the formulation of cultural policies.

In fact, I have a long list of names here, because, in trying to make sure that there is adequate representation of all interests that ought to be represented, we find

ourselves with names perhaps numbering thirty or more. What we are hoping is that once we can reach a sufficient number of persons reflecting a sufficient diversity of interest, then sub-cultures can be taken one by one and committees of the National Advisory Council can sit and, as an ongoing process, advise the Minister not only in relation to things that the Minister asks, but also in relation to things about which the council itself feels the Minister should be advised.

So we are not now talking about reshaping the council so that it becomes a statutory board in the administration of cultural property, what we are talking about is keeping that as an advisory board and establishing a statutory board to give efficient management to execute the policies which we have settled on.

You will see, Sir, for example, that we are committed to the establishment of a National Art Gallery. We know of the management of free-standing equipment, the management of theatres, scholarships for persons in the arts, the establishment of local and parish cultural committees — we are currently working on those parish councils — support services from the Ministry of Culture with responsibility of planning local cultural activities — a whole number of things which I believe I do not need go over. I am fairly sure that members of this Chamber are very familiar with the provisions with what is between the covers of the manifesto. My friend, Senator Greaves quotes from it so frequently that I cannot have any doubt about that.

But there is one thing there, the revision, refinement and improvement of NIFCA and Crop Over. I believe that already, by a policy which relates to greater community involvement in not only participating, but in the planning of festivals, we are already making a breakthrough in this area. We certainly are running the festivals rather more cheaply — cheap not in terms of quality, but in terms of cost to the Treasury.

The provision which the Bill seeks to make, therefore, Sir, is for statutory machinery; and in the brief which I have before me, it points out, Sir, that the formation of a Ministry of Information and Culture, embracing not only what was previously the Division of Culture but also the Youth and Community Development Division and the Women Affairs Bureau, is probably the way to reorganising the Governmental machinery for the administration of cultural affairs. In addition, the responsibility for managing the substantial cultural assets acquired at the time of CARIFESTA, has imposed on Government the need to create machinery for the more efficient performance of what is really a business activity. There is, of course, the theatre in Queens Park House, the theatre in the Queens Park Steel Shed; there is

a fully-equipped theatre at Combermere School and, as I mentioned before, there is the free-standing equipment, of which there is abundance, which we have now managed to get properly stored in conditions where it should not fall prey to dust which destroys electronic equipment so effectively, and on which there is an ever-growing demand from people to rent that equipment.

12.55 p.m.

We think that the equipment is worth about a million dollars, and we have got two persons in the Ministry who currently have to deal with this and theatres. Then there is the staff of the National Conservation Commission which still, until April 1, is involved in renting out and making sure that things are kept clean and so on.

I noticed during debate in the Other Place that there was some misunderstanding. Somebody talked about the foundation being of too limited scope. I believe it is appropriate for me to say that while we are talking about getting the business activity of the Ministry under the control of the foundation for its efficient dispatch, nobody has ever suggested, nor does the legislation in any way imply, that the scope of the foundation should be merely that.

Indeed, Sir, it does say that it will assume responsibility for the planning, organisation and, conduct of festivals. How about the setting up and management of agencies to encourage cultural expression, for example, the National Art Gallery, the obtaining and, later, funding of scholarships, the acquisition of funds for finance and research, the acquisition of artistic treasures and, now comes the big one, generally the encouragement of cultural activity in Barbados.

I think we have to recognise that with that kind of scope, if the Foundation should be able to find its feet early and firmly enough, and be able to do the kind of job that those of us who have confidence in it anticipate, that the whole executive arm of Government in the administration of cultural affairs may well be shifted in the not too distant future entirely into the Foundation. As long as it is properly functioning and has shown the potential to manage those affairs more effectively and efficiently, then the logic of the situation would be to shift the executive machinery entirely into the Foundation and to have at Ministry level a small policy body, you just need a small staff to deal with policy. There is absolutely no reason, if the challenge is there, for us not to set up the machinery that can enable us to meet the challenge. That is really the potential of the Foundation.

As the Bill indicates, the Foundation will be managed by a Board of not less than seven and not more than eleven, of whom one will be Chairman and one will

be Deputy Chairman. The Act makes provision for the Minister to give directions of a general nature on policy matters. The Foundation is required to submit a report not later than the 30th June in each year, a detailed account of its activities in the preceding financial year, and a statement of its audited accounts. The documents are to be laid on the Tables of both Houses.

And if we look at the Bill, Sir, Part I deals with the functions: to stimulate and generally facilitate the development of culture; to develop, maintain and manage theatres and other cultural activities provided by the Government, the organisation of cultural festivals. I think people who talk about the scope as being limited overlook No. 1, to stimulate and facilitate the development of culture generally. That is, I believe, the widest possible mandate that any such foundation could be given.

I have already mentioned Part II, dealing with the composition of the funds and resources, and disbursements of such funds. Then there is the way in which you would use those funds and the proper keeping of accounts and so on.

Before I sit down, Sir, I need to advert to the debate which took place in the Other Place, and in that debate a number of people had quite a bit to say. Before I sit I think it would only be wise for me to ensure that no Senator is without the information which would prevent him from being misled by any statement which might have been made with a resounding inaccuracy in the Other Place.

As I understand it, the President of the Democratic Labour Party spoke for a long time in his capacity as the Member for St. Michael West, and, in the course of so doing, he said something about the Ministry not giving him assistance in something which he was doing in St. Michael West.

The facts are that the St. Michael West Independence Committee made a request to the Ministry for equipment and stages, but did not specify how many stages or what equipment. When asked to submit a list of equipment, no list was ever submitted. The Ministry then contacted the Committee and they were allocated stages which they were asked to pick up after the parade at the Garrison, and they did pick them up. The stages were made available free of cost and were to be returned to Bay Street. They enjoyed them free of cost, but instead of returning them to Bay Street, they dumped them in the driveway at Culloden Farm.

I believe the facts here would suggest that they should not have got the assistance, but the fact is they got it and they will get it again. All we want to know is that they will behave a little more responsibly next time. All sorts of groups get assistance from the Ministry, and it

is unfortunate that Mr. Taitt sought to give the impression that there was any political preference in this regard. But those are the facts and we cannot possibly do more than we did in a situation like that.

They did not specify what they wanted, although they were asked to do so. They did not submit any list although they were asked to do so. The Ministry then exercised the initiative, contacted them, made the arrangements, let them have what they wanted, and then we were told that we did not help. I think that is, at least, unfortunate.

Incidentally, Sir, that was a time when there was the highest possible demand for stages, because Colonel Lewis wanted some for the parade the morning and he was vex because he could not get as many as he wanted. We had to have some at Ilaro Court for the reception the night, the St. Andrew Festival wanted some, and what we did was to parcel out as best we could, because we do have a limited number of stages.

But it would be untrue to state that we did not give the assistance to Mr. Taitt and his group which they asked for. In fact, we gave more than they asked for, because they never asked specifically for what they wanted. They really did not ask for anything and they got something, so I suppose it is true they did not get what they asked for.

The other thing is, I understand that what probably got Mr. Taitt into that mistake was that he was talking for a long time to hold on for Mr. Simmons to come to make the main speech for the Opposition, and when he came he apparently spoke for about ten minutes, and what I saw reported in the newspaper suggested that he said nothing, but anyhow he got on the front page of *The Advocate*.

He also made a statement which it is necessary for me to correct, because Mr. Keith Simmons said that the Høletown Festival did not receive any assistance from the Ministry of Culture. Now, having had to see Mr. Alfred Pragnell, who is the person who really does all the work for the Høletown Festival while Mr. Simmons gets the credit, I was quite astounded when I noticed that Mr. Simmons said they had got no assistance.

1.05 p.m.

Again, I caused an enquiry to be made, and the facts are as follows. The Høletown Festival was provided with stages, sound and lighting equipment. Having made arrangements with a private contractor to provide sound systems, the Festival Committee at the last moment determined that this proposition was too expensive and requested the Ministry of Culture to assist them in making equipment available. The Ministry made that equipment available at a nominal fee.

There was criticism, too, about the stages not being in fit condition for performances, and I wish to take this opportunity to make an appeal to persons who use the stages. The stages which we have are not stages which should be used for general dancing purposes. They are slightly more delicate matter than to be used for that. They are stages which dancing groups use for performances and, therefore, we are all the poorer when people borrow stages for one purpose and use them for another. They are not made to take the abuse and the beating that some people will take them and subject them to.

I want to make this appeal to those people who use the Ministry's equipment, when you borrow the equipment for one purpose, use it for that purpose. When you know you should not leave it out in the rain, do not leave it out in the rain, as often happens. When you know it is to go back to Bay Street and be put back under cover, do not dump it in the driveway at Culloden Farm like Mr. Taitt and so on.

Really, what happens is that the country gets poorer because it is wastage; we are wasting money then having to rebuild and repair stages when, in fact, for the demand that we have, we do not have enough stages. We are faced with a challenge of increasing the number to meet the need, and then, in addition to this, we have them treated like this, so, it is a self-defeating problem.

There were comments also, Sir, on the Music School. I believe that the Minister of Education did point out that discussions are currently going on concerning the establishment of a Music School.

Now, in conjunction with individuals, Sir, the Ministry of Culture has been running a course in Theory and Arranging, a course in Percussion, a course in Guitar, all in conjunction with the Barbados Community College. I believe over the air every morning you will hear the advertisement of a course in Theory and Arranging being taught by Mr. Roett, and you will hear that this has the support of the Ministry of Information and Culture. There are a number of things which we cannot do ourselves, which we will give the necessary assistance and support to in the interest of the country generally.

In terms of the National Orchestra, I believe there are many of us here who already know that a feature of last year's Crop Over Festival was the use of a festival band and that is one of the ways, Sir, in which you move on to developing a National Orchestra, because you tend in that way to bring together the best of your musical talents. I am not suggesting that is all, that that is the only thing, but that is one of the ways in which we achieve it.

We are also looking at the idea of a National Youth Orchestra and the whole approach, of course, to the mass teaching of music has the whole support of the ministry.

We are running courses training people to operate the equipment. I do not think people understand how important that is, Sir, but you can go and put all sorts of sophisticated equipment in the theatres and have a lot of sophisticated, highfaluting free-standing equipment, and then when you come to perform, you find that the equipment does not give you what you expect.

One investment creates the need for another. When you buy equipment, you have to train the personnel who can operate it properly, otherwise, again, you are doing nothing but wasting money. So we are running courses training people in this respect. I have already referred to the fact that there is a very high demand for the equipment.

One other point raised, Sir, is that the level of staffing for the Foundation initially seems to be very low. Sir, as I recall, it will have an executive secretary, it will have a couple of clerk/typists, a storekeeper with some technical training, so that when equipment comes back in he can go and do the routine tests, — if your man can do the routine tests then routine maintenance can be done on contract, — a supervisor for the theatre, a very small staff indeed.

But the point is, why do you go and start with a large staff and then find out later that you have staffed wrong and that you have to put a whole lot of people out of work, when you can go to it the other way, building gradually, ask the Foundation which will be in place before the end of this month, ask the Foundation to take a small load of responsibility at first, and as it expands, it will know what are the directions in which staffing must expand. As the Foundation grows, so then will the demands for staff. The real demands will be evident and in this way we should not have too much of a mix-up.

As I have said before, should it continue in the way I, for one, anticipate, then I would expect in the not too distant future that the Foundation, as a vibrant organization, will be a full executive arm of the Ministry of Culture.

I also want to make a point, Sir. It has been the practice for a long time to look at culture as though it does not have things that people, for example, in a business community have anything to do with. I believe that is one of the more fundamental mistakes of taking too narrow a view of what culture is all about, and when the names of the persons appointed to the Cultural Foun-

dation are announced, we are not only going to find representatives of the artistic community among those names, but also representatives of the business community.

The society as a whole must be committed to the development of its culture. If that is so, then it is extremely important that those who know about how to raise funds, and who perhaps are in a position to help fund, are involved from the very beginning in the overall exercise so that our Cultural Foundation, the Cultural Foundation for all Barbadians, should be put on the right foot immediately and should be able to develop as quickly as possible into the kind of national instrument that we would wish it to be.

I move, Sir, that this Bill be read a second time.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think that perhaps it might be best to suspend at this stage and come back afterwards.

Just before I take the suspension, I have had notice of a Private Member's Motion from Senator Greaves. Senator Greaves, unfortunately, has to go to a funeral and I have given him permission to give notice of his motion at this stage.

1.15 p.m.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTION

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Whereas the Severance Payment Act Cap. 355A makes provision for severance pay in cases of redundancy

And Whereas many workers in Barbados are being made redundant on an increasingly regular basis

And Whereas many of these redundant workers experience extreme difficulty in obtaining severance pay from their employers

BE IT RESOLVED that this Chamber calls on the Government to amend the Severance Payments Act so as to make provision, *inter alia*, for severance to be paid to a worker who is eligible for such within a stipulated period of three months

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any severance pay due and owing to the worker after this period should bear interest at the current commercial bank rate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let the Resolution be placed on the Order Paper.

This sitting will be suspended until 2 o'clock.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: This sitting is resumed.

It is proposed that the Bill be now read a second time.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. President, I, for one, cannot think of any sane reason for opposing the passage of this Bill on the basis of its objectives, which are, let me say at once, noble enough, for the Bill represents, first of all, an acknowledgment by Government that there are aspects of the infrastructure of our development which cannot safely be left to private enterprise and, secondly, that culture and the arts are legitimate areas of Government participation and involvement.

There was a time, of course, when the patronage and the support of the arts and of artists was the responsibility and the work of private individuals, and certainly some of the greatest art in the world was produced under these circumstances. These circumstances, however, did not include a society such as ours, displaced, a society, as Edward Brathwaite calls it, of arrivals. All of us here have come from somewhere else, therefore the system of patronage which would reward people who were interpreting their environment artistically did not lie with us. In those circumstances, it would be reasonable to expect that Governments, recognising the importance of cultural and artistic activities, had to fill the vacuum.

For a long time these countries were, of course, colonial territories, and therefore we had engrafted on our psyches a notional culture which did not really include anything that concerned us most deeply. Happily those days are now over, and, ever since the beginning of the Sixties, Caribbean Governments, with increasing seriousness, have seen that culture and the arts are now important elements in their development structures, and culture itself has come to mean something much wider and deeper than it used to mean.

I think it is a waste of time, as the Leader of the Senate suggested, to go on arguing about what culture is — we know pretty well what it is, we have a notion of what culture is — but I would like to say this here, one thing it is not is, is a performance. Still too often we have a notion that if you dance the limbo or dance anything you are cultural. Culture cannot be a performance, and if we do not get that notion out of our head, if the National Foundation ever entertains that notion that culture resides in performance, we are in serious trouble. Performance is simply a manifestation of our culture, not

culture itself, because some of the most efficient performers I know are certainly the ones who have the least notion of what culture is all about.

Now, Mr. President, I would be very naive indeed if I did not realise that all Governments really act from purely disinterested motives. Governments of all colours hope to use, and I must here indulge myself with one of the richest mixed metaphors I have ever come across, which appeared in a recent issue of one of our local newspapers, that Governments all hope to bask in the "sunshine of the mileage" they obtain from patronage of the arts and culture. How you can bask in "the sunshine of mileage" is beyond me. But that is the reality, that Governments must get mileage out of whatever they do. It would be nonsense to suppose that they do not want to. So we have to start acknowledging that fact.

At the same time we must not stifle our misgivings of too active involvement, too deep involvement in cultural matters. Support for the arts, support for cultural activities, if not watched carefully, can lead to control or direction; that is most dangerous. That is not what I or any of us would want to see. We live in far from ideal times, but this is no reason for not keeping ideals before us.

A small digression. On one occasion, Mr. Khrushchev was discussing the question of the Soviet cultural behaviour and arrangements and he said something which has stuck in my mind, that it was not a question for the Minister of Culture, but it was a question for the culture of the Minister.

In the Caribbean in the last few years, especially since CARIFESTA, those of us who observed the patterns evolving from festivals and their organisation cannot fail to notice how support for the arts, sponsorship of groups of artists, has been used politically. I want to call no names, but those of us who noticed would have noted the very blatant omission from the delegation which came from Dominica. In St. Vincent, a Director of Culture, immediately after elections, was given 24 hours to get out of his office. In Trinidad there is.....well Trinidad is rather different because they have had one party in power for a long time and they may very well feel that they are the establishment, but we note great silences among people who heretofore were prominent and established in the arts.

Now Barbados is far too small to be able to afford to neglect the smallest contribution to the arts, of whatever political colour it is, and my hope is that the arrangements which the Minister will set up to organise and control this fund will always bear in mind that, whether they belong to party X or party Y, we all, or at least most of us, if we are true and sincere, in fact have a hand in the shaping of our culture.

I must turn to CARIFESTA again, the whole notion of CARIFESTA, because this is obviously going to be an important aspect of the new Foundation's business. CARIFESTA started in 1972; that was the first CARIFESTA and it was held in Guyana. During the festival a number of artists who had come from all over the Caribbean, England and the United States, a number of West Indians finding themselves for the first time together, to talk to each other in what was clearly a very moving family gathering of artists talking to one another, thought that this thing should go on, and a group of us went around and got a list of signatures and we petitioned Mr. Burnham, who was going to be attending the 1972 Heads of Government Conference in Jamaica in October, to present the petition on our behalf asking the English speaking Caribbean Governments, Heads of CARICOM, to do something to make CARIFESTA a regular feature of our artistic calendar.
2.15 p.m.

Whatever the Heads of the Guyana Government may have done since, it is to his credit that he had no hesitation whatever in taking this position and getting it through. The result of the October conference was that CARIFESTA became enshrined as a regional Caribbean festival.

It so happens that every festival since then has been held in a year of elections of a Caribbean Government. The only one which was not held was the one held in Cuba in 1979, and, of course, that speaks for itself. That, I must confess, I find an unfortunate coincidence, because a number of us are led to suspect that the timing of festivals is solely to promote the image of the presiding Government.

In Jamaica, the control and direction of the Institute of Jamaica changed hands immediately after election, and we have people like Rex Nettleford now having no official say in the organisation dealing with cultural matters. Somebody like Rex Nettleford cannot be lost to any Caribbean territory. That he cannot be able to contribute is a disaster, in my view.

Another aspect of CARIFESTA which needs to be borne in mind is that it is becoming increasingly expensive. I need not say that in Barbados, that is very much so. This increasing expense puts the life expectancy of the festival itself at risk, because there are several Caribbean countries who will simply not be able to afford to hold the festival.

Something has to be done about this. Some strategy has to be devised so that Antigua, Anguilla, Montserrat can host the festival. They are part of the Caribbean. We do not want in our artistic and cultural matters to have division between us of LDCs and MDCs. That simply must not happen.

What I would strongly suggest is that the responsibility for CARIFESTA, the responsibility of which, in theory, lies in the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, be truly given to the Secretariat, that this Secretariat be advised by a body of regional advisers — there is no shortage of supply of those — who will advise regionally on aspects of the festival and the organization of it, the choice of site, the nature of the festival, the scope of the festival, and the people who are going to be invited to participate.

I simply do not agree that Governments must feel that they must have equal participation. Festivals are to promote the best of the arts, and just as the Edinburgh Festival is focused on a theme, music this year, something else another year, so I think the Caribbean ought to do the same thing, else we demean the whole notion of CARIFESTA as being the best product of our artistic and cultural minds.

What is more, the Caribbean needs now to be defined, because we see Barbados twiddling Hackney and recognizing the existence of little groups of people in Brooklyn, Toronto, London and Brixton, which have Caribbean affiliations, and which can legitimately claim to be speaking the same cultural language as Caribbean people. Some strategy has to be devised to include them, because they frequently speak in our name and we speak in theirs.

This is the kind of contribution which I think the National Foundation, as it is presently going to be constituted, and the whole thrust which this new initiative is going to give, can make to the whole notion of Caribbean culture. And let it not be thought that because Barbados is a small country that it has no voice in these things. The arts have nothing to do with physical size or even with finances. It has to do with the people's notion of themselves and it has to do with the kind of image which we want to project.

One of the aspects of the Bill before us which causes me some misgiving, I should confess, is Part 3, Clause 12, under Directions. The Minister in introducing the Bill referred to the power that the Minister has, after consultation with the Chairman of the Foundation, to give to the Foundation directions of a general character. Now he did not use the word "specific", he said "general", and I hope, in fact, that is what he means, he means really in practice to avoid specific. Because too deep or too specific an involvement of the political direction of artistic activity is bound in the end to spell the ruin of that activity.

The Minister, the political administration, must stand to be advised by people who know, or whom he thinks knows, what the climate is outside. There are very

important and impressive people in Barbados who have no idea, for example, of what novels have been written in Barbados. I was surprised the other day to enter into the Ministry of Education and to say to someone, whom I knew very well, that we were expecting a visit from Sam Selvon, to be asked who was Selvon. I never thought that in a Ministry of Education in Barbados, in 1982, as it was then, I should be asked so embarrassing a question. I was so angry, in fact, that I told Sam that myself, at which, in his way, he laughed and said, "Well, you know, they cannot know everybody."

Mr. President, there is not much more I wish to say at this stage on the matter of the Cultural Foundation. The Foundation is going to have an easier access to funding, simply because it is a national foundation, than any single group in a company. It therefore will have in its power a kind of patronage. I hope it will feel able to guarantee the groups, or activities, or individual artists, who themselves have no access to funding, that they will put some money their way. There are all sorts of ways and means by which artistic work can be promoted. There is, for example, a group of interested people who have started to make a list for the acquisition of paintings for a National Gallery. They have started this in hope, because they have nowhere to put the pictures and no money to buy them with, but people have been circulating the owners of good paintings, paintings which we think are representative of our work — Ivan Payne's which are in very short supply, you cannot get them anymore, and Irvine Broodhagen's and so on. Government will have access to money to make those acquisitions.

We hope that an enlightened approach to cultural activity, not partisan one, nor one which regards performance as a criteria, will be seen. With those words, all I can say is I wish the Foundation well.
2.25 p.m.

Thank you.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Senator Wickham on a very enlightening contribution to this debate. I know this is his field, but nonetheless I am sure that we would all have been the richer today for the last 25 minutes' exposure to the thoughts of Senator Wickham.

Mr. President, this Bill really, in my view, is nothing more than the formal superstructure to allow for the Government's intervention into the field of cultural affairs and to provide for some structure within which cultural talent may be given expression through some agency that would be able to supervise, monitor and, one hopes, carry it along.

I am sure that the Minister and the executives in the Ministry, who will have responsibility for the opera-

tion of this Act, realise that culture is an autonomous thing springing from the guts of the people, and to that extent any excessive governmental control and intervention may well be a disincentive to the proper development of culture in Barbados. I think Senator Wickham has issued warnings along similar lines.

The Government must only supervise, and to some extent provide some of the facilities that are necessary for the extension of cultural expression, but a too close directive hand may do more harm than good in those circumstances. To that extent, I wish to endorse what Senator Wickham said about Clause 12 of the Bill. Perhaps it would have been better if the words "or specific" were omitted.

I have had some experience of the operation and organisation of statutory boards in this country, and I know the difficulties that Boards — and this is no more than a statutory board — can be placed under when a Minister is allowed to give specific directions. Indeed, I believe, subject to correction, that that was an area of criticism in the Duffus Report in relation to the management and direction of the Barbados Development Bank under Mr. Bernstein, and in its relationship with the then Minister of Finance. I throw that out, Sir. Perhaps it should be limited to general direction.

I think there is force in my contention that it should be limited to general direction, because I think the Minister indicated this morning that it is proposed to have a National Advisory Council on the arts or culture or some such thing. I am not sure what it is going to be called, but a national advisory body. One would have thought that that body would feed into the Minister general areas for policy intervention, and to that extent the Minister would then, if he accepted them, issue them out in turn to the Cultural Foundation.

I am glad to hear the Minister say that Government wishes to have a National Advisory Council on culture. In 1977, I recommended to Government that every Ministry should, as far as possible, have, apart from the structure of statutory boards which operate under the aegis of a Ministry, another body, an advisory body, which would meet on a regular basis with the Minister, and which would allow for Government to draw on the talents, on the experience and the contributions of a wider section of the community than could be catered for purely by representation of a statutory board.

It has been a weakness, in my view, of the Barbados Labour Party Administration since 1976, that it was presented with an opportunity to show some creativity in respect of the operation of the Westminster model form of Government which we run, and it refused to break with the old traditional systems of Ministries and statutory boards and did not further throw open the areas

of governmental activity to a wider section of the community by involvement, as I said, for example, on advisory councils.

I noticed one change between 1976 and 1981. The Prime Minister himself has something called the National Economic Council, which I believe helps to advise on economic policy and management, but Dr. Cheltenham, to his eternal credit, has seen the wisdom in what I was saying some five years ago now, and there is an advisory council attached to the Ministry of Agriculture. I believe that is one of the reasons why in the last two years there has been an evident upturn in the agricultural development of Barbados, and there is now not so much criticism of the Ministry of Agriculture as there used to be hitherto, because the Minister is able to draw on opinions from a wide cross-section.

Sir, in the area of culture, I would issue a definition also, since the Leader of the House and Senator Wickham have done the same. It might be difficult to define. I suppose it means one thing to one person and something else to somebody else, but it obviously will include the habits of the people, the traditions, the folk ways, the attitudes, musical expression, dance, dress, language, religious practices, religious ideas, superstitions; all those things, a whole miscellany of a people's behavioural patterns.

Barbados as a mere part of the wider Caribbean is in no different position from virtually any island we can think of in the Caribbean, because we have had a chequered past, and the whole Caribbean has had a chequered history which has produced an interesting mosaic of races and cultures. But some groups in the Caribbean have been able, despite the passage of time, despite the influence of metropolitan domination, to retain their own individual cultures largely intact.
2.35 p.m.

I think particularly of the East Indians in Trinidad, perhaps the Syrian communities and so on, but we of African descent, the negroids, the black people, have virtually lost our roots with the past. Of all the immigrants and cultures, the African is the one which has been lost or which has been the most diluted, and that is why, Sir, the African negro in the Caribbean is even in 1983, in my view, still in search of an identity, because of the balkanization that has taken place.

The majority of Barbadians are of African descent but, Sir, they are still a confused people. Currently the debate is on in Barbados about race, and the dominance of the colonial masters still lingers in racial discrimination in certain Caribbean countries and, to some extent, even in Barbados — certain types of persons are still in economic control and the Blacks are still in the professions in the Civil Service in town. This is different

from the situation you have in Trinidad with the East Indians. They succeeded the negroes on the plantations and they have tended to develop a strong family unit and notions of thrift within their own groups.

But the Caribbean situation, Sir, is one of a complexity of races and cultures, highly influenced in 1983 by the encroachment of North American values and standards, values from eating habits to types of housing, music and dress, the lot, Sir. There is the influence of television because what we get by way of cultural involvement from T.V. is still heavily dominated by our dependence upon North American programming, and, of course, the influence of tourism. The influx of tourists from North America must affect the value of the local host community in the way that they react and relate to these values which are observed from outside. And too often in our cultural habits in Barbados and in the Caribbean, we are tending to imitate and accept wholesale, so that the result has been a confused Caribbean man, Sir. Notwithstanding the words of the calypsonian, the Black Stalin in 1979 about our coming here on the same ship and so on, Sir, one race and all of that, in 1982 we are still a confused people.

We are now in a melting pot situation and we do not yet respect our own values and our own talents. Even in the area of music, Sir, this is most evident. At the time of Carnival and two months before Carnival, we will play calypsoes on the radio and at parties. Many of the discotheques still do not "condescend" to play calypsoes at their functions at night and so on. They play a lot of North American music, pop and rock and all of that.

Discotheques are run by people in the Caribbean, the D.J.'s are themselves Caribbean people, and yet the type of music that they try to foist on the Caribbean people who come to these places is still music from North America and music with which we do not properly identify, and that is only because, as I said, Sir, we do not have any respect for our own talents and values.

I wish to quote from Mr. William Demas in a Paper entitled "The Prospects for Decolonization in the West Indies":—

"A decolonized society is a creative society, and a creative society is a self-confident one. Decolonization begins in the mind."

Now, I do not want the Press to misquote me, Sir. You would have seen the headline last Thursday in the *Nation*, Sir, a very misleading headline, "Time limit on talk, 15 Minutes". That is what the *Nation* said about our recommendation on the Standing Orders. That is how they projected it. Front page to the public of Barbados, as if we had done something so terrible, "Time Limit

on Talk, 15 Minutes"! It was a misrepresentation of the substance of the report, so I want them to quote me properly, Sir.

I am saying that the lack of self-confidence in Caribbean people, in black people especially in the Caribbean, and the lack of an identity is the one psychological excuse for a group of black cricketers to go to South Africa, Sir, in the last couple of months. There can be no other acceptable excuse, and I am very unpromising about my personal position in this matter.

Those who went were people of African descent who lived in the Caribbean. They came here ever since, through their forefathers from Africa. No team of black sportsmen, Sir, in my view, from the Caribbean should have gone to South Africa to participate in sport and impliedly give support to the system of apartheid. I wonder how they feel.

There are hundreds, thousands, of white New Zealanders who fought Muldoon, who went to prison, people of different cultural backgrounds to the people of South Africa fought their Government and went to prison because they felt a rage, as a matter of principle, about what was happening in South Africa — and then we find 12 or 16, how many ever they were, can go to South Africa quite glibly, and the irony and the tragedy of the situation in 1983 is that you know the majority of Barbadians agree with them.

Those of us who stand up against it as a matter of principle are in the minority, and I am happy to be in the minority on this occasion, because on a matter of principle, I am not going to be led by the majority who only want to justify the action on the basis of economic considerations.

What those who support them on that ground, "well they are poor fellows and they need the money and so on", do you know what they are in effect saying, Sir? That any businessman who is manufacturing in Barbados in 1983 can forget the fact that Barbados boycotts trade with South Africa, has a ban against it, and say, "well, look, I am a manufacturer, I want some dollars for my business, I am therefore going to send my goods to South Africa." This is how you must reduce the argument. I want to hear them talk about that.

Our sportsmen have been so insensitive, so lacking in empathy, cultural and otherwise, with their brothers in South Africa as to ignore all the sociological factors and to forget that sociological factors should dictate that they do nothing to encourage the regime in South Africa. 2.45 p.m.

What is Government's position? The Government in 1977 was a signatory to the Gleneagles Agreement, the

aim of which is to discourage sporting contacts with South Africa. Before these cricketers went to South Africa, the Ministry for which Senator Trotman is responsible sent a letter to us at the Turf Club saying that any jockeys who had contacts with South Africa would not be allowed to ride in Barbados, and so the opportunity for Barbadians to see Piggott, Eddery and Saint-Martin was lost because of that policy decision. The week after these cricketers knew that, they went to South Africa, and now people are going to say that you should not be hard on them. What is hard?

The National Sports Council is funded by the taxpayers' money; all of it, and it is a governmental organisation. If the Government's policy is as enshrined in the Gleneagles Agreement then the Sports Council is duty bound to follow it, and we said quite simply that we endorsed, on the 4th February, 1983 – the Minutes will show it – the decision of the Minister of Labour and Sport as he then was, Mr. Vic Johnson, in condemning players for going on the tour.

I had a personal view on the matter, and all those people who talk about rights and so on, you know a Council member even tried to tell me that I did not have the right to make my personal position known. In other words, I did not have the right, which is given to me under the Constitution, to express my personal opinion. I should not have come out in the newspapers and said that as far as I was concerned, and speaking for myself, I would not allow them to play on the Sports Council's property; and I have been castigated and criticised as recently as Sunday by Tony Cozier, who deems my position to be one of extremism.

How could it be? The Government says you must not have sporting contacts with South Africa, we at the Sports Council have property which we manage in the name of the Government, is it unreasonable for the Sports Council to include in its contracts with the people who use the stadium that anyone who has had sporting contacts with South Africa could not play at the Stadium? Is there anything unreasonable in that? Well, we do include that you can sell drinks, but you can't bring bottles in the stands. That is all we are doing, imposing a condition which would be consistent and in harmony with Government's position, and I am told that I am extreme.

Anyhow, Sir, I am happy to say that the Council did not go as far as I perhaps would have gone, nor as Senator Hall I am sure will say if he is asked, nor did I even invite them to concur in my opinion on what I put before them. They went along and said "no, we think that is going a little too far" and everybody agreed with it, but that was my personal position, Sir.

But that for economic reasons people should forget their cultural and sociological roots is something to me that is distasteful, and it is an argument which, even though I might understand it, I cannot accept it. I cannot. Principle cannot be sacrificed on the altar of economic advantage.

They say they are professionals. What is the responsibility of a professional but to organise his profession in such a way as to cater for himself and his family during the years that he is able to work and thereafter! There are lawyers who are professionals who came to Barbados and could not make a living at the Bar. What is the argument telling me, that because they are professionals and could not make a living in Barbados, that they should then go and sell themselves out to South Africa? None of us has ever done it. That is what the argument about being professionals and having economic difficulties is reduced to.

Sir, I just want to mention one or two other matters. The argument about persons who have economic difficulties selling themselves out on matters of principle in this case was carried too far. People forget that these are cricketers who, up to the day before they left, used the facilities of the Cricket Association without breathing one word about what they were doing; people who up to the day before they left told the country publicly on the radio and in the Press, "Not true, we are not going anywhere"; people who therefore were committing deception on the public of Barbados and must be supported now. This is what I am hearing.

Poor Alan Rae, Sir. He must feel terrible, because he went on record at a function when Mr. Rowe received something from him as saying that he was so glad that Mr. Rowe and Mr. Croft had put principle about their right hand. He forgot that they had left hands, and he forgot that when you are giving anybody a cheque, like in the Man of the Match Awards, you shake with the right hand and take the cheque with the left. You see, that is where he was a little naive in giving the metaphor about the right hand. Rowe and the others took the money with the left.

It is a dangerous argument and it shows the cultural weakness in us as a people that we are prepared to forget matters of principle and look only at economic considerations. We can be bought still in 1983.

Asides.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, somebody said "so what!"

Asides.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Oh, bought and sold! I was just going to share some blows on that person who might be so misguided.

Sir, if members think back carefully to what happened after the last English tour by Australia to England, Lillee and others were fined in Australia. Do you know why, Sir? Because they were representing Australia in England and they went at the bookie shop and bet money that Australia would lose – Lillee and Marsh, let their names go down in here – and each recovered £5 000 in the bet. They bet against themselves, that their own team would lose. That is what cricket has come to. That is where you sacrifice principle. I wonder how many people have stopped to ask themselves, I wonder what really would have happened if some of these that went to South Africa were playing for the West Indies and somebody offered them £1 000 to make nought, whether they would do it. I am not making any allegations. I am asking a question.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The honourable member only has two minutes.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. I have been timing myself by the clock. I know when I started and I am going to finish. I have proven that the half hour is adequate.

Sir, I wish to congratulate the Government on the Bill and to hope that there is not too much governmental interference in the operation of this Bill. Let the people who are expert in the field, and we must always remember – I think it is true, it is said very often – that cultural people and artistes and so on are very sensitive people and they operate according to their own notions. A lot of them are not very regular in their habits and so on. I think the best way of expressing it is that they are a little bit "way out" if not avante garde. So the Government must recognise that in the area of artistes and culture and so on that you have to allow the artistes some elbow room. Let them bring their own creativity to the job.
2.55 p.m.

Finally, Sir, I wish to ask Mr. Al Gilkes one question. I wonder if he saw everything in South Africa. I would suggest that the answer to that is "No, a part hide."

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Rouse.

SENATOR K. A. ROUSE: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to support this Bill, to establish a cultural foundation, a piece of legislation which I believe will receive full support from all sides of the Senate, Sir.

When the Minister introduced this Bill, he referred to the 1981 Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party.

Sir, I go a little further. In 1976, I, too was a candidate for the Barbados Labour Party and I believe that this piece of legislation is the one piece of legislation which the Barbados Labour Party did not fully manifest. As a matter of fact, I think that this is the only piece of legislation in the 1976 Manifesto which was not taken care of. The manifesto says that the Barbados Labour Party believes that the artists should control the arts and culture, devise policy, organize and manage programmes, and to this end it is proposed to set up a National Art Cultural Council.

I believe, Sir, that all of these groups should be registered with the Ministry in order to get any monies or grants that they may get and I hope that all groups will be given full support by the Government.

Sir, there is one group which stands out in this country and I believe that this is the oldest group in this country, the Land Ship.

I remember that some years ago when the Yoruba Foundation was set up, monies were granted to these people from overseas and otherwise, and I cannot ever remember where the Land Ship was given any great sums of money. The majority of these people who perform in the Land Ship are from very menial positions in this country, mostly agriculture, and they themselves find it very hard to buy the uniforms which you see them wearing in ceremonial parades, Independence parades, and other parades, Sir. As a matter of fact, I believe if there was a day set aside as Sir Grantley Adams Day, the first group which would volunteer to perform would be the Land Ship.

I believe, Sir, that the two Ministries, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Tourism, should join hand in hand when they are promoting, let us say, the Barbados Police Band, Sing Out Barbados, and other cultural groups, to go to countries that we depend on most for our tourist arrivals, and I believe that these two bodies should set out to include in their promotional tours the Barbados Land Ship and let people see what they would see when they do arrive in this country, because I know that hotels do ask persons, different groups of the Land Ship to come and perform at certain times during the tourist season.

Sir, having heard the wonderful speech made by Senator Wickham and that tongue-lashing one by Senator Simmons, I do not want to use up the time which is allotted to me. But I would like to encourage the Foundation to have persons registered so that any venture which they might undertake would be of great significance to the groups.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Williams.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I come after the Leader of the Senate, who succinctly put the Bill before us this morning, and Senator Wickham, a wonderful contribution from Senator Wickham may I add, who really touched on the heart of what culture is all about.

As Senator Wickham said, the impression is often given that culture is only associated with people performing and, generally speaking, people view it only in that dimension. He did not give a broad definition of culture, but I would want to hazard a definition of culture as being the comprehensive interpretation of nature, and the fact that it encompasses all productive expressions of man, be it the technological, the economic, the artistic, or the domestic.
3.05 p.m.

In short, I am saying that culture is a total way of life. Culture in itself determines the personality of a society and ultimately that personality will have an expression in terms of a society's independence and sovereignty. When people have that cultural identity they want to maintain what they have. It is like saying Barbados is mine, I cherish it, I will protect it. That goes hand in hand with the concept of culture. Culture therefore becomes part of the total development of any country.

We see in the past and even in contemporary economics people coming up with a number of deterministic models of economic development — and I must admit that the contemporary sociologists have moved towards the concept of cultural models of development — but I am saying, Mr. President, that it is now recognised that economic development goes hand in hand with cultural development, and that cultural development is not just tacked on to economic development.

People's attitudes, even in the area of productivity, have a bearing on their culture, their attitudes, their habits, their beliefs. I do not intend, Mr. President, to go on too philosophical about it, but to be quite honest, this is a very significant piece of legislation we are talking about, and I think that it must be understood that in order to arrive at the total political, economic and cultural transformation of any society, we must take into consideration the impact that culture has a place on reaching total transformation in any society.

After a society becomes independent, it is necessary for that particular society to think in terms of having a culture that it can identify as being its own. As a matter of fact, one of the consequences of independence

is that people have a yearning to be able to say my culture is this, or to be able to identify what their culture is, to have their own identifiable set of norms and values. I think we would be all agreed that it is very enlightening at this stage for Government, and we appreciate the necessity for it, to have this piece of legislation at this time.

Senator Wickham made the point, and I think Senator Simmons also, about the question of patronage. I think that therein lies the greatest problem, for the simple reason that however good you set up something and whatever good intentions you have, then it is people who have to implement it. You are talking about the process of time, and looking down the road and hoping that at least everyone in the future who is associated with this effort would indeed have the same set of ideas and directions.

I have the greatest confidence in the present Minister responsible for Culture, and I firmly believe that he is one of the few people who has a certain cultural consciousness and awareness about him. I am sorry he just came in here, but I am satisfied in my mind that the Minister is very, very concerned at all times about the development of culture in Barbados, and it is by no accident, Mr. President, that we see this kind of legislation coming forward during his tenure of office.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the people who work in the Cultural Division for the good work they have been doing. I was very proud last year to see how far we could reach in something like Crop Over, and I think it is necessary to congratulate the Director of Culture and all the people who render assistance to him.

Senator Wickham also spoke about CARIFESTA. Let me say that CARIFESTA has a role to play over and beyond just the cultural aspect of it. I want to explain it this way. In the early Sixties in the West Indies, we had an attempt at a Federation, and I think it is true to say that that Federation was both economically and politically sound, but culturally it was not. If one can even begin to identify and to hazard a guess as to one of the reasons why the Federation failed in the early Sixties, I would want to suggest that because of the lack of a cultural foundation in the initial stages, it was doomed to failure. We still have CARICOM, and when we have those sets of beliefs and values that encompass the entire Caribbean, and when we take one particular action in one territory and we recognise the impact that it has in another territory, and we begin to think in those dimensions, then you will see that something like CARICOM will be a success.

Therefore, what we are saying is this, that each territory in the region must be able to have people identified within each territory with certain patterns, certain behaviour, a certain culture that people can say belongs to a particular territory in order for us to arrive at a West Indian

culture. When we arrive at that West Indian culture, then that will have the impact on things like CARICOM. I think that we are just touching the surface of a big problem when we speak about setting up a cultural foundation.

I want to agree with both Senator Wickham and Senator Simmons that CARIFESTA is a must, and that assistance should be given at all times by all Governments in the region.

Senator Simmons also spoke about things like the impact of music, dress and television. Sometimes I am particularly concerned about some of the things that are shown on television, which are virtually imposing a certain macro-culture on a developing country, but I think I will be honest and very pragmatic and say that that is part of the problem of a developing country.

3.15 p.m.

Because of the fact that you are not in the financial position to produce your own programmes and you depend heavily on cheap North American programmes, I think that is there to stay for quite a long time. But I do not agree that a country's culture should be brutalized totally and, in the final analysis, be wiped out completely, and one of the ways to make sure that that does not happen is for the Government of the day to make sure that it has a say in what is shown to the people in any society.

As a matter of fact, that was one of the decisions which was taken in 1978 for a new International Information Order. It was realized that you have to be sure that a culture process is one which, in the final analysis, would give the individuals in society the kinds of values and beliefs and attitudes that are relevant and applicable to that particular society. And while I accept that because of economic reasons the television and the radio will have the kind of North American content which ultimately could have the sort of effect on the society, yet there are still a number of things that we can do as a people.

In terms of respecting our own values, I go along with that 100 per cent. I so much respect my own that I hope one of these good days when I come into this august Chamber, Mr. President, that I will be able to see a number of other faces, on the walls, like the late H. G. Cummins, Mr. K. N. R. Husbands, and maybe, hopefully, in years to come, Sir, people like yourself, E. W. Barrow and my own Prime Minister. But I am talking about down the road, Sir, because I wish you a very long life.

But, Sir, on a very serious note, it is a way of saying "let us be proud of own." That is an expression of our own culture to appreciate what we have. When we look around we must make sure that we see things that we can identify with rather than just history of the past.

Senator Simmons also spoke about the controversial South Africa issue in its cultural content. At the time, Mr. President, I, myself, gave my position to *The Nation*, which they carried, and I feel the same way now as I felt then. To be quite honest, I said at the time that it was a very sad day in my life when one of my black brothers could even contemplate rather than to go to South Africa.

I went along with the views of the Minister of Foreign Affairs because he said obviously it means that something was wrong in terms of our education, we having not been afforded the opportunity to understand what our real history was. I suppose that was the only way one could find it at all humanly possible to accept and to understand the actions. I said so then and I will say so now.

I personally could not go anywhere and be regarded as an honorary white man, because I do not see how anybody could look at me and find anything white about me. Maybe, my teeth, but you see it is not really a joking matter. Senator Simmons rightly pointed out that they were all black people, and if we were looking at the economics of it only, then there were a number of those cricketers that went that could have foregone the money. A number of them would still be playing test cricket today.

It was insensitivity on the part of those individuals as to what the real issues were, so they went. And I think that rather than continuing the dialogue, we should all learn a lesson from it, if there is one that can be learnt, and that at least if people find it palatable in the future to go to South Africa, it would not be because they did not understand what the issues were. At least we have to make sure of that.

Mr. President, with respect to the Bill itself, I will just say that the Bill will ensure that the means for us to enhance the dignity of Barbadians is indeed possible. It will allow us to have a greater understanding and an awareness about ourselves in the future.

I am hoping that, as a consequence of the establishment of a cultural foundation, we will see an even greater flow of cultural information and, finally, that it would indeed aid our national cultural development. Mr. President, what we do for ourselves depend on what we know about ourselves and what we accept of ourselves. Through this effort, let us learn about ourselves.

I am much obliged to you, Sir.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Mr. President, I have been quite impressed with the contributions by members this

afternoon, I know that some of them are quite expert in this field. I know there are others like Senator Williams who would have learnt his trade in the halls at Cave Hill. Since I am not expert, neither did I go to Cave Hill, except to play a game of cricket or football, I would just like to say what are my impressions as they relate to the Bill before us.

3.25 p.m.

I think Senator Williams gave a scholarly definition of culture. I seek only to say that it is a way of living; it has to do with the way we do things. In my view, it is a learned behaviour. We do not do things like other people; we are we, and that's a fact. As Senator Williams said, it has to do with our manner of dress, our values, our beliefs, our norms and attitudes, and therefore, Sir, when we think in terms of having a cultural foundation, we must look at it objectively.

Those of us who have been fortunate to travel extensively must of necessity become aware of the various cultures as we have gone around the world. Sir, for example, you will find that in England, and indeed in Barbados, it is considered shifty not to look someone in the eye, whereas in Nigeria and indeed in Japan it is impolite to stare. Again in England, one with a West Indian upbringing finds it very difficult to understand how people walk the street not only holding hands, but kissing. This is certainly not done here and it would be intolerable in Africa. Then, people will tell you that the Scots are mean, and I think they believe that they are very careful.

Senator Simmons alluded to the fact that our cricketers shake their counterparts with the right hand and receive the money with the left. That is how we do it in the Western world, but in Africa in general, and in Nigeria in particular, people receive gifts with both hands. Sir, this is very important. If you take your index finger and suddenly bring it across your throat, in Barbados one would gain the impression that you are going to cut somebody's neck off, but in Botswana that is to tell a girl that you are in love with her. So you see, there are different cultures and one in order to understand what is going on in various countries, we must study the culture of the particular people very carefully.

As another example, the Eskimos leave their elderly folk in the cold to hasten their death. In Western civilisation that would be considered to be inhumane. In a rather jocular fashion. I told Senator Trotman at lunch that I once lived in the penthouse of an elderly person's home in England, and Sir, that amused him immensely. He actually told the Leader of the House "Imagine Wes Hall used to live in an elderly home," but if I had said to him that I lived in a penthouse in the Hilton Hotel, it would not necessarily follow that I lived in a hotel.

I am only just trying to tell Senator Trotman that, having lived in that penthouse, I discerned that English people are rather ungrateful when it comes to caring their elderly people. They put them in elderly people's homes and they let them stay there until they die. I remember one old lady who used to refer to the television as the devil in the box. Sir, those people would let those old people stay there and visit them once a month, and then when they die they hasten to the nursing home, bury them and collect the money.

We in Barbados are not like that. We tend to look after our elderly folk. We like to think that we are the type of people who look after our mothers and fathers, our aunts and uncles, and, Sir, having said that, I am quite sure that no honourable Senator in here would dispute that.

But in going to different countries, we see the various cultures, and we must try to understand them, because when we go to these countries and we notice the different or the various differences in their cultures, what we experience is a thing called "cultural shock" and it has to do with the food, their mannerisms and things like that. We are not really accustomed to it and as a consequence we experience cultural confusion. I know Senator Trotman will not listen to that. His confusion is not limited to cultural experiences; it is permanent. So much for you, Senator Trotman.

Sir, it goes much further than that. In India, for instance, the lady of the house does not come out on equal terms with her husband and enter into conversation with guests. Oh no! They will clasp their hands together, bow most gracefully and disappear. That is the culture of the people. They do not get involved. Can you imagine a West Indian woman being subjected to that kind of thing? Oh no! So you see there is also the question of their attitudes.

Arranged marriages, Sir. Do you know that in India a boy of ten and a girl of 7 would probably have an arranged marriage by their parents and they will marry at a very big festival, a great ceremony, and then return to their respective parents' home and meet later as man and woman, husband and wife. As I talk about cultural differences, I do so having experienced it.

Sir, you may well know that as soon as you go to an Englishman's home the first thing he will say to you, even before he says "good evening" is, "Would you have a cup of tea?" Can you imagine offering a true-blooded West Indian a cup of tea at 4 o'clock in the afternoon? You may have to offer him a rum and coke. But the point is that having lived in England, as Senator Simmons and as you are quite aware, and also Senator Howell who lived in England for 20 years — he must have drunk a lot of Liptons — this is the custom.

We have to look at the advent of our cultural foundation in Barbados very seriously, and even though I do not think it is contentious, I certainly feel that in setting it up, we must be very careful that we are not only doing the right thing in setting it up, but that we will definitely be able to carry on and do the work properly.

Sir, I like to make comparisons in culture because it shows how wrong people can be in judging other people without understanding their culture. We all say that the British are reserved and perhaps we in Barbados are. They all say that we are little England and that we are more British than the British. In Victorian times they used to cover the legs of tables. Can you imagine that? That was the culture of the people. One would say that the Irish do not particularly mind dying as long as they know what they are dying for, and that is the type of people they are.

3.25 p.m.

We in the West Indies, unfortunately, Sir, have not been able, as Senator Simmons said, to easily identify with an indigenous culture. Sir, at least one Prime Minister, the Prime Minister of Singapore, has been as far as to say and quite frankly he was talking about West Indian people — and I will not be disrespectful to him — but he said that we are a people that sing calypsoes, play cricket, and drink rum. Sir, I think that is unfair, and I do feel that in the West Indies, in general, but in Barbados in particular, we must show the way. And perhaps having this cultural foundation is the beginning of a good thing. My only wish is that it will be so run that in years to come, we will be able to build on it rather than to say, in a pessimistic sort of a way, that is a good thing gone bad.

I sincerely hope, Sir, that we would understand that there are differences in people, something that has caused international friction. On the industrial scene, a man in England or in Barbados expects you to give him a job description. But in Japan, he does not expect you to give him one. Indeed, he will ignore you, because he feels that you cannot trust him. That is a fact and Senator Trotman knows this very well. And since most things in industry in Japan are done on the group basis, and since most of the decision-making processes emanate from the group, one could well see that after having been devastated in the Second World War, industrially speaking, Sir, Japan, and indeed West Germany, using these techniques have become leaders on the industrial scene. It only shows you that one's cultural upbringing and one's cultural traits can have great bearing on a people.

This is what has made the scholars study a thing call "behindology", Sir. "Behindology", for the elucidation for the Senators over there, Sir, is a study of what goes on in people's mind. Check it out. Sir, we must

understand that even in a place like Italy people do not normally express their thoughts. Because of that, the scholars have had to think in terms of studying the method of "behindology", and that is something that we have to think in terms of.

Sir, Senator Simmons talked about the South African connection. He, as the Chairman of the National Sports Council, would have to put a clear case to the people of Barbados, even if it is just to support what the Minister of Sport has said. And I suppose, Sir, that since to have played sport at a respectable level makes no difference in the manner in which people are assassinated and vilified in this country merely because you happen to play sport well, I think that I would be expected to say what my views are.

I know quite well that in the last elections, Sir, it was said that to be merely a cricketer is no big thing and that is how you are termed. No one ever think in terms of how many gray cells one must have to retain their present employment or anything like that, one just categorise you as having played the game, so you have to be stupid and you cannot make a meaningful contribution to this society. Having said that, I must say that I am diametrically opposed to advancing the claims of racist South Africa. Personally, Sir, I can well understand the constraints of a few — and I say a few advisedly — of the cricketers who went to South Africa.

Senator Simmons, in his capacity as a citizen of this country, gave his view, and even though I feel very strongly about going to South Africa, I was not of the view, and he can tell you this, that having returned to their homeland our cricketers should be banned from the National Sports Council grounds — and there are something like 35 grounds. I expressed this in private and at the National Sports Council and I am glad to see that Senator Simmons has set the record straight, because people were of the opinion that the National Sports Council was banning the cricketers from their premises. What the Cricket Board of Control does is their business. They will have to make their own decision.

My opposition to going to South Africa stems from the fact that I wrote a few articles in 1975 and 1976 when, because of the unification of the unions in South African cricket, the Australia Cricket Board, chaired by Bob Parrish, who managed the team here in 1965, intimated that the time was right for a resumption of visits to South Africa by Australia. I said then that Third World countries will not tolerate it and that West Indian cricketers will never go to South Africa as honorary whites. I said then, Sir, that I had no objections to anybody calling me a super-black. You may do that. But, Sir, I do not wish, and neither do I wish to think

that any of our cricketers would want to go to South Africa as an honorary white.

3.45 p.m.

I do not wish any of my white friends to be honorary blacks. I do not see why that should happen. Therefore, I thought I should let Chappell and company know that, because I have always been of the view that England and Australia would gladly play against South Africa. I am of that view, a very firm view too, and I saw where on the one hand you would have Australia and England, India, Pakistan, West Indies and perhaps Sri Lanka, and it is because of those firm views that I wrote then, and I still am of the belief, that it is wrong.

Sir, do you really think that a man who has expressed those views in 1976 can merely turn about face and declare that he agrees with people for going now just because the price is high? I do not agree with that, Sir. And if there is one thing that diminished me on this whole South Africa issue, it was to see in the Press the day after their departure pictures of the players hiding their faces as if they had something to hide. I think that is wrong. I feel if they are going, they are going, and I feel it is wrong and disgraceful, for want of a better word, to hide about it.

Senator Simmons said he looked at it in a cultural context, but I know that in all my years playing cricket for the West Indies, the thing that I remember most, and the thing that gave me a great deal of satisfaction, is the fact that playing for a small territory of 4.5 million people and having walked back 40 yards and paused before setting out to destroy; knowing full well that whenever that stump is shattered at the other end, even Senator Trotman will find that the exhilaration will lift him profoundly. That is what is important.

The people talk about money. All of the surveys have proven that in the field of industry and commerce money is not the most satisfying aspect. It is true that in the sense of security where you get into financial straits, you still need a sense of belonging, and that is why we join clubs, and I have said that before. What I also want to say, Sir, having joined the club, you conform to the rules, because if you do not conform you will be kicked out. The epitome of it all is self-satisfaction, and it does not necessarily have to be money, because having got all the money and you still do not belong, you have no friends, life is empty.

Therefore, one will find that having gone to South Africa, we will see that this country, with 85 per cent of the people calling in on that call-in programme agreeing with the cricketers, may well find that it just says that after independence we as a people have lost our contact with the developing world, we have actually lost the desire for freedom or seeing other people being

free. Having ourselves achieved independence, we believe it has gone down the drain.

You know, Sir, how it hurt me in 1979 when I was in England, and day after day I followed very closely the talks between Lord Carrington, Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nkomo. It was a big thing on British television, and I reflected on my visit to Rhodesia in 1962, and I reflected on the fact that both of those men were under house arrest nearly permanently, Sir, and today, the 9th March, the report is that Mr. Nkomo is now exiled in Botswana. You talk about culture. That is what upsets me about it. You fight, and you fight, and you fight for freedom – and then as soon as you get freedom, you hear about the fifth legion and 50 people dead, and the man who fought for it.....we cannot get together.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The honourable member has two minutes.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Sir, I would have thought that having spoken as the first member for the Opposition that I had an hour. I have studied the Standing Orders, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Possibly you are right. You are speaking for the Opposition.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Of course, Sir. Did you not get that impression?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am afraid not.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Well, that is true, Sir. I know you did not think that perhaps any member of the Opposition would be capable of lecturing you on cultural activity. I do not see some matters in terms of Opposition and Government. Do you mean to tell me you are having a cultural foundation and I have to see it as an Opposition way, where I have to get up and say there should not be one? No Sir. At times I need to educate members on the other side, more specifically one member, Sir, but I shall not call his name at this time.

Sir, I want to establish that I have another 32 minutes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Now, Sir, there is no law, no Statute, that says that we have been deprived of our cultural heritage. The Director is over there, Sir, and the Minister can consult with him, but there is none. In the last census in 1971 it showed that 93 per cent of the people in Barbados were of African descent; they were black people. Even though there has been no law, no Statute, depriving us of our heritage, I find it despicable that somehow we seem to think that there is no point in keeping anything that is local.

I want to say that it is a source of great embarrassment to me when I know that there are many folk songs that have been preserved, they have been collected, and apparently given to schools, and yet we do not hear of any children in Barbados singing these songs. A moonlit night in Barbados is no longer the time when children run around and play games like hide and seek, or sing songs like "There is a brown girl in the ring", "Lay, lay, Bessie, down" and those kinds of songs, Sir. We do not get that sort of thing, Sir.

Aside.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: They might be in the Ministry, but I say what is the point of having them in the Ministry in any archives? Let them be taught to the children and let them come out and sing and let our heritage be there for future generations. I know, Sir, that people would say that that is not important but I tend to disagree.

3.55 p.m.

The only time that one could see a deprivation of our heritage was when drumming among the slaves was banned in 1688. This was the result of an uprising in 1675, when it was said by the plantocracy that it was disturbing, that the slaves sent messages. That is the only time, Sir, that I find in the Statutes of Barbados that there has been any discontinuance of something as fundamental as drumming.

That is not to say that there were not people who were not sympathetic to the cause, because between the 1870s' and 1880s', the Secretary to the then Governor, Mr. Dickson, Sir, wrote some of the songs that the slaves used to sing. He thought they had potential and he wrote them down, and in fact he found out that some of the words had a very close relationship with Arabic, Hebrew, and he wondered if there was anything that related slaves to the Israelites. That is of a historical value, the point is that in the 18th century the Secretary to the Governor would not be a black man. So I am only saying that history records where people other than slaves, themselves sought to have some preservation of our heritage.

Going on, Sir, history is replete with stories where the slaves in order to communicate with each other, would not only beat drums. And when I say beat drums — you know the whole comic book thing of the Phantom and beating drums in the jungle, that is merely meant to brainwash people, — I am talking, Sir, about the people who beat drums and who sang during slavery, who became what is known as the "chantwells", and the present calypso form that we know today, Sir, came out of that. It is our heritage, Sir, and even though I am very glad to see that we are having a cultural foundation, I want all and sundry to know, Sir, what is the situation as it relates to our culture.

Some people feel that we do not have any culture. They are not interested, Sir. I for one, Sir, am not of that view. I talked about drumming; some of the slaves used to put food on the graves of people when they died, and they used to bury their dead beneath the boards of their huts. It was not hygienic, Sir. That is not the type that we want to keep, Sir. That is not the culture that we want to resurrect. I grant you that, but, certainly, Sir, I feel that the old folk song, the dancing forms and the drumming forms could well be resurrected, and I feel that the Cultural Foundation would see to it and have it as one of its responsibilities to make sure that that art is not lost.

Sir, I heard the Minister as he finished — I unavoidably was not present when he started — saying that the Foundation would make culture an integral part of our national development. That is what he said, Sir. On page 2, Section 3(1) it says:

"The functions of the Foundation are

- (a) to stimulate and facilitate the development of culture generally."

Now, Sir, I feel that that is too vague. I feel that to say that it is for the development of culture generally is so vague that one would not really know anything at all about national development. I would have liked it to read, Sir: "to stimulate and facilitate the development of national culture", because if it said that, the Foundation would be forced to let us all know what national culture is. I hope that the Minister will explain it, because even though it is a small point, it is clear that to just say "culture generally" seems to be a bit vague.

Having read the Bill I did not really think that it was clearly defined in here as to the requirements, Sir, of a School of Fine Arts. I would like to know, Sir, why the Foundation, using its own buildings, Sir, and not given under the Regulations or under the Act itself, was not given the power to set up a School of Fine Arts, and retain a staff to teach at Fine Arts. I think that this is rather important.

I think, too, Sir, that a museum for the arts and craft, with the emphasis on modern arts and craft, giving a permanent display of the work of our artists, would be desirable in 1983, Sir, and this would be able to oversee such things as sculptures and provide busts of great West Indian or Barbadian leaders, people like Messrs. Prescod, Reeves, O'Neil, Wickham, Barrow, Adams. I feel, Sir, that this is the sort of thing with which the National Foundation should be charged.

We get our holidays, and they are of (1) religious significance and (2) cultural significance. Religious from the point of view of Easter and Christmas and all of that

and cultural from the point of view of Crop Over, Kadooment Day, or whatever it is, the first Monday in July, Sir. So it is important, Sir, because we have cultural and religious significance which actually determine when we have our holidays.
4.05 p.m.

In terms of its relationship to other agencies, I would like to know about the relationship between the Foundation and the Ministry of Culture — the Minister will let us know about that — and what relationship would it have, for instance, with the museum. Perhaps the Minister might have said this when I was not here and perhaps he can repeat it for my elucidation. What relationship would it have to the Oistins Festival, the Hometown Festival, and will these festivals come under the aegis of the Foundation, or will the Foundation just provide resources?

These are some of the question I would like to ask the Minister, and perhaps what adequate accounting for such festivals you will have set up, because you will understand that when one looks at the accounting for these festivals, it has a great effect on our cultural direction in our community. One must never forget that in something like the Crop Over Festival, it can be argued that the big extravaganzas such as the finals of the Calypso King competition must help pay for the small ones which do not make money. That is taken for granted, and I think I understand that point clearly.

I would think that the Foundation would then address itself, as a matter of policy, to subsidising the areas like the theatre, because we are all aware, I think, that the great stumbling blocks in the theatre would be the lack of funds to get venues not only for the show, but more certainly for rehearsals. The availability of community centres at a reasonable price, or at a price that small groups can pay, if subsidised, will go a long way towards the development of culture in Barbados. I do not feel that these are too extravagant, they are just observations that I feel will go a long way towards the betterment of us all culturally.

I think there is room also for the Foundation to enter into the realm of film making. I speak in terms of documentaries and things like that. I know it is vaguely covered in Clause 3 (2), but I feel that more emphasis on this should be placed in the Act.

Unfortunately, Sir, the Foundation focuses on the theatre and cultural activities, and this tends to suggest that other areas might be neglected. When I say that, I allude to music for one. I feel that the emphasis should be on the creation of auditoria and art craft, and I have no doubt that the Foundation's members, experienced as they will be, will advise the Minister in these areas.

I must say that is the reason too why I will concur with Senator Wickham in his remarks regarding Section 12. I think it is very important that the people are able to give an impartial view and that the specific feature that we are talking about in the section will not be seen as provisions which would give the impression that the Minister will be riding shot gun over the people who are considered to be expert.

I feel that just as in the case of Trinidad where we have seen that for many years the Best Village competition has been of great cultural significance in Trinidad and Tobago, — I was getting to that Senator Simmons — it is common knowledge that since the late Eric Williams conceived the idea of the Best Village competition, that the PNM should lose Government is only a bad dream by the Opposition.

The Best Village competition of Trinidad and Tobago has given the people that sense of belonging, it has assured them that people are appreciative of all they do. And when you understand that you are talking about people from Manzanilla, Siparia, El Socoro, when you think in terms that these people are coming from the rural areas, Fyzabad and from the central districts who would never get the opportunity to make it to the Town Hall, but come the Best Village Competition and they are the toast of the town, it is because of the importance of this cultural extravaganza to the Trinidadian cultures and indeed to their heritage that you will find that everyone supports it.

This is not to say that in the Best Village competition they do not play Indian instruments or even sing Indian songs. Far from it. What I am saying is that the Best Village competition is totally Trinidadian, and because of that, it means that everyone gives a helping hand. This is why I would like to see similar programmes emanating from those who preside at the Cultural Foundation. I would like to see the people of this country being encouraged on a zonal basis, because that is what the Best Village competition is all about, to participate in these things.

Mr. President, I am only just giving him an indication of what we will do when the Democratic Labour Party comes to power. The fact that he now institutes programmes which would tend to give people the chance to develop culturally does not necessarily mean that it did not become me. Senator Simmons will know that on the National Sports Council I do not hide anything from him, and I feel that for the future development of Barbados we must not hide anything for five years or ten years as the case may be. We have to make a contribution whether we sit over here or over there, and I say, Sir, that competitions along the lines of the Best Village Competition of

Trinidad, if they are embarked on by the Cultural Foundation, will do a lot to help culture in Barbados.
4.15 p.m.

So, Sir, I would like to say that when you talk about heritage and from where we have come, Senator Simmons alluded to it, one has to understand that it does not matter how far back we go in order to determine our ancestry, black people will find that by the time you get to the 1840s, just after the emancipation of slaves, that all of the names there are single names. I do not remember the first name of the Minister of Information, I always refer to him as "Fosh", but it might be unparliamentary, Sir, but you will find surnames so it is very difficult for us to trace our roots. Senator Barrow did say to me that it is a myth when I told him that, unlike Alex Haley, we will find it very difficult to find our roots. According to the goodly Senator, it is mythical, but, Sir, I know some people in Barbados who, in trying to do just that, in trying to find out that they were always great.....

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. I thought hard before getting up, but I am afraid that the effect of not getting up would allow the Senator to unwittingly mislead the House. I am sure he is not intending to do it. But it is difficult for me to raise a point of order on what was a private conversation, but the point I was making was that the slaves took their names from the master, and this is true not only of West Indian slaves but of American slaves, and there is a whole lot that is unsound about "Roots". I went on to say what I thought of "Roots". The point I am making, Sir, is that if there is a myth, the myth lies in Haley talking about tracing his roots.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: I know that the Minister would not really want to go down in Hansard as having said that. But I will withdraw that, and allow it to be recorded that the Minister did not speak with me. All I was trying to say is that I know of people in Barbados who, in trying to find their roots to prove that they have always been in the hierarchy.....

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: I know of those people, Sir. I know of one lady who, in trying to find her roots, went through the Registry, and, in looking at these names, she went back a long time into the 19th century, Sir, she saw her great, great grandfather. She saw "FM" next to it and she said, "I told you we were from a great family. My great, great grandfather was a Field Marshal." Little did she know, Sir, that all he was, was a "free mulatto". So, you see, Sir, it is with that in mind, Sir, that I feel that great importance must be placed on this question of a cultural foundation.

I had given thought to a cultural and sporting foundation. I was told by no less a person than Senator Wickham, whose views I really value, that that might not be the right thing in this context. But I have always harboured those views, because I felt that culture is important to us, and sport is important to us, too. And somewhere along the line perhaps we must try and educate people in both culture and sport.

That is why Senator Simmons' comment on the cricketers going to South Africa is so pertinent here, simply because some people do not really understand their role. They are in confusion; a cultural confusion. And I would say that the same thing can happen to anyone. It can happen to someone like Gordon Greenidge, who at the age of twelve went to England as a little boy, and having to go to school in Reading, and having to go among people very much unlike his own, having to adapt himself to strange conditions, Sir, having made it good despite his constraints, Sir, despite the fact that he has a West Indian accent, having even acquired now an English accent — it did not matter, it took him too long to get into Hampshire — then to come back to Barbados and to be heckled.

It is a phobia with him. He feels that that is something Barbadian. Little does he know, much to my regret, that that will happen to anybody, whether he be Barbadian, Englishman, or Jew. We will criticize when we think it is due, and we will heckle when we think it is due. But because of his cultural confusion, Sir, he does not see it the Barbadian way. It is a pity, Sir. It is really a pity, and I hope perhaps that some time we can get together on it and help. If it can happen to one of our heroes, it can happen to many people as they go overseas and get this cultural shock that I alluded to before.

I am not going to insist that I must speak longer. I feel that I have made my contribution. I have tried to analyze the situation very seriously. I have tried to give the Government some food for thought, because I consider, I really do, that a cultural foundation, run along the proper lines, can do much good for not only people who are with us today, but for coming generations.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President. In rising to support this Bill, I especially would like to say that I am in agreement with the wording of the functions of the Foundation and in particular 3(1)(a), which indicates that its function would be "to stimulate and facilitate the development of culture generally."

I specifically want to direct attention to "stimulate and facilitate" as opposed to engage in cultural engineering, because, essentially, if those who resume responsi-

bility for this foundation feel that they have any particular mandate or responsibility to fashion Barbados in a particular cultural image, I think that could lead to most unfortunate occurrences, especially when we reflect on some of the things that have been said even here today and elsewhere about some of the activities and the views held by Barbadians on the matter of cricketers going to South Africa.

I would like to spend a few minutes reflecting on the contributions on the matter of cricketers going to South Africa, both here and elsewhere. I would like to start off by saying that we should always distinguish clearly between condemning the actions of people and condemning people and ostracizing them for life and so on. At the same time, we must not let our own position in any particular matter make us uncharitable towards others and wish them all types of ill, and perhaps induce us to want to inflict harm on them.

We heard about the question of the principle of the matter, the principle in relation to boycotting of South Africa or ostracizing South Africa. I would like to ask whether this is such a clear-cut principle or whether it is a strategy. My initial impression is that the boycotting of South Africa and so on was more at the level of strategy to achieve an objective rather than a fundamental principle that we really believe that we should not associate with those people as people. I believe that somewhere in our upbringing, let us say, as Christians, we can accommodate kindly responses to people who are not kindly towards us. I think that is why so many people in Barbados support those people — it is but the extension of their own behaviour towards white people in this country.

There was a time when black people did not have the vote, and even today there is still social apartheid in Barbados. But the response of black people is not to say that because of that I am going to respond by completely isolating myself from those people in all other areas of endeavour. And it is because the black Barbadian has been able at one in the same time to reject the attitudes of white people towards them as people, but still to go on and accord the same respect that they would expect to be accorded to them, to white people, that we have avoided difficulties in the transition from white dominance to a different state of affairs in the life of Barbados.

4.25 p.m.

Unless somewhere along the line there are people who can do that in relation to South Africa, the situation there can only be resolved in terms of total defeat, and perhaps elimination, of the white South Africans, and I do not believe that the black race as a whole wants that particular outcome.

Mention was made of sociological factors and so on, and not recognising them. I want to suggest that these people are part and parcel of a natural working out of such factors.

It has also been suggested that they set back the cause and so on. I am not so sure. The fact of their going aroused the righteous indignation of some people, and the howls which have gone up against apartheid, and the publicity which has been given to it, would not have been given in the absence of their going, and I believe that that has rekindled the fire in some people rather than dampened their spirits.

I go further, and I want to draw an analogy with the experience of Zimbabwe and Muzorewa and ask the question, was Muzorewa really a villain, or a martyr in spite of himself? The settlement in Rhodesia would never have occurred in the way it did if there was not a Muzorewa. You needed that bridge, and if there was not that man, who some people identified as a traitor, to go in there and do what he did, the alternative would have been a fight to the end, and the end would not yet have been in sight.

In the same way, if you want to move from a situation where you have apartheid in South Africa towards majority rule in South Africa, and communities with white people living alongside black people and going about their own affairs as they do in Barbados, even if they maintain social apartheid, the only way that can come about is by black people interacting, having some form of intercourse with those people in the way that our cricketers did, even though the other black people, quite justifiably, can ostracise them and tell them things and so on. We must still take a detached view and recognise that that is the start of a necessary process if this problem is to be resolved in a way where at the end of it black and white can co-exist in South Africa.

That is why I do not regard what has happened as a tragedy. I do not believe there has been a set-back to the cause of the black man in South Africa or in the world. I do not believe it is a tragedy for Barbados in personal terms either. I recognise that some of us are aware of what people will think of Barbadians because of that, but I have always been able to rise above what people think of me.

The question of not going there because they would term you an "honorary white", in my type of thinking — I suspect some of those people might share it — is not of the essence. Calling me honorary white is a reflection on you, not on me. You know that I am not white and I know, and if you have such a confused mind that to accommodate me you have to think of me in those terms, that is your problem, not mine. So in my view, it is no reflection on the basic integrity of the man.

I am not saying every one must share this view. I know at school there were some boys who, if you cursed their mothers, would beat you. If you curse my mother, I would not beat you, I would laugh at you. My mother is still as she is, she has nothing to do with what you say about her. Perhaps it might be different for some other people.

All in all, I would think that, basically in analysing what has happened in Barbados, it should not really be said that the people who support the cricketers do not understand the issues. They understand, but they see the thing in a different perspective; they see the strategy in different terms. Some may not understand, but some do.

Again, let it not necessarily be said that even the cricketers themselves do not have some level of appreciation of what is involved and are only doing it for money. To do that is to suggest that these same fellows would take a gun and go in Broad Street and rob a bank, and I would think that most or all of them would hesitate to do that. They still have their principles, but at the level of their identification of principle and morality, they can accommodate for that.

I do not think we can equate their going to South Africa to work with being people totally without value. It definitely would not be true. Money quite definitely was the trigger, and it had to be the trigger for very evident reasons, because those people are particularly aware of the pressures on them. They are aware also of the consequences. To go is to lose money, so it would only be a fool to go for nothing and lose money, so money was important in the whole equation. I would not go so far as to say that that was the be all and end all for those people.

My basic view, Mr. President, is that, whatever our personal position, and mine basically is that I would not have gone, there is an element of adverse fall-out associated with their going, but there is also a positive fall-out. I would not want to weigh the adverse and the positive and decide which is better. If I did, I might probably say the adverse might be better, but that may be from a short term point of view in the sense that this may, in some sense, be a catalyst to other types of manoeuvres on both sides, in terms of hardening positions against South Africa, and in terms, perhaps, of some internal movement within that country, to resolve what is evidently a problem for them and for everybody else.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I wish to begin my reply by thanking members generally for their contributions and for their warm

support which they have given to this Bill. There are a couple of things I would wish to advert to, and while not wishing to get involved in any way in the business of the whole argument about cricketers going to South Africa, there is something said by Senator McClean which does not allow me to allow it to go entirely unnoticed, it is something that I have heard said by less learned people than the Senator, and for that reason I have excused them.

How can anyone get up and say that there is social apartheid in Barbados? I believe it is a fundamental misunderstanding of what apartheid is, because when you talk about apartheid, you are dealing with a legal system, and no legal system can in any way, in my view, be compared with any social practice.

I want to go back a bit to the slave laws and to point out that when slavery was in existence, then, and only then, could we have been said to have had anything which in any way compared with apartheid in this country. I do not think that if you want to make a case for sympathy -- and I do not think Senator McClean is saying people are right to go or people are wrong to go -- but I do believe he is asking for more sympathetic consideration for those who went.

I do not think if you want to ask for more sympathetic consideration that you have to go to argue the point by arguing about social apartheid, because there is no such thing as social apartheid; there really is not.

Secondly, if you want to talk about race relations in Barbados and describe them as social apartheid, I believe that is not to understand the amount of fluidity that exists within the whole social framework of this country. There is so much movement in society in this country, there is so much fluidity, that I think that any time you pay serious attention to it, we ourselves are shocked to see how far this country has moved from what it was like in the Forties and even in the Fifties.
4.35 p.m.

I do not think we should really try to psyche ourselves into believing that things are bad in South Africa and things are bad here too, which is really the kind of point people make when they are talking about social apartheid. I just want to say that for the record.

As to the business of people going, I, myself, cannot accept that they went for reasons other than money. I believe that if they went for reasons other than money, some of them would have said so. I have looked fairly closely at the kind of comment being made and I have not seen one positive statement advanced that there are reasons other than money for which people went.

I do not agree that it leads us into saying that because they went to South Africa for money that they

would take a gun and go and rob a bank in Bridgetown because there are a lot of people, who do all sorts of things for money, who would not go and rob a bank in Bridgetown. One only has to think of the homosexual prostitute.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I am quite serious. There are a number of things that people do which may, in their very nature, be despicable, yet, there are other things that those same people will not do, and I believe Senator McClean will agree with that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do you wish to elucidate something?

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: On a point of elucidation: I was not suggesting that if people said they went only for money that they would go and steal, but I am saying that people are saying they went for money and therefore they have no values at all. People were saying that they would do anything, and I was saying that that conclusion was wrong. I am more or less in line with what you are saying.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I am glad I misunderstood the Senator there, because, in fact, all that I would say about the cricketers who went to South Africa is that they have values which are different from mine. The Lord knows I could not make the team, but, let us say, they were carrying talkers or something, I could not find it possible.....

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Oh, a scorer. Yes, Sir. I used to be a scorer for many years. If they were carrying scorers, Sir, I would not have been able to find it possible to go. I must tell you that.

In my own heart of hearts I would not have gone. I am afraid the money would not have attracted me, and the fact is that that only tells you about values. I believe I heard Senator Hall say that if they were going to pay him a million dollars he would not go, and, again, it is a matter of values, and it has been pointed out that not all of the cricketers who went were in need. Perhaps I should not call names, but Rowe was not in need and Croft was not in need, for sure. So all that went were not in need, so, therefore, I do not see how you can make the point about need being the criterion if that were in itself a sufficient reason.

I would not wish to get any further involved in that, because the basic point is, that if anybody was so naive as to think that by going to South Africa to play cricket that he was going to be able to go and change

the society, well, then, we know that he belongs in the Hall of Clowns.

If a fellow was going because his values allow him to go and work for that kind of money, then we understand why he went. This world is full of people like that, just like it is full of people who have my kind of values and who would not have gone, and I believe that we have to go back to the Christian precept, "hate the sin and not the sinner."

As to some of the specific points raised in the course of the debate, I believe that had Senator Hall been in here at the time when I was making my initial speech, he would have heard a lot of the answers to the questions he subsequently raised. He came in during the speech and I understand, therefore, why he does not quite get the thrust of the provision stated as follows:

"To stimulate and facilitate the development of culture generally."

Now Senator McClean hit right on the spot of that. You cannot create a culture for people, and what you are going to be dealing with to a large extent is going to be what comes out naturally. Therefore, we have to understand that we are going to be dealing with organizations which will not in all circumstances be governmental, and where they are not governmental, it is our duty to assist, not to take over and monopolise.

The reason the section is worded like that is because it is the general and most important power given to the Foundation. Under that umbrella, the Foundation has the freedom to give the necessary assistance, encouragement, stimulus, to groups which it ought to give.

The question, therefore, of what is the status of the Oistins Fish Festival would not arise. We at present give assistance. As a matter of fact, last year the festival had one of our Community Development Officers working with the committee. This year the same thing is happening. Last year at the end of it there were certain charges, which we picked up for them. The same thing is happening this year. We give assistance to them just like we give assistance to Holatown, so there is no real problem.

Now, as to the teaching of fine arts, Senator Wickham reminds me, I have not checked the point, about our relationship with the Jamaican Institution through the OAS. But fine arts is taught right here in the Community College. Mrs. Joyce Daniel at the Community College is doing an excellent job, so we have already got some of this integrated within the system. That is an institution under the Ministry of Education.

It is our responsibility to encourage and foster, whether it is something happening directly within our own Ministry or in another Ministry, or by a private group. That is why I referred at the beginning, for example, to the announcement that comes over the radio every morning about a course taught by Mr. Roett in Musical Arranging and Theory. We are giving encouragement to that effort. You will hear every morning that this programme has the support of the Ministry of Information and Culture, so we have already, by practice, indicated the ways in which a lot of the work will have to be done.

Relations with the museum. The Barbados Museum and Historical Society has been a recipient of Government grants from its inception in 1933, as far as I am aware, and up to about 1979 the grant given by Government was something of the order of \$50 000. It is 1980, I am quite sure, that we raised the level of the grant to \$100 000, and next year's Estimates, 1983/84, the grant will go to \$175 000.

Now there has been a difference since then. Not only is the grant \$175 000 incidentally, but in addition we will be spending a quarter million dollars this year on capital works at the museum, where there is a great deal of work, rewiring and other kinds of work, to be done. 4.45 p.m.

We believe that we must give to the museum not only the financial inducement, but also that we must give it other encouragement so that it can develop into a national museum. To that end, I appointed a committee, under Professor Woodland Marshall, which met, reported, the museum has accepted the report in principle, and it is now a matter of time-tabling its implementation with such modifications as may be mutually agreeable. So we should have the museum developed into a national museum.

I am mentioning this now because that \$175 000, which represents nearly four times what it was getting three short years ago, is money that is going to be not tied, but we are going to indicate that we would like that money spent on certain kinds of staff, professional staff and other essential support staff. In other words, we give you the human resource, you ought to be able to do the rest of the job. That is our approach to it. It is not a matter of dictating to anybody, but providing in a meaningful way the resources that can assist cultural activity, and that is the theme that runs right through this Bill.

Senator Hall also made a couple of other points. The position with the theatres is that groups are permitted to pay a deposit when they are using the theatres, and then they pay a rental, which is a percentage of the total revenue which they earn. That sort of formula,

we believe, is the one that will cause the least strain on the groups. We have got to finance the theatres and it would not be wise to start by underwriting or subsidising the cost, what can happen if you give grants to groups and so on. But if you do not know what something is costing you to run, all you will do is turn around and saddle the Treasury with a terrific debt in the end.

The theatres are available for afternoons and evenings. The failure of groups to plan their events is what causes most of the problems. You get demands then and you cannot schedule the thing properly, but we are dealing with the groups and we are getting them to understand that you have to give adequate notice and try and get things scheduled. It is the planning stage. At present, we are trying to encourage bookings six weeks in advance, but this does not mean that we will not give due consideration to emergency situations.

As to the folk music point, Mr. Trevor Marshall, Mrs. McGeary and Mrs. Grace Thompson produced a folk song book, which the Ministry of Education has been good enough to distribute to all the schools. The Ministry of Information and Culture recorded songs during Crop Over, offered them to schools, and recently we had a meeting with the Ministry of Education to make sure that the schools have tapes so that we can use these songs.

The community centres are available to community groups and youth groups for meetings and programmes — free of charge. There is a special rate when it is one of these groups under the aegis of the Ministry trying to raise funds, so that nobody attracts the full rate for usage unless it is an individual or group. If, in other words, let us say Senator Hall wanted to have a dance at a community centre to raise funds for St. Michael West Central Constituency Branch of the Democratic Labour Party or even the Barbados Labour Party, then he would attract the full charge, but otherwise the full charge is not levied.

I wish to give Senator Wickham the assurance, which I am sure he does not need, that it is not a matter of specific, but rather general directives.

There are two other points, I think. Certainly there was one other point which Senator Hall made, and I was listening with great interest, and this is when he was talking about cultural shock. At one point when he was talking about the home for the elderly, we thought of geriatric culture shock, but then he moved on from there. I began to formulate in my mind the culture shock that results from being brought up as a wicket keeper and suddenly transferring to being a fast bowler, keeping wicket in the Senate in 1971 to 1976 and trying to be a fast bowler in 1981 to 1986, for example. But what I liked about Senator Hall's speech

was the kind of emphasis which, when he moved from India and Africa and came home, he then put in his speech when he was talking.

One of the examples he gave was the Best Village competition in Trinidad. I was particularly interested in that, because that aspect of his speech was really a very stirring endorsement of the present policies of the Ministry of Information and Culture in Barbados. Because the main thing which we are pleased about within the Ministry is that in the managing of festivals, by trying to use the Community Development officers as the spearhead and therefore trying to reach the communities at the very basic levels and get that exchange of information, and build the festivals out of what people want and what they do naturally, we believe that we are on to the secret for the continual success of the administration of that aspect of cultural affairs. I was very pleased to hear Senator Hall give us such a strong endorsement.

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

On motion of Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, Mr. President left the Chair and the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator J. C. WICKHAM in the Chair.

On motion of Senator H. R. LINTON seconded by Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS, the Bill was taken as read.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Parts I and II were called and passed.

Part III was called.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in Part III on page 8, Clause 12, subclause (2) at (e) says:

"Notwithstanding subsection (1) the Foundation shall not, except with the prior approval of the Minister (e) assign, in respect of any office established by the Foundation, a salary in excess of such amount as the Minister determines: (f) appoint a person to an office established by the Foundation to which a salary is assigned with the approval of the Minister under paragraph (d). I think it is fairly clear that that should be paragraph (e). I beg to move that (d) be amended to read paragraph (e).

4.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is proposed that Part 3 as amended at Clause 12 2(f) so that it reads in the fourth

line paragraph (e) instead of paragraph (d) stand part of the Bill.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, the Senate was resumed and the Bill as amended reported as having passed the Committee, Mr. PRESIDENT in the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I beg to report that the Bill was passed in Committee, but there is a problem, which is that the Committee is accepting an amendment which I moved on Clause 12(2) paragraph (f) and it is now advised that could be left for the usual cleaning up that takes place at the end of the year, rather than have the Bill go back to the House, which, in fact, would lose us some valuable time.

In those circumstances, I beg for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Sir, after our discussion, rather than go back to Committee, I believe that it would be more appropriate to treat it as a typographical error and just move the Third Reading of the Bill without any amendment at this stage.

Accordingly, I move that the Bill be read a third time forthwith.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I take it that the Senate wishes to treat this error as a typographical error and avoid the process of having to send the Bill to the Other Place. If on advisement that turns out to be a wrong interpretation, well then something can be done.

On separate motions of Senator the Hon. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

EXEMPT INSURANCE ACT, 1983

Order No. 3 was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to enable companies to carry on exempt insurance business from within Barbados.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, Sir, the Bill before us seeks to provide legal framework within which exempt insurance companies, formerly known as offshore or captive insurance companies, may carry on exempt insurance business in Barbados.

Sometime ago, Sir, the Prime Minister of Barbados indicated that this country should be looking at the service sector in terms of generating revenue from offshore

business. To this end, we were looking at four specific areas — offshore banking, international business companies, registration of shipping and exempt insurance. 5.05 p.m.

As far as offshore banking, international business companies and registration of shipping are concerned, legislation has already been enacted to accommodate these three areas, and this Bill, when it passes this Chamber, will complete the package.

The Bill is the product of the research and recommendations of an advisory committee established by the Central Bank of Barbados for the purpose of advising Government on the feasibility method of potential of all areas of offshore business. This committee was made up of a number of people from within the Central Bank itself and other competent people from Government and the private sector, particularly in banking, law and accounting. The Central Bank also looked at getting advice from international experts in the field.

Now, as far as this area of offshore financial services is concerned, commonly called the captive insurance market, there are some forces which come into play. It simply means that the parent company, usually a multi-national corporation, sets up a company under its own aegis to handle insurance, and more than 500 of the world's largest corporations own and operate their subsidiary insurance companies.

This business is very active in certain countries of the world, and within our own region, in Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, it is very active. Indeed, the Bahamas used to be the dominant country in the Caribbean for exempt insurance business, but has been taken over by Bermuda. In Bermuda itself, there are about a thousand companies with a gross premium of about U.S. \$4 billion, and 75 percent of this is in the re-insurance business.

The industry in Bermuda contributes something like 40 percent of the Gross National Product, but Bermuda is a tax haven, and in the area of offshore financial services, while there may be opportunities for employment in specialised areas, for instance, in information processing, using computers and so on, another area of activity would of course be where they are making provisions for legal services, the banking sector and the use of accounting professions in Barbados.

So there is some benefit to the country when one looks at the kind of criteria that offshore companies examine, and use, in consideration of setting up businesses in small countries. For instance, when a multi-national is looking at the possibility of setting up a small

company to handle insurance business offshore — and when I say "offshore", I am talking about away from its corporate headquarters — usually the criteria they look for would be a minimum taxation or no taxation on the profits, minimum difficulties in registration and submitting annual corporate returns, freedom of exchange control, freedom to invest funds, the availability of a sound banking system, and technical resources to assist them in dealing with some of their problems — for instance, computer hardware and software — freedom to repatriate dividends without Income Tax penalties, good facilities, communications, transport, housing, schooling, office accommodation, legal and accounting services, and of course political, economic and social stability.

There is no doubt, Sir, that when one examines all the criteria hereby enunciated, Barbados satisfies almost all. I say "almost all" simply because Barbados by no means can be considered a tax haven, and recommendations have been made, particularly with the exempt insurance business, to countenance making exempt insurance non-taxable, simply because you are dealing with countries, and in fact you are in competition with countries, which are tax havens.

In Bermuda, of course, you do not have to pay taxes on the earnings or the financial operations. In the Bahamas taxes are not considered again. Indeed, Sir, it can be safely said that, because of the revenue generated from offshore financial activity in these countries, there is an absence of any Income Tax regime. The last figures that we were able to get from the Bahamas indicate that the Bahamas generates about U.S. \$500 million a year in revenue from their offshore financial services.

It is in this regard, Sir, that the Government of Barbados, in an effort to generate revenue, and of course take the opportunity to obtain the kind of specialised jobs that are inherent in this kind of operation, is seeking to provide the legal framework for companies to operate in this country.

Now, in tandem with the setting up of the insurance exempt industry is also the need for management companies to be set up, because usually the parent companies of the captive insurance organisations operate through the advice of management companies.

Mindful of this, we made provision for management companies to be set up in Barbados, and the Immigration Department has also been asked to look at making provision — of course this is incorporated in the Bill — for exemption from work permits and so on for the people who are specialised in this area. Companies which might need the specialised services of people who are involved in this business want to be able to have the freedom to bring people in who have the expertise, and we are looking particularly at the people who operate out of

Bermuda, where there has been a considerable overflow of business. Therefore, we have made special provision for people who are expert in this field of business to be able to come to Barbados and work when the occasion demands it.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

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

5.15 p.m.

On the motion of Senator H. R. LINTON, seconded by Senator J. E. D. WILLIAMS, the Bill was taken in Parts.

Parts I – Parts VII inclusive were called and passed.

On 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 and passed.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 4 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Town and Country Planning Act, Cap. 240.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, Sir, the Town and Country Planning Act, Cap. 240 at Section 4 provides as follows:—

“It is hereby established a body to be known as the Town and Country Planning Advisory Committee. The Constitution procedure and power of the Committee shall be in accordance with the First Schedule.”

The First Schedule to the Act, Sir, says that the committee shall consist of not more than five members who shall be appointed by the Minister. The subject of Town Planning has been assigned to the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Planning, in the last few months, and the Minister is desirous of having the size of the committee improved. He, therefore, proposes that the committee be enlarged from five to nine persons and it is for that purpose that the Bill is before us this afternoon, Sir.

It really seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Act to enlarge the size of the Advisory Committee.

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

The question 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.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT WALDRONS, CHRIST CHURCH FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Minister intimated this morning that he would seek permission to have this matter dealt with today. I take it that there is no objection on the part of the Senate to dealing with this.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, Sir, the Ministry of Transport and Works carried out certain road improvement at Waldrons Avenue, No. 1, and during the construction of the road, the Ministry used land owned by Mr. Foster Lewis. Investigations show that at the time it appeared that Mr. Lewis had no objections to the use of the land, however, he has since complained and requested compensation for the use of his land.

The Commissioner of Valuations has valued the land at \$53 000 and it has now been decided that, in the best interest of all concerned, the land should be acquired properly so that Mr. Foster Lewis can be properly compensated for his land. That is the purpose of the Resolution before us.

5.25 p.m.

I am sorry I do not have all the drawings available.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: As is usual on these Resolutions for land acquisition, some plan is passed around to members of the Senate. I do not know if this is sufficiently instructive for members.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, earlier in the day I intimated that when I moved the adjournment I would be moving the adjournment until the 28th, which is Monday morning, at 11 o'clock. I did not say it then but we will suspend Standing Order No. 45(2) to facilitate doing the Appropriation Bill in all its stages.

At that same sitting, which, if we are not through on the 28th we go to the 29th, we will go to the 30th — hopefully we will be through by then — we will also wish to take the Land Tax (Amendment) Bill.

The Bill will not yet have been circulated. It was only laid in the Other Place yesterday, but when members receive it I would wish them to remember that we would wish to do that and the Appropriation Bill at our next sitting, which will begin on the 28th.

Accordingly, I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn until Monday, March 28, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

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

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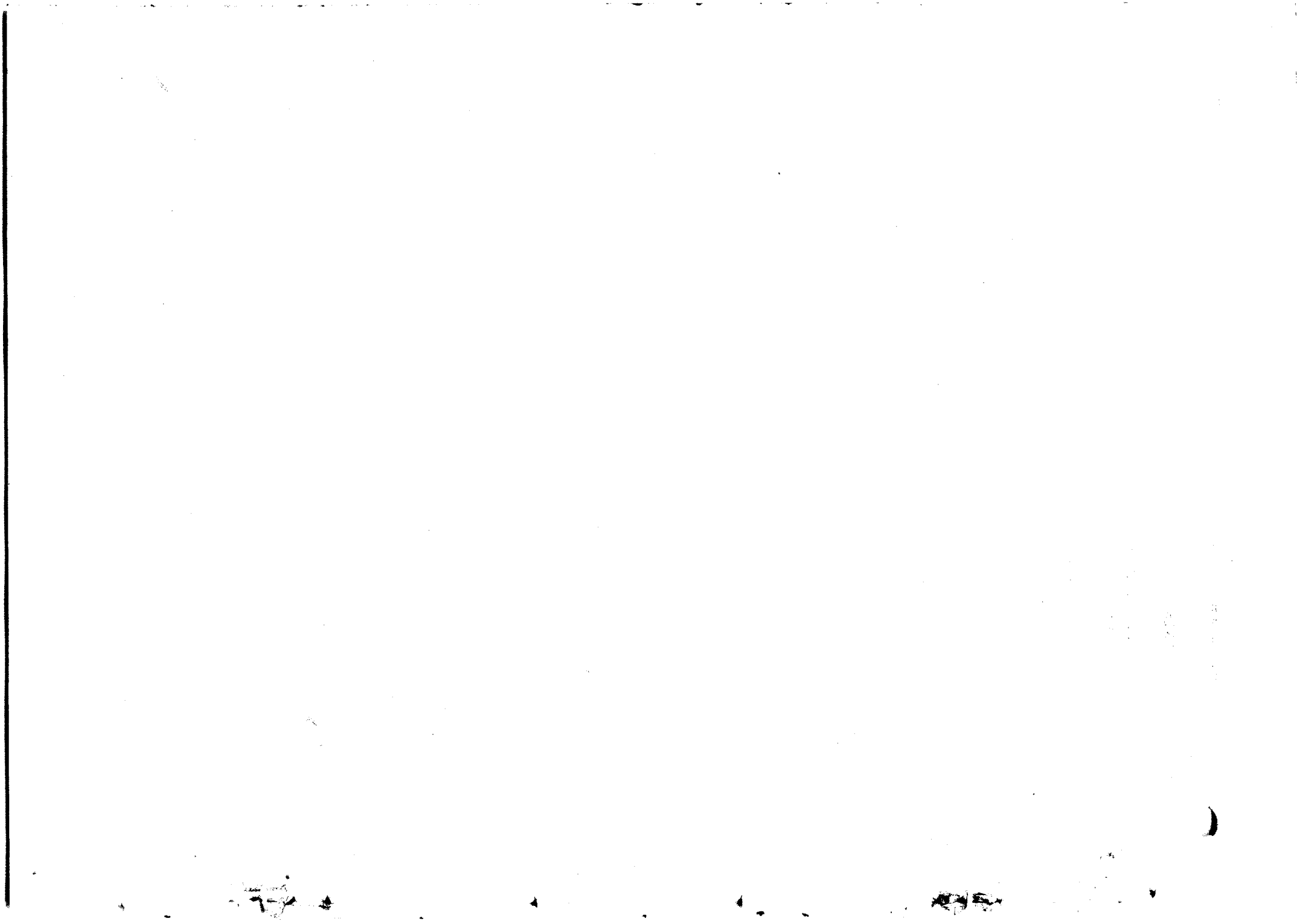
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BARROW, Hon. N. A.
 CATO, Hon. Sir Arnott
 GREAVES, E. E.
 GRIFFITH, Hon. C. A.
 HALL, W. W.
 McCLEAN, A. W. A.
 ROUSE, K. A.
 SIMMONS, D. A. C.
 TROTMAN, Hon. O'B.
 WICKHAM, J. C. W.
 WILLIAMS, J. E. D.



THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Monday, March 28, 1983.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Monday, March 28, 1983, at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator the Honourable Sir Arnott Cato, M.B., ChB., LL.D., (President)

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

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

Senator the Hon. O'Brien Trotman, (Minister of State, 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 in the 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. Canon I. McK. Jones.

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

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have a Message from His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable the Senate.

"His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable The Senate that, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, Senator St. Clair Ethelbert Howell has been appointed under section 73(1) of the Constitution to be a Parliamentary Secretary with effect from 14th March, 1983."

I know you will wish me on your behalf to congratulate Senator Howell and wish him every success in his new office.

SENATOR St. C. E. HOWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. Sir, all I would say on this very busy day is that I will do my best to continue to make a contribution in debates in this Honourable Chamber, and I would say also that I am grateful for those whom I found when I first entered this place, who have guided me, and I will continue the upkeep of this Honourable Chamber in the debates in this place at the highest possible level.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have another Message from His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable the Senate.

"His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate that, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, the seats of the following Senators have been declared vacant under Section 39(1)(f) of the Constitution –

Senator Keith Augustus Rouse, with effect from 13th March, 1983

Senator Anthony Patrick Langstone Reece, with effect from 19th March, 1983.

His Excellency further has the honour to inform The Honourable The Senate that, also acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister,

the following persons have been appointed under section 36(2) of the Constitution to be members of the Senate consequent on the vacancies referred to above —

Mr. Clarence Edwin Jemmott, with effect from 14th March, 1983

Dr. Waldo Emmerson Waldron-Ramsay, with effect from 21st March, 1983.

(Sgd.) D. H. L. WARD
Governor-General."

Will the Clerk please ask these persons to come in?

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT and SENATOR Dr. W. E. WALDRON-RAMSAY, accompanied by the Clerk, entered the Chamber and stood in their places.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Jemmott and Senator Waldron-Ramsay, on behalf of myself and other Senators I extend a very cordial welcome to you as members of this Chamber.

Senator Jemmott, I am aware of your long association with political affairs in this country. I also know of your own personal contributions in the field of athletics, football and certain aspects of education. I feel that you are knowledgeable in the social, political and economic affairs of this country, and that you will make a useful contribution in this Chamber.

Senator Waldron-Ramsay, apart from your general knowledge of the affairs of this country, and your long experience as a lawyer and as a journalist, you have a special experience in international affairs. I believe this will be of intense interest in this Chamber, because foreign affairs happens to be one of the subjects which I, and a lot of other Senators, regard as of vast importance in the political discussions that we have in this country. I believe that your special knowledge will be of very great use to us, and I personally look forward to your contributions in that field.

On behalf of fellow Senators and myself, I now invite you both to take your seats, and wish you a very successful term of office.

SENATORS C. E. JEMMOTT and Dr. W. E. WALDRON-RAMSAY took their seats.
11.25 a.m.

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Mr. President, honourable members of this Chamber, I am indeed moved and grateful to you, Sir, for the warm welcome that has been extended to me today. I will assure you that, by God's mercy and his guidance, I will try to carry myself in a way which will maintain the dignity of this Honourable Chamber.

Unlike other people in the community, who seem to think that it does not serve any purpose, even without coming in here, I am one of the people who felt over the years that this Chamber is part of our democracy which we should always try to maintain in the good government of this country.

Sir, I come here with a great sense of humility. I deem it as an honour to be able to serve my country at this level and I do hope that when the time comes for my term of office here to cease, I could look back and say I have truly served honourably and I have upheld the dignity of this Chamber.

Sir, I thank you and honourable Members of this Chamber once more for the welcome you have extended to me and I pray that I will maintain the confidence that has been bestowed on me.

Thank you very much.

Applause.

SENATOR Dr. W. E. WALDRON-RAMSAY: Mr. President, if I appear at the outset to make bold to violate the sanctity of this Honourable House by attempting to inflict my presence upon you, I hasten to assure you, and honourable Senators, that I did not do so out of any propensity to brash impudence. Nor, Mr. President, did I do so possessed of any malevolent intention to commit a trespass. But, rather, I did so based upon three considerations.

In the first place, I sought leave to enter this Honourable Chamber because I came in faithful obedience to the summons which bid me enter this place.

In the second place, I stood at the Bar of your Honourable House and sought entry based upon the consciousness of the national purpose and responsibilities which I considered devolved upon my shoulders as a Senator in this Upper Chamber of the Senate of the island of Barbados; a national responsibility, Mr. President, to pursue the national good and the national interest.

In the third place, I stood at the Bar of this House seeking entry because I feel that, implicit in the summons which brings me here, is the exhortation that I, at all times, should comport myself with circumspection and the appropriate decorum consistent with the protocols and the procedures which you have set in this House.

Mr. President, this Chamber is seized with a permanent and perennial agenda. That agenda and the elements thereof are both important and compelling. Obviously, Mr. President, the importance speaks for itself, but the compulsion in the agenda of this House centers

around the fact, undeniable as it is, that the business which you transact here is the nation's business, the people's business, the business of the State. So you are charged with the responsibility, as I understand it, Mr. President, to prosecute the business of the public, to make sure that the laws we pass here are consistent with the promotion and the welfare and the well-being of the citizens and the inhabitants of this state.

In every state, Mr. President, the well-being and the welfare of its citizens is the highest order of business. It is the highest law. There is nothing that can challenge the paramountcy of the promotion of the interest of the well-being of citizens.

Sir, as I reflect upon this matter, one tends to recall that in the Senate in classical Rome, one great Senator, in pronouncing on this self-same principle, put the point in this sense, *salus populi seprema lex*, the welfare and the well-being of the people is of the highest command, is the highest law. Any law, Mr. President, we pass in this House, therefore must be a law which promotes, directs and propels forward the well-being and the interest of the citizens of this state.

Mr. President, I tell you now that I pledge full support and my full collaboration in your duty to carry out these responsibilities. You will find in me, Mr. President, a Senator who is robust in debate and hot always in the pursuit of the protection and the promotion of the national interest; but you will always find in me, Mr. President, a Senator whose behaviour is in cognisance with the circumspection and decorum which is appropriate for this Honourable House.

Mr. President, if I may say so, you preside over the proceedings of this place, and to that extent, Sir, the nation and this Honourable House is doubly blessed by having a person of your distinction presiding over the affairs of this Chamber.

Your conduct of the business here, Sir, as I understand it, has only added lustre to your already illustrious reputation. I want to pledge to you, Sir, that you can rely upon my support at all times to pursue the assigned business of this House with the appropriate decorum and the circumspection which it warrants.

Mr. President, I crave your leave to abide in this place.

Applause.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The Fourth Actuarial Review of the National Insurance and Social Security Scheme.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, there are two Bills on the Order Paper of which notice had been given, but which have not yet received the First Reading in this Chamber: Order No. 1 — A Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of Barbados for the year ending 31st March, 1984, and Order No. 2 — A Bill to amend the Land Tax Act, Cap. 73.

11.35 a.m.

I believe that that should be a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act, Cap. 78A. I wish the Clerks are in a position to confirm it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is that 78A?

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, when last we met I intimated to members that we would wish to take these two Bills through all their stages today. We may be here today and tomorrow and possibly today, tomorrow and the next day.

Before I formally move the suspension of the relevant Standing Order, I also wish to indicate that I shall be introducing Orders Nos. 1 and 2 and Senator Griffith will look after Order No. 3. It is my intention to begin with Order No. 2, go to Order No. 3 and then to Order No. 1.

I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE LAND TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1983

Order No. 2 was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act, Cap. 78A.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, much that is affected by this proposed amendment has been debated in the Senate before. I recall discussion on the proposal to merge the functions of the Collector of Taxes with those of the Commissioner of Inland

Revenue and therefore, in introducing this measure, it is not my intention to go through the justification which has already been given, or to go through the description of the facilities that would be available outside of Bridgetown — and these of course have been publicised in a recent debate in the Other Place — but merely to concentrate on the way in which this Bill is different from what one might otherwise have expected.

The Bill before us, Mr. President, does not contemplate transfer of the functions of the Collector of Taxes to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. It has been discovered, on further consideration, that the measure that needed to be put in place in order to achieve the greatest possible efficiency was a measure that would eliminate the extra work which is caused by having land valuations in one place and tax collection in another. Indeed, there are three Government agencies actively involved in the business of the collection of Land Tax. There is the department that values the land, there is the department that collects the taxes and then there is the Data Processing Department, which has to process the data.

While it is not possible to do with less than two, it is possible to deal with just two departments. The existence of the Valuation Department is really related to the business of Land Tax, and therefore there is no real justification for having that department continue as though it had nothing at all to do with the levying and collection of taxes. It was therefore considered that it would be more efficient if the two departments are merged, and that is what this Bill therefore is about.

You will find, Sir, that where in the present Act you will see reference to the collector, now we are proposing that that be a reference to the Commissioner of Land Tax. It will allow the rolls to be prepared in one place, the bills sent out, the taxes levied, the taxes collected and such function as is performed by Data Processing will continue to be performed by Data Processing.

This will get us around the problem which has arisen where the valuation is done, the bill goes out, somebody comes in and pays his tax at the Valuation Department, somebody then gets the impression that the valuation that was done was not sufficiently accurate and therefore reviews the valuation, sends out another valuation and where that second valuation is higher, then there is a request for payment by the taxpayer of the additional amount, and where it is lower, the taxpayer then asks for a refund of the difference. In other words, Sir, some of the elements of confusion which are built into that kind of operation have been hitting us. The furore recently over Land Tax bills was not at all unrelated to those elements of confusion.

The Bill, however, seeks to do more than that. It is the principal aim to merge those functions, but it seeks to do more than that. It deals with the serving of tax notices in those instances where notices are returned. The provision which is now introduced is to allow the Commissioner of Land Tax to serve any returned notice by placing it in a conspicuous position on the land to which the Demand Notice relates, whether the person liable to tax resides inside or outside of Barbados.

This is an improvement over the situation which presently exists where the Commissioner cannot proceed against land owners where the tax notices have not been delivered. There has been some substantial loss of revenue as a result of the present situation in the law, and the present situation is that several notices are returned to the Commissioner of Valuations as well as to the Collector of Taxes.

It is particularly serious where owners of land live abroad, but it is not restricted only to persons living abroad — people can live here, keep changing the addresses without notifying the two agencies involved and confusion results from that. So you incur expenses of posting the valuation notices and the tax bills and you are unable to collect the taxes eventually. As long as the tax notice has to be delivered before anything can be done, the Government would seem to have no remedy.

We are advised that at present there are about 3000 such cases of undelivered mail, of owners living abroad as well as owners living in Barbados. It is because it has reached those dimensions that there is this change which should permit the sale of land in order to recover any taxes due.

The present statutory period after which a sale may take place is three months, and this will remain. A provision is now being made to permit the notices to be placed on the land in question if the owner cannot be found. Under the Act, Section 34 (2) stipulated a period of three months, after the expiration of 60 days from the date of the Demand Notice, after which the Collector of Taxes might sell the land. The new amendment extends the period to two years from the date of the issue of the Tax Demand Notice. So it provides more time and therefore less excuse for persons not paying taxes.

11.45 a.m.

The two points which I have dealt with so far are (1) provisions to provide for the merger of the Land Tax Department and the Collector of Taxes Department, and (2) to provide for Government's ability to collect its taxes in those circumstances where at present Government is frustrated by undelivered mail.

There is another provision. There have been some difficulties encountered in the attempts to transfer land

to plantation tenants under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, 1980. We all understand the surveying difficulty, but the fact is that surveyors have been ready and willing to do the work, and have been doing the work; but there has been a problem faced centering on the question whether the Registrar is in a position to give the certificate to indicate that the Land Tax has been paid.

At the time when we legislated giving people a right to buy the tenantry spot on which they live, it was never envisaged that such technicalities should be allowed to thwart the process of peaceful, speedy and orderly transfer of title. It was always intended that the debt that attached to the land should not attach to purchase monies, so that the purchaser should be able to take the land with a good title. But since difficulties were being encountered at the level of certification that the appropriate tax had been paid, this Bill now has a provision which is designed to get around that problem and to speed up the transfer of lands under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, 1980.

Consequently, Sir, Section 41 is amended by inserting after subsection (1), subsection (1A):

"Where a conveyance is to be made by a landlord to a tenant under the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, 1980, the Commissioner shall issue a certificate as required by subsection (1), that no tax is due and payable in respect to the lot comprised in a plantation tenantry or other tenantry that is to be conveyed, but such a certificate shall not affect the liability of the landlord for any land tax under this Act."

So the landlord remains liable for the land tax, but the land can be transferred and the purchaser takes the thing without that incumbrance.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I beg to move that the Senate do now resolve itself into Committee, on the Bill.

The question was put and agreed to. Mr. PRESIDENT left the Chair and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill; Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM in the Chair.
11.55 a.m.

Clauses 11 to 14 inclusive were called and agreed to.

The Schedule was called.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I beg to move that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Senate do now resume and the Bill be reported.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW, the Bill was read a third time forthwith and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF THE SUM OF U.S. \$7 MILLION FROM THE U.S.A.I.D.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, the Government of the United States of America, acting through its agency, USAID, has agreed to lend the Government of Barbados U.S. \$7 million for balance of payments support and to provide financing for the local cost element in infrastructural projects.

This loan is really a bilateral trust cash transfer. The Government is going to make half of the money, U.S. \$3.5 million, available to the Central Bank for on-lending to the commercial banks for the purpose of providing loans to those companies in the private sector whose areas of operation are generated towards export, because the object, of course, is to provide balance of payments support to generate export earnings and employment.

The other U.S. \$3.5 million will be used to provide the local cash support for infrastructural projects like World Bank educational programmes and so on.

The loan is a soft loan at the rate of 5 per cent interest per annum for 20 years, and has a grace period of some nine years.

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

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: Mr. President, I support this Resolution, and I am pleased to see that the U.S. Government, through its agency, is lending us the money which will come on to the private sector. However, Sir, I get a little worried when I read "on-lending through the commercial banks".

I get worried, Sir, because there are a lot of schemes that the Central Bank has for on-lending through the commercial banks, but no money is ever really lent out, because the commercial banks, for a number of reasons, do not really advance any money. One of the main reasons is that very little publicity is given to this money and therefore a lot of the small-scale and medium-scale enterprises do not know anything about it. Further, the commercial banks do not find it very profitable and therefore do not offer it.

I would have hoped that I would have read that it could have been for on-lending through both the Barbados Development Bank and the commercial banks, because I can assure you, Sir, that we could use the 5 per cent money, and we could get the money out, because as a development bank we have been easy on security, and I can assure you that we are getting payment for our loans. Although we have been easy, we have ensured that our funds are paid back and that our clients are very happy with us.

I would have hoped maybe in this Resolution we would have seen some money, because right now we have to use bond funds to lend to small and medium scale enterprises and we have to borrow these funds at something like 10 per cent, so it really makes the bank's profitability very poor. If we could have got some of this soft money, this 20 year money, it would have done us a lot of good.

I fear that in five years' time this US \$3.5 million will still be around, and this is the problem. The commercial banks are not going to lend anything out, and I think that if we really want to get it among the small enterprises we have to go a different route. Although it is a little bit funny reading here that small enterprises are labour intensive, because if you are small, you do not have very much labour around. But nevertheless, I think we can get around that. I would only hope that if we could maybe have a chat with USAID and channel some of this money through the Development Bank, that would be a good thing.

I thank you, Sir.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. President, I wonder if we could be told a bit more of the terms and conditions which would be attached to the portion of the loan to be lent through the commercial banks to small businessmen. It may be that this has not yet been worked out, but to the extent that there has been some agreement in relation to this aspect of the loan, I believe it should be of interest to us to know.

I note the loan is supposed to be for balance of payments support, and I presume that the loan would have been some time pending in terms of the negotiations

and so on, and probably would have arisen at a time when Barbados was projecting for balance of payments problems of extraordinary proportions.

It is quite evident that the outturn last year was such that our affairs in relation to the performance of the country, at the level of the overall balance of payments, was rather better than was indicated. But yet, for all that, I believe the reference here to payments problems creates an opportunity to direct attention to a payments problem which Barbados apparently is facing now and will be facing with increased intensity in the immediate future, if something is not done by way of ensuring that Barbados obtains settlement from the CARICOM Multi-lateral Clearing Facility.

12.05 p.m.

What we have in Barbados now is not a balance of payments problem *per se*. We have a problem of illiquidity of our foreign reserves. We are earning foreign reserves and so on as we export to Trinidad and other Commonwealth Caribbean countries, but at the same time, as Trinidad exports to Jamaica and Guyana, this is resulting in a situation where the Facility is acquiring claims against those countries, which are not being settled in accordance with the agreement, and Barbados is acquiring claims against the Facility which are not being settled.

It is suggested that those claims are not being settled because of the failure of the Facility to get settlement from its debtor members. I am not so sure that that is sufficient and good reason why the Facility does not put Barbados back in funds in accordance with the agreement.

I would have thought that one of the reasons why the Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank was made agent of the Facility was for this very contingency. But I would wish to point out that the problem associated with our international payments arising out of the CMCF is of a level of magnitude where no arrangement of this type, or no arrangements with the International Monetary Fund, could bail us out indefinitely; and so I think that the Government of Barbados must address itself almost immediately to a solution of this problem.

If a solution cannot be had in the context of the Facility settling up with Barbados, I would think that Barbados would have no other option but to revert to bilateral arrangements, that is, to withdraw from the Facility and expect that Trinidad will pay Barbados for exports from Barbados to Trinidad, and so on.

I know that there is a lot of sentiment attached to the Facility. We recognize it is an important instrument. If it is permitted to function, it can contribute towards regional integration. But it is not functioning. All it is

achieving at the moment is distress for Barbados, and I think that Barbados cannot hesitate much longer before taking appropriate action to protect the position of the Barbados economy.

I support this Resolution because it will go some small way towards alleviating the problem. But this is U.S. \$7 million, Bds. \$14 million, and that is not significantly larger than the annual monthly rate of increase in our balance with the CMCF. If you check the published statistics of the Central Bank over the past month, you will see that this is increasing at the rate of \$10 million a month, and so no other arrangements short of correcting the problem itself can alleviate our problem indefinitely.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I do not think that anybody could suggest that U.S. \$7 million could be really used to bring an end to our balance of payments problems. This U.S. \$7 million has been advanced as part of the United States Basin Initiative. Initially, the first portion of the CBI, as it was passed in the United States Congress, provided for some financial aid, and this is Barbados' portion under that project.

I saw that the goodly Senator McClean wanted to use the opportunity to talk again about the Caricom multilateral Clearing Facility. I do not believe that anybody in their right mind can agree that the CMCF is working as we would like it to work, or that it has solved all of the problems that are associated with Caricom trading. It certainly has not.

What has happened when one looks at the unfavourable position of Barbados within the CMCF is that it can be easily attributed to the success of Barbados' trading within Caricom. When one analyses the significant built-up of credit due to Barbados in the CMCF, one can really see that this was not to be the case.

The reason that the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago was asked to take over the control of the CMCF is because it was expected that, because of their formidable export earnings from their oil industry, it was the country that would bear the greatest burden.

In effect, what is happening is that we are suffering from our success under the Caricom trading situation. But if one wants to suggest also that Barbados withdraws from the Facility because of this problem, one is asking the Government of Barbados to take a very terrible step. In fact, if you suspend trading under the CMCF, you are going to be endangering employment in Barbados, and when we make these analyses about how best to deal with the Caricom Multilateral Trading Facility and the

various problems, one has to think in terms of affecting the exportability of the manufacturing sector in this country.

So it is all well and good to say that it is not working. We know that it is not working. There have been several attempts to try to revise the CMCF so that it can be beneficial to all countries concerned.

Right now we are faced with another problem *vis-a-vis* the unilateral decision of the Jamaican Government to, in effect, restrict imports into their country, or, in effect, to encourage CARICOM imports into their country at a higher cost than the local manufactured goods in Jamaica. That problem is engaging the attention not only of the Government of Barbados, but we noticed that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago took steps only recently in direct retaliation to what the Jamaican Government has done.

So we are not going to agree that the CMCF is a perfect institution. I am reminded of a statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister that it is more a club of the Central Bank Governors in the region. It is not a perfect institution. We have problems with it. We have been trying very hard recently, at least I have been working very hard to get our purchasing of reformatte from Trinidad pass through the CMCF to save us some \$11 million in foreign exchange.

We are not saying that it is working perfectly, but we have to be constantly making efforts to improve the operation of the CMCF. But to suggest that Barbados should withdraw from the CMCF and look at the bilateral arrangements would be to suggest that we take the steps to generate significant levels of unemployment in Barbados and, as a Government, we cannot afford to do that.

Thank you.

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

APPROPRIATION ACT, 1983

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, for the benefit of all Senators, I believe, Sir, I should start by saying that we propose to break for lunch at about 1:00 o'clock.
12.15 p.m.

We propose to break for dinner at about 7 o'clock, and we have every hope that when we break for dinner we should have given thorough, analytical and penetrative and complete consideration to the Appropriation Bill for the year 1983-84. In any event, when we

break for dinner, if we have further business to do, we shall have to do it tomorrow starting again at 11 o'clock.

Sir, for the honourable members who have just joined us and to whom I have already tendered personal congratulations, Senator Jemmott and Senator Waldron-Ramsay, I would wish to take the opportunity to point out that the debate on the Appropriation Bill is a second reading debate in this Chamber and we do not go into the details of Estimates, which are indeed the Schedule to the Bill, as is done in the Other Place. Therefore Senators are always well advised to concentrate on an area of concern and to speak well, penetratively, aggressively if necessary, and analytically on that particular area of concern. I believe that the fact that the new Senators will speak, certainly after Senator Greaves, and perhaps after both Senator Greaves and Senator Hall, is enough justification for me to advise them that it is always better to keep the speech tight.

This morning what I shall do is not to be very long because, as is our established pattern on the Government benches, we stand ready to answer any questions and to clarify any issue arising out of the debate. While I shall make the final speech by way of reply to any points raised, Senator Trotman will reply immediately before me to any points concerning the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Defence and Security, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health. Senator Griffith will reply just before Senator Trotman to any points raised in respect of the Ministry of Finance and Planning the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Transport and Works, and Senator Howell, speaking immediately before Senator Griffith, will respond in relation to any points made concerning the Ministries of Labour and Social Services and of Housing and Lands.

Mr. President, the general economic setting against which the Appropriation Bill falls to be considered this year is one in which there are falling oil prices internationally and one in which in countries which have followed strict monetarist policies inflation has been coming down. But as inflation has been coming down, employment has also been coming down, so we have the situation of rising unemployment at the same time that we have falling inflation.

I believe, Sir, it is true to say that, in some instances, people have now to come to grips with the fact that if you are relying on the consumer to generate economic growth by the purchase of local manufacturers, as is the case, for example, in the United States, things take a little longer to take off, because the consumer who is out of work does not have the purchasing power to generate the kind of growth that you are looking for.

We could go on and talk at great length about the experience of countries applying monetarist theories, and

we could go on, if we wished, also to try to elevate such theories into the realm of precise science. I believe that even Mr. Friedman has not been so bold in recent times. In fact, some months ago he took opportunity to mention at a Press Conference in London, I think it was, that his theories had been misapplied, which, of course, is an easy way out.

So we are back to the area of running Governments by trying to understand economic indices and by using commonsense. In so far as this is to be an index of success or failure, I believe that we are in a position at this time to point to the fact that, even though we have had to fasten the belt and in general not to go for new projects over the past year — and indeed over the past two years to put the curb on public spending — we have been able to get along without any serious or I should say economically significant loss in employment opportunities.

I prefer to say "economically significant", because at a time when unemployment statistics are rising astronomically even in developed countries, when our unemployment rate reaches 13½ per cent, we can say that that is not an economically significant loss. But I do not think we can say it is not serious, because every loss of a job is a serious matter to the person who loses that job, and also every loss in employment has, in turn, its effect on the forces of generating wealth in the country.

So what we need to look to is the fact that we have been able to try to stay afloat until things get better and we have been able to do this without the kind of loss of employment which has been experienced not only in developing, but also many developed countries. We have not gone into the high teens far less into the twenties, and indeed, by a judicious capital works programme which is reflected in this year's Estimates, we hope that we will be able to start bringing the rate back down rather than allowing it to rise any more.

In relation to inflation, one of the few things which has been happening in the outside world that has brought us any benefit in these fairly bad days is the fact that we have also benefited from the fall in inflation externally.

I believe that, speaking on the other side, somebody is bound to make the point that nothing in the Government's programme had anything to do with inflation coming down. I am not even prepared to get into that argument. All I am prepared to say is that any time that we start getting inflation in this country, the same voices that will be heard to say that you had no influence on inflation coming down, no influence whatsoever, will be heard to say that you cannot possibly stand up and tell people that the inflation which you are suffering is imported. In other words, there are persons who are able to make the argument with a straight face — sometimes

with a little bit of a smile, but with a straight face — that whenever there is inflation, Government is responsible. When the opposite happens, it is external forces.
12.25 p.m.

All I will do on this occasion is to report that the point-to-point rate has fallen to something like 7 per cent, and that makes me feel very good, whether we are responsible or whether it is external forces. Also, when it rises to a level which it used to be at in the mid-70s, whether it was imported or whether it was caused by the Government, it used to make me feel very bad that it was as high as it was then. That, Sir, is all I want to say about inflation.

But what is important is that, unlike the developed countries, which have been experiencing the problem of applying monetarist policies to bring inflation down, we have not had this parallel movement in terms of inflation and employment. One of the reasons we clearly have not had it is that, as a Government, we recognize that a principle concern has at all times to be to keep people at work, and, therefore, even if we have to make the odd concession which results in loss of employment, we are not prepared to pursue policies which would mean any massive loss of jobs in this country.

I believe, Sir, that we should recognize that I am talking against a background of falling business in the tourism industry, which is the sector in this economy which has grown fastest over the years and which has been looked upon until very, very recently — in fact, it still is, despite the set back at present — as a stable provider for a large number of jobs for our people. Also, Sir, traditionally, agriculture was an earner of foreign exchange, and the most significant employer in that sector of the economy is sugar. So we are still talking against a background of tourism and sugar feeling very, very serious adverse effects at this time. Indeed, one of yesterday's newspapers referred to the fact that at present sugar prices we stand to lose massively in the sugar industry again this year.

At the same time, there has been the bright light in that our manufacturing industries have been performing very well. In dealing with the last issue this morning, Senator Griffith made the point that one of our big problems with the CMCF is the fact that we have grown at a rate in Caribbean trade which I do not believe that anybody anticipated, and the result is that we have become the major creditor in the CMCF.

Now I am also prepared to make the point that that is not the whole story. Because in an institution where I believe the limit of credit was to be something like \$10 million, then certainly the administrators of the fund have been grossly at fault in allowing the situation to arise where our credit in the Facility should stand at

something like \$56 million. And I am talking U.S. dollars right through.

So I am not making the point that the fund rose to \$56 million purely because our trade has grown so fast. It is true had our trade not grown so fast we could not be owed that money. But it does not seem to me that a reasonable approach to the administration of the Facility would in all the circumstances have resulted in our credit standing at that level. I believe that it would have probably resulted in it standing a little higher than the \$10 million, because I believe that the administrators of the fund might have sought to increase the credit limits for participants.

But as Senator Griffith intimated, we must also recognise that we are not in a position to do without the Facility. There is no way that we know at present, Mr. President, that our manufacturers can keep producing and selling, and keep employing Barbadians, unless the Facility, imperfect a mechanism though it may be, should continue in existence. In a very real way, therefore, the credit in the Facility has to be seen as one of the prices paid for keeping Barbadians at work, and I think that is something which we must look at. True, all may not agree with that assessment, but it is easier, perhaps, to see easy alternatives when your hand is not on the wheel.

One of the points which this leads me to, Sir, is the amount of business we do with Trinidad & Tobago, because there are any number of reasons for people to feel good about oil prices coming down. The price has come down from \$34 to \$29 a barrel. There are commentators who are arguing that the oil prices will come down certainly to about \$25, and there are some who are arguing that they will come down even further.

It is undoubtedly a fact that when oil prices took off in the mid-70s, and took off at the rate that they did, they threw the world economy into a disequilibrium. It does not, however, in my view, Sir, mean that if oil prices just suddenly came down, this would be a circumstance of unmitigated good.

I think that we have to recognize that, much as we want oil prices at a certain level, much as we would like them to come down, inherent in the very lowering of the price of oil there will be certain problems. I can think of one which relates very directly to us, and that is, what is going to be the impact on the Trinidad economy of falling oil prices? When we ask that question we must go on to ask ourselves, what are the implications for Barbadian exports to Trinidad in an atmosphere where oil prices fall and fall rapidly? While we welcome prices coming down, we also have to recognise that there are signs in the fall of oil prices which we must try to read and read properly.

There is also this point. It is almost as though I needed to be reminded, speaking immediately after the Resolution which was just managed by Senator Griffith. There is no way that I can forget that there are people in this community who expressed the view — which, fortunately, was not a view they seemed to hold or express at the time when they ran the financial business of the country — that we do not need any foreign investment in this country.

12.35 p.m.

As far as I am concerned, the only fitting comment on a statement that we do not need foreign investment in this country is that once we repeat it, everybody understands what foolishness that is. There are all sorts of arguments produced by people about our problems stemming from the fact that we are unable to mobilise the capital resources in the Caribbean fully, and that if we were able to do this, then we would not need foreign investment, and so on.

I am quite prepared to be advised on the subject by reputable economists, and I want to make the point that anybody who advances that as a serious theory to me is going to have to answer some very hard and direct questions. But it is a point of view, and I really do not know what accounted for the expression of the point of view, but I am also aware that there has recently been done, in the course of a series carried on by the Democratic Labour Party, something that was very well received by way of proposals for industrial development. I think this was done by Mr. Branford Taitt, and as someone who has recently had the opportunity to read a study financed by the World Bank for the Industrial Development Corporation, what I cannot understand is why Mr. Taitt did not say what was the source of his material.

What he said made sense, but then it was not his ideas; it was coming straight out of a report to which he obviously had access. One does not quarrel about things like that. As I said before, all that one need do is to do what people in the field of research always do, which is to give the relevant footnotes, and in that case it would have been a matter of footnoting the whole speech with one source.

But then Mr. Taitt does not like to do these things. I remember him at election time in 1981 — and it is something which he is still worrying about, judging from comments made in the Other Place recently — on a matter where he objected because he was being required to tell the truth.

We are also introducing the Appropriation Bill against the background of still fairly high interest rates. I do not know if one recalls easily, Sir, but in this very Chamber I have made the point before — and I made that point with the full agreement and support of Senator McClean, and I therefore believe I still have that support

and agreement — that we had allowed the interest rates to go too high. I still believe they are too high, and I was heartened to see that, in the course of introducing the Appropriation Bill in the Other Place, the Minister of Finance made the point that he had directed the Central Bank to have the rates brought down.

Again, another point which is very dear to my heart, is the point about mortgage interest rates, which I believe are also too high. I notice that he paid attention to that very point in that he said that representations had always been made to him that you could not attract investment in the area of mortgages unless there was an interest rate at a certain level, and that he was not directing that those be brought down at this stage, but rather he was giving that theory a little time to prove itself.

I believe that the Minister also adverted to the business of bridging finance, and I hope that when he did advert to the business of bridging finance he did that to indicate that the Central Bank would treat bridging finance differently. Because, again, as I have said before, one of the biggest deterrents to people building their own homes is the fact that although you can get a mortgage — in circumstances when you can get one, that is — since the bridging finance is categorised in the way in which it was, as a personal loan, then money for bridging would be caught by the Central Bank's restrictions on personal loans. So you are assured of the mortgage on the one hand, but in relation to the bridging finance to build the house, you could not get that money, so that really you only had a paper mortgage. The assurance that you could get a mortgage really did not matter, did not count for anything.

I would hope, Mr. President, that we would move to a situation where when the lender made mortgage funds available, said you could have the money, that instead of having to go through the business of negotiating a bridging loan from a bank, that the house builder could then draw down the mortgage monies in instalments. It would make it not only more certain that he would be able to build the house, but also it would make it a lot cheaper, because he would not be paying 11 or 12 per cent for mortgage interest and paying 14, 15 or 16 per cent then for a personal loan, while he gets the house up in the air.

You see, Sir, I believe that the area of greatest emphasis for Government at this stage must be housing. There is a White Paper promised, which will soon be brought down, I am assured, and there are a number of things which relate to housing which we do not seem particularly aware of most of the time.

The main thing I am thinking of is the ordinary self-help of the average Barbadian, who has a tradition of building his own house, quite often building it with the

assistance of friends. And if you go around the country, Sir, architecturally what they have been able to produce has been far from unpleasant and has the advantage of being an example of a good utilitarian Barbadian house. I would hate to think that we adopted policies which resulted in that kind of thing being lost for ever.

I believe that we must recognise that there should be institutional machinery in place to facilitate Barbadians building their own homes much in the way that, traditionally, we have been able to do it. After all, Sir, a lot of the people who do the building, or who supervise the building, in those circumstances are really the people who carry the brunt of house building programmes, but carry it really under the name of some building contractor who, once he has spread out his business well enough, then of course has to eat and has to organise the thing. He has to carry financial responsibilities, legal liabilities and so on, and therefore his margin has to be built up.

12.45 p.m.

I have absolutely nothing against those who will build a number of houses on a fairly large scale. We need that, too. We need it, and we need it very urgently, but what I am saying is that it must still be possible in this country for a man to build his own house without being a millionaire. That is something that we must always preserve. That is something, I believe, we must continue to pay attention to in our housing policies.

The elements of mortgage financing and all tax concessions, whether on mortgage interest, whether on improvements to your home, are things that we have been very heavy on. If you have a house and you live in it, and do maintenance and improvements up to 4 per cent of the taxable value of the house, the rateable value, there you can get concessions. If you are in a chattel house and you do improvements, you also get concessions.

All of this is in order to give Barbadians improvements in the quality of their housing stock, but we must do more. We must have a housing regime that allows Barbadians to use their initiatives in providing their own homes and at the same time allows for housing programmes organized on a basis where people build a number of units in order to spread the cost and bring down the price, which is rather cheaper.

Mr. President, I do not believe that this is the time for me to go into that in any greater detail. As I said, there is a White Paper that is going to come down, and when that comes down, then certainly that will provide the basis for further discussion.

One of the things which has been going on in Barbados, without perhaps the attention which it should

receive, has been the attention being paid to slum clearance. That, of course, means reshaping the face of the country and, of course, those who are privileged, like Senator Wickham, to drive in from Atlantic Shores on a morning — let me put it this way, Sir; there will be some of the older and more desirable aspects of Barbadian architecture which will pay the price of modern development but overall, I believe, they have the benefit of a redevelopment programme that has gone on in Oistins, which is to the benefit of the country.

The area just above us here, at Church Village, is an area that will benefit as the new Central Bank building goes up. I have a concern, and it is this, Sir. I would like to see that the redevelopment that has to take place, the redevelopment that is in the national interest, and the slum clearance which, as civilized human beings, we must seriously embark on, be conducted in such a way that as much of what is basically worthwhile Barbadian can be preserved in these developments that are going on.

There are times when we are going to have to make a sacrifice, there are times when the cost is one that we would prefer not to pay, but at the same time, there are many times when redevelopment takes place without the total destruction of examples of the national heritage. I am not yet a full disciple of mortar and concrete.

The final area to which I want to pay attention happens to arise, Sir, out of the details of the Bill. I believe that Senators will notice that again we are talking about a deficit situation. Once upon a time that used to excite a whole lot of comment. In these days it does not.

Last year the revenue was estimated at \$494½ million. It now looks as though the revenue to be realized will be \$485½ million, and these figures will be shortly finalized. That is how it looks to be coming out at present.

The expenditure which last year was projected at about \$501 million is now contracted and expected to end at about \$494½ million. What that means, Sir, is that instead of a deficit of something like \$7 million, the deficit on Current Account is expected to be about \$9 million.

Capital expenditure, which was originally projected last year at \$138.4 million, is now projected at \$111.1 million. Current Expenditure has so far grown by 6.8 percent over the corresponding figure last year. Current Revenue increased by 4 percent.

While the National Debt continues to rise, it rose by a smaller percentage in 1982 than in 1981. But the important thing is that by the standards normally applied to the country's ability to service its foreign debt, because that is the portion of the National Debt that is important

for these purposes — the debt service ratio, as it is called, when you refer to the proportion of exports of goods and services which has to be spent in servicing the foreign debt — remains low down in single digits.
12.55 p.m.

It is extremely important, Sir, that this ratio should remain low, especially when we live in the Americas where we are aware of the problems experienced by places like Mexico, Brazil and so on. As a matter of fact this morning — or was it last night — I was listening to a news item in which in Argentina the unions have refused a Government offer in the matter of a pay increase. I do not know what the unions are asking for, Sir. All I can tell you is that the Government said they could not afford to pay what the unions wanted, but that they would offer an increase of 12 percent per month for the next three months, and the unions countered by saying that this was totally unacceptable since the rate of inflation was running at over 200 percent.

I am mentioning this because at first you say to yourself, "Twelve percent," thinking it is 12 percent per year, but then you hear per month, and you begin to wonder what kind of increases you can be talking about. But it does impose on us a certain sanity, because there are countries in this world where inflation is rampant. In Latin American countries, inflation of the order of 200 percent is not a matter of wonder, and therefore when we talk about inflation point-to-point at this stage being 7 percent, I think we need to understand that we are talking a different language completely from the language of certain places.

There are certain countries where it is costing more to service the foreign debt than they earn by way of exports, and therefore there are places which have to seek rescheduling of foreign debt, suspension of interest and all sorts of things. I think we just have to recognise that when we talk about a debt service ratio, we are not really talking about something to be treated lightly. So while all of the economists I have heard comment indicate that we could service a much larger debt than we currently have to service, we take some comfort in keeping the ratio of debt service as low as it is right now.

There was one other point, but perhaps I will have an opportunity to make it later, because it slips me for the moment. If there are any areas, Sir, which the Senate would wish me to mention and which I have not mentioned in the course of this introduction, then I trust that later in the debate I will be able to make good.

There may have been points which I could have mentioned and which I did not, which went out of my mind as I spoke, and that could be explained by the

fact that the Ministry of Finance is so satisfied with my performance from year to year that they decided this year to treat me like a Minister of Finance and did not give me a brief.

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

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will just propose the question. It is proposed that this Bill be read a second time.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: It seems to me that this would be an appropriate time to have the suspension of the sitting and come back fresh afterwards. I propose to suspend the sitting until 2 o'clock. This sitting will be suspended until 2 p.m.
1.05 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, in making a contribution to this very important debate, I am doing so with an understanding that it is necessary at times, and particularly at a time like this, to look at the economy and the performance of the economy in retrospect, and at the same time to look at some possibilities for the future.

It was noticeable that Senator Barrow, in his contribution prior to lunch, was very much on the defensive and spoke in rather restrained tones to a large extent, and anticipating that some of the strictures and criticisms which will of necessity fall on the Government for its poor performance and for what is obviously a mismanagement of our economic affairs. I will demonstrate this charge by way of illustration as I proceed to make my contribution.

Notwithstanding the position which is being constantly mouthed by the Government and Government agencies about the performance of this present Barbados Labour Party Administration, bearing in mind, Sir, that this is an Administration which has indicated that it has the capabilities within its ranks to move our economy forward, what we have witnessed within the past year, and certainly within the past two years, is a negative growth in our economy. We have witnessed, then a retrogression in our economic affairs.

In 1981 this economy experienced a negative growth rate of minus 2 per cent. In 1982 it registered a negative growth rate of minus 5 per cent. And if that kind of trend is any indication as to what will happen in 1983, bearing in mind the very serious problems which

we have in terms of getting our economy moving, then one can predict that our position in 1983 will, far from being any better, certainly be worse. In short, what I am indicating is that what is happening in this society at the present time is that there is a real decline in the living standards of Barbadians, and this is in spite of the boast of the Government.

Unemployment is increasing. It is interesting to note, Sir, that Senator Barrow in his introduction of the Estimates indicated that we have been able to, as it were, hold ourselves together. There have not been any massive layoffs or, to quote him directly, "We have been able to get along without any economic loss in employment". With all of the time which Senator Barrow spent on talking about unemployment and the general economic trends, it is significant that he did not give any indication as to the level of unemployment in this country. But I believe that there is good reason for this.

He referred to the rate of inflation. The rate of inflation he said was now in the region of 7 per cent. That is a figure, of course, with which the Government would want to become associated. No problem with that. But we would like to hear the position as far as unemployment is concerned.....

Aside.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I have been informed that he said 13½ per cent. Well, that is the official figure. It is generally accepted that unemployment figures do not reflect the true position, particularly in developing countries, and particularly in our experience here in Barbados.

The official figures published by the Government never give a true picture about the unemployment situation. There are a number of things which these do not take into consideration, so although you might have a situation where the Government is contending that unemployment is a mere 13 per cent and falling, to quote the Prime Minister in his address to the Annual Conference of the Barbados Labour Party at the beginning of this year, in truth and in fact the real experience of people in Barbados is that there is a much more serious problem in the area of unemployment.

Sir, this is very often where Governments can be misled, where they publish figures and become so much convinced by the figures which have been put out that they pay little or no attention to the real experiences of people who have got to go out and seek a job, or who have been working and who have been turned out or laid off, and therefore find themselves without a job. Or who, as is happening in one of the major sectors of our economic activity, in the area of tourism — and also in some areas of manufacturing — are being put on short

time. This is a fact. People are working on short time, three hours a week, sometimes a week on, week off, both in manufacturing and in tourism.
2.10 p.m.

What is significant about all of this is that the unemployment figures would not reflect that particular development, but for people who have to be placed in a position where their earning capacity has been reduced as a result of the economic situation, then, quite naturally, they are the people who are feeling the pinch, and it is for this reason, Sir, that there is a general mistrust of statistics which are published in this country. I think it is a new phenomenon which has been created since the Barbados Labour Party came into power.

Just let me give you an indication in this particular regard. They talk about job creation. The Barbados Labour Party has been very full in position and its presentation about the number of jobs which have been created in Barbados since it came to power. Let us just look at a particular area, manufacturing, where the Industrial Development Corporation is involved in the creation of jobs, and where one has heard a lot of talk over the last couple of years about the significant contribution which has been made in the area of job creation by this particular agency.

There is a report, Sir, which was commissioned by the Industrial Development Corporation on the overall strategy for industrial development in Barbados. The report was published in February, 1983, and it was done by a firm by the name of Booz Allen and Hamilton Incorporated. Page 7 of that report has a very interesting comment, which says:

"Over 5 400 jobs were created in the manufacturing sector from 1978–1981. However, the total net job additions were estimated at only 340 for the period."

The net addition of jobs over that period was not 5 400 as we were led to believe, but a mere 340.

With the millions of dollars which we have spent in promoting our industrial programme between 1978 – 1981, all that this country has gained is 340 jobs. Those are not my words. Those are the words of some experts who were paid by the Government to provide this information for its direction.

So when one talks about the question of jobs and the whole question of job creation, one would see very clearly that we are into a very, very difficult situation, because what this report here reveals is that over 5 000 people have lost their jobs in the manufacturing sector in this particular period. You create 5 400 and the net gain is only 340 — a very, very serious problem!

We have, Mr. President, to look at what this situation really means in human terms. For the individual it means tremendous hardship and suffering. That is what is being experienced in Barbados today. People are defaulting on mortgage payments and other debt obligations. There is a general reduction in the quality of food which people eat, because of the high prices and their inability, through reduced income, to purchase high priced food, and there is the inability to improve their housing conditions.

For businessmen, especially the smaller ones, what does this mean? It means collapse, bankruptcy like they have never seen before.

At the same time, one finds that the Government has set a dangerous path in the area of wage negotiations by adopting what I can best described as a repressive approach in the public sector. And in a small country like Barbados, where the Government is such a major employer and where, generally speaking, the position adopted by the Government in any particular area is regarded as the lead, one finds that the private sector follows suit.

The whole question of the legislation of wages in the public sector is one which has been discussed over and over again, particularly since this present Administration came to power, because I believe they have legislated more salaries in the history of Caribbean politics than any other Government in the region.

At this point, Sir, I would just want to speak directly to this particular point. The organization which I represent in this particular issue, the Barbados Workers' Union, of course, never agreed to the legislation, or indeed to the amount which was forced down the throats of workers by the Government. By now I believe that the Minister of Finance would have gotten the communication from the Barbados Workers' Union repeating its call for an additional \$5 million in 1983. That one is by the way. We will get into more detail on that at another time, but I just want to make that particular point.

The point is, Sir, that we want to stress that things are extremely difficult for the poor man in this country, and for the working class man in Barbados. They are really catching hell, to use a popular phrase, and I think it is symptomatic of the whole policy of the Government relative to poor people and the small man. I can say this, because I do not think that the Prime Minister can fire me, but the person who apparently made that comment found his appointment as a Parliamentary Secretary revoked unceremoniously.

2.20 p.m.

The point is that what we are finding is that the Government is embarking on harassment of small people, and workers in particular. One only has to think in terms

of those persons who are operating canteens and who, I understand from Senator Seale, have borrowed a lot of money from the Barbados Development Bank. I can understand his concern.

(SENATOR C. D. SEALE: They are paying it back now.)

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I can understand his concern even if they are paying it back now, because they are operating, but when the Government stopped them from operating it was said that it was the biggest piece of madness one could imagine.

The point is that if they do not have the wherewithal to operate, then you know they will not pay back the money. They cannot pay back the money. I am saying that this is harassment, and one very clearly sees a policy which is being pursued by this present Government, which is not in the best interest of small people and working people in Barbados.

One could move on then to another disturbing element, the whole question of the overall management of the economy and the question of our involvement in the International Monetary Fund. Since we last discussed this matter, that is since we had an opportunity in the last Estimates about a year or so ago, one finds that the Government itself has been forced to admit that the economy is in severe crisis.

I remember at that time when I looked at the information on the economy and the prospects for the performance of the economy, and stated that the economy was in a state of crisis, I was taken to task by Senators from the Government side. It is a matter of record, you only have to go and read the debate of the Senate on the Estimates for 1982 and, see what I predicted there, and see the response from the Government. They said how irresponsible I was and the kind of foolishness I was talking, but the Government itself has now had to come and admit that the economy is in a severe crisis.

By going to the IMF, as it were, almost cup in hand, going like Nicodemus in the night — that is how they went to the IMF; secretly — nobody at all knew about this — and not even having the decency or the courtesy to take the country into its confidence, or to inform the country about the situation. We knew that is what would have happened. We predicted that and it was denied, it was rejected forcibly, but we have found that it did not take a year for our words to show very clearly that we were on the ball and we knew what was going on. As a matter of fact, what was very clear was that the Government did not know what was going on and what awaited them.

The fact of the matter is, Sir, that this present Administration has so mismanaged our economic affairs.....

(SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Not that again).

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes, that again! I am going to beat it until you get sore. They have so mismanaged the affairs of this country that that they now have us in this particular predicament.

Look at the arguments which have been advanced for the Government going to the IMF, and by people who have, at one time or another, spoken for the Government. We heard an argument being advanced that part of the reason for our difficulties had to do with some simple arithmetic error, double counting, that caused \$25 million to get lost somewhere about on the paper, and that is one of the reasons why we find ourselves in this kind of trouble; over estimating, or under estimating, or some kind of nonsense like that. We also heard another argument being advanced, that going to the IMF will enhance the credit worthiness of Barbados.

Whatever arguments have been advanced in defence of the position of the Barbados Labour Party Administration, the fact of the matter is that the real cause of the crisis is, and I repeat, mismanagement. A crisis is not created overnight. This crisis which we are now facing is a crisis which was building up over the last four or five years, one which the Democratic Labour Party warned about, but for which the Barbados Labour Party, the Great Combination, so called.....

(Cheers)

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Would you put Howell in the Great Combination?

They have done a number of things which one can see very clearly led to this situation. They have indulged in excessive spending, inordinate borrowing, a senseless interest rate policy. Interestingly enough, Senator Barrow made reference to that this morning. Of course, he was very quick to distance himself from that decision, but, as I understand it, this is a question of collective responsibility, and no member of the Cabinet, when a decision has been taken.....

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. President. I believe Senator Greaves will be quite prepared to withdraw what he is saying. He understands exactly what he is doing.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I will proceed.
2.30 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am at a loss. What is the point.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I am rising on a point of order, because I think the Senator is aware of the rule about reflections on member's motives and so on.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I really was not questioning Senator Barrow's motives. I was stating a fact. Let me just explain. The Government is responsible for interest rate policies in Barbados. Right or wrong?

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order; I have not at any time attempted to distance myself from any decisions of the Cabinet. Insofar, therefore, as there is any such attempt at a slur.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is now clear what he is driving at. Withdraw the allegation.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I did not really mean to slur the honourable Senator. Far from that, I would not want to do that, but I just wanted to indicate that it was a decision which no member of the Cabinet, including Senator Barrow or anybody, could dissociate themselves from. It was a decision of the Cabinet. It is Government's policy.

The Government, in pursuance of their high and senseless interest rate policy, also assisted in creating the very serious problem that we are in, and what was the reason that was given for this high interest rate policy? One heard arguments such as it was designed to stop the outflow of capital from Barbados and to attract capital back from North America and that kind of argument, completely irrelevant, and at the time when those of us who opposed that particular policy indicated that this was going in the wrong direction, the Government paid no heed.

The whole question of putting pressure on the commercial banks to lower interest rates is a policy which should have been pursued by the Barbados Labour Party Administration since the last three years, but they did absolutely nothing about it, allowed the situation to get out of hand — and now what are we hearing? We are hearing this lot of talk about instructions being given to the Central Bank to instruct the commercial banks that interest rates must come down.

I would think that this is a policy which those of us who have been very critical of the Government policy in this particular area would welcome, and would hope that interest rates would continue to come down,

and would come down within the reach of people who want to, for example, get into the area of housing and the whole question of mortgage and what have you. But I am saying that this is a policy which should not now have been instituted, but should have been put in train a long time ago, because the tardiness and the obvious inability of the Government to recognise the consequence of this towards our whole developmental process has to some extent contributed to the kind of economic problems which we are experiencing now.

The other factor, Sir, has to do with another approach by the Government which, again if you would recall the contribution which I made in the 1982 Estimates — and it is a matter of record — was the fact that the Government, as it were, corralled all the available funds from the commercial banks, those funds which would normally be available to the private sector, and, generally speaking, used them for the capital works programme. This has had disastrous effects for the servicing of overdrafts by businessmen and also disastrous effects on the question of borrowing by individuals for house repairs, far less for new houses.

These are significant trends, Mr. President, in the whole question of our pressing economic climate. When in the period 1974-1975 the Barbados economy experienced a downturn, the present Government party, which was then in Opposition, argued forcibly that our recession and our economic difficulties had to do with the mismanagement of the Democratic Labour Party; it had nothing to do with the international recession. That was the argument. They said that it had to do with the mismanagement and the administration of the Democratic Labour Party. The international recession had nothing to do with that.

The conclusion now at this point in time must be that the present international recession cannot now be blamed for our troubles, but let me hasten to say that I am a responsible person, a reasonable person, and the Democratic Labour Party is a responsible party, and we would not be so irresponsible as to say that the international recession has nothing to do with the present crisis. I could not be that irresponsible. However, what I would say, Sir, is that it is not as responsible to the extent that the Government claims that it now is. In short, what the Government is trying to do is to place squarely and fairly on the shoulders of the international recession the cause of all of our woes — the Government's woes are our woes — because in the final analysis it is we who pay taxes, who have to foot the bill for their mismanagement and all of the errors which they have made in this country.

Let us just look at what happened locally to put us in this position. I am saying that I recognise that the international recession has something to do with our

present crisis, but I am further suggesting, Sir, that it goes beyond that and what I am suggesting was referred to earlier on — the question of inappropriate interest rate policies, the question of wastage, and I cannot pass over this without mentioning the tremendous wastage which took place over CARIFESTA. This is like a recurring decimal.

Up to this point in time, the Government has not been able to indicate how much money was spent on CARIFESTA. As good as CARIFESTA might be culturally, and as to the contribution which it has made, nobody is denying that. But what we are saying is that the Government indulged in a splurge which we now have to pay for. It is estimated that this splurge cost this country \$25 million which we now have to pay for, and which has contributed in no small measure to the kind of economic difficulties and problems which we are now experiencing.

When you take into consideration all of the other factors, when these factors converge, then one can see the difficulties that we are talking about.

The other aspect of our local contribution to the crisis has to do with an unrealistic capital works programme. It also has to do with the tremendous growth in our National Debt situation between 1977 and 1983. If you were to compare, for example, the situation between 1972 and 1977, where our National Debt grew by \$94 million, with the 1977-1983 period, where within that period our national debt grew by \$430.4 million, you will see the nature of the problem that we are talking about, without any particular thing to show for this kind of expenditure.

2.40 p.m.

Then we have as another factor a badly conceived fiscal programme, that is, a regressive taxation policy of increases in direct taxes and fees, and the introduction of levies.

A sixth position, a local position, which we have identified and which we can identify as contributing to our particular crisis, has to do with a policy of political patronage which has created chaos in major public institutions.....Oh yes!

The seventh position which I would want to identify has to do with the pursuance of an industrial relations policy which has demoralized workers, both in the public and private sector, and has consequently stultified productivity.

To demonstrate, Sir, that I am not just talking off my hat — which I do not have of course — the whole

question of mismanagement has come directly from the horse's mouth, the Prime Minister himself!

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I am deciding which one to bring first.

The Prime Minister himself has admitted that interest rates must come down if progress is to be made, especially in housing. Today, Senator Barrow also made reference to this and, as it were, repeated the points which were made by the Prime Minister in his introduction to the Estimates in the Lower House. But who in Barbados was responsible for jacking up interest rates to the high levels that we have in this country today? Who was responsible for that — as if it were not the same Prime Minister who is now, as it were, attacking his own policies, in the same way that the Democratic Labour Party has been doing for a long time in this whole area of interest rates? This is a clear indication that at the time it was done, he knew absolutely nothing about what he was doing, and I will continue to say that, and demonstrate very clearly that he does not know what he is doing.

Secondly, in the Prime Minister's own communication to the Board of Tourism, he discounts the whole question of external factors when he was questioning the performance of the Board of Tourism in the tourism sector. He, himself, discounted the impact of the international recession as the cause of tourism's poor performance, and blamed it directly on the management of the Board of Tourism.

In a letter to the Board of Tourism, dated February 11, 1983, the Prime Minister stated that the poor performance of the Board of Tourism has "inflicted a greater deal of economic damage on Barbados than a serious hurricane would have done." Sir, do you understand that? It is a very, very serious thing. The poor performance of.....

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Do you have the letter? Lend me the letter — Do you have it? Wait, did you carry it away.....Wait, wait — this is a serious thing, Sir. I left my letter here. Did you carry it away David Seale? Sorry!.....

Laughter.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Have you found it?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Oh yes, Sir, I have it here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Alright, go ahead.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, Sir, on a point of order.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Do you want to make it a document?

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Sure; naturally.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I expected that, Sir, in which case let me read the whole letter. I was waiting, because I knew you would have called for it. I wanted the opportunity to read it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is only your time that you are using.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: It is good time, Sir. Let me quote from the big "McGuffy" and his assessment of the performance of one of our major sectors in this economy, when we talk about mismanagement and people knowing or not knowing what they are doing. Remember you had the Government of this country since 1976. This is a letter to the Director of the Board of Tourism dated February 11, 1983:

"Dear Sir:

Your explanation of the exceptionally poor performance of Barbados Tourism in the last three years is to hand. I take it that the main point you make is that, by diversifying the market, Barbados was able to gain large increases in tourism from Europe; but that when economic conditions, especially the enhanced value of the U.S. dollar, turned against Europeans we therefore suffered more than other Caribbean resorts. This, however, begs the question, since you did not present any analysis of how well other Caribbean resorts were doing in terms of their U.K. and European arrivals. I note in the newspapers that Antigua is claiming an increase in arrivals from the U.K. This agrees with the observation of many persons who travel on British Airways from Britain to Barbados via Antigua and who also observe British Airways' flights to Barbados and St. Lucia. The consensus seems to be that Antigua and St. Lucia are gaining in popularity at the expense of Barbados. You also made no analysis of German arrivals in other parts of the Caribbean or the patterns of German tourist traffic generally. Indeed, I have never spoken to any official of the Tourist Board who seemed to me to have at his finger-tips general knowledge about the destination patterns of our main tourist markets,

namely the U.S., Trinidad, Canada, the U.K. and Germany. I would have thought that this kind of market knowledge is essential to any proper assessment of Barbados' failure in the last few years.

2.50 p.m.

2. You should make no mistake about it. Barbados' failure has been catastrophic . . . "

a word that I have never used, but the Prime Minister used it.

" . . . and in a less well structured society would have been destructive of the very cement that holds the society together. A similar tourist failure in Jamaica came about only after great publicity was given to that island's society falling apart in a welter of violence and leftwing politics. Barbados is losing its tourist trade without any of the factors which cost Jamaica its market. I wish I could be convinced that you and the Board understood this factor and did not fall into fatalism in the belief that other people and other events are causing it.

3. The only solution that you have ever offered for our troubles is the spending of more money on advertising. This plea has an history. In 1976-77 your predecessor urged on me the necessity to spend more money since we were spending 'much less than Jamaica, Bahamas and Bermuda.' I resisted this plea and, as I recall, reduced the allocation. This was followed by an increase in the volume of tourist arrivals that far exceeded the increases in Jamaica, Bahamas, Bermuda or probably anywhere else in the Caribbean. The point should therefore have been made that spending on advertising alone is not the prime determinant in the popularity of a destination, especially one as well known as Barbados. Yet, the only recipes which you can find to offer relate to more advertising without any indication of a grasp that no matter how much you advertise a bad product it remains difficult to sell."

The words of the Prime Minister, not mine. I see Senator Ramsay is nodding his head in concurrence.

"4. It is clear to me that over the past three years Barbados has somehow become a bad product and that the Board of Tourism is floundering instead of trying to understand how to change this image."

The Board of Tourism is floundering; they do not know what they are doing; they have no direction; they are like a ship without a rudder out in the ocean; they do not know where to go. This is the interpretation which is given to this. To continue:

"Instead of merely putting up a plea for more advertising you ought to be giving me charts to show the cost benefit of particular advertising schemes and relationship of arrivals to a new advertising campaign. Instead of resisting my suggestion three years ago that the advertising and public relation agents in North America should have been changed and the staff of the offices abroad shuffled around in a search for new ideas, you allowed the 'old boy network' to remain and, in the process, . . . "

and this is the crucial one.

"...inflicted a great deal more economic damage on Barbados than a serious hurricane would have done. Even now you are obviously fooling around with an an office in London that has lost its direction."

This is a serious thing for some people in here.

"There are offices in subsidiary sites in North America that are making no useful contribution to the tourist product. You are giving the Hotel Association very little guidance in how to overcome the narrowness and selfishness of some of its members and how to work together to bring a very sick industry back to life. I am not satisfied with the staff dispensations. I am not satisfied that you can relate your expenditure to product benefits. I am not satisfied that the Board understands that it is in a crisis situation and that new initiatives and new ideas need to take the place of selfishness and the narrow interests of a few people."

I think those are the crucial points of the letter, Sir, and as I said, I am quite happy to make the letter a document of this Honourable Chamber.

Sir, it is the same kind of criticism which the Democratic Labour Party has levelled at the Board for a number of years. The Board of Tourism is not an agency out in the sky. Even although it might be on the former Pelican Island, it is not Pelican Island as distinct from Barbados, it is part of Barbados and it is part of our governmental agencies.

What is very clear, and what is coming home now, is that all of the criticisms which were levelled by the Democratic Labour Party at the Barbados Labour Party in key areas — and tourism is a key area and we have been hammering at this for a number of years — are coming true.

But what do you find? You find that we were being told that tourism was moving. Up to last year we were given the impression that tourism was doing so well, when, in truth and in fact, it was very, very clear that we were being misled and being misdirected by the Board of Tourism.

The point is that the chickens are coming home to roost now, and all we are seeing, from the position of the Democratic Labour Party, is that the Government is now admitting to all the things we said. They are admitting high interest rates, mismanagement and floundering, no sense of direction in the Board of Tourism.

This letter from the Prime Minister, I submit, Sir, is a direct attack not only on the Board of Tourism, not only on the Director of Tourism, but also on the Minister of Tourism, and if any one of them had any guts, they would resign. I do not understand how people, who are in charge of the affairs of any Ministry or any agency, could be subjected to this kind of attack and this kind of criticism and still feel that they can decently carry on in a particular Ministry.

This is obviously demonstrating the fact that the Prime Minister has no confidence in the Board, the Director nor the Minister of Tourism. That is what it comes down to! And I am saying that these are the kind of days that we are living in, and it is very clear that the charge of mismanagement, which we have been labouring on, and which we have been repeating, is a charge which has very very good foundation.

Now let me, having dealt with that matter, look at a general review of the Estimates. I want to start on the Memorandum to the Estimates on page 1.
3.00 p.m.

Sir, it is my belief that the country is again being misled as far as the true nature of our financial position is concerned. That is my belief.

Let us look at the Memorandum to the Estimates 1983/84. We see here that the actual revenue collected up to February 28, 1983 is \$412 298 828. The Government is projecting to collect, in a little over 30 days, 31 days probably, \$73 116 181.

This represents something like 18 per cent of the total revenue that has been collected from the period April 1 to March 28, 1983. I believe that the Leader of the Senate, and I hope that he will take a note of this, owes it to this Chamber to illustrate how we expect to get this \$73 million in 31 days. I doubt they will. The point I am making is that I have doubts, very serious doubts, that this will be done.

We have also a situation where, if you look at that same page, there is a breakdown of the revenue. On the question of the deficit for 1982/83, there is a provision made for Loans and Advances with an overall projected deficit of \$145 million. But when you look at the corresponding position for the fiscal year 1983/84, there is no provision made there for Loans and Advances, and what I would want to find out is if the deficit

figure of \$129.2 million is the overall position or if there will be an accommodation subsequently for Loans and Advances as has been sent out in the position for fiscal 1982/83.

Now, we should look at the projected sources of revenue, on page (iii), to get some indication as to what is happening, the general performance of the economy and indeed what is likely to happen. We see that in fiscal 1983/84, the Government expects to collect \$11.5 million more on incomes and profits, which is an increase of about 6.5 per cent.

We also see that there is going to be an increase in the collection of taxes on property, about \$3 million more, or an increase of 11.8 per cent. Under other taxes, and this is significant, Sir, we find that the Government is projecting to collect \$13.4 million more on Stamp Duties in 1983/84 than they projected to collect in 1982/83. This is an increase somewhere in the region of approximately 280 per cent!

I wonder if this is an indication of the kind of measures which we will be getting in the Budget, or if last year, when the Stamp Duty was introduced in the Budget, it was so undercalculated that we are now seeing a situation where it is a more realistic calculation of what will be collected. I remember very well that there was a lot of debate and discussion by myself and Senator McClean on this particular point. I just want to indicate that this is certainly an area which ought to be explained.

Then in another area, Non-Tax Revenue, we find that there is projected to be an increase of \$9.3 million or 16 per cent. I believe that all of these increases have some link with the Budget, and is an indication as to what we can expect possibly from the Budget.

But there is another interesting development in this particular area and I think it indicates very clearly the state of our economic affairs and the kind of crises which we from this side have been indicating that we are in. This can be gleaned from looking at the taxes on goods and services and taxes on international trade, where you find that, cumulatively, there is a decrease in these two areas, a very serious decrease, a drop in the vicinity of 12 percent. I think this very, very clearly reflects our position, the position in Barbados as far as our overall economic performance is concerned.

The expenditure side also reflects a reduction in the services to households. In fiscal 1983/84, this will now be 5.8 percent as compared with 42.4 percent in fiscal 1982/83 and 49 per cent when compared with fiscal 1981/82.
3.10 p.m.

We have to examine what this drastic reduction means to people in Barbados and to people who depend

on services which are provided by the Government. It has to obviously do with the whole question of the quality of the service and the quality of such services, because if we are moving to a situation where we find that there is that kind of reduction, it is fairly clear that people will be called upon to carry a much heavier burden than they have been carrying in the past. This is the stark reality of the situation, Sir.

I would like to move on to the Estimates proper and make a contribution on some of the Heads of the Estimates. I can assure you, Sir, that I would not go into the detailed treatment which I did last year, but there are a number of areas that I would want to make some comments on. I will try to get through them as quickly as possible bearing in mind the swift passage of time. Time seems to fly fast when I am speaking.

On page 11 they have Ilaro Court. Sir, this continues to be a source of concern. We have tried, I believe from about 1979 or 1980 when the Government decided that Ilaro Court would be the official residence of the Prime Minister, to find out what was the extent of the expenditure that the Government was indulging in in the restoration of Ilaro Court, and in preparation for the Prime Minister taking up residence.

The Opposition has tried over and over again and we have never been able to get a true picture about the amount of money which was to be spent, and which is being spent, in the restoration of Ilaro Court. There are a whole set of agencies involved in this: Ministry of Communications and Works, money used from Culture, money coming from Education, money coming from the Prime Minister's Office money coming from all over the place. When we have raised questions about the extent that this would cost the taxpayers of this country, we have never been able to find out.

I wonder why the Government is dodging telling the people of Barbados the amount of money which is being expended on the restoration of Ilaro Court. Is it that they are embarrassed about the extravagance which is being indulged in? Is that the reason? From all that time we are now into 1983 and money is still being voted for the restoration of Ilaro Court.

I recall in 1981, at least when we were discussing the Estimates in March 1981, that when the Prime Minister was questioned about his expected date for moving into Ilaro Court, he said these words "To be sure, before the next elections". That is before the 1981 elections, and the 1986 elections are almost here and he has not got into Ilaro Court yet. What is the reason?

At the same time, Sir, we the taxpayers of Barbados, are paying the Prime Minister about \$1 300 or \$1 400 a month to live in his own house after having spent so much

money to restore Ilaro Court to make it the kind of place adequate for "His Majesty", if you want to call him that, and yet he cannot go to Ilaro Court! Why is it that the Prime Minister does not move into Ilaro Court?

Mr. President, we cannot spend millions of dollars in a property only for the Prime Minister or the Ministry of Tourism to give parties for tourists, or for the Independence celebration party to take place. That is all Ilaro Court is used for officially, as far as I know. I am not talking about the unofficial use. What we are saying is that if we are spending this type of money, it is high time that we should know something more about this, and we should be given some indication as to the amount of money which has been expended there, and also the time when the Prime Minister will be moving into that area.

On the Statistical Department, I would just want to repeat the charge which I made earlier on. (You will notice that I skipped Defence and Security. I will come back to that later when I get down by Housing. I realise you are following, so I am skipping, too.) Sir, I maintain that the statistics which are produced in this country are misleading. We heard a classic example in the Lower House and it was repeated in this Chamber, and I can only assume that the people from the Government side who were putting forward these statistics were putting them forward from a proper source.

Let us take the Ministry of Health, to give you an example. We heard that there were over 5 000 abortions being done in Barbados per year, and in this morning's papers no less a person than Sir Maurice Byer has given the lie to that. He said that the abortion rate is nowhere near the figure of 5 000 per annum. Now I do not know where this information has come from.

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: It is a guess? It is a wild guess! That is what I told you during the abortion debate!

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, certainly the member is referring to statistics which appeared in my speech on the introduction of the Abortion Bill, and the statement which I made then — and we can always have Hansard brought and checked — was that this was an estimate which had been arrived at by the committee which had been set up and had gone through the whole business. So when Senator Greaves said he does not know where the figures came from, I am only repeating for his benefit what I said at that time, that that is where the figure came from, and I do not see why he needs to mislead the House at all.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: You see, I would have thought that the Government, in introducing a serious

matter like abortion, would have made itself aware as well as it could possible be aware of the true nature of the situation. But this is the problem. When you want to introduce a certain measure, you see it is all well and good to exaggerate or to use, I suppose, information which would suit the case that you want to introduce. But you see, Sir, history has a way of making fools of a lot of us!

The statistics which are published in Barbados are misleading. They do not reflect the true position in unemployment, nor the true position in the rise in prices. 3.20 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir: at this stage the Senator is misleading the House because at this point he is now casting aspersions on the statistics which are produced by the Government Statistical Service, which is a completely different thing. He seeks to give the impression that the source of his statistics in each case is the same, and it is not.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I would not deny that I am saying that the Government Statistical Service is not producing proper statistics. I am saying that. That is the charge I am making! I have no intention of withdrawing that. One cannot rely on them.....

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let's try and get ahead. The fact is that we have two different sets of figures which have been produced. That is all you can say. Take your choice.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Yes, Sir. We have statistic lies and damn lies, to use a famous quote, in the use and abuse of statistics. On page 27, under Loans and Advances, there is a rather curious note here. It is curious, Sir, because I do not seem to recall any indication being made of this. But the note on Loans and Advances reads as follows:

"This subhead includes provision for the Student Loan Revolving Fund, provision for the writing off of loans to individuals, and loans to Parliamentarians."

I want to get an explanation on this, "and loans to Parliamentarians". Now it is lumped with the Student Revolving Fund. Let me say a word on this, Sir. We have \$1.8 million allocated to this area. There is an increase of \$771 735 in the section Item 27, Loans to Individuals. But this business of Loans to Parliamentarians is a new thing. I did not see it in the Estimates last year, as far as I remember, and I do not think that it would have passed me if it had been there. This is a new thing.

Am I to understand that the Government has increased this section, Loans to Individuals, by \$771 000 to provide for loans to parliamentarians? I would have to come to that in the light of no explanation. Let me draw my own conclusion, unless you can say to the contrary. Tell us what is this provision for Loans to Parliamentarians. Come out and boldly say what this is all about.

The Student Revolving Loan Fund, is a fund, as far as I am aware that has for practical purposes been exhausted, and the Government has been pursuing a policy of not giving leave to people in the public service. This fund is contracted at least to zero, and I really do not know the proportion out of this which would be set aside for this particular fund. But what the Democratic Labour Party and I are very concerned about is this provision for Loans to Parliamentarians. I hope that we will get an explanation whether, as I heard in some other place, that the Government is proposing to give parliamentarians loans to buy motor cars.....

Aside.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Oh yes! You did not know? The Government is proposing to give parliamentarians loans, or to make loans available to parliamentarians, to buy motor cars.

I am saying that this policy is a bad policy. It is the kind of precedent which should never be established in this country, and, furthermore, imagine it is coming at a time when the public officers in this country, who have to travel and who are waiting for loans to purchase motor cars, cannot get the loans! And the Government says that it does not have any money to make it possible to allow persons in the public service, whether they are teachers or civil servants, to go and complete degrees which they are on the verge of completing, which would redound a lot to the benefit of this country! But rather than using this money for that productive purpose, they are setting aside money to give loans to parliamentarians to buy motor cars.

Sir, I am saying that this is a very bad policy and it is something which we should not accept. I would dare say, Sir, that if it were possible in this Honourable Chamber — and I know that it is not — I would really move the reduction of this vote by \$1.00 to demonstrate the protest and the scorn which the Democratic Labour Party has for this kind of manoeuvring on the part of the Government. This is bad and should not be tolerated in this country.....

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Imagine what we have come to in this country where parliamentarians now can get loans from the Government to buy motor cars, and people who are working on behalf of the Government cannot get loans.....

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: The Bank of Nova Scotia can tell you who paid for that. Every red cent belongs to me. Do not worry about that. Now you tell the people a lot of foolishness. You explain to the people why.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do let us have order. Senator Greaves please address the Chair. Pay no attention to them.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: On page 91, under Housing, Sir, the performance of the Ministry of Housing in Barbados is scandalous. We have a situation in this country where we devote money to the National Housing Corporation to build houses for rent and for sale to individuals and what you find is that, in spite of all the boast which the Barbados Labour Party has made, they have been unable to make any significant dent in this very serious problem.
3.30 p.m.

As a matter of fact, I make bold to say that, as far as housing in this country is concerned and the provision of housing for people, the situation has become worse over the last five years. Examine the list of applications at the National Housing Corporation. You also have to take into consideration the number of people who do not even bother to go to the National Housing Corporation, because it is useless to go there, because there is nothing much really going on at the National Housing Corporation to merit their going there in search of a house. It is a scandalous state of affairs and we ought to be able to do much better in this area.

Again, we have been pointing at this for a number of years. The solution is to build more houses. Take some of the money which you waste in Defence and Security and build houses. About \$16 million is going to be spent on Defence and Security this year, and if you total up the amount of money which has been spent on the Defence Force over the last four or so years you will see that millions of dollars have been poured down that drain with no particular benefit to this country. I am saying that that money could have been usefully spent in the provision of houses in this country. At the same time, it could have created employment with the consequent multiplier effect on our general economic activity.

I would have hoped, Sir, that this White Paper, or Red Paper, or Green Paper, or whatever kind of paper that is coming up on housing, will not only be a piece of paper, but will be a paper which is backed by money, because we need a massive injection of money in the area of housing. We do not need talk, we need action, we need the Government and the Government agency which is involved in the question of house construction to get on with the job. That is what we need in this country. I am saying that this is a very, very serious situation which we are having.

We can move on to page 103, the one with Labour, Social Security and Sport. I have made comments from time to time on the whole question of labour and the crucial role which it plays in our overall national development. I do not intend to go into that kind of detailed treatment that I have given to labour in the past, because I am sure that everybody knows very clearly where I stand on this particular issue. But there is a particular matter under the question of labour, and generally speaking, which relates to the work force in Barbados, that I would want to allude to, and it is the question of severance pay.

Now, Sir, I know that I have a Resolution on the Order Paper on severance pay. I am not anticipating that Resolution, I am not addressing my mind to that Resolution at this point in time, but since that Resolution was put on the Order Paper the Government came out with a set of proposals on severance pay, and it is to those proposals that I want to respond. I want to deal with those not with the Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you going to anticipate your own Resolution?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Can I repeat what I said, Sir? I said I am not anticipating my Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just a minute, then. Are you going to speak on severance pay? I want to be clear.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Yes, Sir. I want to speak on an aspect of severance pay.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The rule on anticipation provides that I can allow you to do that if there is not a likelihood of your Resolution coming up in the near future. Are you taking the line that, in view of the Government committing itself in regard to severance, you might not get a chance to debate your Resolution, and you want to do it now?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: No, Sir, I am not debating my Resolution now. I want to refer to an aspect of proposals from the Government on severance pay. It has nothing to do with my Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It has nothing to do with the Resolution?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: It has nothing to do with my Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right, do not let us waste time. You go ahead and we will see how it goes.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: The Government has proposed in a letter to the union, at least the Cabinet has decided, that severance payment legislation should be amended to provide (1) (2) (3) and it goes right down the line. Let me deal with (2) and again I am quite prepared to make this letter a document of this Chamber:

"(2). The maximum severance payment should be \$25 000 or 12 months' pay, whichever is lesser, provided that in the case of an employee who is near his normal retirement age the amount of the severance should not exceed the amount of the wages which he would normally earn had his employment continued to that age."

I just want to look at that aspect of the proposals in the overall policy for labour which the Government is pursuing in this country.

I am saying that this is a retrograde step. We have severance pay at this point in time which gives a person the equivalent of four weeks' pay for every year's service for a maximum of 33 years. What this proposal will mean is that a person now, and particularly if you fall above a certain income bracket, would only be able to get paid for a maximum of 13 years as against 33 years.
3.40 p.m.

This is a very, very serious policy decision. It has very serious implications. If you were to take, for example, a company like Cable & Wireless, where Senator Williams is employed, or the Telephone Company — notice, Sir, I am using two companies where technology is so developed that people can be replaced quite easily — Senator Williams himself knows that Cable & Wireless, because of the technology which it has in its possession, has not employed any technical people since 1972, right or wrong?

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: They have not employed any technical people for a long time. He is also aware that the company is holding severance or redundancies over the heads of the operators at Cable and Wireless and has been doing so for a long time. They can be made redundant very, very easily.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are now going into the realm of your own Resolution.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: No, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your Resolution talks about expediting payments of severance payment.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Right. I have not touched on severance payment yet, Sir. I think you are anticipating me.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No; what are you talking about, then?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I am giving an example. Let me repeat what I have said, Sir. I have said that the proposal from the Government will mean that whereas before under the existing legislation a worker can be paid severance pay up to a maximum of 33 years — that has nothing to do with time of payment — 33 years — the proposal from the Government will now limit it to 13 years. That is something different.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I heard that part. Go on to what you were saying next.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I was taking the example of Senator John Williams.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You said they were keeping people's money for a long time.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: No, Sir. I never said that. Get the records. I think you are anticipating me, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: All right. Forgive me if you did not say it. Go ahead.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I know you listen all the time, Sir. You can listen. I am talking, so listen to me carefully.

Cable and Wireless has had redundancy hanging over the heads of operators at Cable and Wireless for a number of years. Most of the workers at Cable and Wireless over a certain level of income, and I suspect that Senator Williams is one of them — I do not know his salary; I am not really interested in that, but I suspect that he is one of them — who if they were to be paid out now — this is the point I am making — at the old rate as against the rate proposed by Government, they would get 62.4 per cent more under the old system than they would get under the rate proposed by the Government.

That is the point I am making, that is what is staring Senator Williams in his face. And when the legislation

comes out, I want to see how he will vote on that, because this is where his bread and butter now matters, and it is a matter of principle. This is a matter of very, very serious principles, and in this day and age we are very disturbed that the Government could be considering the introduction of such a backward step.

When one makes the charge that the Government has been pursuing and continues to pursue a policy of repression and harassment of workers in Barbados, this again is an indication as to this particular line. We are disturbed that we could be called upon to be examining this kind of situation at this time of our life.

I would hope, Sir, that the Government would have the good sense to withdraw the proposals and come with more meaningful proposals. I am not dealing with the other part of the proposals, Sir. I will deal with them when I come to my Resolution of Severance Pay, but I just thought I would take the opportunity to deal with that aspect of labour.

Now, let us go to page 109, under the Industrial Development Corporation. We find that this year we are providing \$8.2 million for factory construction and infra-structural development of industrial parks. I must admit, Sir, that this is a source of concern, the whole industrial area, the area of job creation, and in light of the survey which I alluded to earlier on in my contribution, one must of necessity ask the question, where are we going? We need some direction in this particular area.

The Industrial Development Corporation has not really been performing in the kind of way that one would expect for the massive sums of money which has been put out in that particular area. And if the study, which has been done by Booz Allen and Hamilton Incorporated or Incorporated, is any indication of the impact of the Industrial Development Corporation on our overall economic life, then one is really left to wonder, because they have painted a fairly gloomy picture about the overall impact of the contribution of our Industrial Development Corporation over the last three years, 1978-1981. I would hope, Sir, that we would see some new direction coming from that particular institution.

Now, on to the Ministry of Transport and Works, with particular reference to the Transport Board. (You will notice, Sir, that I am barely touching on some of the major agencies, National Housing, Transport Board, the Industrial Development Corporation, the Board of Tourism; four major areas in our total national life.) Sir, the Transport Board is still a source of concern to the travelling public. Instead of what we have been hearing, what we find is that the Board seems to lack the capability of responding to the travelling needs of Barbados, and I really wonder what is the problem.

We have been setting aside large sums of money. We have been bringing in new buses from England and from Germany. We even heard of some attempts to bring in new buses from the United States of America. We have a new Board. The old Board and the Chairman were sacked. We have a new Board. There is a new General Manager and a whole range of people working at the Transport Board in all sorts of areas, but yet, with all of these new developments, we do not seem to be getting the kind of performance that one would expect.
3.50 p.m.

There is a Public Relations Officer, Customs Relations Officer, Industrial Nurse, Deputy General Manager, General Manager, Senior Personnel Officer, all these are new people, and what we are finding is that the Transport Board, with all that has been done and is being done, is still not responding, or is still not able to meet the particular needs of the travelling public. On top of all that we are hearing the Minister of Transport saying there will be an increase in bus fares, or he cannot promise that there will not be an increase in bus fares. But I know there will be an increase in bus fares to \$1.00 per journey.

Sir, this is a very serious thing, and it is more serious than we realise, because we have a situation where the Transport Levy, which is a direct tax that is imposed on all workers in Barbados, in the course of one year accumulated somewhere in the vicinity of \$10 million, and yet we pay taxes. Money is granted from the taxes in the Estimates to the Transport Board. (I was trying to find it, I did not succeed, and maybe I can be directed if it is in here). We find no count being taken of the Transport Levy in these Estimates as to how much is being collected and whether it goes into the general revenue, and that is why.....

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I am not talking about what it is being used for. I want to see some account of it. There is no account of the operation of that particular levy. I notice that the Health Levy is accounted for in the Estimates of Revenue. I do not see any similar account being taken of the Transport Levy, and I am saying that the Transport Board will also be getting money from the Transport Levy. So we do not get a clear picture of the amount of money which is poured into public transport, and I think this is a very serious thing. We know how that is going.....

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Frank Walcott is a member of the Board.)

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: No, he is not. In good time I will tell you about the Board. You can check and see he is not a member, but that is a small point, and that is nothing to get hot about.

Mr. President, in spite of the fact that we have the Transport Levy and a sizeable portion of our taxes are devoted to the Ministry of Transport and Works, we still find that the roads in Barbados are in a bad state. I say without fear of contradiction that.....

Asides

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Because you all have done nothing new. That is the whole point, so I will continue to hammer away at those vital areas of our national life to indicate to the Government that they just cannot run rough shod over the people, or refuse to respond to the needs of people in these vital areas. So if I say the same thing that I said last year, it is simply because the situation has not got any better. If anything, it has got worse.

Sir, I just want to refer to Information, and to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in particular, an agency of misinformation. The Prime Minister in the Lower House is reported as having said that the only medium in Barbados that carried the correct information on Leroy Sisnett, M.P. was the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation when the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in its news broadcast stated that Leroy Sisnett was temporarily suspended.

Now, Sir, I want to refer to the *Official Gazette* of March 7, 1983, where there is a Government Notice, No. 224 – Revocation of the Appointment of a Parliamentary Secretary: Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 66(3) and 73(2) of the Constitution the appointment of Mr. L. L. Sisnett, M.P. as Parliamentary Secretary has been revoked with effect from 1st March, 1983.”

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have two minutes.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: You will bear in mind that I was interrupted. I hope you have taken into consideration the interruptions I have had.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, no, you have two minutes.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I am sure that the President will exercise the usually leniency which he exercises to the Opposition. I do not have any doubt about that. As a matter of fact, it was indicated when the restriction was put on the time for speaking that if it appeared at the expiration of two hours that the Opposition needed more time to make its points, he would allow it, so I do not have any bother about that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You still have two minutes.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is the worse thing in broad-

casting in Barbados today. A recent Systems survey showed very clearly that the standards at C. B. C. are way down. It is an agency which puts out the Government side on issues, and on this particular issue, if you are talking about investigative reporting, C. B. C. should have been able to investigate this and give the lie to the Prime Minister, who is claiming that he had only temporarily revoked the appointment of Leroy Trotman.....

Laughter

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I mean Leroy Sisnett, and he was only temporarily suspended.
4.00 p.m.

Sir, I do not mean to anticipate the firing of Senator Trotman, not at all. I am not thinking of that. I am saying that a little investigation would have shown that, rather than making a fool of himself, or rather than the Prime Minister attempting to make fools of the people of Barbados by revoking on the one hand – it is here in the *Official Gazette* – and on the other hand trying to give people the impression that this was not the case, we would have had the truth.

Then, to add insult to injury, you saw Leroy Sisnett with a big Bible in his hand before the Governor-General being sworn back in! When is it after a person has been suspended that he had to go back to the Governor-General to be sworn in? It is utter nonsense! That is what you are trying to project to the people of Barbados through the agency of misinformation, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You must conclude your speech in one minute.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I am winding up now, Sir.

Another aspect is the whole question of staffing of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, where it seems as if the Corporation is pursuing the policy to appoint non Barbadians in the sensitive area of news information and news gathering. I say this because I do not believe that you can check any news station around the Caribbean, or around the world, where you would find such a high proportion of foreigners working in that particular agency.

But I believe there is good reason for that. You get a person who has to run from Grenada or Guyana – and we know that they like to live in Barbados for obvious reasons – put them in those areas, and the whole question of analysing the news or giving a true position of the news would not be done because of the fear of revoking of a work permit or residency hanging over their heads.

This is a very, very serious matter and the whole question of the management structure at Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation needs to be examined. Look at the number of managers. You have managers in almost every conceivable area in that particular area. The Corporation has pursued an anti-union policy where people have been recruited and called "Information Specialists" just to get them out of the union.

Sir, I am really sorry that time seems to be running out on me. I want, finally to make one point, which I should have made earlier on, and this has to do with immigration. I could not let Senator Trotman escape too lightly today.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am only giving you one minute Senator Greaves.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I can get through in one minute, Mr. President.

The people of Barbados are very concerned about the immigration position and the policy which is being pursued in this country. Now, never mind what is published in the newspapers and all this kind of thing, we have some very serious concerns.

If you take the cement plant, for example, one would find that at the cement plant the Government has allowed in 11 specialists, they are Portuguese, to direct the building of two silos. All right, they are specialists, so you might agree to that. But now that they have come, you have allowed in an additional 20 Portuguese, whose job is really using saws and hammers. In short, they are carpenters — 20 Portuguese carpenters — and you have here carpenters in Barbados walking about. At the cement plant where they have laid off welders and you have brought in people from Portugal to do this kind of work.

I am saying Sir, that this is a bad policy. It is a policy that is not in the interest of this country. You have people walking about in Barbados who can do these jobs, but you are bringing in people from outside, from Portugal, who have no more skills than our local people. But the Government must get the cement plant finished at all cost regardless of what happens to people. I am saying that this is a very bad policy and it ought to be reviewed, and I hope that Senator Trotman would certainly give the Chamber the benefit of his information in this particular area.

Sir, I am very obliged for your tolerance. Thank you very much.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I just want to make one observation. If there are any comments in respect of the Severance Pay Act, I would like them confined to the quantum of the point raised there and not to other

aspects that might anticipate the Resolution which is on the Order Paper.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Williams.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President, I am obliged to you for indicating that, because I plan to make a few comments on the question of severance payments proposals. I would like to look at the Estimates, first of all, in terms of what they represent as a set of figures, and then, hopefully, I would like to look at areas like Housing, Labour and possibly Agriculture.

Mr. President, Estimates tell you something about the policy direction of the state. It tells you something about where Government is placing its emphasis. Over the last two years, I think that it has been fairly obvious that Government has been operating on a system of fiscal restraint. In times when you have foreign exchange declining in certain areas, for reasons over which you have no control, then it is fairly obvious that it is totally unwise and economically unsound to have heavy public sector spending.

For this reason, the approach of Government has been the correct one. We tried to have some kind of relationship existing between resources, whether those resources came in the form of concessional funds, grants, or, for that matter, commercial bank accommodation, and we have delicately balanced that relationship. Of course, this is to make sure that you did not run yourself into a debt trap situation.

I am very pleased to see that when you look at Estimates for last year and this year, whereas the deficit itself in terms of a percentage of projected GDP is in the region of 5-9 percent, this more than compares favourably, in a period of high economic difficulties, where we had figures in the region of 7 percent to 8 percent.

It is fairly obvious from these Estimates that Government intends to continue and maintain that policy of fiscal restraint. Like I said, export earnings in certain areas have declined. Recently we have been told that there might be a further shortfall in receipts from sugar and, therefore, at this stage Government has to make sure that very tight control is maintained.

4.10 p.m.

The overall deficit is in the region of \$129 million. Like I said, when you take it in relation to projected GDP for 1983, it represents about 6 per cent GDP approximately. As a matter of fact, it is 5.9 per cent. In countries that are undergoing serious economic difficulties, you will find that that relationship is sometimes in the region of 15 to 20 per cent, and, therefore, again it is necessary to compliment Government for holding it within those limits.

Even if you look at the question of our revenues, revenues as per the Estimates are approximately 24 per cent of projected GDP, and a good indicator is that in times where the economy is buoyant you will find that, as a percentage, that is normally in the region of 29 per cent. Therefore the 24 per cent reflects certain difficulties we have in terms of revenue, but like I said, for that reason we need to make sure that the current account deficit is managed very prudently.

Now, if you look on page 2, you will see that over all spending on current expenditure is projected to rise by no more than 2.7 per cent. I think what is particularly significant is that while you have Other Charges declining by .6 per cent, you have Personal Emoluments rising by 7.5 per cent. As a matter of fact, the change between the 1982-83 Estimates and the 1983-84 as a dollar figure is in the region of \$15.432 million. I suppose this indicates Government's intention to accommodate or meet certain requests of the union.

Senator Greaves earlier suggested that Government's approach to dealing with the negotiations last year was wrong. I think that he found it extremely difficult to say that, but I suppose he was speaking as a member of the Democratic Labour Party, because the Barbados Workers' Union has always taken the stand that, should there be an upturn, the BWU would expect an accommodation in the region of \$5 million.

Again, amid all the difficulties, when Government can allow current account expenditure to rise by the projected \$15 million to accommodate salaries, and this includes public workers' salaries, then this says a lot for the Government. The Prime Minister has gone on record as saying that indeed if there is an upturn, he would have made that accommodation and I do not think that Senator Greaves really can get away with saying that the Government did not do all in its power to accommodate the unions.

As a matter of fact, at that point during the negotiations, I thought, and I still think, that the Barbados Workers' Union showed a certain degree of maturity in its behaviour, and it is a bit unfortunate that Senator Greaves had to make the statements which he made this afternoon. I am not too sure if the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union will be too pleased with his comments.

Mr. President, in terms of our overall deficit, the point I am making about this \$15.4 million is that, to my mind, it is the main contributing factor to our overall current account deficit of \$6.374 million. I think Government has at all times to be very careful in allowing wages to be the major contributing factor to current account deficits. It is not a criticism of Government, because I think, and I have already said, that I compliment them for taking the effort to accommodate the union, but we have to be careful in future.

In terms of the capital budget, again Government has to be complimented for seeking to ensure that adequate support is given to those major sectors of our economy. If you

look at the various sections, you will find that even in the case of agriculture we have been able, while phasing out one particular programme, to move into others. I will speak on Agriculture a little later.

There is one other point I want to make in terms of the capital Estimates, and it is this. There are some people who believe that Government is wrong in continuing with capital projects. I am saying that capital projects are necessary in order to improve our social and economic infrastructure. Capital projects also in themselves create jobs, directly and indirectly. For instance, if you look at the Oistins Development Project, which is coming to a close, that has created jobs directly as a result of the project itself, and now you will find that the whole project itself will also create further jobs because of the economic activity that will go on there. Government cannot therefore curtail its capital works programme, and I am very glad to see that again we are having a budget in the region of \$122 million.

I would also like to suggest that there are certain items which ought to be included in the Estimates for us to get a clearer picture and a clearer understanding of Government's overall policy, and at the same time to be able to see the impact of a particular item within the Estimates themselves. I am referring to the Transport Levy. I honestly believe that somewhere within the Estimates we ought to have been afforded the opportunity to see the effect of that on the overall Estimates. It is something that the individuals responsible can look at subsequently.
4.20 p.m.

In terms of the capital budget, one significant area is the area of Housing. Unfortunately, Senator Greaves got up and proceeded to castigate the people at the National Housing Corporation and the institution itself. Although, Mr. President, you will see that the subvention to the National Housing Corporation has been reduced, housing will however, be given a boost by a \$10 million loan from the USAID.

I think that it is a step in the right direction. For a long time I have thought that the emphasis ought to have been taken off the shoulders of Government and funds made available for people who want to have or to build low-income houses. I believe this indicates the resourcefulness and the capacity of the low-income people.

We also see a reduction in the subvention to Agriculture, but this is mainly due to the fact that the Oistins Project is coming to a close. What I would however like to see in terms of our approach towards agriculture is that we have a definite phase-in/phase-out system where as soon as one particular project has concluded, then we will go directly into another. I think the impetus of agriculture have to be maintained and there must be, and there is a great need for a strong pipeline of capital activities in the area of agriculture so as to enhance our potential to earn further foreign exchange in this area.

I know that in the Estimates provisions are there, but I would like Government to place very highly on its priorities list the Speightstown and Bridgetown fishing facilities.

In terms of agriculture, I am hoping that Government would embark on putting further funds and further accelerating development in the Orchard Development Programme in the Scotland area, because much foreign exchange can be earned in this area. Even in the United Kingdom there is a high demand for tropical fruits and I think it is necessary for Government, with all alacrity, to accelerate that orchard programme in the Scotland area.

I recognise in the Estimates a drop in the subvention to the Tenancies Programme and I am hoping that this is a reflection that those individuals who wanted assistance in this area, generally, speaking, have capitalized on the opportunities provided in the past, and that there is justification in reducing that subvention. I glean that that might be the reason, and indeed I hope so.

The only other two areas that I would like to touch on in the Estimates as a total figure have to do with CARICOM and the IMF, which Senator Greaves alluded to earlier.

Mr. President, CARICOM, as an idea of integration for small developing countries, proceeded on the belief that these countries acting together as a total unit would in the long term gain more in terms of development, economically and otherwise than if they had acted independently, using their own independent efforts.

It was felt that through CARICOM there would have been a greater intensification of trade within the region; the idea being that the total market in the region would then become bigger as a consequence of CARICOM. It was felt that even in terms of negotiations, when you negotiate as a body within the region, it has a greater impact than if each individual territory negotiated on their own behalf.

It was also felt that the idea of CARICOM had other benefits in terms of extra-regional trade, it had certain implications in terms of our tourist trade, and that there was a need to co-ordinate the region's foreign policy.

You may ask, "why this sort of a background?" It is for this reason, I firmly believe that the actions of Jamaica are clearly not in the interest and spirit of CARICOM. And if you look at Article 46 of the Annex to the CARICOM Agreement, it will tell you that through the Clearing Facility there will be a need for greater liberalization of inter-regional trade to ensure that countries with balance of payment deficits will be able to increase their exports to the rest of the region by making full use of the Facility.

Senator McClean has already suggested that the amount of money that Barbados has tied up in that Facility is too much for any small developing country to have, being transformed from a liquid or short-term

asset into a medium-term one, and, like some people are suggesting, it might even become a long-term asset. That, Mr. President, along with Articles 46, which speaks of consultation with partner states before monetary changes in exchange rates could take place, to my mind only tells me that we have to be particularly concerned with Jamaica's action.

4.30 p.m.

And something keeps staring me in the face all the time, because I remember — and it was only recently that I alluded to the fact — that we had a Federation and that it broke up, and we had the famous saying that one from ten leaves nought. I find it rather strange that Jamaica, at this point in the region's history, could have a two-tier system, and at the same time is not particularly concerned about the impact and the effect it will have on trade within the region. CARICOM was supposed to establish a regime that would develop the Lesser Developed Countries within the Caribbean region. That was part of the principle of CARICOM, but yet, although that two-tier system is said to be severely affecting trade from those Lesser Developed Countries in the region, Jamaica is not particularly concerned.

In terms of our funds in the Caribbean Multi-Lateral Clearing Facility, I am not even so sure if we can get them in short term, and that was one of the contributing factors for Barbados having to seek IMF assistance when it did. There have been a lot of prophets of gloom talking about the Government seeking IMF assistance, etc. But suffice to say that if one goes to a bank to borrow funds and you go when you are in a favourable position, then it is fairly obvious that the kinds of conditions attached to that loan will be a lot less than if you went when things were extremely bad.

You have money tied up in a Clearing Facility; you have a situation where clearly there was a decline in receipts of sugar and a decline in the receipts from tourism. I think at one stage, in August, 1982, you had a situation where your net domestic assets were at the level of approximately \$77 million, where it was projected by the end of December that they would be in the region of \$110 million or \$111 million and that by the end of March they would have been at the level of \$97 million. I think that was the projection.

It is suggested that it was based on spurious, economic analysis, and I am not prepared to lend my support to that argument whatsoever. You have a situation where to my mind it would have been foolhardy on the part of Government to have stopped the manufacturing sector in Barbados by withdrawing the kinds of market arrangements which existed in the region with Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana.

One may say that if you have money tied up and you cannot get it, the next best thing to do would be to come out of the Facility. But that has serious implications. You may even say restrict trade with Jamaica or restrict trade with the rest of the region if you cannot get back your money, but obviously that would have meant a contraction within the manufacturing sector. In time of economic difficulties you cannot afford to compound the problem, and I think that Government did the correct thing.

I believe that the sum total of it all is that we as people of the region have to be more sensitive to the problems of this region as a whole, and Jamaica and other territories in the region must understand that the total region has to develop. We have to develop our own trading patterns within the Caribbean itself if we are going to go anywhere. Jamaica is trying to jump off the ship at this stage.

Mr. President, without taking up much more time on the Estimates, as a body of information that tells you something about Government's fiscal policy for the next year. Government has been able to allocate money to those strategic sectors of our economy and at the same time to limit public sector spending to a manageable level, and although we are going through serious economic difficulties, the Government has still been able to make provisions for further accommodation in terms of public sector and personal emoluments. I think that speaks for itself, Mr. President.

I will spend the next few minutes looking at the Ministry of Labour, which I think is Head 39. For a long time the union has been asking for manpower surveys and manpower planning and statistics dealing with things like occupational training and career vocational guidance, etc.

It is to be noted that from April, 1983, we will have the services of an OAS expert, who would be looking at developing a unit to look at these particular areas. He will be specifically looking at developing programmes on occupational training, employment counselling and replacement, wage fixing, work permits, technical education and skills training. Of course, you will find that as a result of all this more statistical data on the question of labour and manpower will become available to the general public.

It is also hoped that by April 1, we will have a job analyst, and he will undertake training courses in occupational classification. I think that in itself will act as a filip within the Labour Department and, to my mind it is a move, Mr. President, in the right direction.

We also at present have the position of Deputy Chief Labour Officer outstanding, and hopefully that

too will be filled in the not too distant future. On that I will say that that particular position should be filled with the greatest degree of alacrity for the simple reason that only recently we passed in this Honourable Chamber, Mr. President, the Factories Bill, which is a very comprehensive piece of legislation, and all possible personnel will be required for that department to be able to service that Act when it comes into being. So I think the Labour Department must have its full complement.

4.40 p.m.

Also within this fiscal year, Mr. President, we will see the drafting of legislation dealing with unfair dismissals and equal opportunities, and we are also hopeful, Mr. President, sometime this year to get a Bill dealing with shops.

Also, as proposed by Government, and this came in the form of a letter to the union, there will be a Bill dealing with severance pay. You have already indicated Mr. President, that I should restrict my comments to that particular figure. But let me say from the outset that while a lot of people are concerned — and if you are affected, then one will have to be concerned — it was clearly stated as being a Cabinet matter.

Mr. President, Government could have brought it here in the form of a Bill, but it did not. Secondly, it was telling the unions that we would like an input from you. Senator Greaves, during the Factories Bill, brought amendments to this Honourable Chamber; and, wherever it was possible, Government proceeded to accommodate the union. It was not accommodating Senator Greaves, but the workers of this country. I am saying that what is necessary here is for the unions to make representation on behalf of the workers. If they want to send a White Paper to the Ministry, that is what they ought to do.

I must be quite frank about it; the proposal in itself has a lot of problems associated with it. But I have no doubt that if the unions make the necessary representation to Government, and point out to Government the difficulties and the implications of passing a Bill in that form, then Government will be predisposed in accommodating and seeing the wisdom in making certain changes.

Senator Greaves made a point which I would like to refute. He said that Cable and Wireless had not hired anybody in seven years. That is not true, Sir.

Mr. President, I want to look at the National Conservation Commission. Sir, as you may well know, I am a member of that Board, like Senator Linton, who is Deputy Chairman, and therefore I have a very good grasp of the kind of major projects that will be embarked upon during the 1983-84 fiscal year.

In passing, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the staff at NCC for the good work that they have done over the last year. I know that it has not been easy for the staff there. We need one or two people in some areas, and hopefully in this financial year we will address our minds to that problem. But under most strenuous circumstances, the staff there have done work beyond the call of duty, and I think one needs on this occasion to congratulate them and also to congratulate the Board, because while I am part of it, I think the Board ought to be congratulated for a job well done during the 1983-84 period.

The first point — and this has been outstanding for some time — is that we are hoping to acquire an additional jitney bus. At the present moment we have two buses and, generally speaking, they are almost always in use. The Harrison's Cave has been doing extremely well, and at all times we have been trying to sell it to the tourists. Earlier, reference was made to the tourist promotion section, and I firmly believe that the Tourist Board has not done enough in promoting Harrison's Cave.

I suppose that there are a number of things that one can say about the Tourist Board, and I think that people are justified in saying it, and in passing I just want to say this. I thought the letter which Senator Greaves read was an excellent letter. I thought that it addressed itself to all the issues surrounding that Tourist Board.

But I will tell you this. I am particularly concerned that, rather than the Director paying specific attention to the Tourist Board, to the problems and to the contents of the letter, he is more interested in giving the letter to people because he might think that it can be used for political mileage. There is no political mileage, as far as I am concerned, to be gained from that letter. If someone had written that letter to me, I would be particularly ashamed of myself and, I am going to tell you the honest truth, I would not show it to anybody.
4.50 p.m.

I have a different mind, obviously, from the other individual, and I do not think there is anything to be gained from showing it around. I think there is more detriment which will be done to the individual in the future, but Mr. President, the Tourist Board has done nothing to promote Harrison's Cave; little or nothing. Let someone come back and say they did so and so at some specific point in time.

Hopefully in the 1983-84 period, Mr. President, we will be looking at the further beautification of places like Halls Road, Constitution Road and Land's End. Work has already started in the Land's End area. There will also be development at Codrington Park, further improvement of

irrigation facilities at Marine House, Culloden Farm Codrington and Farley Hill.

We also have a very important item included in those Estimates for 1983-84, and that is, for preliminary work on the development of the Graeme Hall Swamp. I think everyone recognises that that area has great potential for development. Specific studies will be done in terms of developing that particular area, and this, hopefully, will begin during 1983-84.

I think the one other thing that is significant is the provision of beach facilities at Rockley. I know that that Prime Minister himself is particularly worried, and has been for a long time, that that area really has no adequate facilities, and we have included a figure in the Estimates for the 1983-84 period to deal with that. There are a number of problems associated with providing facilities there which I will not go into now, Mr. President, but we are looking at putting up facilities in the Rockley area and hopefully they will get started during 1983-84.

The only other thing I suppose I should mention as far as the NCC is concerned is a study which has been done about a private centre within the environs of the Cave. Mr. President, I am getting a little whisper from the Deputy Chairman, and, normally, as a Board member I have to give due deference to people like him, but I just want to say that studies have been carried out and there are certain benefits that can accrue from such an activity. Again, we are looking at them and possibly we might be able to favourably look at it during 1983-84. I think that will satisfy Senator Linton.

Mr. President, I think I have approximately five minutes, and the only other area I would like to touch on is Agriculture. I said earlier that I would very much have liked to see us having a phase-in phase-out system in terms of our agricultural development programmes, and I suggested that even in the area of the growing of fruit there were certain foreign exchange benefits that could accrue in the short term from such efforts.

I believe that at all times we have to be carefully analysing our agricultural diversification efforts. This is two years that we have been experiencing great difficulties in the area of sugar, and I think it has almost reached the stage where it is even not economically feasible to produce cane in terms of the receipts you are getting from that. I am a firm advocate — I have always been and I will always be — that it is our main salvation, and I think we need it. It is our main foreign exchange earner, although some people believe that it is tourism, but when you look at the amount of money that you spend in terms of a net position, then I think it is still our main foreign exchange earner. (I suppose

Senator McClean might be able to agree or deny, but it does not seem as though he is in agreement, Sir.)

All I am saying is it is necessary to maintain our efforts in sugar production, but at the same time we need to go into other areas, and I believe that the area of citrus production is a particularly lucrative one, taking into consideration the various tastes of the people in the United Kingdom.

Mr. President, I am much obliged to you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on these Estimates. Thank you.

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: Mr. President, last week I travelled to Panama to attend a meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank on behalf of the Barbados Development Bank, and I confess I carried along these draft Estimates to have a look, to analyse them a bit and see what I would come up with. I went from cover to cover and I can only describe them as "hold strain Estimates", because when I went through the number of pluses and the number of minuses, I see we had a little increase here and a little decrease there, but really and truly I have not seen anything that would improve the productivity of this country, or even for that matter, Sir, to help our export potential and to revitalise our economy.

Sir, when I do an analysis firstly of our capital expenditure — and I have gone to capital expenditure because I believe that is the expenditure that generates what is going to take place — I find that although we have down a big sounding figure like \$122 million, nearly \$123 million, really only \$74 million of this is going into the job creation market. About \$54 million of this is allocated to structures, or the construction industry, \$5 million of the capital expenditure is going to purchase vehicles, \$8 million is going to the purchase of equipment, \$14 million is going to pay professional services — I know that Governments like to bring down all these people from overseas, these experts, but I wish they would call on a few Bajan experts, I think we would do a lot better job at a lot cheaper price — Sir, \$9 million is going to operating expenses; and of investments of \$20 million, we have \$17½ million going to the cement plant, \$2 million going to investments in financial institutions, like the World Bank and the CDB, and only a half million dollars going to the dear little Barbados Development Bank.

5.00 p.m.

Last year I made a plea. It did not seem to fall on very good ears because we are getting the same half a million dollars that we have been getting now for about 10 years, Sir. This is the bank that needs the funds to put out there and to help industry go forward. Half a million dollars towards the equity of the bank is too

little. This year we should be putting out something like \$10 million so that we can push our industrial effort forward.

Sir, I also notice that we are going to give \$9 million to the ADC, the Housing Authority and the IDC, and we estimate to spend something like \$3 million on the acquisition of properties.

Now looking at Current Expenditure, we are going to be spending a big amount of money, \$514 million, but of this only \$39 million is going into the productive sectors, \$14 million to agriculture. The Tourism and Civil Aviation is getting \$20 million and Trade \$5 million. Approximately just under 8 percent of our current expenditure is really going to our productive sectors. Of the rest of our money, \$93 million for interest, \$108 million for Education, all needed, Sir, and some money to the Defence.

However, Sir, I think we could see a lot more money going into the area of Tourism and Civil Aviation. We have heard a lot about the Tourist Board. I have already spoken about the Tourist Board. In my opinion, it has too many members. They only sit there and talk about trivial matters — and leave out the important issues. They have the representative from X, the representative of Y association and all of that. The Tourist Board should have five or six people who are interested in pushing tourism in Barbados; not a whole group of talkers and fighters in among them, Sir. I think that is our problem there.

Although I notice that we have roughly \$3 million more that is going to the Tourist Board for promotion, I presume, I still say this is too small. I note from the letter that it would appear that the Prime Minister is not all that keen on advertising but I believe that they spent \$1 million around October/November in promotion of a few of these game shows in the United States and I read that our arrivals from the United States in the month of January went up something like 47 percent over last year January. How do we get that, Sir? All the other sectors are going down and in the United States, a few dollars spent, and we are 47 percent up in a matter of one month.

About this idea about people knowing about Barbados, I laugh again, Sir. On Saturday I was passing through Miami and I had to go to Hialeah Racecourse. I could not go to the Garrison, but I went to Hialeah, Sir.

Asides

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: No, I wanted to see some horses. For Senator Hall's information, I was in the company, I believe, of some high DLP people. I found

them there. I did not go with them. I met them there and they extended some hospitality to me, and I sat and I enjoyed their hospitality.

But Sir, Hialeah is a beautiful racecourse, it is out of this world, so I thought I would have to bring back some sort of souvenir. I went into a shop looking for this souvenir — and I was a little fussy because I did not have much to do, so I was fooling around — and the lady struck up a conversation. She was very polite and I told her that I was from Barbados. She wanted to make a sale so she said, "A nice place. Oh very nice!" I said to her, "Have you ever been down?" She said, "Oh yes. That is in Venezuela, isn't it?" She had never really been to Barbados, and knew nothing about Barbados; nothing at all!

I had seen President Reagan discussing Grenada on television, so I said, "We are near Grenada, about 100 miles away." I gave her a little idea. I told her we are not as bad as them, but we are near them.

What we need in the promotion of tourism here in Barbados is a slogan. We need more than a logo. We read in the newspaper that it is "Better in the Bahamas". Barbados has a flying fish. Tourists do not really understand what a flying fish is, Sir. We could have some little slogan. I thought up something like, "Barbados, my idea of Paradise". This would help us. We need the promotion. Sir, I really wish I could go on the Tourist Board, honestly. I am going to have to beg.

When we talk about the Tourist Board, we must talk about the airport. When I was leaving this time, I had a little look around to see what we offered. I think that, without a doubt, our airport is one of the nicest airports in the Caribbean. It is the smartest airport. It is the cleanest airport and I take my hat off to the Civil Aviation Department. It is smart!

I did see something outside when I came back that I did not think was necessary. You cannot wash cars there, nobody is to wash cars in the car park. If a fellow came up there and wanted to earn a few dollars, I do not see why you should race him off. But, anyhow, that is no big thing.

What I notice about the airport and the shops is that when you come into the Departure Lounge, the emphasis is on seats, not on shops; you provide seats all over the place. Sir, those seats want ripping out so that the people can see the shops that are there and those shops need relocating much better so that we can get sales. The seats should be upstairs in the restaurant so you can sit down if you want a drink, but take the seats from down there, Sir.

Another thing, Sir. You have the duty free delivery of parcels, and that has the biggest area. That has the

number one prime spot and all they are doing is delivering parcels that have already been sold, but we want to sell something more.

There are two liquor shops up there, one run by the BMC. I do not know how they get into liquor. I think that the only local thing in there is a couple bottles of rum; the rest is goods from overseas, and the BMC is running it. Then, we have another one from the private sector.

But, Sir, we could have about 6, 8, or 10 liquor shops in there. Mount Gay should have one. I would be pleased to have one too, Sir. Do not get worried, Sir. I would be real pleased to have one as we would be there pushing our product. But you have these two little shops really, honestly, packed away in the side. People do not pass through there. These things need a certain amount of straightening out.

Sir, let me come back to revenue. Maybe this got me a little off schedule because I notice that of the expected revenue \$508 million, business in Barbados contributes \$311 million. The Corporation Tax is \$67 million; Taxes on Goods and Services, \$130 million; Taxes on International Trade, \$82 million; Stamp Duty, \$18 million; Airport Fees, \$10 million; and Miscellaneous, such as Work Permits Fees, Exchange Control Fees, Interest and Dividends, something like \$4 million, Sir.

Three hundred and eleven million dollars of the revenue of this country, or 60 per cent of what we get, is generated by business, and I think that since we are generating all this revenue for Government, I would like to see it assisting business. I want to see some money for the redevelopment of Bridgetown, Sir. I want to see, Sir, that when we race the mobile canteens — I mean they really do not look too good, honestly — that we can give them shops, rented, smart, Sir.

I would like to see the Government considering the removal of all duties on watches and cameras so that we could really have a duty free situation in this area. The little revenue that perhaps the Barbados Government earns from the sale of watches and cameras could go, but when you look down in Bridgetown you will see that the duty free shops are only for big business, Sir. No small business can get into the sale of watches and cameras, because we have a set-up here where you have to pay the duty first, up-front, and then you have to wait for months to get back funds.

5.10 p.m.

Each hotel in Barbados could be selling watches and cameras. The reason I am saying this is that not only would it generate employment, but it would generate tourists too, because Trinidadians would want to come to buy a watch that they could take away right away. It is a

difficult thing to buy a watch at a duty free shop and then have to wait for it to go to the airport and be a little afraid that you may not get it. This is the situation. If you had cameras — they are small and I do not know what revenue we would lose — I doubt we would lose \$400 000 or \$500 000, but we would create a lot more businesses.

Sir, I think we need a permanent trade exhibition centre. We have an export corporation but we really only staff it; we do not give it anything more. We have to give it some tools. We need a trade exhibition centre where all the exporters in Barbados can get together and show off their goods and let people see them, so that we would generate more business for industry here in Barbados.

Sir, I have moved around a little bit and I am going to move a little closer home. School meals. I notice we are going to spend \$700 000 less in the supplies this year and I also notice that we are only going to spend about \$200 000 less in operating the service, because we are going to spend about \$700 000 more in wages. So, really and truly, the children, apparently, will get less food, but it will cost us just as much money.

Now what I want to suggest is this: we have a very democratic system here in Barbados in which we call for a tender for a whole year. This is nice, it sounds good and you think you are getting the best price, but I am aware of the fact that the Government is ending up by paying through its nose. What I would like to suggest is that there is no real reason why the School Meals cannot buy their goods on a weekly basis. Among other things they would have less stock and you would pay out less money, and they would also get the best prices because here in Barbados there are always companies in glut situations in food, so you can always pick up a few bargains. What you can do is make it real democratic. If you like, you could ask suppliers who want to get on the list to pay a few dollars, and every week on the appointed day, a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, whatever you like, you would have them tender for what you needed for that one week.

Asides

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: No, no! You don't have to buy from R. L. Seale; you might end up with R. L. Seale, because the prices are going to be the best; so don't get worried. You would always end up with them!

But the fact would be that you would get the quantities you need, you would have less on hand for pilferage. I believe it came up in the Democratic Labour Party days in which you bought institutional sizes — six pounds and eight pounds of this. In this way you only end up by paying more money because nobody else buys

them but you; nobody else buys them but the School Meals and therefore they are brought in specially and the mark-up must be higher for a slow moving item. We could do the same for the other organisations, not only for the School Meals. I see that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I see the Geriatric Hospital and the rest of them use thousands of buns. This would give a chance to a few small bakers to tender too, because one day he might decide to sell his hamburger buns a little cheaper this week so long as he gets his money right away. I think we could do a lot of that.

Sir, I believe I have covered a lot of areas. There are areas of course, like the revenue. I am a little worried when you look down here and they do not give you enough information. They tell you about 3 600 shares in Barbados Flour Mills and you would get a dividend hopefully of \$630 000. However, I do not know what the cost of the shares was, so I do not know whether that is a good investment or not, although I believe it is an excellent one.

I see 120 000 shares in Super Poultry Farm. I did not know the Government was interested in that. I see we are going to get \$25 000, but I wonder what was the cost of the shares so that we can see what sort of investment we have. I would like to get that information.

I do not think they are estimating a great deal of money from the Turf Club this year; things are not so sweet. I do not see a great deal of money there, but getting back to my point with the Tourist Board, you can draw a parallel of the Turf Club with the Tourist Board. They have too many members on the Committee of Management and they do not have much of a club. The Tourist Board does not have much of a direction; too many members; the same thing.

I am only hoping that maybe there will be another look at the Estimates and that the productive sectors will be treated a little better, because we know about supplementary Estimates, so I hope that in the future the Government will give them something more so that we can go ahead.

I thank you.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. President, the new arrangements for the limiting of speeches has certainly borne fruit, and I am sure that members will agree that Senator Greaves' intervention lost nothing in effectiveness for being shorter by three hours.

I have two subjects to talk about. The first is Foreign Affairs. For some time, some years in fact, I have been most concerned at the absolute absence from our debating arrangements of any discussion of our foreign

affairs. We have out there a large mass of people who have no idea of Barbados' position on such subjects, let us say, as the Israeli-Arab question, the question arising between Pakistan and India, Barbados' position on the non-alignment of countries, the New Economic Order and the Law of the Sea. All these affect our country.

We now sit on a number of international organisations and we have, we think, a voice in the affairs of the world, but witness the public ignorance about the reality of apartheid and you will see that the absence of parliamentary discussion, and hence absence of discussion of the questions in the Press, for which I hold no brief, have led to abysmal ignorance about our world position. I think that can be remedied by the institution of a regular debate, and I propose, Mr. President, to take action in this Senate, as soon as I can, to raise the question much more formally.

I remember, and members will remember, some years ago a former Foreign Minister raised the question of an inter-House Committee on Foreign Affairs. For one reason or another that did not meet the approval of Parliament in general. It was a great pity.

Our foreign ambassadors and High Commissioners have a responsibility, which I do not see mentioned in the note to the various Estimates, for the promotion of trade in their various countries. The High Commissioner in Canada, certainly the High Commissioner in the United Kingdom and our Ambassador to Brussels play important parts in the promotion of trade, so that their ambassadorial status and function are very closely linked to our welfare.

It seems important that the general public, and Parliament, of course, should have the benefit of wide-ranging discussion from time to time on this aspect of our life.

The other point I want to mention is, of course, cultural matters. There is a great deal that is going on in the cultural field, but I only want to draw attention, not to the amount of money which is being spent or not spent, because in many ways I feel there comes a point at which the spending of more money is counter-productive.

The essence of cultural stimulation is the ability to make do with what you have, to exercise your initiative and your imagination on your own environment and not to go slavishly following patterns and fashions which exist and are relevant in other countries. There is nothing like a touch of poverty to stimulate the imagination. There was a famous composer who could only compose when he was hungry — he said that that sharpened his perception — and I have a great sympathy for that point of view.

The question of our cultural policy is closely allied to the question of our foreign affairs, because we have to take part, much as we want to promote our own culture, in the wider culture in the world. By speaking for ourselves, we also establish the common humanity of man.

5.10 p.m.

Whatever our cultural policy may be, we have to leave the doors wide open for the widest participation in culture other than our own, and I hope I do not see any narrow chauvinistic approach to our culture which says that only Barbadians can perform and that we make it as easy and as simple as possible for the best of the world's artists to come and perform here.

Our high level of cricket, and Senator Hall unfortunately is not here to hear, is directly due to the fact that for a long time we have always seen the best cricketers in the world perform in Barbados. As a little boy I saw Hammond and Hendren, and all of them, and though I have no pretensions to being a cricketer, Senator Griffith, I am sure, has benefitted immensely from having seen the greats.

We will all benefit just as easily if we were permitted to see the Bolshoi and Shakespeare productions of the highest standard, and there should be some tax relief. There should be some way of encouraging this participation of the best performers in our cultural activity.

Mr. President, I noticed the tendency among speakers to look at the clock and to say, well, I have two hours to speak, or one hour, as the case may be, and therefore I must kill the time regardless of whether I have anything to say or not. A perfect illustration of Parkinson's Law, which says that work expands to fill the time available. I have no intention of speaking for an hour and all I need to say can be said in a quarter of an hour.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Canon Jones.

SENATOR THE REV. CAN. I. JONES: Mr. President, I only want to add my little contribution on the Defence Force. I have heard and read many arguments against having this Defence Force. Some people believe that it is money wasted and others say they do not see why we should have them at all, and some Senator suggested that the money which is being spent on the Defence Force should be spent in Housing.

Now I want to see it from a different angle. We live in a democratic country, and democracy is a plant of very tender growth. People do not believe it, but it is so. We

know the history of democracy and we know at least a little about it. It started about 5 000 years in the city states of Greece, and although it started with a flourish under people like Pericles and Alcibiades, yet we know that soon after then when Cleon took over, it started to go down; and for thousands of years it was almost dead.

I think that everyone in this Honourable Chamber will admit that of all the forms of Government we had heard or read about, democracy seems to be the most humane and the one that seems to be fairest to the people. If we want to keep democracy alive, the price of democracy is eternal and everlasting vigilance. We cannot take it for granted.

It would seem to me that we have come a long way in a short time in this little country of Barbados. People are saying that they fear what a Defence Force can do; they believe that after a while, a defence force may want to overrun a Government. I do not think we need fear that in this country. It could happen, because things have happened in other countries, and sister countries of the Caribbean, but I do not think that is any real immediate fear about ours anyway.

I would think that England is the oldest democracy in the world now. They always had a standing army, and, as far as I am aware, no standing army has ever overrun that Government. It is still — except that one period under Cromwell — the Government of the people, by the people and for the people. It is true that man is a strange animal and can do all kinds of funny things. The incomparable Bard in England put it in these words, he asked, "What a piece of work is man, how noble in reason, how infinite in faculty," and he went on to say, "in form how like an angel, in apprehension, how like a god." But then he made these remarks, "Man delights not men nor women either." It was true then, and it is more true now.

I think we have got to appreciate the stark truth, that we are living in an outrageously violent period of our history. We are living in the time of coups, strikes, and letter bombs, all kinds of guerilla activity, and so on and so forth. There is need for the Defence Force in this country! I do not see how anybody who is thinking right can believe that we can do without some kind of protection in this country.

Why I think the people are talking about the cost of the Defence Force and so on is because they are asking the wrong question. The question people are asking is if we can afford the Defence Force. But the proper question which I think that we should be asking ourselves at this time in our history is not, "Can we afford a Defence Force," but, "Can we afford not to have a Defence Force." I think that when it is seen in this regard and it is viewed in this perspective, the cost and maintenance of

the kind of Defence Force that we now have becomes secondary and almost irrelevant.

So I would ask those who are disclaiming against the presence of the Defence Force to think again. At least, speaking as a Barbadian, we can say this, that for all the years that I have been driving down by the Drill Hall, I have never seen the Drill Hall look as meticulously clean and well ordered as I see it now, and that in itself gives you a lift when you pass there. I am sure that we shall live to thank the day when this Defence Force came into being in this country.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If honourable Members do not want to speak, I will have to put the question. If there is no debate, the question will be put.

Applause.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator C. E. Jemmott.

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Mr. President, I rise to support the Government in its Revenue and Expenditure. I have heard many criticisms against the policy of the Government, but I think one fault of the Government is that it has always been too much on the defence. I think it is time enough that it should be on the offence.
5.30 p.m.

Those of us in this country who are prepared to take the programme of this Government over the past five or six years can observe what it has done for this country. I have heard criticism about housing, and those of us who have been following housing would observe that within its time it built not less than 700 units. These are units with two and three bedrooms for the lower income bracket people who pay between \$9 and \$30 per week for them. I do not see how we can be criticised for not doing anything for housing in relation to these people.

On the other hand, Sir, if we take the units for sale, within 1976 to 1982 there were something like 559 houses built, and these ranged from \$20 000 to about \$29 000 to \$30 000 per house. These are houses in different developments — Lodge Terrace, Oxnards, Free Hill, Wotton, Orange Hill, Wildey — and we are now having a development going on in West Terrace which has not been completed.

Sir, I think the Government should be very proud. I do not agree that you cannot be criticised, but some of the criticisms are very adverse and not fair, and I think some of the leaders in this country — and when I say

that I say it politically, religiously and otherwise – are not really projecting the right image to the mass of people, but are giving them the impression as though the Government is doing everything out of their favour and not in it.

I heard Senator Greaves making a point about mortgages foreclosing. There are many attorneys in here and I do not think one of them could tell you that there has been a foreclosure of a mortgage within the last five to six years. And if you go around you will see people in the lower income brackets making adjustments to their homes; those who had dry pits are putting in their little toilets and baths out of water, and things like that. Nearly every other home in Barbados has not less than two cars. I would say eight out of every ten homes have telephones, and they are not being taken out. I cannot see how you can criticise a Government and say it is running the country so badly, that it is running down the economy and people cannot live.

I would like to support what Senator Canon Jones said in relation to the Defence Force. I gather that the idea of the Defence Force came from the last Administration, and it is just that this present Administration is carrying out what they intended to do. Every now and again you are hearing about the Defence Force, and Senator Greaves said that money can be better spent for employment. What better employment can we have than having about 700 young men being employed in the Defence Force? Is it not employment?

That is not the end, Sir, the other aspect of it is discipline. I think if we had the Defence Force a little earlier, we would not have been having these crimes by these youngsters that we are having day in and day out, because it is a means of encouraging them to join the Defence Force where discipline and employment will be found for them.

Sir, I am not an economist, the figures have been dealt with by people who can better deal with them than I can – people like Senator Seale and I know Senator McClean would do likewise – but I am just generalising, as I see it, about some aspects of Government's budget, its expenditure and revenue.

I would personally like to pay a compliment to the Government for the good work it is doing in relation to this country. If we take social services, Sir, when this Government took up position to govern this country, the old age pensioners were getting something like \$13 per week, and within the next couple of weeks they will be getting \$40. That is where the money is being spent. On another aspect of it, I know the old folks can go and get things like pans and bedsteads and things like that. Can you say that is a Government that is not looking after its people?

There is what is known as a home service for the older folk who cannot get out, where maids and people

go and attend to them, keep them clean and happy as the days go by.

There is another aspect where housing is concerned. I know a lot of those old people's houses were repaired, and in some cases replaced where they could not be repaired. This is where I think the Government should come out and let people know what they are doing. Instead of being on the defensive they should be on the offensive and let the people from the other side know that this is a Government that is doing something for the people.

You cannot please everybody, and whatever Government comes into power there will always be poor people, there will always be disgruntled people, there will always be people who do not want employment. I think what is happening today is not so much that there is unemployment, there are people who are unemployable, and I think that some of us who are in better positions to get people to produce would do better if we ask some of these young people to go and work rather than making them feel that the country owes them something, but they do not owe the country anything.

Mr. President, this is the first time for me. I thank you for allowing me to have my little say. I do not think anyone expected me to be as extensive as some of the older members, and, as you know, Sir, I am feeling the wicket. When the time comes again, I hope to bat a little longer.

Thank you very much, Sir.

Cheers

SENATOR Mrs. G. G. READER: Mr. President, I rise to speak this afternoon mostly on the one area that has not, I think, been mentioned by anybody else, and this is on the criticism that the Child Care Department has had about the closing of the children's homes and the foster care and adoption programme.

Now, when Dr. Rameses Caddle was Minister of Health, I was a member of the Child Care Board. He called us in and he told us that he wished to close down the large children's homes and get the children back into their homes or into foster homes so that we could better look after them.

Mr. President, it is no different today. We all know that a child does better in its own home than in a residential institution. We were given many large buildings as children's homes and these have proved that they are not helping the children who are taken in to adjust to living in the community again when they have grown old enough. To get a child readjusted to the community takes many years. They are looked after, they do not know anything about how to live. They do not know how you pay water rates, how you pay taxes, how you pay light bills, how you cook, how you do anything,

because they are looked after too much; more than we would look after them in our own homes.

What we need to do is to take these unfortunate children, who have for no reason of theirs been abandoned or left destitute, and teach them how to be reasonable and responsible citizens in this island. The money spent on these children is money spent to help them to help Barbados. If we are bringing up a bunch of children that are going to end up in Glendairy, we are not doing anything for Barbados.

5.40 p.m.

We have found that these old houses that we were given are very expensive to run. In many cases they are suitable for one family, but although they are large, they are not suitable for 30 or 40 children. The plumbing does not work properly, the kitchens do not work, the fabric of the building is old and you are continually running into exorbitant prices for repairing these homes.

During the International Year of the Child, we asked every school child in Barbados to give a donation of \$1. With that we built the first unit at the Nightengale Home, a small home in the grounds of the Nightengale Home for children. We have now got three homes there, a day nursery and a reception centre. The old big Nightengale Home is being turned into a training centre for child care workers, so you can see the whole concept of child care taking place right there in one compound, the reception centre, the day care centre and the children's homes.

A home with 10 children is a possibility, but it is impossible to bring a child into a home with 40 children. When these children go to school, they are looked down on by their peers as children's home children, charity children. They hate it. It is much easier to be Miss Smith's child than it is to a Nightengale child.

It is much easier when you fall down and cut your knee to run to Mummy for her to kiss it and make it better than it is to run to the Matron. It is much easier to live with brothers and sisters and grow up with all the corners being rubbed off, as happens in a normal family, than it is to live with 40 or 50 children around you all the time and everybody vying for attention. These children become completely institutionalised, and we have got to do something about it.

Foster care is the answer, but it has got to be carefully done. You have got to fit the child into the family. The child has got to be happy, and at all costs the child has to be the one to benefit. We have had several cases already this year where small children have gone into foster care and made such progress — they are looking so much better, so much happier and are so perfectly settled in their homes — that you cannot but feel pleased.

But the costs in this is not the cost of paying those parents who come forward to take the children in, it is the cost of trained professional staff to carry out the procedures to fit the right child into the right home, to vet the homes to ensure that they want to foster these children for the right reasons, and to keep a continual watch on the child so that should it become unhappy, something can be done immediately. To do this you have to have a cadre of highly trained, highly skilled professional people. It cannot be done by just everyone. So what we are saying is that, in closing big children's homes, we will have to expend on properly trained staff.

So far, I am told, of all the children who have gone into foster care in the last 18 months, one has had to be removed because of a personality conflict with the parent. But there is one thing that we have got to realise: We can only put children into foster care if it is long-term care. It is difficult to put children into foster care who only go into short-term care, because these small children, particularly, form very strong attachments to the adults who are looking after them. We have got to make sure that the ones who are going into short-term care — the mother is taken ill, is taken to hospital and there is no one to look after the child — can be put in a reception centre and kept there until such time as they can go back into his own home. The ones who are in long-term care, the ones who have been completely abandoned, those are the ones who, best fit in foster care homes.

On several occasions we have had a child put into foster care; and within six months the foster parents have come and asked if they can adopt the child; they do not want it to leave their home. But the foster parents that are coming forward to take the children in Barbados are all in the higher and middle income brackets. Most of the children come from very, very low income brackets, and therefore you cannot take a child who has lived for five years in a higher or middle income bracket and put it back into a home with a very low income bracket. It is very hard on the child, so you have got to be very careful how these children are placed.

It can be done, it is being done, and it will be done, because we are very lucky in Barbados that we have in the Child Care Board excellent staff which really care about what happens to the children. But with these new homes, way out in the country, where you take children out of the Bridgetown environment and set them out in the depth of St. Philip or the bottom of St. Lucy, it just does not work. The children are miserably unhappy. There is no transportation around. It is difficult for the workers to get into work. The women do not like working so far away. They hate going home after the shift hours at night. They have to stand up at bus-stops among canefields and they do not like it.

We are going to have to push this foster care as much as we can, I feel that it is the answer to our

problems but it has got to be done slowly, it has got to be done carefully and it has got to be done professionally. It is not something that can be just rushed into.

I agree with the Minister that the day might come when we would not have children's homes like the ones we have today. We do not want to have homes with 80 or 90 children in them as it was when I first went on the Child Care Board. I do see that the time will come when we will probably have two or three or four homes for 10 or 15 children, but that would be the maximum.

Now, the older children do not fit in as easily in foster care, for the simple reason that most Barbadian women who will take foster children in are not prepared to take in young teenagers who are very troublesome. Most of these women, and in the families who will take them in, are working women, because most Barbadian women work, and I feel we will have to look into it. We will need more trained staff and we are looking for people with families where the mother is not at work, where we can get these children in. The children need specialized attention and they will need double the amount of watching that a little child would need.

We have had some very gratifying results with foster care and I can assure the Senate and the public that the parents who have taken these children in now are not taking them in with the idea of making money out of them. They are taking them in because they are Barbadians and they love children. They may not have any of their own but they are doing a fantastically good job and I feel that we should commend them highly for what they have done, and also commend the staff of the Child Care Board for the excellent work they have been doing with the children here. We are not having the terrible upheavals as we have had before, and I think the children on a whole are much happier, and I wish to commend them very highly.

I would also like to say here that the programme that was mentioned by the last speaker, the Home Help Service, is proving a great help to old people who are temporarily disabled. Maybe someone has hurt her feet, cannot walk around and is living in a house alone, and if they can get someone to come to cook for them, to clean the house, to wash their clothes, it makes a terrific amount of difference. Instead of having to hospitalize these people, you can keep them in their own homes.

I also see that day care centres for the elderly are being encouraged in Barbados. This is a fantastic idea. If people could keep their old people at home with them, and when they go out to work leave the old people in the same way as they would their children, at a day care centre where the old people have company and stimula-

tion, and can collect them in the evening and take them back to their own home, it is much more effective. Apart from being cheaper for Barbados, it is much better for the person, and after all we have got to think of the greatest good for these people.
5.50 p.m.

Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: There seems to be a great reluctance on the part of members to speak. I hope they do not wish me to close the debate.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Apparently they wish you to close the debate. I do not want any headlines. I am not looking for the newspaper or the radio, they always get me wrong. I cannot understand this kind of prima donna attitude.

Mr. President, the Estimates before us for 1983-84 suggest a return of prudent economic management for the next fiscal year. Indeed, I think that no one can be upset that the estimated excess of current expenditure over current revenue is in reasonable, manageable proportions at \$6.3 million, and capital expenditure is voted at \$122 million for the period. The bald figures suggest, Mr. President, that Government is still holding down in its expenditure and not launching off into areas of expenditure which may ultimately cause untold economic damage to the country. So, in essence, Government's financial policy over the next year can be characterised as being conservative. Indeed, in the allocation to various Ministries, particularly in the area of capital, one notes that there is not much by way of heavy developmental expenditure.

The capital that is voted for the Sports Council for 1983/84 is only \$500 000. The country must therefore realise that there are no development funds of any significance or magnitude in that vote, and you cannot expect much by way of capital investments in the activities of the Sports Council.

But at the same time as I recognise the financial constraints that attend Government situation in 1983, I hope that the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister are aware that the development of sports and recreational facilities is a means of harnessing the energies of our young people, a means of keeping them out of trouble and away from criminal activities.

If I hug myself, Mr. President, it is not out of any marcius complex that I like myself; it is only that in here is a little bit cold. I am grateful that the air-conditioning is being turned off?

Sports are also a means of bringing international fame, glory and recognition to a nation. Indeed some

nations see it as an essential means of the promotion of that nation. Sports in Cuba are a very big thing. And even though I can understand and I can live with a capital budget of \$500 000 this year at the Sports Council, given the general economic climate, I would wish to be assured, and I believe the public of Barbados deserves to be assured, that in future, and as the economic conditions improve, Government really has a plan and a policy for the development of sports and recreational facilities and activities in this country.

I am not going to labour the problems of the National Sports Council in this debate. There will be other opportunities where one can be more specific. But there is a development plan, which was written in November. It was submitted to the Ministry of Labour, it has been substantially accepted and adopted, and was submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Planning. I hope, not as any election gimmick — those days must die — not as any attempt to capture the votes of young people in 1986, but as a determined, serious policy, that the Government of this country is prepared to put some money into sports development for the total benefit and in the total interest of this community.

Thus far, the National Sports Council has been able to get by. I believe that we are one of the few Statutory Boards that at March 31 will still have a few dollars in the bank, \$46 000. Even though they cut us last year, even though we had to get within the 10 per cent cut back on staff and laid off more than 10 per cent, at the end of the day, by prudent husbanding of resources and with the assistance of the new Director of Sports, whose bias is, admittedly, in the area of accountancy, we have been able to get by without requesting a supplementary vote from the Ministry. And in the meantime we spent over \$140 000 on the renovation and refurbishment of the National Stadium to accommodate the Junior CAC games last June or July!

I have made a plea since I have been Chairman of the National Sports Council, and I wish to be taken seriously, that the National Stadium, now more than ten years old, has never been the subject of any systematic maintenance. The result is that in 1983, much of the metal work at the Stadium is not only in a state of disrepair, but is near ready for collapse. Only on Saturday a piece of the roof blew off. Luckily the galvanise did not kill anybody, but it crashed into a policeman's car and damaged it; and, of course, the National Sports Council is liable and will have to repair the gentleman's car.

These problems were drawn to the attention of those who dole out the money more than a year ago, and at the Sports Council we are *ad idem* that funds must be put into the National Sports Council so that we can do a proper job of repair at the stadium. It is only when things

like this happen that people are going to take us seriously.

God forbid that anybody should get their head cut off with a flying piece of galvanise, but the situation is serious. If you lean too hard against some of the metal work in the stands, they are liable to break away, because there is corrosion on some of the uprights in the stands. Even though the lights shine at night, that does not tell the full story, because, for want of a better word, the "housing" around the lights are all corroded from the effects of salt spray. You really need to change now the whole lighting structure.

I wish Government to be aware that there is a serious problem affecting the maintenance and the continued stability of the National Stadium. In the development plan which I have prepared, there is a phased programme of remedial maintenance for the stadium, and I do not wish to give anybody the assurance that later on this year I will not be urging upon the Minister responsible for Sports that he approach the Ministry of Finance by way of a supplementary grant for funds to put right all or much of what is wrong at the Stadium.

That brings me to the second point. We have just established a National Cultural Foundation by an Act of Parliament. All of us who spoke in that debate lauded the infrastructure that was being set up and we all hope that culture would improve and advance.

The National Stadium is a central point for much activity. But at the same time Government has got to make up its mind, and fast, Sir, as to whether the National Stadium will be a resort for all kinds of public recreational and sporting activity, or whether it will be exclusively a place of sporting activity. It is the view of the National Sports Council, which I expressed on behalf of all of us, that it should be limited in its scope to sporting activity. If that is the case, upon that hypothesis, then Government has got to establish a different facility, perhaps an indoor auditorium — the Democratic Labour Party has an auditorium, call it something else — and indoor sports facility, Sir, a cultural facility, whatever, where basketball, volleyball, table tennis and other indoor games can be played.

We are going to have a problem in August this year. The World Tennis Championships are going to be held here and we are trying to fashion something out of the Community College Hall to house 2 000 people. We have to bring in some additional seating to satisfy the requirements of the World Tennis Championship Association. The championship will obviously bring Barbados much credit and needed publicity. But because we are having to do something on an ad hoc basis, shows

the need for proper medium term planning for the establishment of a structure such as I have envisaged.

At the same time we have Crop Over, and I say this because I want the response of the Minister responsible for Information and Culture when he does reply. I cannot pretend that the National Sports Council was not bitterly upset and disappointed last year by the decision to have a final jump-up at the stadium. Even though we tried to impress upon the Crop Over Committee that Government having spent over \$140 000 of the taxpayers' money to do a lot of necessary work at the stadium, not only in the tracks but also to the stands, should not allow this; it was to no avail. We pleaded to have the final jump-up at the Garrison; start at the stadium, where there would not be such a crush of people, where they would be more easily controlled earlier in the day, and then let "Tout, Moon, Bachi and La" jump-up on the savannah. It is big and wide and can take that type of crowd. But no, they wanted everybody to come at the stadium and watch "Harding" burn on grounds!

The result of that was that a lot of damage was done to the stadium — and the Ministry of Information and Culture did not even pay us the \$2 200 that they had for us; it paid some of it. The behaviour of the people was in total ignorance of the facility which their own money had helped to put down and, a month before, had helped to upgrade.

This year they want the use of the stadium again, and I suppose they will have it. But I am going to make an appeal to the Crop Over Committee, or whatever they are called, which organise all of these things, to make sure that they exercise greater security than they exercised last year. Do not let people print tickets twice on you and then people who have valid tickets cannot get in. You have a problem with the stowaways over the wall in any event. The problem with the wall is a DLP problem. The wall should have gone to 18 feet; but when it reached where it is, they said, "leave it there." That was in 1971 when it was being built. Now we are reaping the problems arising out of that ill-considered decision to have the wall remain at the present height.

That is one problem, but I am talking about people duplicating tickets and so on. It seems that last year the emphasis for Crop Over was to get as many dollars as was possible; pack them in. In fact, I believe the Director of Culture made the point to me. They rented the stadium from the National Sports Council. We told them that they had to ensure properly, they did not bother with that.....

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. President: The Chairman and his Council is misleading the Senate. Insurance was taken out, not only in terms of functions at the stadium, but in respect of every function held. I am afraid the Chairman is not quite

accurately informed. I happen to know enough about it to know that....

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Sir, my information on the question of insurance, I believe, is accurate, and it has been sent to the Ministry responsible for Sports. Sir, they even rented out spots around the grounds, \$75 for stalls, \$120, all kinds of things; a money-making do! They did not tell us that it was our land that they rented. They did not tell us that they were doing that. I know that this year they will have to sit down with the Sports Council and sign the contract first — and pay the money second.

I speak for the whole Council, particularly those who were directly involved on a day-to-day basis. We were not satisfied with the way the Crop Over Committee functioned in relation to the Sports Council last year, but we have enough time to iron out those rough edges. If I knew that I was going to speak today, I would have had the documents about the insurance, here, but that will come at another time. Let us say today "Round one to the Minister of Information."
6.10 p.m.

Sir, I am going to eschew any debate on the courts. I am familiar with those. I have been making points about the courts since 1976 and I do not see a lot happening, so I am not going to bother. Things are tight with the Government, so I cannot expect much, I suppose.

The Schedule of Personal Emoluments are not being debated, but I mention it in passing, and I want to be relevant, because if I can establish its relevance by this means, all well and good. Other Charges for Estimates 1983-84 are \$295 million, Personal Emoluments, the money paid to civil servants and others who are involved in quasi governmental institutions, are \$219 million. That is a substantial proportion of Government's total expenditure of \$514 million. I am not a mathematician, perhaps Senator Williams could work it out and tell me. It is about 40 per cent of Government's expenditure which goes in Personal Emoluments. That is on page 2, at the bottom, \$219.9 million of \$514 million goes for Personal Emoluments.

That tells a story. Those figures suggest clearly that Government is a superior employer and has a responsibility therefore to maintain levels of employment such as will obviate the possibility of societal discord. Senator Williams has pointed out that it has gone up by \$15 million, which is a 7.5 per cent increase.

There are one or two anomalies in Personal Emoluments. I have not brought mine today, but I was looking at it on Thursday, and it seems to me that the judges, in comparison with other persons in the Ministry of Legal

Affairs, may be a little worse off. I see, for example, that the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, or the Solicitor General — take either one — will be paid in 1983–84 \$47 052 — and their allowances, I believe, are down at the bottom — whereas the Judiciary, the judges, apart from the Chief Justice who gets \$52 296, get as basic less than the Solicitor General and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. That is how it appears to me at a glance.

I just want to make the point that I feel that Government has got to appreciate that the judges are the bulwarks of the freedoms of the individuals in this country. They stand between the state and the potentiality of anybody to be a dictator or tyrant. They are there to protect the rights of all of us. They are expected to be independent and free from political or other influence. They are expected to be men of great learning, intellectual resource and resilience. They must be paid a proper rate.

We are lucky, and have been very lucky in Barbados, that no scandal has ever attached to any of our Judiciary, and to ensure that none ever attaches, we must so pay those independent gentlemen to ensure that their independence is protected by decent and reasonable remuneration. How Government does it, I am not going into those details now. That is for the policy makers to determine, but I just make the plea, Sir.

I notice that additional money is going to be spent on other courts around the country, but I wish to compliment Government on the job that they have done at Oistins. I think it is a credit to the planners and those who constructed it, and by extension it is a credit to the Government and people of Barbados.

I happened to be at Oistins. I have only appeared there twice, but on my first appearance a couple of months ago I met some Canadians. I think the gentleman was an Assistant Attorney General of Canada or some such person, and he was most impressed and thought that it compared favourably, and in fact he said that in some instances it was better than some of the courts they have in Canada.

Certainly in the Caribbean I have never seen a Magistrate's Court as well appointed as the Oistins Court. I know it cost a lot of money, I am not asking Government to put up one like Oistins in every jurisdiction every year, but I think that if there is a phased programme for the introduction of courts of a similar status and quality, then Government will have gone a long way to meeting many of the criticisms that attended Government's handling of courts and so on in the past.

Mr. President, I want to deal now with the Ministry of Transport and Works. Senator Greaves made some wild swipes like Blind Elder, some stuff about the roads were

bad last year and are still bad. I cannot deal too much with those kinds of broad generalisations which have no meat in them, but the Ministry of Transport and Works is scheduled on Capital to spend \$11 million next year.

Senator Greaves did not read out that at the Transport Board, which is certainly part of the Ministry of Transport and Works, there seems to be a re-organisation in the managerial structure. I think the debates in the Other Place of September 1979 will show that I called then for a number of changes, which I am now told have been implemented. Everything about the Deputy Manager, personnel, public relations and so on is there in a speech which I made on the Transport Board, so I am glad that the Government has at last moved.
6.20 p.m.

I think that, under the broad Head of Ministry of Transport and Works, members should be aware of a number of things that are happening in the Ministry of Transport and Works, which I think redound to the credit of the Government.

There has been the re-organization in that Ministry. There has been the establishment of a separate Water and Sewerage Authority, and as I understand it, the Water and Sewerage Authority is now in a position to meet all of its current expenditure from revenue earned, and to that extent, as distinct from years past, the Water and Sewerage Authority is not seeking any grants, subventions or financial assistance from Government.

That is very important, because it is this Government which has established the Water and Sewerage Authority, and it is obvious that it has been functioning along commercial lines, to the extent that it is able out of its own earnings to meet its current expenses.

I think this is something that the public ought to be told. The Press would not remember this, but it is something that the public ought to be told, because the more statutory boards or quasi-governmental agencies that could be self-financing, obviously the better for the general public and Government of Barbados. The Government would then have that much more money to itself to invest and use in other areas that may be productive. So I wish to compliment the Water and Sewerage Authority on the way they have gone about commercializing their functions and, obviously, they bring a high degree of commercial expertise to bear on that body.

The Transport Board itself, Sir, will always be a problem. The Transport Levy, as I understand it — I have some figures here — has realised a fair amount of money. All of us are paying this Transport Levy, Sir.

I did not realize it used to dip into my pocket so hard until my secretary would come to me every month and say, so much and so much. I would say, "What is that for?" She would say, "The Transport Levy." I had to pay it out.

They have taken in about \$11 million. They are spending some on road construction as they promised: \$2.6 million has been made available for the construction and rehabilitation of roads and they have identified 35 projects. I hope one of those 35 is the road leading to my house. I have waited a long, long time. I want them to touch me up.

And I have no lights down there. No wonder they came and broke into my house and carried away everything I had. There are a number of people in the Neils area who have no lights and no roads.

Asides

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: They stole my gun, but this Senator's gun, was properly licensed. They have recovered the gun, too!

What I am impressed by is that the Transport Levy Board are bringing a semblance of commercialism to the operation. They are investing some of the idle cash, and they have, I think \$4.1 million on fixed deposit, where any balance in excess of \$500 000 earn interest on a monthly basis.

So long as Government can be seen to be following a planned programme for road improvement, then I think that the country will be satisfied that its money is being properly spent. I do not think that anybody, really, can complain about what has been done by way of road improvements in and around the City of Bridgetown. The last piece I saw being barber-greened was the stretch from White Park back to Coleridge Street. We need to make sure that there is no slow-up in this programme of road works.

Sir, I want to turn to the Ministry of Tourism. Now, I was out of the Senate when this document here was made a document of the House. It is a letter dated February 11, 1983, on the letterhead of the Prime Minister to Mr. Patrick Hinds. I asked for a copy of it and got it.

I see the strictures of the Prime Minister to Mr. Hinds. I want to be quite frank. Looking at it in the last 15 or 20 minutes before I spoke, I wondered if some of the observations are necessarily correct.

I see that the Minister of Finance is saying that there was a tourist failure in Jamaica which came about only after great publicity was given to that island's

society falling apart "in a welter of violence and left wing politics. Barbados is losing its tourist trade without any of the factors which cost Jamaica its market". I stop there, Sir.

I believe that one of the contributory factors to the decline in tourism in the last three years has been an increase in violent crime in Barbados. I know a little bit about criminal statistics, having done criminology at the London School of Economics, and I know the dangers in relying on criminal statistics. There is what you call the dark figure, which hides a lot of crime because it might not be reported for various reasons.

I have heard the previous Attorney General, Mr. Henry Forde say there was not an increase in crime. That was his view. He was looking at it only from the basis of criminal statistics fed to him from the Commissioner of Police and whoever else gives the Attorney General that information. I am speaking as a pure, ordinary Bajan walking about this place, Sir, hearing what people say and observing what happens.
6.30 p.m.

There is no doubt in my mind, ignoring the sophistication of statistics for the time being — not that they are irrelevant or unimportant, but what I am saying is that they do not necessarily tell a true story — that there was definitely an upsurge in crime in this country, especially in the age group 16 to 25. Three or four weeks ago I happened to go to the prison to see a man on bail, and I was amazed; I could not count them. They must have had over 200 fellows that I saw up there. It appeared to me that Sunday morning that not one of them was younger than 18, and I know about 200 of them could not be 25. That is where the problem is.

I feel that, in relation to tourism, a number of tourists have had unfortunate experiences in Barbados. Some may not have been so severe as to result in criminal prosecution, but they are only human beings and one could easily understand that they could return to their countries of origin and relate their experiences to would-be visitors, and that would-be visitors might say to himself, "I think I will miss Barbados this year, I will go to Antigua". And the Prime Minister acknowledges that the tourist trade in Antigua in fact was doing reasonably well when he wrote this letter on February 11 this year.

I think that we need to be open and honest with ourselves as Barbadians. There has been increased reporting of crime. Perhaps we have been made more aware of criminal activity in the last few years, particularly the *Nation* newspaper devotes one or two pages a day to the reporting of crime, but undoubtedly, and in my experience empirically, I am satisfied that there was an increase in crime and a change in the nature of criminal activity.

When I first came back here in 1970 in practice, aggravated robbery was an odd offence. I have never done one. I am retained now for one in 1983. In thirteen years I never did a robbery. I did nineteen murders and fourteen manslaughters, but never a robbery, and any lawyer can tell you that robbery with violence, house-breaking and larceny are commonplace; so I do not think that we should bury our heads on this question of crime. I know the statistics are there and they are going to reply to me and say that the statistics say so and so. I want them to do that, then I will reply to them as a criminologist.

I think that one of the contributory factors to the decline in tourism has been the increase in violence. On the question of violence really, does the Tourist Board have any responsibility in that area? Can the Tourist Board really do anything other than pleading on television and by advertising for people not to be criminally inclined? Can they really do anything? That is the question I asked in response to this letter.

I am not Mr. Hinds' defender at all, but I think that one has to be objective on this question of tourism. We need to ask ourselves, "Are we not as a people to some extent responsible for our own problems?" Nobody can tell me that the attitude of people in the hotel industry in 1983 is the same as the attitude of people in the hotel industry in the early Seventies. Sir, I have been into them and I know that people have changed. I know that I have been into a hotel or even restaurants and they come and say, "Wha for you," and I say "A this, a that and the next". They will come back and they will "plunk" down the food or whatever it is before you.

We talk of St. Lucia. Only in October I was at The Halcyon for two days, and the attitude of the staff at The Halcyon was completely different. One night I was sitting down in the lobby waiting for the taxi to come and take me to a restaurant, and a waiter passed me and turned back and said "Sir, you are not having a drink? Couldn't I get you a drink?" I was going out of the people's place, but he was so concerned that I was there with my two long hands that he felt I should have a little weight in one of them and he said "What about a drink?" You would not find that in Barbados today; you would sit down there and suffer. It would not occur to the person in Barbados that perhaps I could offer you a drink and be pleasant to you. The whole attitude to service in the hotel industry has changed. We have to recognise these facts; do not hide them. People want to hide them; we have to talk about them. These are some of the problems.

The Tourist Board has put on education programmes. I do not know what is the success rate of these programmes, but it is not only the Board of Tourism which can only be functioning as a kind of

director, it is not only to the Board of Tourism that we should attach blame, we have to blame ourselves also, the people involved in this, the people who meet tourists. A tourist stops and asks you the way and you say "Man, I don't know; go down there, turn right, turn left." I have seen that, and I had to stop my car one day coming from District "C" to help two tourists in a moke after I saw a man near the blacksmith's shop say "I don't know how to get to St. John's Church; you can't read? Go up that hill there and keep gine". I had to stop and explain to the people because at the rate he was going in this vernacular, about "keep gine", the people would not understand, so I had to use a little Etonian. I have made this a little light-hearted, but I am serious. Part of the problem is with us, and we have to examine ourselves.

The third problem with tourism, and people complain daily about this, is the rate charged by many hotels for accommodation. People are complaining, and we have to listen. People are complaining that it is too expensive. They say, "Pay US\$75 a night!" They cannot pay it. But if you check out the Casuarina Hotel in Dover, you will see that they are full all the time because the rates are reasonable.

Do you know what has happened, Sir? Let us face it. Let me tell you what is the problem. When tourism was booming and money was plentiful and the Development Bank was lending people money for hotel construction, everybody jumped in to make a quick killing. Rates kept going up. Senator Greaves and his lot from the Union kept asking for increases, so operating costs naturally went up. As soon as the recession came — in fact, prior to recession with the increase in oil prices — the cost of fares from destinations like London and so on went up and passages became very expensive. At the same time hotel rates were also going up.

It is only in the last year or so that there has been a decision to hold down on hotel rates, but they are holding down when they are up in \$70 a day and that kind of thing; whereas if they had rates at say \$45 per day, it might be a different story.
6.40 p.m.

I tell you that the Casuarina is always full because they have very, very reasonable rates and I do not understand why more Barbadian hoteliers are not copying the example set by the Coles and others who own the Casuarina. They are showing that tourists will still come if the rate is right. If you go for volume over a long period, you will be able to live. Otherwise, what the Prime Minister has suggested might well happen, the bankruptcy for a number of hotels. Those are some of the problems affecting the tourist industry, and we have got to face it.

In my day there was a word called "avariciousness". It is avarice, but Bajans would say "avaricious". I prefer to use that word in this context. That is what is happening in the hotel industry — avariciousness. "avarice" is too light, too proper, too nice.

Sir, I do not know if Senator Dr. Waldron Ramsay intends to speak on Foreign Affairs, because he is far more competent in that area than I am.

What the Estimates show is that Government's thrust is still in the area of Social Services. As you can see on Page 4, Ministry of Education, \$13.4 million, on Capital that is, Health and Community Service; \$8.6 million; and Housing and Lands \$8.6 million — very important Ministries.

There is much that can be said about them, but I am not going to deal with those Ministries. I just want to reply to one or two things said by Senator Greaves. He has attacked the National Housing without, again, being specific. I think for the sake of the record his wild ascertains should be met. I think Senator Jemmott has given the figures; I was out of the House at the time; but there is no doubt that the Ministry of Housing and Lands, with particular reference to the National Housing Corporation, showed a change between 1976 and 1979/80.

I think there must be a few things to be recognised about public housing in Barbados. Soon after the Barbados Labour Party became the Government in 1976, there was a United Nations Mission that came here and did a report on public housing in Barbados. Those people recommended then that the maximum number of public housing units that could be built in any one year in Barbados, using the current and established methods of construction — that was the writing, and I emphasise that — was 600 units a year.

Obviously there are other ways of constructing houses that are far more speedy. I have seen systems in Jamaica, in particular, where you set up molds and you spray out a concrete and you get a house in three days. That has not come to Barbados. But the type of house that is being built in Jamaica by the Mattalon Group, which could have come to Barbados, would have not been acceptable by Barbadians, because the Barbadian standard of housing was in excess of anything that was being built by way of public housing in Jamaica. You would have been lowering your standards, and it would have been a foolish Government to have brought to Barbados a type of house that was inferior to what the Government or its agency was then constructing. Opposition would have had a field day.

But there are systems that can be used. Perhaps if the Ministry of Housing gets a sufficiently large capital injection it should move towards establishing ventures

with one of the systems builders overseas that would construct a type of house that would be acceptable to Barbadians and certainly would be of equivalent standard.

Sir, before I finish, I want to reply to something Senator Greaves said. I know the Minister of Information and Culture may wish to reply to Senator Greaves on this, but I am going to take the opportunity now, because I will claim a little responsibility.

Senator Greaves inveighed against foreigners, as he put it, working in sensitive areas of the news at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Now I had a little experience up there; not the most happy, but I know a little about it. During the time I was there, I saw a few people taken on the staff of CBC, in senior management positions, who were non Barbadians. Since then, others have come. Let the Press and those who made the same allegations in the election campaign in 1981 hear now. Those foreign journalists who were employed at CBC during the time I was there satisfied criteria. They were better than any of the other Barbadian applicants, bar none — head and shoulders above, outstanding.

We were looking for a type of journalist who would improve the quality of work at CBC. I think in all of those who we were taking on we found what we were looking for. Nobody can tell me that "Reds" Perreira is not just an outstanding cricket and sports journalist, he is not just limited to cricket — or that Mr. Leslie Seon is not a broadcaster and journalist of great experience and respect, not only in the Caribbean but abroad.

Let me say this. How come of all of a sudden Bajans are so nationalistic and are forgetful of the fact that Barbadians in years past have been going into people's countries — Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, and Bahamas — and contributing in the Police Force, Civil Service, teaching professions, whatever area of activity. Mr. Warren Thorpe, who is now the Headmaster of Harrison College, for years taught in Jamaica. Mr. J. C. Proute was with the *Daily News*, he is now with the *Gleaner*, an outstanding Barbadian journalist.

I cannot understand this narrow nationalism, born of prejudice and ignorance, that impels people like Senator Greaves to make these uncalled for and unsavoury remarks. The Prime Minister, himself, was a journalist in the British Broadcasting Corporation. There is Ken Ablack, Ernest Eytle — I cannot remember all — Alva Clarke, who is now President of the Caribbean Broadcasters Association. The only way to improve is by the intermingling of personalities and people of quality sharing their experiences and having this cross-fertilisation of ideas and talents.

6.50 p.m.

We now have here in the Defence Force a gentleman who I believe was very high in the Police Force in St. Lucia, Mr. Barrow. Permanent Secretary, Mr. Colin Deane, in the Bahamas. Why are we getting so insular? I am upset about it, except that I know that the party to which Senator Greaves belongs was not one very much given to the Federal idea. My party has always been consistently profederation.

Aside.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Do not worry with Vance, they brought an Englishman, made him a statutory Barbadian, and put him as a Minister in charge of the same CBC — Peter Morgan. That is what they did, but we have our own people who can empathise as Caribbean people with the problems of Barbados, who have had the kind of maturity, like Mr. Seon and others, to be able to give guidance here and there in news reporting and so on. We have these kinds of people with us; we have not gone and brought anybody from England who may have cultural difficulties, so I think that it is about time that we lay this bogey about employing foreigners to rest.

If we believe in CARICOM, if we believe that we are all part of a Caribbean, then we should not be so smallminded as to pick on a person who cannot defend himself and try to make visitors in our midst feel unhappy. He is almost like Enoch Powell, or worse, except that it is not a race argument he is using. It is an argument of nationality rather than race, but the tenor of the argument is the same, and I am sorry that Senator Greaves should have degenerated to that level, Sir.

Mr. President, I will end as I began. I understand what is happening this year. I hope that in the Estimates for 1984–85 we will see a clearer thrust in certain areas that I think are very sensitive and that need to be held so that this society does not disintegrate. We must hold them and we must do things for them, otherwise the society may just drift — I am not going to say like Marx, “and wither away” — and we may all be very sorry that perhaps we did not put the kind of financial emphasis that we should have. I am referring to financial emphasis especially in the area of young people. I want to see some programmes in 1984–85 dealing with young people.

I am very pleased to be able to remind members that in January 1980 there was much disquiet in this society because there were outbreaks of violence, even fire, arson, at Dodds. A Commission was set up — I was the Chairman of that Commission — and we made certain recommendations for putting it back together. Not once since that report in 1980 has the Press gone back to Dodds — you see this is why when people criticise them they take umbrage — to see what is happening.

What I can tell the society is that the disquiet and the fear that was prevalent in 1980 is no longer there. You do not hear about Dodds boys breaking out and robbing Bell Television, this place and the next place, and stealing a tractor from Chapel and destroying it. Most of the problems have been solved, because Government, to its credit, was responsive to the short-term recommendations of the Committee, and I think we have got things at Dodds under control.

Those are young people with whom we are dealing, and they have been amenable to discipline, firmness but kindness, and I feel that in other areas of our society Government must bring to bear on young people those same qualities, otherwise this society will slip away.

I am obliged to you, Mr. President.

Cheers.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think at this stage we will suspend the sitting until tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Do you have something to say, Senator Greaves?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, speaking on the motion for suspension, I wanted to make a comment.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is not a motion, but a decision of the Chair, but anyway, let us hear what you have to say.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Today when we met and the new Senators were introduced, I had hoped that I would have had an opportunity just to make a brief comment on their entering into this Chamber, but unfortunately it was not possible, and I thought I would use the opportunity to do so on the suspension.

It is a pity really that the other Senator, Senator Waldron-Ramsay, is not in his seat, but speaking from this side, the Democratic Labour Party would want to welcome Senator Ramsay and Senator Jemmott to their positions in this Honourable Chamber.

We certainly regret the circumstances which have led to the resignations, whatever they are, of the two former Senators. Certainly we would want to wish them a speedy recovery, because we have got the impression that they have resigned because of ill health.

I would also like to welcome the elevation of Senator Howell to be a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. I would want to wish him well. I know he has a very tough job on his hands, and I do not think that one would envy him, but I hope that he will

be able to live up to the expectations of the party which has promoted him to that position.

Thank you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting will be suspended until 11 o'clock tomorrow morning.
7.00 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed. Senator McClean.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Yesterday, in spite of his pleading that he was not briefed by the Minister of Finance, I think that the Leader of Government Business, Senator Barrow, did a reasonable job in introducing these Estimates, and as such I would like to start off my contribution by reference to his.

First of all Senator Barrow sought to identify some dominant policy objectives which inform the Estimates and in particular he indicated two. The first is that employment is at all times a principal concern of Government. It is especially heartening to hear this coming from the Leader of Government Business, because there were times when I looked at Government policies and reasons for implementing particular policies and I never really saw a concern with employment looming particularly large. At times it seemed concerned with things like inflation and balance of payments which seemed to take considerable precedence over questions of employment and income.

I say this because there were times when it seemed to me that there were indications that such things as wage restraint, which has implications for income and employment, were seen almost as a first recourse in addressing the problems of the country, which were perceived essentially to be inflation and balance of payment problems. For many years I have been urging that we should never lose sight of the fact that the second most important problem facing the country is the problem of employment, and even in periods of short-term instability we cannot afford to lose sight of that fact, for the simple reason that we go almost from year to year in situations of short-term stability. If we merely focus on employment in terms of a long-term development programme, and when we come to articulate our day to day policies it is a subordination to inflation and things of that order, you will find that the end result is that we might be introducing policies which are not the most humane in terms of what is possible.

In agreeing that one should be concerned about maintaining employment at its highest possible level, I

would like to suggest that that employment should be productive employment. It should not be employment for the sake of employment, not make "wait jobs", like taking stone from here and putting them there and then taking them and carrying them back to the first position. It should be productive employment and I am certain that Government is well seized of that. It should also be remunerative employment and employment which has reasonable and just conditions of service attached to it.

I believe that if Government identifies employment as its primary objective it would also take these particular qualifications, which I just indicated, into consideration.

But at times, we are left to wonder whether enough attention is paid to the factors of remunerative employment and the best conditions of service; and here, remember conditions and service should be seen essentially from the perspective of those people who are doing the work.

At the moment, we seem to have a problem besetting the community where the nurses are struggling with Government on the question of conditions of service. Government is claiming that they are introducing changes which should improve the service — not necessarily the working conditions of the nurses, but improve the service — and they are disclaiming any particular increased discomfort to nurses as a result of these new measures.

My approach to this would be that we should at all times pay heed to what the workers are saying. It is a mistaken view that you can impose some type of settlement upon workers, which they feel is unjust, and end up with a good result.

If the nurses do not feel that their working conditions are right, you can rest assured that the nursing care which they will deliver will not be the best. So that the first thing, in terms of this aspect of activity, is to get the agreement of the workers involved. Of course, there are limitations in terms of workers making unjust claims and so on, but I do not think that that is the case in point at the moment.

The case which has been made out by a spokesman for Government, a civil servant, has been that they are not increasing the hours of the nurses from 40 hours a week but they are increasing the coverage in terms of nursing care. The coverage of nursing care quite evidently, in the final analysis, reduces to the number of working hours per patient, and the number of working hours must be the number of nurses multiplied by the number of hours they work; and if they continue to work 40 hours as is being suggested, the nursing care cannot increase by the re-arrangement of those hours. So, basically, this 2½ hours in the middle of the night that, on the one hand, is suggested as going to the nurses as their own

time, has in some sense been included as enhancing the coverage.

I think that one should really listen to the nurses when they say that they interpret those new arrangements as working 52½ hours. At least, they are on call 52½ hours a week. The idea is that they are required to shift from the present system where they work for about 12 hours a night, some weeks three nights, some weeks four nights, to one where they work five nights per week for 10½ hours of which 2½ would be identified as a break.

I think basically that the nurses regard that as some type of non-break, a break which is of no use to them, and I would suggest that the agencies in Government responsible for this should look very carefully at the nurses' position. As I said, in the final analysis it is a matter of the satisfaction of the nurses with their working conditions.

There is another question relating to terms and conditions of work in the Public Service. I believe I made reference to it in a debate some time before, but on this occasion I think it is also appropriate to raise this point! Evidence of that can be found in the Schedule of Personal Emoluments, on pages 70 and 71, that relates to the Ministry of Education.

On page 70 you have the Emoluments for Pre-Primary and Primary Schools. You will notice that at what you can call line 2, the provision for Senior Teachers and Teachers is some \$19 152 768, and further down, under Other Personal Emoluments, Acting Staff, the provision is over \$7 million. The relative magnitude of those two figures would give you some indication of the relation of the permanent to the acting staff. Permanent staff corresponds in these estimates here not to the permanent staff currently employed, but to the establishment for permanent staff.

It is evident from this, therefore, that at least one-third of the teachers in the primary schools must be acting or temporary staff, and you know that the conditions of service for acting staff are not all that good. You will notice that the notice of termination of employment is very short. The security of tenure as to whether they will be re-employed in the next year is always doubtful and there are always people who discover in September that they will not be re-employed.

I want to suggest that a situation where you have about one-third of the teachers as casual labourers cannot be a desirable one. This, quite evidently, is a hangover from earlier times, and, like many other areas of administrative arrangements, these things just go on from time to time without serious review. I think that this is time for a serious review of that situation and the establishment, not the amount of appointed teachers, but the

establishment should correspond to the requirement for teachers.

You should not have an establishment which is two-thirds of the requirement. This does not mean that you have to go and appoint people willy-nilly. You only appoint them when they are properly qualified and they have done their internship, or the probation period is satisfactory or whatever. But you should not have a situation where, let us say, for instance, that all of those teachers were qualified Erdiston teachers and so on, but they still could not get appointed.

The same situation is reflected on page 71 in relation to Secondary Schools. If you look at column 1, they have, "Headmasters, 12." These would be the schools fully under the Ministry from the inception. I think at the moment now, under the new Education Act there are 21 secondary schools which are fully under the Ministry in similar status, one as to the other, but these Estimates just simply identify 12 headteachers. It would seem that for those 12 schools you still have the same problem of a lot of teachers who cannot be appointed simply because the establishment does not permit such. That establishment should be changed.

I notice in these Estimates they have maintained the old format. I would like to find out if the Leader of Government Business can find out why it is that the Estimates are presented in the same way they were presented last year in respect of the secondary schools although there has been a promulgation of the Education Act. I thought that would have made a difference to the financial status of these schools. You have in an Appendix to the Estimates a provision for schools that were not fully under the Ministry of Education in previous times, and you still have the same 12 schools here, so I would like to find out really if the Education Act does not go as far as having implications for the presentation of the Estimates.

11.15 a.m.

At the level of the secondary schools and the conditions of service — I speak subject to correction — I suspect that the vast majority of teachers in the schools that are shown in Appendix A do not suffer from this misfortune of being temporary teachers in that sense. There may be one or two, but not nearly one third of them. To that extent you notice that within our schools you will have differential arrangements as far as appointment of teachers is concerned, and this is not at all to be desired in the context in which we are trying to uplift all of our secondary schools to similar levels.

Senator Barrow also indicated that housing must be the area of greatest emphasis for Government at this point in time. I agree entirely with that. Usually international agencies, based on the way in which they make funds

available in relation to the priorities they identify in terms of their loan portfolios, de-emphasise housing in places like Barbados, or other areas in the world for that matter, except the most destitute places. We cannot afford to do that.

I really believe that the quality of life in a nation is largely bound up with the quality of housing. That is where you spend most of your hours, and the quality of that immediate environment must influence your view of the world and your relationships with other people. And those people who have to be constantly dodging from the rain when it falls and who are faced with all sorts of inconvenience in terms of their normal habitat, cannot be particularly enamoured of the society and would be rather inclined not to put a high value on things like the bus seats and things around them. Vandalism in that particular context is to be expected, so I heartily endorse the view that Government must place the highest priority on housing. Again, this did not seem to be indicated by certain policy statements coming from Government agencies in the past.

Senator Barrow made reference to the restrictions on personal loans by commercial banks and the classification of bridging finance as personal loans, which would show any lack of sensitivity to that particular point. We have also in the past heard indications that things must be done to dampen the construction industry, talk about overheating leading to inflation and so on, when in actuality the level of activity in the housing industry did not in that way have any direct impact on overall inflation in the country. But it was seen as so doing, and it is entirely possible that some of the tax which now exists on building material was introduced because of an attempt to prevent overheating in this sector and dampen demand for housing. Indeed, it was introduced at a time when there was buoyant activity in the construction sector.

If that was the reason for introducing those things, I believe it would have been an unfortunate reason. In any event, those levies on building materials tend to put road blocks in the way of people acquiring their houses, and I think they should be looked at again.

I say I welcome the identification of housing as a major policy, but it is not enough just to so identify it. One must examine all aspects of all the fiscal measures that Government has in place, all the aspects of Government policy and the policy of Government agencies, not only the Central Government, Ministry of Finance, etc., to see whether what they are doing accords with this particular objective.

Those were the two policy objectives which I made note of. Then Senator Barrow identified, I think, the existing economic conditions which were pertinent to

what we were supposed to be considering in this debate. He mentioned that interest rates are still too high in Barbados, and I agree with that. He also indicated that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has given some directive or indication to the Central Bank that they should take action to reduce those rates.

This, in a sense, must bring a measure of satisfaction to someone who has been urging all along that the interest rates should never have been increased, but I must confess that any satisfaction which I could derive from this announcement has been severely reduced by the awareness that Government, in entering into the standby arrangement with the IMF, agreed as one of the conditionalities, to align our interest rates with rates internationally, meaning in North America and Western Europe, and we know that in recent times interest rates have been coming down in the United States of America, and evidently our reduction is part of the re-alignment exercise, maintaining our rates in alignment with those.

Presumably to the extent that that is all, it does not signal a new awareness of Government as to the appropriate interest rate regime to be pursued in Barbados. We can expect a notice later down maybe that they are going back up, or indeed that they decided not to bring them down, because interest rates in America suddenly reversed themselves and have gone back up subsequent to that statement. That is why I am not too enthusiastic about the announcement.

I think that Barbados should have a low interest rate regime at all times. The reason for that is that it would confer a slight competitive edge on our export industry, and the competitive edge which it so confers would depend on the level of interest rates in the rest of the world. It would be of greatest benefit to our exporters when interest rates in the rest of the world are high. So at the time when we are best able to exploit the benefits of a low interest rate regime, we abandon it.

Now, it is true that prior to, say, 1981 or thereabout one could justifiably claim that Barbados was pursuing a low interest rate regime irrespective of what was happening in the rest of the world, but suddenly in 1981 we abandoned that and we have had all sorts of explanations as to why we abandoned it. All the explanations have been found wanting and from time to time I have had to take time out to explain the short-comings of the explanations.

There is one explanation which has not been offered by any Government agency, but I think it has been offered by the Opposition spokesman on Finance in the Other Place. His view is that the increasing interest rates constitute one of the pre-conditionalities for the IMF loan. He is suggesting that nowadays, quite correctly,

the IMF involves itself with countries even before they enter into formal arrangements. The IMF is continuously involved in countries and they are always wanting to urge these arrangements on countries.

These conditions which we have now are not conditions which were fashioned because of anybody looking at the requirements of the Barbadian economy and what you should do to solve our problems. These are things that are worked out beforehand, these are policies that the IMF feels should be pursued in all countries in the world, irrespective of whatever else, and as such you know that once you involve the IMF they will tell you to keep your interest rates in line with the North Atlantic, or let the market determine them. They are going to tell you things about wage restraint, interest rates and so on.

11.25 a.m.

I know that Senator Barrow was one of the people who disagreed with the increases, and I hope that his influence in the corridors which determine these things will increase in time so that they would not go back up even when those in the United States should go up.

There was the question of falling oil prices and declining inflation, but in particular Senator Barrow proposed the question, "What are the implications of falling oil prices for our exports to Trinidad and Tobago?"

I would venture to say that in the short term there will be no dramatic implications, because there is a difference between the level of economic activity and the prices which you obtain for your goods. The mere fact of a reduction in oil prices would not in itself imply any dramatic reduction in employment, let us say, in Trinidad in the short run. It may have greater implications for Government revenue and for the profits of certain businesses, but it might not reach down to throwing people out of work in the short run.

The type of things that we export would be influenced more by whether people are working and able to buy shirts and whatever else, the furniture, than by the overall balance of payments position of Trinidad in the context where they have adequate reserves still to accommodate any deficits which should emerge in the immediate future. Of course, if the situation should persist and the Government's budgetary position in Trinidad should deteriorate, and then they start to adopt the wrong policies to correct it, anything can happen, but that is still a little distance off.

Then there was the question of the debt service ratio, which Senator Barrow indicated was still very healthy, in the single digits. I would agree that our debt service ratio in terms of foreign debt is still very healthy, but I would caution against the particular indicator such

as the one mentioned by Senator Barrow to arrive at this conclusion. That indicator should be refined in two ways: (1) you should relate it not to overall exports, but you should relate it to exports net of the imported content in those exports. You see, when we, let us say, export \$1 million in shirts, part of that million dollars is already taken up by the raw materials which we had to buy to produce the shirt, not only the cloth but even the oil that was used to produce the electricity which drove the machine and so on and many other things.

You have an imported component in all of our exports. It is greater in some than in others. We know that sugar is the export with the lowest imported component, so you should make that type of adjustment to get at the export of what you call "our value-added" rather than the total value of our exports. Then you should express your debt repayments in relation to that figure, because that is the amount to apply in a meaningful sense to the servicing of the debt. The imported component of the exports must have first claim, because without that you could not export in the first instance, so you cannot displace that to do anything with it.

The other thing is that the analysis seems to be done on a year-to-year basis: what is the position for 1981? What is the position for 1982? What is the projected position for 1983? I think that we should develop a notion of the debt service ratio which is based on the maximum amount prospectively payable on the existing debt obligations. In other words, you should project your repayments not only for the coming year, but down the line, and relate the highest figure for repayment to your existing import capacity, your net earnings of foreign exchange.

This is important especially when you have a problem of bunching. You might be engaging now in new borrowing this year and you do not have many repayments, but, say, five years down the line you have a big repayment and everything is bunching up five years down the line, and then you suddenly wake up one morning and you have a problem. You should anticipate that.

In this regard, I will direct attention to the loan which we entered into, I think that was 1981, the Orion Bank loan, when we had the first shock waves about things happening to our balance of payments. I think that was the \$60 million loan, or something in that vicinity, which was repayable in a very short period starting about five years after the loan. That loan is there on the books but it is not due for any repayment of principal during the course of this year, let us say, so if we look at it in terms of the maximum amount which is prospectively payable, our debt service ratio would be considerably higher for that reason, and also if we net out the imported component of our exports, it would be higher still, and that would probably bring us close to the maximum safe level.

There was the question of the CMCF. Senator Barrow acknowledged that the CMCF is a problem, but, amazingly, he thought that if we withdrew something bad would happen to our exports. I want to suggest that this is not so.

First of all, Senator Barrow referred to the CMCF largely as a fund. It is not a fund; it is intended to be a facility. At the moment it is proving to be a mere infelicity!

The whole idea of this is that it was supposed to simplify the payments arrangements within the region so that it would reduce the number of times that money had to move around in the region in settlement of debt. Before we had the CMCF, which is a fairly new thing, we had bilateral arrangements where each Central Bank would open accounts for the other Central Banks in the region. When we export to Jamaica, we would acquire claims against the Central Bank there, and when they export to us they would acquire claims against our Central Bank, on a daily basis, and after a period they net out the position and settle up.

The CMCF is just a generalisation of this principle. When we export to anywhere in the region we get a claim against the CMCF, likewise any other member, and the net positions on the settlement dates in June and December are supposed to be looked at and you are supposed to settle one half of that outstanding position on the settlement date. That, basically, is all the CMCF is all about. There are things about interest rates attaching to late payments and balances in excess of 20 per cent of the ceiling and so on, but that is the essence of the CMCF.

Basically, what should happen every December and every June is that the agent for the CMCF should look at the net positions; the agent is supposed to reimburse all the creditor countries of the CMCF, and obtain reimbursement from the debtor countries.

In this situation, Jamaica does not owe us anything or Guyana; the facility owes us, and Jamaica and Guyana owe the Facility. The way it is operating is that the Facility is not going to pay anybody until they get payment; presumably that is the way they are doing it, but it is not evident in the agreement that that is the way it should necessarily operate. So, in a sense, it is almost back to a modified bilateral basis. If we cannot get money unless Jamaica should pay, that is no substantial improvement on the bilateral arrangement.

But what is worse about the CMCF as compared with the bilateral arrangement is that it would be the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago that would be indebted to Barbados, because most of our earnings are from Trinidad citizens. We export less to Jamaica than we import from them, so we will have to pay Jamaica

money under the bilateral arrangements, Trinidad will have to pay us and Jamaica will have to pay Trinidad. The ECCA will also have to pay us.
11.35 a.m.

But now, because of multilateralising the whole thing, Trinidad's position nets out to a trivial amount. It is still positive, but not as high as Barbados. Our position nets out to a whole lot of claims against the Facility, and we are told that we cannot get any money because Jamaica and Guyana cannot pay.

If you revert to the bilateral arrangement, there is nothing in that that would affect the exporter. The exporter need not even know about it. The exporter was not aware when you moved from bilateral to multilateral; that was business between the Central Bank; so he need not be aware when you go the other way. You can do it; do not have to make a public announcement — of course, you should announce it — and life would go on. It would not necessarily affect the exporter. It would be only a problem if Trinidad decided to retaliate and say, "Oh ho, you are not going through, therefore, we are going to do something to you," a vindictive response. But there is nothing inherent in our withdrawal from the Facility which would suggest that we would suffer.

What is more, unless we can get settlement out of the CMCF, it is tantamount to bad debt. It is the same thing as bad debt. Anybody can identify bad debt. That does not mean it would not be paid twenty years from now, but for the time being, to all intents and purposes, we write off the possibility of it being paid. So the CMCF thing is coming very close to bad debt and you might find that the IMF and other people might say, "You mentioned that as a reserve, that is not a reserve, that is bad debt. Put that one side, you do not have any reserves, because if I ask you to pay me, you cannot draw on it."

If the CMCF is not going to settle the way in which we are accommodating all trade with the rest of the region, it is equivalent to our telling the exporters, "Look, make the things, carry them and throw them out in the sea and we would give you some money out of the Central Bank." That is what is happening now except that you are sailing them across the sea, you are not dropping them in the sea.

So, either we are going to get that Facility functioning as it was intended to or we are going to have to pull out. We do not really have any other option. We have until about, I would say, three months from now, and then if we do not do that, Barbados will go down the drain.

The question of the new Central Bank building was also mentioned. I am not too sure in what context it

was mentioned as part of the environment. In a verbal context, it was mentioned alongside of slum clearance and Church Village. I would hope that that is not just a grandiose exercise in slum clearance.

What I would say about it is that we have to note the considerable amount of expenditure involved here. Basically expenditure by the Central Bank has the same effect on the economy as the deficit financing by the Central Bank of Government's budget. Therefore, when we look at the \$129 million overall deficit we should add to that whatever amount of money they plan to spend on the Central Bank building this year. That would indicate to us the magnitude of the problem that we have to cope with.

I, myself, am not too sure that the Central Bank building is not too much of a prestige project. I can see the point of the need for a building and so on, but the figures that I have been hearing associated with the cost of that building seem to be out of proportion with building costs in all other areas. I do not know what type of building they are putting down there, but it would seem to me to be some kind of prestige project. If it is not a prestige project, they are not getting a good deal in terms of the biddings. But that is for people who are privy to the detailed information to make a judgement on. I would not have that type of information.

On a different level, Senator Barrow indicated that an anticipated outcome of the budgetary exercise this year, at least at the level of the provision for Capital Expenditure, would be increased employment. I would be inclined to agree with this. I am hopeful of the view that the Barbadian economy will expand in 1983, not only because of the Government's Budget, but other indicators within the economy — in spite of the "hurricane" in the tourist industry.

Laughter.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: But what I would say is that when you look at the Estimates of Revenue, it is not particularly indicated that there would be any recovery in the economy. I think Roman two in the Estimates of Revenue might be an appropriate page to look at, and when you look at the two columns here in relation to the Estimates of 1983-84 and the Revised Estimates, increases in taxes on incomes and profits, the taxes on goods and services and the taxes on international trade are fairly trivial and would come about mainly through inflation, through increased prices and so on rather than through any expansion in economic activity. And, indeed, if there is any expansion in economic activity, these figures should be exceeded quite easily.

In this regard, therefore it leads me to ask a question about Columns III and IV, the Revised Estimates 1982-83 as compared with the Estimates as approved in Parliament for 1982-83. I note the decline in the area of taxes on goods and services and taxes on international trade. We know that would have come about because of a decline in imports and a decline in economic activity. If there is any reversal in that at all, we will find that those figures should go back up.

But, also, in relation to the taxes on incomes and profit, I note that there is an increase, and I am wondering if Senator Barrow could provide us with some information, if he can obtain it from the Ministry of Finance, as to the reasons for this increase.

There are some factors which might conduce to a reduction and others which would conduce to an increase. I know that part of the reason for the increase would be related to the surcharge on Income Tax. But then, there are other factors that Government introduced in recent times, like the increase in accelerated depreciation, the better provision that they allow for depreciation that could contribute to reductions. Also, there could be the question of increases in investment activity which benefit from the investment allowance that could reduce Corporation Tax, and there are factors affecting the income taxes.

What I am asking is if Senator Barrow could give us some details regarding the reasons for movement in this figure, those that contributed to an increase and those that contributed to a decrease vis-a-vis the projection. Of course, this would mean that the Ministry has some basis for the projection in the first instance, and then you can compare that basis with what happened. I do not know if they have such a basis. I am inclined to doubt that such a basis may exist because of some difficulties with last year's presentation.

The other thing I would like to ask questions about would be the other taxes, that is, the Stamp Duty. As you would recall, when we introduced the Bill to amend the Stamp Duty Act, I said that what was indicated in that Bill as the increase in revenue was way off beam. We note here the substantial upward revision from \$4.8 million to \$15.8 million, and I would be interested in knowing to what extent my observations on that occasion explained this situation here.

Now, Senator Greaves in his contribution, as usual, had his normal strictures and he attempted to make some mileage out of the fact that the decline in income and employment in 1982 would have some association with living standards; indeed, he went as far as to say that this

would represent a decline in living standards in the country.

Quite evidently it would have an effect in that direction, but it does not mean that in the final analysis living standards would decline. Higher levels of income would support higher levels of living. But standards of living relate to much more than income. At the level of being able to buy things and so on, it also relates to wealth. People can maintain standards of living for short periods of time out of wealth rather than out of current income.

But beyond that, there are many other factors which influence living standards; the kind of general improvements in our social environment and our natural environment, which can be the consequence of Government expenditures and improvements in other areas of governmental and private activity, which conduce to an improvement in living standards.

11.45 a.m.

I am not so sure that there is any evidence of a decline in the living standards in Barbados during the last year. Presumably if we had more income we may or may not have had higher standards of living, because higher levels of income can sometimes lead to a decline in the standard of living if you do the wrong thing with the income.

Then there is the question raised by Senator Greaves relating to the wages for public servants, and he indicated that the Workers' Union is going to activate its request that the workers be given \$5 million more in 1983.

Before coming to that directly, I want to raise a query on page 2 in the Memorandum where at the bottom of that page you have the breakdown of the current expenditure under Personal Emoluments and Other. In the terms of the changes, there is an indication that the Personal Emoluments will increase in these Estimates as against the Approved Estimates for 1982/83 by \$15.432 million.

I think Senator Williams was wrong in interpreting this as meaning some type of provision for increases in 1983. I think these are the Approved Estimates 1982/83 as compared with what is being proposed now, and I think these Estimates are entirely formulated at the level of the existing situation, not anything that is in prospect. I think this would reflect, not the increases for 1983 but the increases that they had last year.

My question is, why only \$15 million? Remember that we were told that these increases were going to cost \$25 million and on top of that there should be some type of increment to public servants.

Is it \$25 million? I think that is the figure that sticks in my head somewhere along the line. You can correct it later on if it is not, but I thought that figure was being bandied around; the \$108 a month as a total cost to the Government I somehow had a feeling that that was \$25 million. Maybe I am remembering the wrong number. I have not checked it, but, if that is the figure, what has happened to the remainder. On top of that, the increment should be added to that.

The difference could only be explained by reduction not only in the establishment, but reductions in the people employed by Government, established and unestablished, and I would like some information on that. What is the difference in the projection for employment in this Budget as compared with last year's Budget in terms of Government employment.

While I am on that point. I could perhaps pick up another point, made by Senator Williams, that because of these changes you can say that the personal emoluments are responsible for the deficit. I would not want to subscribe to that type of reasoning at all because, basically, if you have two numbers adding to some given figure which happens to be greater than the third number any statement about what contributes to the excess is essentially a value judgement rather than any kind of analytical statement as such, because you are saying what should have been excluded if you are going to confine it to that level.

I am not so sure that if Government seriously wanted to bring the Budget into surplus position on current account that the easy and obvious way to do this would be to have Personal Emoluments a little lower.

In this regard, I direct attention to Page 25 of the Estimates, there under Head 22, Charges of Debt, Subhead 1, Debt Servicing — Treasury Bills. There you have 19 — Interest, and this is indicated in this Budget at \$31 600, which is down from last year, which was \$36 million, and you would remember my strictures against that \$36 million.

Now, I think everything I said about the \$36 million is equally applicable to the \$31.6 million. It is too much; and not only that, it is unnecessary. Government can avoid it simply by taking the necessary action to ensure that the Treasury Bill rates return to a reasonable level.

I notice in the last Economic and Financial Statistics, February 1983 at page 48, I think it is, that in January 1983 the average lending rate was 10.5 percent which was lower than any time last year. The lowest last year was in October, 11.17; and the highest was 16.02, in January. But that 10.5 percent is still too high, especially remembering that it is an average and not a

maximum, meaning that many people are getting over that.

I think that in these circumstances that is not only too high, but unnecessarily high, and Government can bring it down to a figure of 7 per cent quite easily by the strategy which I have outlined in other places. That \$31.6 million can be reduced easily by \$7 million or \$8 million without any sweat, so if you are talking about really taking action to balance the Budget, based on what is before you, I would say that is where you cut. Do not cut the wages. Cut interest on Treasury Bills.

Now, getting back to the point about the union renewing its claim for the \$5 million, I presume that that is the \$5 million for workers employed by the Barbados Workers' Union, in which case then it would probably be reasonable. If it is for all the workers, it is just a little drop in the bucket.

I repeatedly make the point that if we allow the purchasing power of the workers, and Government workers are a significant group, to be too severely eroded, this is going to jeopardize the viability of a lot of businesses which produce in the local market, which rely on the custom of workers. The increases in the Public Service last year did not go anywhere towards compensating for inflation in the previous two years and would already have been eroded by inflation last year, and if they remain at that level this year, you will see that they are going backwards and backwards, which means that they can buy less and less. Businesses can sell less and less and you are going to intensify the situation which is already starting to emerge.

Hopefully, other factors will offset it for this year but I am not too sure that if Government does not make its contribution by paying the workers more, the economy will be as healthy as it can be. As such, I think that Government should seriously address itself to the appropriate level of wages for public workers and identify an increase for this year.

I think it is appropriate that wages should increase every year in the Government sector, as it does in many businesses. You get a smoother arrangement. These big increases of 30 per cent or 40 per cent every two or three years is not to be desired. There are rather disruptive in terms of public budgeting. So it is better to have annual increases, give them something this year and something next year, rather than holding strain and having to give a lot down the line. So, as I said, I hope it is a question that the union is pressing a case for its workers and not all the other workers.

There was a suggestion by Senator Greaves that Government had corralled most of the credit during the period 1981/82 and this did a lot of bad things for the

private sector. This is a misconception held by a lot of people, maybe even Government itself, I do not know, because sometimes in Government circles an argument along this line has been urged about the need to restrict Government's borrowing from the commercial banks and so on.

11.55 a.m.

In this regard I would like to direct attention to Tables C2 and B21 in the Economic and Financial Statistics, the latest one available to me being February 1983. I think it is the latest one at the moment. Table C2 is the monetary survey on page 35 and it goes over to page 36. Now if you look at the information provided here under Domestic Credit, this is the total credit of the commercial banks and the Central Bank, and you have the amount to Government and the amount to the private sector. If you go back, let us say, to September 1981, you will find Government, \$241.9 million; and the private sector, \$664.3 million, and if you come now to December, you will see Government, \$260.9 million and the private sector, \$724.9 million, so basically these proportions are not changing that dramatically.

The private sector is still getting the largest proportion of any increment in credit, and if you take the intermediate figures, you will see a similar indication. The Government is not really appropriating all of the credit. The reason for that type of statement came out of the increases in the stipulated reserve requirements of the commercial banks when Government increased the requirement to the point where they must hold some 19 per cent or something like that of Government securities.

But if you look at the table which relates to that, you will see again that these measures really did not result in Government appropriating any significant increase in credit from the commercial banks. Table B21, on page 32, gives you information about the stipulated Government securities which must be held by the commercial banks, the actual amount they held on particular dates, the amount they are required to hold and the excess, and if you go back to April 1981, which predates all this business about Government corraling the credit, you find that the commercial banks held Government securities to the tune of \$192 457 000 and in December, 1982, they held \$198 413 000, not a significant increase, and indeed in November of last year they only held \$173 966 000, which is less.

Basically, on average through last year, subsequent to our talk about balance of payments problems year before last, the commercial banks have not been increasing their holdings of Government debt. What has happened, Sir, is that the increase in the reserve requirements have only reflected a higher figure for required reserves and a lower one for excess reserves, but the actual holdings were not significantly affected. Indeed,

throughout this whole period we find at the moment that in December the commercial banks are holding excess reserves of \$32 286 000.

So these reserve requirements were not particularly binding in that amount, and the lowest they have ever held throughout the whole exercise was \$9 462 000 in November, 1981. In May 1982 the figure was as high as \$34 278 000. So the regulations of the Central Bank, at the level of reserve requirements and the amount of funds appropriated by Government thereby, have had no significant effect on commercial bank holdings of Government debt.

The tight credit conditions that arose in 1981 and so on arose largely because of spin over expansion of credit by the commercial banks, and in the context of substantial Government spending financed by the Central Bank. That created an environment where credit expanded dramatically, and then when it had to stabilise, it meant that people who were looking for credit at that time had a bit of a problem. But there is no evidence to suggest that Government has been squeezing the private sector out of funds.

I think the last two points I would like to touch on, Mr. President, relate to a point made by Senator Williams and one point by Senator Simmons.

Senator Williams indicated that sugar was a major contributor to our foreign exchange, or perhaps the major contributor. I do not think that this is particularly accurate, and we could discover this by looking at the Economic Report for 1981 at pages 35 and 44. At page 35, it shows that in 1981 the total export earnings of sugar were \$74.6 million. I do not think that 1982 would be significantly better than that, if as good. I do not recall hearing the final out-turn figures as yet, but that is the figure. On page 44, Table 19, you have estimated tourist expenditure by type of tourist and the total expenditure is \$526 935 322. Even if you took only a quarter of that — and it is rather more than that — as the local value added, that is more than sugar, but I think the retention would be of the order, in my view, of 50 per cent of this.

Another source of information on this point would be on page 17, where you have the detailed sector of origin of the Gross Domestic Product for various years, and this is at current prices, so at 1981 prices sugar would have contributed \$70 752 000 to the Gross Domestic Product. Now that would be the total value added in the sugar industry, but remember all of our sugar is not exported, so you have to make an adjustment for the sugar that would be sold locally.

In relation to tourism, the figure indicated here is \$194 439 000. I have not checked on the precise classification of what they call tourism here. Remember

tourism is not an industry; it is an activity. It might amalgamate a number of industries, like the hotel industry, the taxi industry and some other things, and call them tourism, but under distribution, some of the distribution is tourism, because the tourists spend their money in Broad Street and all round like anybody else, so that this would be an under-estimate. This tourist sector would be a truncated sector; it would be activities that are more closely related to tourism. But the tourists spend in other activities, too. I do not know if the ladies of the night are included here.

My final observation relates to Senator Simmons' plea for a better deal for the Sports Council and for sports facilities. I would like to heartily endorse this. We should strive to at least maintain the National Stadium in the best state of repair at all time.

Sports facilities are not just about acquiring lots of land. You also have to provide hard courts and so on, and in this area I know that we heard earlier that the National Sports Council had identified a development programme which aimed at putting hard courts at all of the secondary schools which now do not have. I think that is a laudable proposal and the Council should be given a chance to implement it in the shortest space of time. On the \$½ million provided, I do not know if anything will come out of that this year, and as such I would want to support any proposal for supplementary estimates in that particular regard.

All in all, Mr. President, I think that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure indicate that the budgetary problem, if you want to call it that, facing Barbados is essentially one that we can cope with, and it should not engender any particular fear or panic behaviour on the part of anyone, either inside or outside of Government. But remember, it is taking place in the context of certain unfortunate circumstances, particularly the problems associated with the CARICOM Multilateral clearing facility, and the spectre of the International Monetary Fund.

12.05 p.m.

If we can solve our problem with the CMCF, we can tell the IMF go away. If we do not solve that problem, we are going to have to cope with the IMF. If one pays any heed to the kind of policy objective of the IMF, one would recognise that the things that they would want to urge upon us will not be in our best interest.

Of course, they will tell us that, and I would hope that Government would have at its disposal people who can reveal to them the shortcomings of anything that the IMF is urging on them. If, for one moment, the view prevailed that entry into the IMF is a good thing and our economy would be managed

better because they are managing it for us, and we went in early, therefore the conditionalities then and forever would be mild and desirable and all that type of stuff, well, we are in for a rude awakening.

I thank you, Mr. President,

Applause.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Linton.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Mr. President, I am grateful once again for this opportunity to add my two pennies' worth to this debate, and following, as I am Senator McClean, I will not seek to emulate his remarkable feat in analysing, in so positive a manner, the economic implications of the Estimates.

As a matter of fact, I think his contribution underlines the contention that this discussion every year lends itself to two separate and distinct methods of analysis. Either one can seek to analyse the economic implications inherent in the preparation and execution of these Estimates or, alternatively, one may have a look at individual departments, see what money they are asking for and how they propose to spend it.

I propose to take, Mr. President, the latter route. Now, had I begun my contribution yesterday, Mr. President, I would not have begun in the manner that I propose to begin today. Had I begun yesterday, I would have launched myself immediately into a critical examination, perhaps an examination with an eye of approval, on the various departments, the money they are asking for and how they propose to spend that money.

But the letter which was made a document of the House yesterday, the letter from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to the Director of Tourism, whereas it has not given any cause for concern, has really started persons, who perhaps are not familiar with the ways of Government, to ask certain questions.

Only yesterday, for example, I heard a remark that that letter constitutes an indictment on (a) the Minister of Tourism and (b) on the Government itself — it so centres around the whole constitutional question of the ultimate responsibility of a Minister for his Ministry, and then the collective responsibility of Cabinet for the actions of its ministers.

I do not hold the view, Mr. President, that the letter constitutes an indictment of the Minister of Tourism or of the Government at all because.....

Aside

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I am being told that there has been a reply to that letter and that the honourable Leader proposes to deal with it at a later date. Notwithstanding that, Mr. President, I do not think what I want to say on it would impinge on the realms of what the honourable Leader wishes to state.

The whole point is this that when we, around this Table, Mr. President, go through these Estimates Head by Head and either approve the allocations or be critical about them, in the final analysis, the question is: "who buys what car or who buys what equipment, or who buys what machinery, or who determines which courses officers should go on?" In other words, the details with respect to the spending of the money, thus approved by us, by Parliament, will be left in large measure to the civil servants.

I have no doubt, Mr. President, that that is one of the main reasons that every year, at least then the senior civil servants come down to observe the debate to give us any information we may need. Not only that, but also to hear the tenor of the various speeches to determine the feelings of individual parliamentarians on the matter; so that when they return to their respective offices, they will return there armed with the various ideas of the parliamentarians with regard to the manner in which parliamentarians would wish to see the money allocated by us spent.

And it is their duty, Mr. President, to make sure that the money which we allocate is spent in accordance with the wishes of the representatives of the people in the other House and those of us appointed in here. That is a heavy responsibility, Mr. President, and it is no use falling back upon the constitutional convention to say that it is the ultimate responsibility of the Minister to ensure that the wishes of Parliament are carried out, because quite a lot of civil servants are, in fact, technocrats. They are hired for their technical skills, or for their professional skills, or for their vocational skills, or for the other skills — at least, they should be.

On the contrary, very few of the Ministers in the respective ministries are technocrats in the particular area. They are there to assist with the determination of Government policy and, in the final analysis, oversee its proper execution. But they have, of necessity, to depend on the civil servants for the proper execution of that policy.

We have inherited the English system and, therefore, we draw heavily upon their convention, which states that the Minister accept the ultimate responsibility. Yet, we are not really in the same position as the English parliamentarians, Mr. President. They have a lot of back-up services which they could draw upon if, perchance,

they have reason to think that their technocrats, their civil servants, are not advising them properly, are misadvising them, or do not know what they are talking about at all. So it is very important for civil servants to realise that they, too, have some measure of responsibility.

I know that their jobs are well protected and it is very difficult to remove them. I am not suggesting that, in relation to any of the civil servants who are sitting in the Gallery now or who come here to sit to assist us, there is a case against any of them for removal. I am applying my mind specifically to the letter which was written to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, because I perceive that letter to be a basis for the gentleman concerned to offer his resignation, reply or no reply. I do not know what the reply contains, but certainly, if I were the Director of Tourism, I would have tendered my resignation on receipt of that letter. It is an indictment of the Director of Tourism. It does not amount to any indictment of the Minister. The Director is the technocrat. He is trained in that area, or so he should be, and it is an indictment on him.

Now, if he is not going to accept his responsibility, if he is not going to carry out the responsibilities which are imposed upon him, then — I agree with Senator Greaves, I do not often agree with him — he should have the decency to give up the job and go. I regard the letter as an invitation for him to tender his resignation. If he does not so regard it, I do not know if he can understand English or not.

12.15 p.m.

I hope it will not be long, Mr. President, therefore before we see a new Director of Tourism in his place and that the Government will not have the unpleasant task of having to remove him by some other means.

Now, if I may turn my attention to the Estimates proper, first and foremost the revenue section, I do not really want to pre-empt the Prime Minister, but on reading page 2, I notice that tax on goods and services — and this is under the heading "Functional Classification of Current Revenue 1983-84" — is estimated to be \$130,500,450, and on the opposite page, page 3, expenditure on goods and services total \$359 735 118.

What happens here, Mr. President, is that the Government imposes a tax on certain goods and services which are available in the country, but the Government is also itself a user, a consumer, of those goods and services. It has occurred to me that there should be some relationship between those two, the tax on goods and services and the expenditure on goods and services.

If we leave that for the moment and look at the taxes on incomes and profits, we see that that bears the

heaviest burden. That totals approximately \$187 million, which means that all the other items under Functional Classification of Current Revenue are used by Government towards this expenditure on goods and services. Perhaps the economists in the Ministry of Finance could pay some attention to that.

I do believe that what this suggests, Mr. President, is that we need — and I hope I am not pre-empting the Prime Minister in his Budget — a comprehensive look at the methods of taxation in this country. I strongly feel that the taxes on incomes and profits are too high and that a bit more could be shifted to indirect taxation, tax on goods and services, but so that it does not become a burden to the small earner. I do not want to see any exorbitant taxes on the goods and services which have to be used, especially on a daily basis, by the small wage earner.

I am not advocating a situation where the small wage earner, even though he is absolved from his duty of paying Income Tax, finds that he cannot buy the goods and services which are offered for sale in the country, but I do think that this whole question of taxation will receive some kind of treatment or relaxation by the Prime Minister in his Budget.

Perhaps, and I have no doubt, the Prime Minister will start by looking at some of the revenue which is collected. I have gone through the Estimates and I have seen those pages with Roman numerals under Revenue, where some revenue is collected, one is \$60, one is \$40; quite a few are under \$1500, quite a few under \$1000, quite a few under \$500. I wonder if it is really worth the while of the Government to be collecting revenue as small as this.

I remember that some years ago the Prime Minister abolished in part, the licence fees in respect of bicycles. Once a licence is purchased it becomes a licence for all time as, no doubt, a means of identifying that particular bicycle, and I strongly suspect that if a lot of these small charges are abolished, the saving in terms of the time and the paper and everything else, all the other resources which are now used in collecting these small amounts, will offset the amount of revenue which we have to forego. As Senator McClean will no doubt state, the opportunity cost of one intake will be the cost of the other one which you forego.

I do not think it will result in any reduction of the number of people employed in the Civil Service, because in these days of high unemployment I will not be advocating any reduction in the number of civil servants either. If we have to find work for them, we will find it, but we have to find it in a way other than having them collecting \$60, \$200 and that sort of thing. I even see one here for \$25.

I do not know what part of the duty of a particular officer that plays, or if it is the duty of an officer for an entire day or what have you, but to my mind it is really a waste of time. I have no doubt that the Prime Minister will be applying his eyes to this area with a view to rectifying this situation during his presentation of the Budget.

Leaving Revenue for the time being, Mr. President, and turning to the individual Heads, I go to Head 11 — Judiciary, on page 2. When we compare the small allocation for the Judiciary, both in terms of other allocations within these Estimates and in terms of the allocations in other countries, such as Trinidad and Jamaica, I think that we are fortunate in this country to have the standard of justice which we have. And the praise does not really go to any Government, whether this one or a former one, I think the praise should properly go to the members of the Judiciary. These sums are quite small indeed, and for a system of justice which is revered, emulated and adopted throughout the Caribbean, I think that we can be justly proud.

One notes from time to time, Mr. President, that several of our officers, both from the public sector, the Attorney General's Chambers, and from the private sector, are called upon to serve in other countries of the Caribbean. I understand that quite recently one of the officers from the Attorney General's Chambers has been called to higher office in the British Virgin Islands, and this is in fact proof, testimony, that our judicial officers are very well and very widely respected throughout the Caribbean.

When we have them existing on emoluments such as these which we pay them — I think the point was made yesterday by Senator Simmons — and giving justice in the manner in which they are giving on what, comparatively speaking, is a pittance, then Barbados can indeed hold its head high in the world of judicial affairs.

There is just one other point I would wish to make on that Head, and it is this. I read in the Other Place that one Member, who started to study law and has not completed it, has suggested — and I do not say he masquerades as a lawyer either, that would be totally untrue — that the clerks to the judges ought to be qualified lawyers. I really do not think that there is any need for that, and I speak with a great deal more experience than the gentleman who spoke in the Other Place; not in a boastful manner either, but factually.

I do not think that the clerks to the judges ought necessarily to be qualified lawyers, although I see no harm and on the contrary, great benefit in the judges being supplied with persons who have either qualified at the Community College, having done the Legal Executives' Course, or persons, like the person who spoke

in the Other Place, who can manage to pass the LL.B. degree. I think that people like that can be qualified to act as clerks to the judges. It would enhance certain elements of the procedure, it would also assist the judges greatly, but I do not think we need to go as far as having highly qualified attorneys-at-law assisting the judges.

(SENATOR W. W. HALL: Like you?)

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: If Senator Hall thinks so, who am I to challenge him, Mr. President?
12.25 p.m.

In that same vein also, Mr. President, although a clerk is now assigned from the Registration Office to each judge, I would really like to see the day when the judges are provided with secretaries of their own. I know, perhaps, the economy cannot afford it at this particular time, but I hope that in due course they will be provided with qualified secretaries.

A point made below as well, Mr. President, was the question of providing judges with persons who can take shorthand for the purpose of taking notes of evidence. It is an admirable idea. It has been partly implemented in terms of the summations of judges. They do that now in criminal cases and in certain important civil cases.

I do not think, however, we could ever replace the system which we have here of judges taking their notes in longhand, if for no other reason than that they like to refer to their notes instantly. But there is a lot that is said in evidence which the judges either miss or which need not be taken down in longhand, and in this instance some stenographic assistance will go a long way towards alleviating those difficulties and speeding up the process in terms of criminal and civil trials.

Now, I have spoken so far exclusively under this Head on the question of the judges in the Supreme Court. I want, in passing, to congratulate Government on the establishment of the Oistins Court. I do not want to repeat here what Senator Simmons has said. I think it is a show-piece, and I think it should be reproduced. I hope that when the finances permit and the time has come for relocating District "C" at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip that we will get a court of no less eminence, Mr. President.

The Oistins Court is a good example of why and how we discuss these Estimates, because, really and truly, Mr. President, the debate in the nature of things cannot vary much from year to year. What happens is, one year you have a certain amount of money to spend. The next year you have slightly less or slightly more and the Ministries ask for a vehicle here and a vehicle there, some plant here, some machinery there, and basically there is not much leeway.

During the years, if I may make a comparison, between 1968–1972 when Barbados had more money than it could usefully spend, the then Government was devoid, barren of ideas as how to use that money. They had no ideas. They had money. They could have built all the roads, all the schools, all the houses, everything we needed. All they lacked then were the ideas.

There was a recession from 1973–74 and then the money dissipated, because we had to spend our foreign reserves and our foreign exchange towards the purchase of the oil, but then there came a change in 1976. The change is now well known to all of us – in 1976 when Senator Hall was on our side – things were still tight.

Laughter.

Then came the years 1977–81, another four-year period when the economy started to boom; not with the same magnitude or to the same extent as it boomed between 1968–72, but then we saw a Government that was bold, imaginative, innovative and ready and willing to take the initiative and to introduce programmes and projects that the other Government was scared and unwilling, or unable, to introduce.

So what we are arguing about really is a question of personalities, to a large extent, rather than about the amount of money available. We are talking about the inherent ability of the respective Government to use the money that becomes available to it. So when Senator Greaves speaks about the "Great Combination" with some degree of scorn, he is laughing at himself, because the years 1977–81 really showed what the "Great Combination" was made of. And in order to arrive at that conclusion, one only has to compare it with the years 1968–72 when they had as much money and did not know what to do with it.

A few years from now they will be asking the electorate to put them in a position again, when we have built back up the economy, where they can squander the money again. I am sure that their plea will fall on deaf ears.

If I can turn to Head 12, Mr. President, Parliament, I just want to make one point there. I will be happy when exchange visits recommence under the CPA – Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. These exchange visits are not to be scoffed at. I know that we do not have any money at the moment, but a sum is being voted.

I have gone on one or two of these visits and I make bold to say that I have learnt quite a lot in terms of parliamentary practice, procedure, parliamentary democracy, in terms of meeting counterpart parliamentarians, in terms of learning about the development of

other countries. I have no doubt that those Senators among us who have not been in the Senate as long as I have been will wish to take the opportunity to travel overseas to learn something about what goes on in other countries so that they can make a greater contribution on their return.

The members down the other side are always criticizing travel overseas by Ministers and delegations and what have you. But living as we do in this small secular place, I think that, in order for us to broaden our ideas, it is absolutely necessary and vital that we travel as often as we can in order so to do. I think we would see a remarkable improvement in the level and standard of debate from the other side, particularly Senator Hall, if he seizes the opportunity and travels, too.

Much has not been said in here on Head 17, Defence and Security, Mr. President, except in an oblique reference by Senator Greaves to the effect that the money being spent there should be used towards the purchase of houses.

From time immemorial countries have had to make a choice between guns and butter. Britain quite recently had to do it in the Falklands. We are no different. The time comes when you have to purchase guns in order to defend the butter.

If you are arguing about the quantum spent on Defence, I have no doubt it is justified when we have an overall view of the level of security mechanisms and so on of what we need, particularly as our security forces are playing several roles in addition to that of defence.

They are monitoring the question of pollution, which is in fact a serious problem. We only have to have an oil tanker discharging its effluent a few miles off our coast; in fact the drips from the oil tanker only have to come ashore, and then the National Conservation Commission is called upon to go around the beaches, particularly on the East Coast, where the tide is highest, to clean up the area.

Under the new Law of the Sea Convention, when that becomes law, a regime will be established to oversee these things. But I do not think, so far as our own limited interest and area are concerned, that this is going to be extremely helpful in times of emergency. That will probably give us compensation after a long period, perhaps a period of protracted negotiations, but what happens in the interim when the oil comes ashore and spoils our beaches from the Hilton and all along the west coast? What happens then while we are waiting to get compensation from the regime as suggested under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea?

12.35 p.m.

I think we have to be ever vigilant and we have to equip our Coast Guard properly, or what was formerly the Coast Guard, in order that it can monitor and check on this question of pollution. The time has come, Mr. President, when it is not enough to give a few National Conservation Commission workers a few rakes and a few baskets and send them on the beach to clean it up. That is not control of pollution in the first place; that is just cleaning up the pollution. We need to take effective measures to control pollution not only from the oil but from business houses situated along the coast which discharge their effluent in the sea, and therefore the money spent in this area is to my mind wisely spent.

Turning now to Head 19, Subhead 7, Mr. President, Town and Country Planning, I would stop for a few minutes on this Head merely to comment on the plight of the canteen operators who were asked to remove themselves quite recently.

As I see it, Mr. President, there are several interests here, and fairly delicate interests, which we have to balance one against the other. We have not only to protect the interest of the small trader but also the interest of the large trader, and we also have to protect the interest of the community at large. They are all competing and compelling interests and, therefore, if we allow a certain section of the community, to in effect, do what it likes when it likes, and where it likes, then we negate the interests of the other competing interests.

That is not to say, Mr. President, that I support the view that a man who is trying to make a living should be unceremoniously moved from where he is without proper notice, proper warning, or more importantly, any alternative provision for his welfare, or giving him a place where he can carry on his business. The Government is moving towards that.

Senator Seale suggested yesterday that we should replace the mobile canteens with little shops which we can rent out. I support that idea. A few years ago we had a small trader who, really by trickery, was permitted to place his canteen on the Accra-Rockley beach even though for years the Parks and Beaches Commission, as it then was, had refused a similar privilege to other people who had applied. He, by stealth, managed to place his there.

I took the rap in the newspaper because one reporter, reporting badly, stated that I had asked him if he had paid taxes and all that sort of thing. He gave the impression that I was opposed to having a canteen sited at Rockley. On the contrary, I think we ought to have a facility up there and I think we ought to have a series of small booths up there where small traders can ply their wares and their business.

I think Rockley can accommodate this sort of thing without any harmful effect to the environment. We in the National Conservation Commission can landscape it well enough to ensure that the shops blend in with the immediate environs. I do not see any difficulty about that, but I was appalled at the manner in which the particular trader had by trickery and stealth placed his business on Rockley Beach.

My attitude to this entire affair, Mr. President, would be to live and let them, the small traders, live. I agree that some of their canteens are not temporary — they are permanent structures — and some, on the other hand, are very unsightly. There was one there by Quakers burial ground just below Government House and it stuck out like a sore thumb, and so many people wrote in to the National Conservation Commission that we had to write the Ministry on the matter. Ordinary people wrote in to the National Conservation Commission asking who gave them permission to locate it there, and it was moved.

You cannot just go anywhere around the country and put up what amounts sometimes, to monstrosities and decide that you are selling come what may; but, on the other hand, let us do it in such a way that, nonetheless, we permit them to live. Let us look for alternative sites and let us make alternative provisions for them.

Now since I am not going to speak on the Head dealing with police *per se*, I should add here that this same line of thinking applies to the attitude of the police towards hawkers; wherever, they can be lenient they ought to be lenient. They should at all times allow commonsense to prevail in the manner of moving or resisting hawkers. Their first consideration should be to encourage and permit these small traders, hawkers and what have you, to make a living if they possibly can without at the same time committing any flagrant breaches of the law.

Agriculture, Head 25. It seems to me, Mr. President, that since the demise of my former friend, colleague and Senator, Senator Connell, that this does not really receive any lengthy or adequate consideration in this Chamber. I do not know if any of the Opposition Senators understand anything at all about agriculture. Senator Ward unfortunately is not here for this debate, but I have no doubt that he would have made a valid and valuable contribution, but perhaps it is too much to ask any of the Opposition Senators to make a useful contribution on agriculture. When one moves away from the question of the burning of sugar canes and the price of sugar on the world market and this sort of thing, it becomes a highly technical and sophisticated area.

I must state, Mr. President, that the new Minister of Agriculture is receiving the approval, co-operation and support of the small farmers and indeed of the society as a whole. I say that without fear of contradiction. It is the first time for a long time that any Minister of Agriculture has really received such wide and whole-hearted support for his policies.

12.45 p.m.

I trust, Mr. President, that they will work. Witness his call and his initiative in seeking to control the burning of canes. Everyone of us can honestly state that he has succeeded to a large extent in his endeavours in this regard. The BMC itself, normally the butt of criticism, has not been in the limelight recently in a negative way. Even the BMC is seeking to perform.

An idea has therefore come to my mind, Mr. President. In the light of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister's letter about the non-functioning of the Tourist Board and its management, and in the light of Senator Seale's statement that the Board may be too huge, I wonder if it would not be a good idea to remove the Barbados Workers' Union's representative on the Tourist Board and replace him by a small farmer.

There is good reason for this. There is logic behind it. Apart from the fact that the Barbados Workers' Union's representative may or may not make a contribution to the deliberations of the Board —

(Aside).

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: One of my colleagues stated that he is a member. I suppose he gets paid for attending meetings too, but I do not want to cast any aspersions on the ability or what have you of the goodly gentleman, particularly as I worked with him when I first left school and he happens to be my good friend.

I am not speaking about the gentleman who presently holds office. I am speaking about the Barbados Workers' Union, I do not know what role they play on the Barbados Tourist Board at all. Remove their representative and replace him by a small farmer, so that they can have a voice on the Tourist Board, so that they can perhaps persuade the hotels to purchase local produce and to localise their menu to a greater extent than they have been doing so far. This is something that I would like to happen.

This is the initiative I believe that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was invoking the Director of Tourism to implement. This is the sort of initiative he wants, but the first move must come from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister or the Minister of Tourism. They have to remove the Barbados Workers' Union representative. He serves no useful purpose at all.

I am not saying he may not serve a purpose on the Transport Board where there are a lot of trade disputes sometimes. I am not saying he should not sit on the Board of the National Bank, because that is our bank and the people's bank and it has an agricultural section. Remove him from the Tourist Board and put on a small farmer. I think that is the first thing the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister could do in that regard.

Now, turning to the Prisons, which comes under Legal Affairs — I do not have the Head readily at hand — I do not want to dwell on that too long. I have generally been satisfied with the Ministry of Legal Affairs over the years, Mr. President, but so far as the Prisons is concerned, I am concerned about the number of young offenders up there, and, as pointed out in a recent statement made by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, I am concerned about the first offenders who are also, or were — prior to that statement perhaps — sent to prison.

I am not terribly sure that the programme at the prisons is designed for the young offender. I would like to suggest that we could usefully introduce some educational programmes at the Prisons, particularly for the young offender. This would be in conjunction with the trades and skills that are presently taught.

I feel too, Mr. President, that there is room for permitting some of the young offenders who are not recidivists, or who are not "real criminals," as Bajans would call them, to attend courses at the Polytechnic to supplement the training which is given to them at the prisons. I would like to see ideas such as these implemented. I would like to see the young offenders taking part in the Skills Training Programmes. There are prisoners I know who can come out and go to those programmes and return to prison, if they have to return to prison. They are not recidivists, they are not criminals. You know when a Bajan calls you a criminal, you are a "real criminal". They are not "real criminals".

(Asides: Like who?)

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I would not say like the Opposition, Mr. President. Not me!

Laughter

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: That would be slanderous, defamatory and everything.

But I throw that out as an idea that we could chew upon, perhaps.

Mr. President, when did I start?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have until one o'clock.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Until one o'clock?

Mr. PRESIDENT: A little after one o'clock.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Thank you, Mr. President.

Turning now to Foreign Affairs, Head 35, on page 73, I do not see the ills of the tourist industry and the Tourist Board as being isolated or separate and distinct, Mr. President. I really think the time has come when the Tourist Board's offices overseas could either work in conjunction with the Overseas Missions or could work in close collaboration with them, or could work directly under their supervision.

I was employed at the High Commission in London when my friend and colleague, Senator Dr. Ramsay, was the High Commissioner there. No, I think I was employed before his time and after his time, Mr. President. I was never employed with him. But I had ample opportunity to observe the workings of the Barbados Tourist Board there.

I am not surprised at all that the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister in reference to that Board in London, has declared that it has lost its direction. It has not now lost its direction. It lost its direction ever since when I came home in 1974. It lost its direction ever since. It has some young people who are brimming with ideas but they are not allowed to implement them.

About two years ago, there was talk within the Tourist Board of shuffling around the heads. The gentleman in Canada, Mr. Carter, was to go to London and the lady in London was to go to Canada, but the lady in London said she was not going to Canada and the gentleman in Canada said he was going to England — and there the matter rested. I do not understand this.

That letter, Mr. President, should not only have been copied to the members of the Board, it should have been copied to every Head of the Tourist Board's offices overseas, and they should all have been called upon to resign. The matter does not stop at the Board or the management here. It stretches further into the bowels of the offices in the countries overseas.

I agree with the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. All they are doing is calling for money for promotions, overseas telephone calls, overseas telegrams, sending for flying fish and Mount Gay. Look at the amount of money they spend on rum and fish and this sort of thing to give away. Foolish ideas! They are not innovative. They are not new. In fact, they show a decided lack of initiative in terms of how they are promoting this country.

And yet, there are people with ideas within these Boards who, if allowed to function, will function, and will function in a profound and positive manner, Mr. President. They are not allowed to function!

We need to sweep them out. I cannot presume to tell the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister how to operate. I know that within two months of having entered this Honourable Chamber, I was so bold as to state in here that the then Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence and Security should be put in the Post Office to sell stamps, should be demoted forthwith. He telephoned me and he blistered me. He told me I was a barefooted boy and all sorts of things.

Laughter.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: He was shuffled around, Mr. President. The barefooted boy is still here.

I am still asking that you move some of these Heads of departments, not him. By all appearances, since they shuffled him around, they found some place where he could function. Apparently, he managed to function fairly adequately in Training, so I am not asking to have him removed.

I am asking that those Heads of departments do not shuffle them around, Mr. President. What are you doing? This is not old wine that you are putting in new bottles. Kick them out, throw them away, sever them. After you pass the Severance Payment Act and you limit the quantum that you can pay them \$25 000, so long as you do not have to pay them \$100 000, sever them. Get rid of them. Make me the Minister of Tourism for one day and I will get rid of them.

Asides

(Aside: Reasons?)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Fire them. This country is going down the drain because of them, Mr. President, and we are here filibustering, with great respect to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. He is here writing long letters to the Director of Tourism.

I would have written a one lined letter to him — "Leave." — and tell him to copy it to all the other Heads of his other departments. I would not have written any long letter to him. That is too nice.

It exposes the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister's literary decency and acumen, but it is too nice. You do not write nice letters like that to people who are acclaimed failures.

Patrick, is that his name; I suppose he will phone me too, Mr. President, and ask me what he has for me. He has nothing for me, but I am interested in this country. I want to see it go on up, like Combermere's school song, "Up and onwards we shall go". You cannot grow up with people like that at the head of any department. Fire him. Do not send any nice love letter to him. That is a love letter. Is there a reply? I would like to hear the reply.

The Government should appoint me Minister of Tourism for one day. The only thing I would do is fire the whole lot of them. And if you can avoid it, do not pay their passages home either.

Lest time runs out on me, Mr. President, let me turn my attention to Housing and Lands, Head 37, page 92, under which the National Conservation Commission falls. I do not want specifically to speak on Housing, although I regard that as one of the most important areas of economic activity in which this Government ought to indulge, at least for the foreseeable future. I want to turn my attention specifically to the National Conservation Commission and, in particular, to the Harrison's Cave.

Now, as you are aware, Mr. President, I am the Deputy Chairman of the National Conservation Commission, and Harrison's Cave came under our aegis on the first of April last year. To date, I am pleased to report, Mr. President, that it has been a success. In terms of the number of persons visiting Harrison's Cave and in terms of the revenue, it has far surpassed the projections which were made, even by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. It seems that in the foreseeable future this trend will continue, particularly as I have some ideas for it.

If I may just give an indication of its success, November 1982, approximately 120 000 persons visited Harrison's Cave. That number was made up largely of visitors who paid, depending on if they came in groups or individually, approximately \$7.50 each. During June, July, August last year when the tourist industry was going through a slump, we opened the Cave to school children who paid \$1.00 per visit each, and that, too, was a success. Consequently, the cave, between April and November 1982, earned about half a million dollars.
12.55 p.m.

From December 1982 to yesterday the revenue earned from the Cave was approximately \$320,000. This works out at an average taking of \$6,500 per month, Mr. President. At the moment, because we are still developing Harrison's Cave, and because we are still buying plant and machinery, we are still spending a lot of money on it; expenditure is running in the region of \$5,500 per month, leaving us with a clear profit of \$1 000 per month to date.

It is envisaged that as time goes by, and as we shall have spent adequate sums on the development of Harrison's Cave, our profits will run at about \$5 000 per month or \$60 000 a year. We have further ideas, but that is just the cave.

We are now exploring the possibility, and Senator Williams mentioned it yesterday, of developing the scenic walk. I do not think members of the Senate or members of the community know where that is, but that is to the west of the cave as you come in, opposite to the entrance. That area resembles, in stark reality, Welchman Hall Gully. If one walks through there, one sees all sorts of citrus and other fruit trees.

As Senator Williams also said yesterday, we are investigating the possibility of establishing what is called a primate centre there, that is, a monkey village, which we hope eventually will be turned into a zoo, but we are not going to establish that in a vacuum.

We have another idea that the area can accommodate vendors, for a start. The plant selling programme by the National Conservation Commission has been very, very successful. Whenever we put plants up for sale, we sell them out. That tells us that we need a permanent outlet for the sale of our plants. We are of the opinion that the scenic walk at Harrison's Cave, having a captive audience, as it were, being patronised by several persons almost every day of every week of the year, will be a good outlet for the sale of plants. We also feel that we could put up these little huts with thatched roofs where vendors can come and sell handicraft, pottery and things of that sort. We are now in the throes of this development.

So far as the honourable Prime Minister is concerned, it being his constituency, I would like to suggest, for the first time in public, that he gives active consideration to the possibility of establishing a park within the vicinity of the cave, so that not only the inhabitants of St. Thomas, who are now very well looked after, can have another area of recreation, but also that persons can, as a matter of further development of our culture, perhaps go on what we call excursions or picnics to Harrison's Cave. The price of the ticket for the excursion could possibly include a visit to the Cave.

Government already has a lot of land in the area. We will need to identify the most appropriate area, have it cleared and have some trees planted, put in some swings and see-saws for the children and turn it into a park, so that it compliments and supplements Harrison's Cave, so that persons from St. Philip and the sensible people from St. Lucy could come up for an excursion, and it would be all inclusive. It will include the cost of touring the cave.

So far as the other ideas I have, the Marine Museum at Folkestone is also doing fairly well, bearing in mind that admission fees are only a dollar per person and 50 cents for children. Attendance there has also been good.

Of course, the Marine Museum was set up as an adjunct to the Underwater Park, which, because of the lack of available finance, we have been unable to establish as rapidly as we would like, or indeed at all. But that notwithstanding, I can see a package tour evolving whereby tourists are encouraged to purchase a ticket which will gain them admittance to the Marine Museum, to Welchman Hall Gully, to Harrison's Cave, and possibly to Foster's Fun Land, which is now cleared away and which we hope to develop, and ultimately to the National Park, which, as a matter of Government policy, we are developing from Archer's Bay in St. Lucy right up to Ragged Point in St. Philip, and I am trying to get it to go down Foul Bay.

This brings me to another point in that area, if you will indulge me a minute, Mr. President. The Harrison's Cave is not being promoted by the Barbados Tourist Board. In all fairness, I must let the country know that I have spoken to the Chairman of the Tourist Board, and he has agreed to include us, but they are not promoting us. I do not state that a member of the Board should be asked to travel, although we have very knowledgeable members of the Board who can indeed promote it.

Aside.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I do not need to go, we have a man called Mr. Vernon Watson who eats, drinks and breathes the cave, who can go. The Officer in charge, Miss Healis, is also competent and she can go, or our Manager can go. Anyone can go, but we ought to be represented on the Tourist Board.

There is just one other point I wish to make, Mr. President. The Ministry of Culture has taken over the theatres in Queen's Park. I have given this tremendous thought. As a matter of fact, I chaired the meeting, possibly about two years ago, where it was suggested that they be handed over and this was subsequently approved by Cabinet. I am firmly of the view that Queen's Park should be regarded as a cultural centre which should fall directly under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, and they should be arguing for it. The National Conservation Commission can retain responsibility for its upkeep, and they can pay for the services of our wardens if they want them, or get security guards to do it. We will put our wardens on the beaches, but I think that Queen's Park ought to be regarded as a cultural centre.

It is time that Spartan was told to find its own cricket pitch. They should be rich enough to find one. Mr. President, if you are a member of Spartan, I am

sorry. Queen's College, now that it has been decided that they take in boys, ought to be given access to Queen's Park. There should be a walk-over from Queen's College to Queen's Park to facilitate the girls, give them a cricket pitch, because the boys cannot play rounders at the back of Queen's College. Chuck out Spartan. They should have enough money that they should be able to find a playing field.

In addition, Mr. President, to the field in use by Queen's College, the Ministry of Culture should use it as a cultural centre so that they can have gospel meetings and then they could let Kadooment come in at Queen's Park rather than mashing up the stadium.

The National Conservation Commission spent a lot of money renovating King's Park. It has screens, it has the fancy lights, it has stages, it is a cultural centre, and I, in my private entreaties, have been trying to inveigle the staff of the Ministry of Culture to come up to King's Park to assist me with the development of culture, but I see no reason why they ought not take over King's Park too. There are only a few dances held there and I think that is part of our cultural development too, the Bajan dance. They do not have it around the world. They ought to make King's Park a developed area.

And while we are at it, Hastings Rocks is also a cultural centre. You have the Police Band there. There is one at Paynes Bay which is also a cultural centre, and all these should come under the Ministry of Culture. Let the National Conservation Commission beautify them, keep them clean for them, and let them pay.

Do not let the Ministry of Culture shirk its responsibility by using our premises. It does not have a good reputation for paying its bills either. We had a terrible time getting paid for CARIFESTA and we insisted that we would collect the money from Queen's Park theatre so we would get paid. We are asking now for money to clean up Queen's Park now they have it, and I can bet you we are not going to get our money. I am not surprised that Senator Simmons said they have not paid the insurance either. Let them take over the buildings, let them look after the upkeep, put a sum of money in our vote for the upkeep.

I thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think I will suspend the sitting at this stage. The sitting will be suspended until 2 o'clock. 1.05 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed. Senator Hall.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Mr. President, I feel somewhat like the old Arabian chief, who, one night on entering his harem said, "I know what to do, but I do not know where to begin." I have so many letters and so many replies to document of the House I do not know where to start, but I feel that it would be remiss of me if at the outset I did not associate myself with the remarks of my illustrious colleague, the Leader of the House, and your very good self, Sir, in welcoming Senators Ramsay and Jemmott to this Honourable Chamber.

Sir, Senator Jemmott and I have crossed paths sport-wise, and I would like to wish him all the best. I have observed Senator Waldron-Ramsay from afar in good times and also when in magnificent isolation. I would just like to wish the two Senators good health, good politics and I hope, Sir, that they will be able to bring forth all the things they said in their maiden speeches.

Senator Waldron-Ramsay was very eloquent, Sir. He said his approach to his duties would be with the appropriate decorum and circumspection which it warrants; great words! It seems to me, Sir, that we shall enjoy his prose, if not always his content, but it seems to me that it is very appropriate, to wish him good luck. His speech did not boggle my mind yesterday, Sir, but I do feel that in days to come he might.

I would like to make a few observations on page 8, Electoral Office. I believe that honourable Senators, because I have begun with the Electoral Office, would be anticipating, quite erroneously, of course, that I shall be replying to comments made in another place by some God-like earthling. But, Sir, I shall refrain from doing such in this distinguished Chamber, because I believe that I have grown too dignified for such acts.

What I would like to do is to challenge the Minister to deny that the Government intends to increase the seats by three, making it 30. I say so, Sir, because you hear people making pronouncements — in the Lower House, of course, not in the Senate — and perhaps we can hear the Minister on that.

Now that Senator Waldron-Ramsay is in here — and I am glad to see that he is sitting down over there on the same side as Senator Trotman — we have two Barbados Labour Party contenders for the seat of St. Peter. And we do have the ludicrous situation where a leading resident of St. Peter is taking around Senator Waldron-Ramsay in the day and Senator Trotman, like Nicodemus, at night. I am sorry he is not here, Sir, because he might demand the name of the person, so I will keep that for when he replies.

I like to think in terms of giving the youth a chance. When it comes to youth development, I am

very interested in that. I think that the youngsters in this country deserve the best. I do feel so, and I will take the opportunity, under Defence and Security, page 12, I think it is, Sir, where we have under Subsection 2, Capital Expenditure, to talk about the St. Lucy National Youth Service Training Centre.

Sir, since it is not really spelt out here, I would like to enquire of the Minister how much money this National Youth Centre really will involve in terms of dollars. I would like to know exactly in dollars what it is going to cost the taxpayers of this country.

While we are on the National Youth Service Training Centre, I must say that I do believe most sincerely that the basic idea that includes vocational training for the youth is a good one. I have no quarrel with that. I am, however, concerned that it is set up under the aegis of the Defence Force. I would have thought, that such an operation would have been appropriately placed under the Ministry of Community Development and Youth Affairs. As you know, Sir that comes under the leadership of the Minister of Information.

Now, Sir, there is a National Youth Service in Jamaica, but it is under the Ministry of Community Development and Youth Affairs, under the guidance of Mr. Errol Anderson. There is no military presence. In Trinidad and indeed Tobago, there are many youth camps where training skills are provided for the youth, boys and girls, where there is a very serious code of discipline. But even though they have a very established Defence Force, the youth camps do not come under the Defence Force.

In Guyana, the National Youth Service is run by the Defence Force. I admit that there is some level of skills training, but the youngsters are also taught how to use weapons. I suppose one might well say that Guyana is constantly under the threat of invasion from neighbouring Venezuela and therefore, like some countries, they have to prepare their youth for war.

Those of us who have travelled, as Senator Linton said, far afield, will know that in the Middle East this is the situation. You get youngsters into the army very early in Israel, and indeed in Afghanistan; you will find that from the time they can walk, they are not only able to shoot guns quite accurately, but they can also make them. One only has to venture through the Khyber Pass to understand these things.

You see, Sir, why I am concerned about this is that though I might wish to learn a skill, I might not wish to march nor salute a superior officer, because if I was desirous of doing such, I would then join the army. You see, to my mind, the army is an autocratic institution, and when a superior officer says to a junior "come"; and

when he says "go", he goeth. And even if you were the Director of the National Youth Service, it would seem to me that you would be directly responsible to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

2.10 p.m.

I know that the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party on page 28 clearly illustrates your aims and objectives. It says that the youngsters will go in from the age of 16 to 25 and it would be a voluntary service and that they will learn to do foot drills and adventurous training, as I said, under the aegis of the Defence Force. I feel that if you are only going to do adventurous training and foot drills, I really do not see the need for the National Youth Service to be under the Defence Force.

I must say that I have some experience in youth affairs. I believe that what these young people, who are somewhat unemployed really need is guidance. They need to be understood. We, as adults, must however try to understand their needs, if not we will hardly understand their behavioural patterns. We must also try to make sure that, as worthy citizens of this country, our behavioural patterns themselves are so exemplary that they are worthy of emulation. I think that is it in a nutshell.

I have some experience in this field. I went to the University of experience; I do not have a degree or anything like that, but you will find that young people in this day and age are very demanding, and I think that we do not have a situation in Barbados, thank God, that probably exists in some other Caribbean Islands.

Take, for instance, Trinidad and Tobago. I used to do a lot of voluntary work up in Laventille, and, Sir, I will tell you quite boldly that when you were born behind the bridge in John-John area, it does not matter if you have two "O" levels, ten or twelve, the point is that that stigma which you are born with, and will probably die with, is there for all and sundry, and, Sir, these people soon begin to get very accustomed to failure. In other words, they are conditioned to failure.

Sir, I find that some of the bright ones, whom you will have to counsel, are so intelligent that they can go one way or the other. They can be Al Capones or they can be another, speaking in the Trinidadian sense, Eric Williams. Therefore, you have to gain their confidence. That is what it is all about. Your relationship with them has to be one of a motivatory texture.

Sir, I understand the complexities of turbulent youth, therefore I see no reason, none whatsoever, absolutely none, why this scheme should be under the Defence Force. I am wary. I tell you I was in Trinidad during the revolution and it was not easy, I am as frightened

for the graduates of that College, Sandhurst, as a cockroach is afraid of a fowl. I am very afraid of them. Look at Trinidad; Raffique Shah, Lasalle, Bassey, Dan Jumo, who came down and lived at the Hilton Hotel, the chap in Dominica. I tell you I am afraid of them, and I feel that it is not necessary for all of this regimentation and straight-jacketing of our youth. I do not think that we need to have that sort of thing.

We have come up in a society where we can join the Boy Scouts, and in the case of girls, the Girl Guides. You can join the Cadets, the Pathfinders, the Y. W.C.A., the Y.M.C.A. you can even gravitate to the Jaycees and the Jaycettes and the Kiwanis. All these are organisations which we as Barbadians have come along and joined. All of this is towards upward mobility and we have done quite well as Barbadians. That is why I agreed to go into Laventille and work with a priest.

I know that in Barbados they do not particularly think much about cricketers, but when a cricketer and a priest joined hand in hand and went into the unknown and did some good work, I would like to say that it was very revealing. When I left Trinidad twelve soldiers replaced me, but they did not replace me to do anything else but skills training and learning to grow crops and things like that. They were skilled people and that was the reason why they came into the scheme.

Today, Servol is now regarded by the Government so highly that large sums of money are put into it because they recognise, quite fairly, that it is a system in which the Government can channel youngsters, teach them skills and supplement the same youth camps that I alluded to earlier.

Now how can I in all honesty then, Sir, having seen that happen in Laventille agree to this? We have no Laventilles here; we only have unemployed youth that are going in, and I see no reason why they should have to go into all this regimentation. Sir, I am very disturbed, because my suspicion has been heightened by the fact that we have in this country a man coming from a country with a high degree of expertise in the things that we do not particularly want to associate ourselves, and indeed our youth with. Sir, I am very concerned about it.

I want the Minister to tell me — he has now come over close to me — what is the relationship with his friend Mr. Carlisle Harri in the Barbados Labour Party's Young Socialist group bearing in mind that he was an organiser

Asides

SENATOR W. W. HALL: The Leader of the Senate said he was the hip-pocket of Burnham and Barrow, too.

Let me hasten to add that that is Nigel Barrow, the Leader of this House. Sir, he played a significant role, it cannot be denied, in the creation of the National Service in Guyana, and I am only saying that that service is not to my knowledge the type of service I would like to see here, since they indulged in weapon training.
2.20 p.m.

But, Sir, I am wondering to what extent he is involved and why is it necessary for him to be involved. You see, Sir, when we have professional organisers in our midst, we have to be very careful. And I would say this quite candidly, Sir — and the honourable Minister should get up and reply — it should not happen here; not in this country. I shall look forward with great alacrity to the honourable Minister's comment on this.

Sir, I feel that after yesterday, when tourism seemed at last to be the most important industry in Barbados, that I would have to make some sort of an analysis, as I have done in the past, on tourism in Barbados.

My colleague read a letter. I do not think he wanted to read it, Sir. It seems to me that he was forced by the other side to read it. I am not one for reading other people's letters. But those who have ears, let them hear — and I heard, Sir, and it concerned me, because you see, Sir, in Barbados over the years, we have done relatively well; indeed, very well in tourism.

It sort of causes me concern to see that in the Bahamas, you will find that there are visitors who are now being housed in private homes because the hotels are full, but in Barbados, Sir, I guarantee you that you can run the Cockspur Gold Cup through the lobby of some of these hotels — and nobody at all would notice.

I believe that if there is one thing during this Estimates Debate that all of us around this Table would agree to it is that tourism is in a mess. We have to understand that and we have also to stop making excuses, stop defending the indefensible, and we have to call a spade a spade and a jack a jack.

Sir, I have to pace myself. I was not aware of the time I started.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You started at 2.00 o'clock.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: I have to speed up then, Sir.

Laughter.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Sir, we have to ask ourselves, what has happened? That is what we have to ask ourselves. What has happened in the last few years to transform this country, which was once so successful, one

of the most successful of Caribbean islands in tourism, Sir, into a complete failure. One which in 1982 lost more visitors than all the other Caribbean islands, except one, because in 1981, Sir, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Maarten, St. Lucia and Jamaica had very good years, great successes, Sir.

The statistics of the CTRC have shown without a shadow of doubt that these external forces that we are always hearing about had little or nothing to do with the chaotic situation that we are in today. Our problem, Sir, is one where we have had it so good for so many years that we have actually fallen into the trap — not "we"; the Government, Sir, the Barbados Labour Party — of mistakenly feeling that tourism is easy money.

Oh yes, Sir! They were coming, the tourists were coming abundantly, they were coming in great numbers, and we thought that that would go on *ad infinitum*; it will go on until the end of time. But that is not true.

So, the Government made the tourism job a part-time one. The Democratic Labour Party had a full-time Minister of Tourism and one thing....

(A "chupse.")

SENATOR W. W. HALL: He "chupses," Sir. He "chupses," because he is not cognisant, Sir,.....

Laughter.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: of the true facts. He does not really understand these things.

I was told by Senator Linton that we on this side do not know anything about agriculture. But what we know is that tourism and agriculture form the backbone of this economy. There is no doubt about that, Sir. Those two areas. And even though I have the inclination to talk at length on tourism, I certainly do not have the time.

As I said, Sir, we have appointed a part-time Minister. So, what happens is that you deal with Tourism when there is nothing else in the other Ministries. But the honourable Minister, has a lot on his plate. In these recessionary times, as Minister of Trade you are coming face to face every day with high increases in prices and you find that the consumers' discretionary spending power has lessened immensely. You find that as Minister of Caribbean Affairs, you are faced with problems, where you find that in trading with your CARICOM counterparts, for instance, Jamaica, you are opened to a situation, Sir, where you have a two-tiered system on and then we have to counter, Sir, quite appropriately through our Central Bank or manufacturers feel the pinch. These are the things that are happening, and because they have happened all at one time, it has actually compounded the issue. So tourism has suffered.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was quoted the other day as deploring the fact that so many hotel workers and other were out of work. He said that, according to his information from the Barbados Development Bank, thirty or forty hotels might be bankrupt this summer.

Sir, one only has to cast one's mind back to about six months ago when, I think, Senator Seale said that the same thing is happening in the agricultural sector. It worries me, Sir. I am very worried, because it means that we have to really come to grips with the situation.

You know, it galls me, Sir, to hear people using their political persuasions, not recognising at all that this tourism business is a serious thing. I heard Senator Seale in here yesterday saying that the sixteen Board members are too many; you should have five. But my counter for that, Sir, is that you should have 250 000 members of the Tourist Board. All of us should be members. All of us should feel that it is our bounding duty to do our part for our country.

I am not one of those — do not mind what anybody says — who feels that because you are in the Opposition, you must wish everybody else ill so that when you take over, Sir, you are at the bottom of the barrel. That does not make sense to me, not political sense anyway.

I am saying, Sir, that we should all be members of the Board. You should have five executives, yes, charged with the responsibility of running the thing.

It is alarming, Sir, when I hear Senator Linton — I am glad he has come back. I cannot talk if he is not in here, Sir.

Laughter.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Only last year, he got up in here and abused Senator Ward just because I said that the German Travel agents were blacklisting Barbados and Senator Ward concurred.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: On a point of order, Sir: It was 1981.

Laughter.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Yes, he knows, Sir. He knows when he got Senator Ward out of in here. Since that day Senator Ward never came back. He told him how cheap he was, that he would not spend any money on advertising.

And now, he commends the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. He commends the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister for saying that the Tourist Board does not have to spend any

more money on advertising. That is what the letter says, Sir. He commends him, Sir, but he told Senator Ward that he was not spending any.

And what is more, Sir, Senator Linton told this Honourable House, Sir, that the Chairman of the Board was a great man because he bought him a drink. That is the measure of his categorising people. He bought him a drink. And today, he is up in arms. Did he abuse him? Yes, Sir! He said that the Chairman would not allow Harrison's Cave to be promoted.
2.30 p.m.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I am sorry, Mr. President, I have to rise on a point of order. I think that is a misrepresentation of what I said. I said, in fairness to the Chairman of the Tourist Board, he has promised to invite the National Conservation Commission to be represented on tourist promotions.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: All right, Sir. He said that Mr. Dear is going to invite him to another drink. That is what he said, but listen to the CTRC again on management skills now. That report came out about two weeks ago, but the Estimates were on down there, so they are not really going to bring it out. It said inadequate marketing research, lack of courtesy to visitors, and I may add, Sir, lack of courtesy not only to visitors but to Barbadians as well. I get very annoyed when people talk only of visitors, I am interested also in Barbadians. They also talked about high prices.

Talking about lack of courtesy, the Board of Tourism must also show that courtesy. Only yesterday I was talking to some visitors from England who wanted to see a show last Tuesday night. I told them to go to Sandy Lane and they went, and they returned rather disgruntled. They said that the show was cancelled. Do you know why the show was cancelled, Sir? The show was cancelled because, suddenly, with indecent haste, they found that three television personnel from America came to film the show. Obviously, if a man is a professional, he cannot go before the cameras in the United States being projected just like that. What happens is that your act must be right if you are going to be screened in America. Your emoluments must also be right, Sir. Senator Trotman would understand, he represented workers.

What happened was this. The following night the people went to Southern Palms, because they were determined to film the artistes, and again the Tourist Board officials appeared to have arranged the show, having not told the very entertainers. They could have told them the night before that they were desirous of filming it. Anyhow, as it turned out, there was a compromise with the man doing the M.C. duties and not singing. What I am saying is that this clearly shows a lack of understanding for human beings. I am not really

criticising anyone unduly for it, but it means that you have to understand that you have to treat people at all levels properly.

(The time is going, Sir. I tell you, this hour is a colossal joke.)

When you ask the hoteliers how they do in the winter, some of them will tell you that they were full in February but, the rates were so low, it was a waste of time. Some will tell you that the sailors were here so they made a little money, but ten days cannot really make up for a whole year.

I want to find out what is really happening. To do this, I will have to ask the Minister of Information to make a telephone call and find out this for me. You pay an 8 per cent tax, all visitors pay an 8 per cent tax. As far as I am aware, that 8 per cent tax should be in the Treasury by the 15th of the next month. I am just asking him to make a telephone call to find out what happened in January, February and March, compare it with the total for last year and then we will know the true situation. The Minister, I am sure, could do that, Sir, and if he does it, I am sure all of us would be much the wiser.

Why I say this, Sir, is that you may have a lot of tourists, but then you may not have any money. That is why, when it comes to tourism, what is important is the money that we make from it, and this is the reason why I feel we must have a national effort in this thing. Do you know that the other day they had a survey on how well the hotels did, and do you know whom they asked? They asked Sunset Crest, Paradise Beach and Sam Lord's. Good heavens, Mr. President, can you imagine that? Why did they not ask our goodly friend, the junior Minister? Congratulations Senator Simmons, I forgot you. Why did they not ask Senator Howell, Sir, how he got on? No, they are not doing that, they asked Sunset Crest, Paradise Beach and Sam Lord's and places like that. I do not believe that is the right thing to do.

I feel that one of the things you will have to do in tourism is to start listening to people who have ideas. Senator Linton talked about ideas. He said we had no ideas, but we had, for his information a cross fertilisation of ideas, which allowed people to understand the policies emanating from the Democratic Labour Party. There is no such thing nowadays, so when you talk about ideas I do not really feel that sort of talk is in consonance with the feeling of your party.

The Prime Minister said that the effect is more devastating than a hurricane. Sir, I have only experienced one hurricane, Janet, in 1955, September 22, and that was devastation personified, and if the effect is more

devastating than that, and I do believe the Prime Minister, I feel that if he feels that way about it, I do not believe that the Director should have to wait to get sick and resign; neither the Chairman nor indeed the Minister. If anybody had written that to me, I would cut out, "Roger and out". That is what I would do.

Senator Linton, in one exuberant burst, Sir, said he would fire people if he was a Minister for one hour. I am sure he would do worse, he would do the same job if he were in there for five minutes.

While we are at Senator Linton, Sir, I only have a few minutes. He talked about a monkey walk in St. Thomas. I want Senator Linton to know that only a few years ago his party was going to sell those same monkeys to Miami for choice meat. He could ask the ex-Minister of Agriculture.

I do not believe, Sir, that we should wait till the tourists come here to give them literature about our country. I certainly do not believe that we should entertain an idea that when we go overseas we are to be constantly bombarded with the question, "Where is Barbados? Is it in the Bahamas?"

2.40 p.m.

It nauseates me, Sir, when people only out there in New Jersey and in Boston, in great wonderment, do not know about the location of Barbados. I wonder what all of those tourists promotions do. I really have to wonder because it seems to me that some massive campaign should be mounted so that when Barbadians are going overseas they can carry some brochures too, and wherever we go advertise Barbados. If we do not do it as Barbadians, we are not really going to make it.

No wonder the Prime Minister said that we have to reshuffle people in the offices. The lady in London was there for 10 years. The gentleman in Canada was there for 14 years. And, Sir, the CTRC said that in advertising, and it is a known fact, if you speak to the same advertising agency all the time, it means that all will soon fall down. Do you know, Sir, that advertising agency in the United States of America has been with the Tourist Board for 18 years?

We sing and tell the tourists every Monday night at the Island Inn "This land is your land, this land is my land, welcome to the morning sun", and we feel that it is an imposition on us when tourists come around here driving about in mokes, not driving on the right side of the roads and things like that, do not know their whereabouts and ask us a few questions, like, "Where is my hotel". We feel that we are so high and mighty that we have passed the stage where we do not have to help these people. If that is the case, let us be finished with it. That is all I have to say.

Let us try and encourage our calypsonians, our social commentators, to write songs that our children will learn something from. Senator Linton alluded to the fact about harvesting green cane and all of that sort of thing, Sir. How are we to know that this incentive is really there? How are we to know that Red Plastic Bag did not have anything to do with it? What did he sing? "Sugar Made Us Free". "Reap the young cane green", and Dragon with "Agriculture". These are things, Sir, that our children should know.

If you want an example, look at the Mighty Sparrow in Trinidad with, "Education is a must" Sir, "Children go to school and learn well, otherwise later on in life you will smell real hell. Without an education in your head your whole life will be misery, you are better off dead." Let me get that right, Sir. "For there is no place in the whole wide world for an uneducated little boy or girl; Do not let idle companions lead you astray; To earn tomorrow you got to learn today."

Sir, I did not go to university, but for many generations were singing "Dan is the man with the van" and "The cow jump over the fence" and all of that.

Asides

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Over the moon? Well, I do not think it was quite possible for him to jump over the moon, so I say "fence".

What I would like to say, is that we have to look at this situation very seriously. I know that the Prime Minister is very upset. But if he is upset, why does he not do something about it? Yes, give Senator Linton the job for a week if he is frightened to do it. I am not aware of the fact that the Prime Minister is afraid to accept a resignation or to fire somebody. I am not aware of that, Sir. He is not afraid, Sir. If a man wants firing, he will fire him, Sir, even if he has to rescind it afterwards. It does not matter, but the point is that you fire the man if he wants firing. It is the measure of the man.

I am saying that a man could walk down the road, apparently very healthy, but mentally he is dead, like Senator Linton, Sir I think that Senator Trotman is very jealous that I did not say him, but that is so obvious that I do not have to point at him every time.

You can always be sick, you can always resign and I am saying that that letter seems to be castigating the entire Board, all and sundry, and Senator Linton had the temerity to point out one individual or one institution, the Barbados Workers' Union, and say they should go. And then, to show utter contempt, he suggested that a small farmer should replace him. He does not understand that as far as tourism is concerned, it might have been

better politically for you, since you are aspiring to political heights, to say, perhaps a beach vendor or someone in the industry itself, and put the small farmer perhaps on the BMC or something like that. But you will learn next time.

Sir, this is a situation that we have to come to grips with. It is just like agriculture, of which he claims we know very little.

We are in a situation where we can hardly produce enough. We can hardly meet the cost of production. With our 90 000 tonnes of cane, 50 000 will go on the negotiated price for the EEC, we consume 14 000 tonnes and then sell the rest on the world market, for which we do not get the luxurious £240 per ton but we have to make do with £90.

We have to try and get that up, Senator Linton. We have to try and get that up so that we can survive. And we are disadvantaged because of the 5½ million tonnes of beet sugar that is produced in Europe. And you tell us that we do not know anything about agriculture! And you know that we can start to talk about sectorial linkages and then start to relate it to our food bill. Senator Linton does not know these things. We have not got the time to develop our arguments. That is all.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Try not to address him directly.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Sorry, Sir. I am very sorry, Sir.

I have to talk about how we advertise Barbados. Nashville on the Road with Mr. Sisnett was supposed to be here by March, Sir, and the only Nashville that came here was a warship. It is a second rate show, most decidedly so. That is the measure of people's lack of understanding when we talk about things related to tourism. Then, Sir, there is Mr. Patten, the ailing star, a fallen star, that came down here and did a T.V. show, to which only CBC bought the rights; nobody else. The only thing Patten can do well now — he is a T.V. reject — is to advertise corn flakes nothing more.

Asides

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Sir, I am being heckled.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Try not to pay any attention to any heckling. I will try and organize that. Address me.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: I do not know if Senator Griffith, whom I pushed into that ministerial chair, heard the new Senator saying that he would approach his duties with the appropriate decorum and circumspection. I am sorry, Sir, that is the type of thing he did before. He must not do these things now he is a Minister, Sir.

Look, the film is a low-rate production technically, and it can only do harm, Sir. I say that most categorically, it can only do harm. Senator Williams said so and you concurred with it Senator Simmons, when you said the Tourist Board did not include Harrison's Cave, and my firm belief is that the only reason they did not include it was because it was a DLP concept. I honestly feel so. If it is not so, prove it. That is how I feel about the matter.

2.50 p.m.

Sir, we have to be very careful. I believe that the Prime Minister is going to do something serious about the tourist industry. As a matter of fact, I believe that he is going to take it over himself, because the Prime Minister, in having a helicopter view or an overview of the situation, would perceive where the breakages are, he will know where the chain is weak and I have no doubt that he is looking at it.

When we see the off-loading of the Barbados Labour Party politicians on the taxpayers of this country — for example, in the Ministry of Finance we have a Minister of Finance, we have a Minister of State for Energy, my friend Senator Griffith, and a Minister of State for Immigration, and now a Parliamentary Secretary in Senator Howell — it would seem to me that the Prime Minister might well be thinking of shaking off the shackles and getting involved with that tourist industry. Then, if he so desires, Mr. Hinds can always go to Heywoods. There is room down there; it is a new place and I do not see any reason why he cannot get a job down there, but we shall see what we shall see. We shall see if my predictions are as accurate as the one when I alluded to the Ministry of Senator Griffith.

Now, Sir, I do feel that the time is a little too short. But I know that the President will definitely exercise his discretion, especially bearing special reference to the content, and I am quite sure he would allow me to go on.

It is no point telling people that tourism is vital. You have to tell them why. It is a management concept that you never only tell a worker to do something. You always tell him why, because if you tell a worker why he is asked to do something, do you know what happens to that worker? Well, he understands why it is supposed to be done, and if he understands, you then get commitment; and once you get a commitment, the work is done. You get job satisfaction. That is what the people in the tourist industry want, job satisfaction. The CTRC talks about tourist satisfaction, but the workers themselves want job satisfaction.

I feel, Sir, that I would have to wind up by telling you and honourable Senators that this Government is a funny Government; it mystifies me. If I were a script

writer for CBC, the institution on which many praises have been sung, if I were on their Friday night "Double Dynamite" show, I would write two scenarios, and I would say, Mr. President, "there is a man who was Chairman of the Transport Board, the Minister fired him because he was inefficient or because he could not do the job properly, so what does the Government do? The Government took this man who could not run a fleet of buses and gave him a squadron of aeroplanes. Now what I would like you to do is to act out as one Minister speaking to the Chairman of that Board and let us hear the conversation." That would be great.

The second one would be more exhilarating. This exhilaration would lift me profoundly when I hear this. Listen to it. There was a Minister of Transport who discovered that some of the buses were missing. He swore on his life that he would get to the bottom of it and expose the villains, whoever they may be. Another Minister owned that he bought one of the buses. Now the first Minister's report is all ready, but, quick as a flash, he has moved over to Health so that no report would be published, and who do you think became the new Minister of Transport?

Mr. PRESIDENT ordered that certain remarks made at this stage by Senator W. W. HALL be struck from the record.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Sir, I have tried to point out today the reason why I believe that the action taken by the Prime Minister is a right one, from the point of view that if he sees something going wrong, he should take quick action. We have been saying this for years. I feel, Sir, that the representation that I made here today is made because I feel that Barbados is our land and that we must do all within our power to make sure that it remains that way, but the Government must listen. I believe that the Ministers will get a great opportunity to say what they have to say, and I would just like to thank you very much, Sir, for your guidance in the matter.

SENATOR Dr. W. WALDRON-RAMSAY: Mr. President, I join the debate to express a few considerations which I have reflected on and came up with on the Estimates. I do not propose to be at length in this intervention, but I hope to express a few ideas as they occurred to me as I listened to other Senators ventilate their own views and considerations on the Estimates before us.

Estimates of any kind tend to indicate philosophically the intentions, the behaviour and the attitudes of mind of those people who have composed the Estimates, and they tend to reflect their perspectives about the manner and things on which the money should be spent.

3.00 p.m.

When one looks at the proposed expenditures in the various categories, one must be persuaded that this Government, being a socialist Government, is activated by trying to propel forward and improve the general well-being of the citizenry and inhabitants of this country, for they tend to be concentrated on those social services which meet with the needs and requirements of the masses of this country. And that is to be understood in the context of a socialist Government making a plan.

So one should not altogether be surprised that in the Estimates before us, one finds that \$108 million will be spent on Education, \$31 million will be spent on Social Security and Welfare matters, \$79.9 million on Health and \$72.5 million on Economic Services.

As one distinguished Senator before me indicated, there is a rather large proportion of these expenditures being expended on the general Public Service, some \$84.2 million. That in itself indicates that the Government of Barbados, whichever Government it is, is easily the biggest employer in the State and as such must concentrate its policies and its programmes in such a manner that employment becomes crucial to its own economic structure.

But I think I am persuaded by the argument of Senator McClean when he makes the point that one should be interested, it is true, in having full employment, if that is ever possible. But what perhaps is more important is the quality of the employment. The employment must be productive. One must always be interested in productivity and the producing of goods and services. That is the only way that the economic system can be propelled forward and one could maintain a certain momentum in that economic activity.

Sir, I do not propose to deal very heavily with the economic analysis of the Estimates before us, but I must say, too, that another point which became crucial in the earlier part of the debate, introduced, as I recall by the honourable Leader of Government Business and then alluded to by Senator McClean, was this question of the functional behaviour of the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility.

I am not persuaded that it is functioning properly and that we need, therefore, to encumber ourselves with it. I tend to share the view of Senator McClean, that perhaps unless some reformation can take place in this Clearing Facility that makes it function in the manner in which it was intended in the first place, or, alternatively, function in the manner where it does not redound to the detriment of one of the participating states like Barbados, well then, we should scrap it and start fresh.

And certainly, if we scrap it, it seems to me that there is no great hardship which would result in the fall-out of that scrapping. One reverts back to the bilateral arrangements between central governments and the clearing houses' facilities. The clearing houses' facilities operate in the normal way.

It seems to me that if Barbados is owed \$100 million and this Facility is not able to utilise its procedures to make that money available to us — clearly that money is not money unless we can spend it — we cannot make any future planning upon that. It only becomes potential, which, perhaps, is not even realisable.

If it is clear that the Governments which owe us this money tend to be going further and further into economic perdition, well then, it is quite clear that not even as a potentiality does this money exist; it is a bad debt. And in the final analysis — one hopes that one is wrong in this analysis — we might have to write it off as a bad debt.

So it creates a lot of difficulties. The difficulty which flows from this is the relationship which the Government has had to engage in — which is a very decent relationship — with the International Monetary Fund. But one tends to suspect that if the Clearing Facility was operating in the way in which it ought to operate, and Barbados was receiving the monies due and owing to it in the proper manner, as intended by the procedures of the Facility, then the standby arrangements and so on would not become as important as they have indeed become.

That is all I would want to say on the economic aspects of the Estimates. Perhaps like Senator Linton, one should look at some of the services and see if the services on which monies are intended to be spent really are services that are redounding to the benefit of the community at large.

I, myself, Sir, would want to look a little bit at the projections in the realm of Foreign Affairs, and I would want to link this, if I may, with the beleaguered tourist industry. I think Senator Linton is right when he asserts that there is an inextricable link between tourism pursued abroad on behalf of the state and the diplomatic and consular activities which overseas representatives are engaged to perform on behalf of the state.

Indeed, in a certain technical and professional sense, tourism, as an activity, performed by an overseas representative is part of the overall classical consular activities. I have always held the view that as such, these activities on the part of the tourist industry should come perhaps a bit more under the control and the supervision of the senior diplomatic representatives overseas.

But governments have different views about these matters and these views vary with the varying governments. Under the former Government, tourism was very much under the supervisory eye of the senior diplomatic representative of the Government in the place where it was conducted, whether it was in the United States, in the United Kingdom, in Western Europe or in Canada. I recall myself, Sir, that as High Commissioner to the Court of St. James considering myself responsible not only for the diplomatic activities at that Court, but within the jurisdiction and the wider jurisdiction of Western Europe, personally dealing with the question of tourism.

But I saw tourism as an economic factor which ought to be utilised with a certain scientific perspective and understanding. I cannot accept that it is sufficient to have a few rum punch parties, bring up a steel band and have a whole parade of people, who say they are tourist operators or travel agents, in a room at a hotel, an expensive hotel, and you play calypsoes and that is advertising tourism. In my view, that is nonsense. It is a waste of money.

3.10 p.m.

Nor do I accept that you spend 30 or 40 thousand dollars to bring a caravan of former cricketers to play at the Oval in Surrey before 10 000 West Indians principally, who do not come back to the West Indies because they cannot afford it. You bring an illustrious Barbadian son, Sir Gary Sobers, it is true. It is nice to bring these people across to England, but what you are really doing is entertaining West Indians and entertaining yourself.

Our people would like to come home, but they cannot because they are beleaguered and they are in serious social and economic trouble in the United Kingdom, so you are really not reaching out, you are not really spending this money to help prospective tourists; you are satiating the cultural appetites of your own people. But then if that is so, perhaps you ought to state that that is what you are doing.

I have always held the view, Mr. President, that the outlook in the Tourist Board, the Tourism Ministry, was not the happiest one. A number of strictures which are adumbrated in the letter which Senator Greaves made a document of the House and which now, Sir, I am in a position to recount and to look at, are strictures that I, myself, have levelled against the activities of the present Tourist Board.

Now, I did not know that the person — I see it is the Prime Minister in his capacity as Prime Minister — who wrote this letter had these ideas at all, but I must confess that I agree completely with all of the strictures he has related in this letter. In my view, London has been

in shambles in tourism, and if I may say so, diplomatically for some time.

Mr. President, the whole question of foreign affairs in Barbados tends to be very foreign in the outlook of Barbados and Barbadians. By that I mean we have pursued the business of foreign affairs so closely that one gets the impression that you do not know what is really happening, all that is happening is foreign to us, it is happening overseas or out there. After all, foreign affairs is in a certain pedestrian level, nothing else but the extension of your own domestic policies and attitudes of Government, and of governance overseas.

But just as it is important to let the citizens of your state know what you are doing in agriculture, in health, in housing and so on, it is also necessary to let them know what is happening in foreign affairs. We know what is happening in tourism because tourism is collapsing around our ears. I do not know what is happening in foreign affairs, although I like to think that I follow foreign affairs rather closely, because it is part of the professions to which I belong.

One of our present ambassadors returned, as I recall it, to the island sometime around the end of last year, and he is reported in the Press to have said that he regrets that the Press does not write enough about foreign affairs, what the Government is doing in foreign affairs. Well, I think it is a bit unfair to the Press.

I am no defender of the Press, I am no enemy of the Press either, but how can you expect the Press to write about something that you are doing if you do not tell them what you are doing or they cannot divine what you are doing? Part of the whole process of foreign relations is to be able to state to those people to whom your language is intended, your ideas are intended, what you mean — but to state it, too, to the people who sent you to state it.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must have a proper division of information that will say what is happening. If that is not so, if, for instance, it is felt that all of the public pronouncements to be made by the various Ministries, including Foreign Affairs must be made through the Ministry of Information, then at least send what you are doing to the Ministry of Information so that the Ministry of Information in its turn can relate what you are doing to the people of the country at large.

About two years ago now, Sir, we had the calamitous and unhappy riots in Brixton. I am quite sure a lot of Barbadians were involved in those riots as victims and as people set upon. I know that from my association with London. During those four or five fateful days, one

did not hear what our diplomatic representatives did, or sought to do, or were planning to do. We did not know what the position was respecting Barbadian nationals, whether any were injured, whether any were involved in the riots, were imprisoned, whether there were any serious problems concerning any of them. We knew nothing of this.

I happened by chance to be invited to chair what was called in those days a "Night Ride" programme, and I remember making the comment that I was not able to say that our principal diplomatic representative in the United Kingdom, accredited to the Court of St. James, which includes, of course, Brixton, did anything protective of the consular positions of our Barbadian nationals, and that I found that this was an apparent dereliction of his assigned duties. At the end of my statement as chairman I was pleasantly surprised to hear from the then Foreign Minister on the telephone, before one could leave CBC, saying that one was unfair in making this criticism, because the High Commissioner had in fact joined with other Caribbean High Commissioners and made representation to the Foreign Office and the Home Office concerning that.

My answer to that was that it was good if that was done, but then let us know. The purpose of a foreign representative is to protect the nationals in his jurisdiction. If he is doing that, well then let us hear what he is doing publicly. You must not hide these things, as it were, under a bushel. We need to know what is happening. The whole point of foreign affairs is that you need not only to state the position of your Government, but let it be heard and let it be seen what your Government is doing about certain matters.

Foreign affairs must not begin and end as a Government seeking assistance. You do not join the international community, you do not assume your responsibility as a sovereign nation by begging and asking for money. That is necessary too, but that is not your principal concern. Your principal concern is to be able to assume your responsibility on the international level to help you find your solutions to international problems. You must be able to set forth the position of a Government, on moral questions, and economic questions, and you must be able to set the pace as your people at home would want to set it; and what must be said is that the interest of the country, the interest of the citizens of the country, must at all times be paramount.

3.20 p.m.

Now, Sir, if all of these principles and more that I have alluded to are operating at any time, then the money that was spent on our foreign representatives is money that is well spent, and therefore one would not have to quarrel about increased capital expenditure for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to do the necessary things.

This becomes important because there is a certain cost benefit enuring from these expenditures.

The consular and the tourism activities in New York are crucial. They are very important to Barbados because, as you know, Sir, we get most of our tourism from the North American sector of the tourist world. I have always held the view that in relation to the majority of those people we get from North America, to the extent that they can be classified in the religious or national groups, about 80 per cent of them are usually Jews.

The Jewish people have always lived in a sort of ghetto or synagogue situation. They are a closely-knit society. The history of the people indicate why this is so. Therefore, those who pursue our tourist activities in North America tend to be just generals and colonels. This has always been my criticism.

My view of pursuing the tourist market in North America was the same type of view which I held when I worked as an economist with Shell. You sell kerosene or aviation fuel or lubricants by getting out to the market place, making examinations of the market and finding what people want to buy. You do not do this as a theoretical economist. You find out how much kerosene you can sell in the village of Caroni or Georgetown and you do it by trying it out for a month. You make a survey yourself and you are able then to write your economic analysis based upon your empirical evidence, and what you find inside, too.

In New York, you find that there are several desks in that office but very few sellers of the tourist product out on the street. That has always been my fundamental criticism long before I joined any Barbadian service. I know what I am talking about because I did it myself for Tanzania, and the only way to do it is to get out in the market place.

The posting of tourist representatives in San Francisco and Chicago and so on, Miami, is all very nice and lovely. The question is, what benefit are you getting from these overheads? What are you getting from this? Was it really necessary in the first place or is it because an advertiser or a consultant you had for several years, who is now devoid of ideas, has told you, to do it and you do it?

I learned and I read these things carefully, because I have a certain professional interest in them. Recently, I think it was the present Director of Tourism was saying, as I understood it from the Press, that we should have a special court to try people who have committed crime in the tourist industry in Barbados, a sort of gun court for tourism in Barbados.

Another thing I read was that there was great alacrity in pronouncements from the Tourist Board that a magazine which was supposed to have a circulation in the region of 40 000 has said that Barbados has now become a site for brides. What nonsense! That is not promoting tourism.

When I was a tourist operative for Barbados, as tourist ambassador to Germany, I went myself to the people who controlled tourism, who sent tourists all over the world — to Kenya, to Israel, to Costa Bravo, to Brazil; those are the people who control these tourists in a certain sense — and told them about the possibilities of Barbados.

Barbados sells itself. You do not have to worry about Barbados being a nice place. I do not buy all the arguments that our people are indifferent. I think our people are in the main very courteous and very friendly. We welcome people within our gates. There are a few deviants, that is true, but, generally speaking, tourists will tell you and foreigners that Barbadians are pleasant and well-mannered people.

But, you see, the Tourist Board is wasting time and money because it is approaching its job in an unscientific way. It is going to the wrong places to try to induce tourists. You go where the people who control and direct tourists are, and try to impress upon them the advantages of directing tourists to Barbados.

I remember that before I left London in June of 1971, I went to have discussions with a certain group, and Sir Isaac Wolfson told me in very clear terms that, as a result of certain proposals I put to him, he was quite prepared to divert 60 000 people from going to Israel and send them to Barbados. I think his company was Global Tours or something like that.

I have to leave London before we could bring that project into fruition, but the point is, Mr. President, that one has got to look at this thing in a serious-minded, economic, scientific way. Tourism and the enchanting of tourists does not come about by rum punches, cricket matches and steelband and Lord Radio Band going on a caravan around the United States and in Europe. That is not the approach. Have a proper sales team. Get them out in the field and let them tell people of the advantages of Barbados.

Of course, that in itself is not enough. There is no point encouraging tourists to come down to Barbados and when they come to Barbados they are fleeced by the sharks in the hotels. It is unkind and brutal to charge a tourist \$3.50 for rum and then \$1.75 for a coke in order to have a drink called a rum and coke. That is unfair. No bed in the world could be worth \$900 a night or \$200 a night. That is foolishness! If our tourist industry

has fallen, and it appears to continue to fall, it is because we have brought this upon ourselves.
3.30 p.m.

In the halcyon days when there was no economic recession in the Sixties and Seventies, North American tourists had a lot of money in excess. Out of that economic largesse they were quite prepared to go all over the world. They came to Barbados. Barbados was nice. They knew even then that the hotel rates were too high. They knew even that a number of charges made about other surrounding services that Senator McClean was speaking about were too high. But, you see, when there is a large margin you have to play with, you do not quibble at these excesses as much as when you have a very narrow margin in your economic and financial budgeting.

When things were good, a tourist left with \$2 000 or \$3 000 and came down here, and he knew that he was being set upon by the hotels. I am not going to call the names of the hotels, but I have had several friends whom I sent down when I was Permanent Representative at the United Nations to some of the first class hotels here. In normal circumstances, they could afford the charges, but they came back and they complained. They said "Ramsay, those charges are too high. The place is nice and so on, I like the sea and the sun, the people are wonderful, but those charges are too high!"

The hoteliers know that they are too high, but they use this argument that the Unions pressure them to have a certain minimum set of wages and therefore their overseas costs are high, and if they reduce these things too low, then there would be economic collapse and economic ruin. I do not accede to that argument. If a thing is bad, it is bad. As the Prime Minister said on this, if a product is bad, it is a bad product. Change the product, make it good. You cannot sell it if it is bad.

Nowadays, now that money is hard for everybody, the tourists will not come to Barbados, because things are too expensive at the hotels. It is as simple as that. The tourists who come ride on our buses and the public transport because they did not come out of Mars.

These people have utilised public transport in their daily lives wherever they are. Even if they rode into New York City from Westchester or Long Island, they would then take the bus or the train from their point of parking their motor car to their place of work; so they are accustomed to public transport. So when our charges are this high at the hotels in food and bed, they cannot use the taxis; they revert to public transport.

The whole question of our tourists outlook and perspective needs to be changed. I do not know what happens on the Tourist Board because I was never a

member of a Tourist Board in Barbados, but it seems to me that they need to look comprehensively and fundamentally at the problems.

The product is bad, the activity is on the wane, but I do not see this as being irredeemable. It seems to me that the Tourist Board needs to look hard and scientifically at the problems and find solutions. Advertising, in my view, is not the answer. The Prime Minister is quite right, Barbados sells itself. We do not need to sell Barbados any more with advertising. We need to look to see what is wrong.

Senator Simmons alluded to crime that is perpetrated on tourists, some of whom report it and some do not. That might well be one factor. My own view is that the real problem lies in the excessive and unreasonable charges at the hotels themselves.

I do not feel, like Senator Linton, that the Director of Tourism should resign as a result of those strictures levelled against the industry by the Prime Minister in this letter, which is purported to be written by the Prime Minister; but I think what they ought to do is to look carefully at these criticisms and try to define the causes for them. If you define the causes, then you already have the remedy; you have a prognosis for their solution. That is what is necessary to be done.

Returning to consular activities in New York. In the narrow sense, the post of Head of Consular Activities in New York is, in my view, one of the most sensitive and crucial of diplomatic posts in the Barbados foreign service arrangement. I have always held this view, even when I did not work for the Barbados Government in diplomacy.

It has grown this way out of the very nature of the conditions and the circumstances of New York State and New York City in particular. There are several Barbadians in New York. Indeed, once in the early Sixties an analysis was done which indicated that the people who claimed a direct association with Barbados, or some tangential association, number well over 300 000 — more people outside of Barbados than those who live inside of Barbados.

The community is a highly political community, it is an independent community, it is an articulate sort of community, and it seems to me, therefore, that the representation in the domain of consular activities has got to be one that is carefully looked at when one is choosing a representative for that post.

I think the most successful of the Consuls General that we have had in New York have been those who were politically appointed. If I may say so, I think Senator Griffith, who now sits in the Cabinet as the Minister of State, and Mr. Branford Taitt, who is a member of the

Other Place, have been the most successful, because perhaps they were the most attuned to the political sensitivities of the Barbadians who abide in New York State and New York City.

I am not sure that at the moment we are getting what the Prime Minister calls in this letter "sufficient cost benefit" from the amount of money we spend on the consular activities in New York. The problem though about the Barbados diplomatic service is that we in this Government, and to a lesser extent in the former Government, tend to appoint civil servants from the regular Civil Service to these posts. I remember when the Prime Minister, the right honourable Mr. Errol Barrow, was going into independence and asked me to be his first Ambassador to the UN, I had to refuse because I felt my work with Tanzania at that time in 1965 was much more crucial. I am quite sure that President Nyerere would not have released me in any case.

3.40 p.m.

Then, he asked me to write a sort of prospectus for setting up in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which I did. I made the point that he needed to have not several officers, but two or three officers who are well paid, who are intelligent and who had a liking for work — that was very important — who were articulate and not afraid to state the case for the Government and people of Barbados.

What I think we have been having in recent years is appointments of people who, because of their Civil Service background, are not predisposed towards articulating arguments for any given government, be it this Government or the other party. They are not keen on being too strongly identified with the given government, because Barbadian civil servants are very fatalistic. They nearly always feel that the other prospective government will be in power next time and they do not want to be considered to be associated with the existing government. As a result of that, they do nothing. They do literally nothing!

Barbadian civil servants, especially those who are number two or three in rank to the Ambassador, always find some excuse for not making a speech either in a formal setting like the United Nations or before a gathering of interested Barbadians. They are afraid lest somebody from the Opposition says, "Wait until next time."

But apart from that, the Barbadian civil servants, who are really misfits in these positions, are very good at what Ambassador Vishynski used to do in the late forties at the United Nations. He was famous for nyet, the Russian word meaning "no". The Barbadian civil servants who work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are very good at showing you how something cannot be done or should not be done. Very few of them have a positive

attitude towards life; very few indeed. It is always, "The Regulations say so and so," or "According to Order 1:2 you cannot do so and so."

I wonder why either this Government or any other tends to persist with civil servants. The Constitution does not make any provision for civil servants to be principal overseas representatives. The principal overseas representatives are anticipated by the Constitution to be people politically appointed, because it is expected that they understand, they know, they make it their business to know, what is the policy of the government of the day and they are prepared to articulate that policy and stand by it. These things are important.

So when you spend money, as the Estimates tend to reveal, on representatives of this nature, who are really representing the interest of Barbados, then you can understand that the money is well spent. They benefit from that cost, so the results of cost benefit results in a positive condition.

On the whole question, though, of foreign affairs, Mr. President, I have a feeling that we do not have, in this country, in this Parliament, enough debate on the issues of foreign affairs, issues that become almost common place in other developing countries. The question of non-alignment for instance, the question of Namibia and South Africa, the question of the North and South dialogue of the new International and Economic Order, the whole question of human rights and the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the question of states within varying regional organisations, the question of the Malvinos and the Falkland Islands — these have never been discussed.

If we were in the habit either in Parliament, in the Press or on the airways of having general debate in the country on these issues, I tend to suspect that our people would be much more informed about these things. When a crisis situation, like the cricketers going to South Africa, tend to arise, our people would have a better appreciation of the issues involved. Although one would be against the cricketers going, in a certain sense, perhaps, a plea could be entered by way of mitigation on the premise of lack of knowledge of all of the elements involved.

What I am saying in the alternative is that if there were a real deep debate on the question of the venom of the apartheid system in South Africa, what ramifications it has for the people of the African race, what possibilities there are, the great detriment to the human soul, if after all of that, that debate which proceeded before in detail and on a regular basis, our cricketers still went, then we could say they went knowing what they were going to and, therefore, they went knowing what they were going for.

Therefore, I tend to resile from venal criticism against them, not because I have any truck with apartheid, but because I feel that perhaps they did not know all of the elements before they went. It is true that since some of them have returned, they are able to say that things are not quite as bad as has been said. But that is not even the point. The point is, should they have gone to a state which has been so destructive of the dignity of the human person, that has dethroned morality, knowing that this was the personality of that state?

The question arises, talking about consular and diplomatic activity, if any injury of any kind had taken place, had occurred to any of the Barbadian nationals who went as cricketers, what would have been our position from the point of view of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? What would we have done? What could we have done? What should we have done? These are some of the questions that we have to look at.

There must be a certain stridency in stating the case for morality in foreign affairs. The importance of a state like Barbados is that because it has no great connections with economic or military power, because it is a small state in size and economic worth, it is not small in the question of morality or intellectual power, and a state like Barbados therefore is always listened to with care. If the correct representatives are there in place, then that representative has to state the case for the morality and the justice of the cause of a given situation.

So I have never succumbed to the argument that because you are small, you should keep out of the business of big states and so on. In Swahili there is a proverb that when two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. I have always argued that when the big powers are fighting, it is the duty of the small powers to try to define the parameters of the issue and to try to contain the conflict so that it does not become a conflagration; to hold the reins and contain it.

The big powers, strange enough, listen to small powers. One of the best examples of this, Mr. President, was in the November crisis of 1962 when it was clear that we were coming towards a nuclear war for the first time. Khrushchev said he was sending his men-of-war down to Cuba, he was not taking out those missiles, and John FitzGerald Kennedy said, "If you do not take them out by midnight, I am going to war with you." And that was clear. It was clear to me and all of us there assembled at the United Nations that there was going to be war that night.

3.50 p.m.

The Ambassador for the Soviet Union in the Security Council was saying, "I have no instructions, I cannot tell you whether the missiles are there or not, so I cannot

tell you when we are going to move them," Ambassador Stevenson was saying, "I will wait until hell freezes over until you give me an answer from Moscow." At the same time the hot line between Moscow and Washington was going.

Now, it was Third World countries, led by Ambassador Quaison Sackey of Ghana, who was then President of the Security Council, who found the solution to that problem. It was not the big powers, not the big states with great economic and military might, but the small powers, the powers that had no axes to grind, because they were able to seize upon the justice of the issue, define the issue, and find the solution which was acceptable to the Council. Then, the Secretary-General (U Thant) was despatched to Cuba to see President Fidel Castro, and the matter was solved, and an hour or so before midnight, in my view, we were saved from a very calamitous end.

Mr. President, as I understand it, the Leader of Government Business is indicating that he wants to be preoccupied with something else, but that would seem to suggest to me that he would want me to wind up my intervention. There is no difficulty about winding up, because I think I have exhausted the views that I felt disposed to ventilate this evening.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have also exhausted most of the time.

SENATOR W. E. WALDRON-RAMSAY: Yes, indeed, Sir. I shall conclude by saying that the Estimates in my view indicate a socialist predisposition towards the promotion of the welfare and the well-being of the people of this country. It shows a certain prudence in that there is no propensity towards exaggeration and over-spending, and one hopes that there will be a certain prudence and care in the manner in which this money is spent on the various goods and services.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Cheers.

SENATOR Mrs. E. M. LYNCH: Mr. President, usually when I stand it is to say something about education, but after all the stormy weather we have been encountering, and thunder and lightning, I think I will approach the theme by a roundabout way, because education does take place only in institutions of learning. We are very wedded to our schools, and somehow as soon as we say "education", we think of Barbados Scholars, and we think of leading schools, and then we begin to talk about educating our leaders and things of that sort.

So much has been said about tourism that I think I may approach it via that path. If we look carefully at the

territories in the Caribbean where tourism still seems to flourish, we will find that they have certain characteristics. First, they are near to the North American market — Bahamas, Bermuda, Antigua, Jamaica — and secondly, we must remember that we made a choice. We have always said that we did not want the tourist, the visitor, to be in an enclave situation. We wanted to feel that visitors were coming into contact with our local population. In doing this, we did not seem to realise that we were committed to ensuring that our people were educated to understand the role which they had to play in tourism.

I have seen films and read of seminars for hotel owners, for people who deal with the industry, but nowhere have I seen an attempt to reach the people, the beach boys, the people who are committing the rapes, the people who are selling on the beaches, the ordinary citizen. We are talking about advertisement, we are talking about prices. I believe that the problem with prices is critical, but there is studied evasion of coming to grips with the basic issue, that the community is not really prepared for playing the part which it has to play in the industry.

Bermudans do not cease to ensure that their island is beautiful; they have flowering shrubs planted everywhere. They put the tourists first, I am told, in Bermuda. They do not do anything that would disturb the tourist industry. They do not show any signs of poverty. You do not see anything that suggests to the visitor that there is need in that country. Tourists first is their attitude. Tourism is their living, and the community is committed to that. They do not complain that the welfare of the tourist or the interest of the visitor is put first.

If you go now to Antigua, the visitor can remain in Mill Reef Club, or places of that sort. I am told that the population is not very big in Antigua, so the visitor has an enclave where he goes and has not got to be disturbed by what is happening in the rest of Antigua.

Jamaica is big enough that the visitors can be remote from Kingston or any of the areas where they might have to come in contact with the people, although we may notice that Jamaicans also passed through a period of difficulty with tourism. Now they tell you "come back to Jamaica, it is just as it used to be", because they have come to grips with violence and things of that sort.

So, it seems to me that if you look closely, there are probably more visitors than we think, who like to be not too close to the resident population, though they may not express this view. We are the most thickly populated island in the Caribbean, and when the visitors come they cannot escape contact with the local population. Our local population has not been educated to

understand that there are visitors and visitors, and to deal with that sort of situation.

What is more, over the radio we hear almost minutely the song entitled "Jack", and that song tells the visitor quite clearly that he is competing with us for scarce physical resources. We say to him, "You want the beach and we want it." So in one breath we are inviting the visitor and telling him what a beautiful place Barbados is, yet when he arrives we say the beach is mine and I am going to compete with you for its use.

There is always pressure on the visitor to buy something. The people who sell the clothing, I do not feel should ever have been on the beach. I feel that there should have been little highway shops and places like that where, if the tourist wants to buy an article, he can go there and buy it.

4.00 p.m.

The people are constantly pestered to buy what they want and what they do not want. There are so many people selling nuts that I really wonder if all our young people without a job sell nuts. These are things that we have to look at.

Crimes are committed and they are not reported. I live in Christ Church, which is an area where there are a lot of visitors, and I have been told of a number of occasions, of people who arrived on one day, were attacked that night, left the next day and they never came back. They did not report it. It did not get headlines in the newspapers or anything like that, but there have been a number of incidents where people have been attacked and then they have just left.

Now, I believe that we are wasting our time in trying to advertise, because I believe the advertisements against us cannot be calculated. It is by word of mouth, and the travel agents will know, because the people who bought their tickets through travel agents will complain to them. The travel agents may just make up their minds that they are not recommending Barbados. They may not even tell us that they are not recommending Barbados.

But previously Barbados did not spend any large amount of money on advertisements. We did not have the money to spend on advertisements that even Jamaica and other places had. Our visitor population came largely through recommendations by friends; so in the same way we found our friends, we have lost our friends.

As I see it, we are talking too much and appearing too excited about whether the visitor comes here or not. We did not always have a very high level of tourism to service. I think that what we should be doing is turning our gaze inward trying to deal with the problems of the community, being honest about them, and not using them

to condemn any Government, because I do not think that has anything to do with it.

We are living in turbulent times, and this is so everywhere. Even if a visitor comes from a country where there is high rate of crime, that is why he has left his country and so he does not want to come on a holiday and find the same thing that he is trying to escape where he lives. We have to address ourselves to the problem. We have got to deal with our young people. We may need a special section of the Police Force which concentrates entirely on the tourist areas, remembering that Barbadians also live where we call the tourist areas. We have not got any area where only visitors live. They live among us, and therefore when people begin to attack the visitor, they also attack the Barbadian. So we are not creating a service only for the visitor, because the Barbadian also is experiencing some of these attacks.

I think we need to look carefully at what I call the rural seaside villages, the villages where, as I said, people live and where tourists rent little houses and apartments instead of using hotels. I think a typical area like this is the Silver Sands complex of villages because Silver Sands is a district made up of a number of adjacent villages, a beautiful area, a delightful district in which to spend your holiday or to live.

Formerly in that area there was agriculture. It was famous for hawkers, whom you could always distinguish because they had a special combination of articles, sea-eggs, guinea corn, indian corn, okras and what Barbadians call ball starch, made from cassava. You could always recognise the Silver Sands huckster because of what she sold.

Now, the sea eggs have almost disappeared. Agriculture, especially sugar, is not there anymore. There was a time when I understand Buckley's and Lower Estate, I think, used to compete for the sugar that came from Silver Sands. It was supposed to have a very high sugar content. Well, the canes are not there anymore and there are new housing developments, like Ealing Park and so on.

The beautiful Oistins fishing complex has been built and so the fishing industry is disappearing from Silver Sands. There were very great fishermen and women who made a lot of money selling fish. There was always a connection between the boat owners and the people working in the boats and the women who sold the fish. Now, they are all going to concentrate in Oistins.

I congratulate the Government for putting a skills training class at Sayer's Court, because that is part of the Silver Sands Complex and there is bound to be a lot of idling there. There are hotels there. There are apartments there. There is crime there now, and I think that that

whole area needs to be looked at and some sort of thinking done about that and areas like it.

I am certain that there must be other villages around going along the West coast, such as Fitts Village, but Silver Sands is a village rather set apart and therefore you could study it. I really feel that we need to tackle these things and not just to brush them off as if it does not matter. Barbados is small and it has this to its credit, that any good done is easily seen. You can see results even from small things.

I quote that particular area not because it is worse than any other but because it illustrates how tourism itself can cause the problems which result in its disappearance. So I hope that we will stop being panicky and rushing around and try to make Barbados better for ourselves. If Barbados is better for us, the visitors will come again, because it will be better for them, too.

Mention has been made of the Defence Force. I do not know why it is such an attraction for some people. We have always had a Cadet Force at schools. They handle weapons. I remember seeing my brother proudly displaying his marksman badge with two rifles on his arm. They used guns. They learnt to shoot. They were given uniforms, they did not buy them. So the Cadets must have been some part of the local Defence Force.

4.10 p.m.

It is fairly obvious that we are living in times when we need to have some kind of Defence Force. We used to have a Volunteer Force before; we used to have an army. Way back in the history of Barbados we had the Garrison, and that is why we have an attractive race pasture. That was the parade ground. So Barbados has had a military presence. The idea of a Defence Force is not entirely new.

I have served for a very long time in what I would call the youth service of the island, and I can tell those people who are talking about a voluntary youth service that that voluntary youth service has run into difficulties. In the days when there were all-age primary schools, a substantial part of the youth service, those not in uniform, comprised the Old Scholars Associations of the various all age primary schools. Of course there were also church clubs and so forth, but that group of associations was a large part of the youth service. With the disappearance of these schools, that large group of youth clubs dealing with children from 14 to 18 have disappeared completely. Of the other organisations, I have seen only about two or three groups that reach what I would call the problem levels of the society, that reach the very poorest and the most deprived children.

To be a Boy Scout or a Girl Guide or Crusader the first thing you do is to buy your uniform, and buying

your uniform means that you have parents who can afford to give you a uniform. But even in these organisations there is a lot of difficulty in getting the leadership required for keeping them alive.

Sir, you read all about Scout Week and you saw how the scouts are trying to get leaders. The Guides also have struggled to get leaders, but women are usually more active in good works than men, and although we have a shortage of leadership, we still have a fair number of women. Yet, we still need more. All the youth organisations need leaders.

If we look at the amount of sport that is going on, it really makes us feel happy to see the number of young people who are engaged in sport. Then you ask yourself, how is it that there are so many people engaged in sport and yet the young people are not learning the lessons in self-discipline that you would expect them to have with the experience they have in athletics and sport?

I think that is because they really have not, in many instances, got leadership that is steady leadership. They may have somebody this month and not have somebody next month and so on. When you look at the amount of sport being played, the number of football clubs, the number of cricket clubs we should not be having problems with young people. They are having a very good time, and yet still we are having serious problems with young people.

I was surprised to see only a day or two ago a lad of sixteen sent to prison. He was only sixteen and he is in prison already. Where do you think he is going to be at thirty? Another interesting thing is that there are only 33 boys in Dodds when last I counted them, so although there is all this serious crime, there are not so many boys in the institution which is supposed to deal with rehabilitation.

We must ask, "Is it that we have small groups of people who do a great many wrong things rather than a lot of people doing these crimes?" We need to study the problem. There is no point just talking about it. There is a lot of talk going on. It irritates me, because the people who talk do not do anything.

Even when you listen to sermons in the pulpit, you can see that the pulpit is a dangerous place because it can be used as an actor uses the stage. Having made these pronouncements, especially on the Sundays when a particular church service is going to be broadcast, very often the matter being discussed has not really been properly researched, nobody can sit in the pews and answer the person up there talking, and when you look in the congregations of the persons preaching, there are no programmes in their church for dealing with the things that they are complaining about.

I think we need rather more action, and we are drifting into the habit of feeling that when once we have made an eloquent speech on something that the problem has been solved and there is nothing more for us to do.

I would like to remind the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber — he is not here — that the people like trade union leaders, those who shape the programmes for the Labour College, the politicians who hold meetings, all these people have an opportunity to help to train the simple people in the community to think straight. I regret to say that it is those very people who often make statements which are opinions, not facts, impressions, general sweeping statements with no support.

What is more, we are playing a dangerous game of expressing lack of confidence in statistical information prepared by civil servants, forgetting that we do not rely entirely on these statistics. There is the World Bank, there is the National Bank, there is the Central Bank, there are all the banks in Bridgetown that publish their balance sheets, and there are the insurance companies. In fact, we have a whole collection of statistics from the business world, such undertakings as Goddards Enterprises. All the companies with publicly-owned shares have to publish the results. When you look at all these figures they tell you something about the state of the economy. If the Government's figures are wrongly indicating trends, there will be figures from other sources that will disclose the true trends; and when we constantly question Government statistics, we are weakening public confidence in ourselves, and this is very dangerous.

4.20 p.m.

If we look, for example, at comments made about elections, always, in nearly every election, there have been slip-ups, some little thing happened. I remember some years ago that there were two polling stations at Foundation School — I was then Head — and in one of these polling stations the carpenters at the school came to me to say, "I have just been to vote and I cannot find my name and yet, I saw it in the list down at the polling station."

Subsequently, it was discovered that at one of those stations all the names beginning with the letter, "Y" were missing. Now, these lists had to be typed and things of this sort. Just before the last election I saw the long lines of people. Just a few days before the election, people were standing outside waiting to go in to have their pictures taken in order to be registered for the election. And, I thought to myself, "How is the Electoral Officer going to deal with this."

But I know there are all kinds of wonderful things now like computers, and, obviously, one of the things that a political party has to do is to encourage its

followers to be registered early. Now, things like this tend to cause errors to occur, and this happens from time to time in elections. There are errors. People's names are on the wrong list and they are not at this polling station, they are at another one and so forth. But we do not attribute this to anything deliberate. How could it be?

We are doing our country a great disservice in times as troubled as these when people overseas can take up a paper and see that we believe that our elections are rigged. I really feel that we have to show what I would call commitment to our country. Loyalty to one's party is, perhaps, a very good thing, but I am sure that our country should mean more to us than our party.

We need to think, in the heat of partisan politics, of the damage we do to simple folk. We would not be doing damage to people in here, because we understand political cut and thrust. But the man in the street does not understand that, and when we have undermined his confidence, he is not going to vote for the party which helped to undermine that confidence — he is not going to turn out to vote at all. A sign of politics gone bad is the refusal to vote. People just stop voting. They have no confidence in anybody. They just say, "All the politicians are alike, I am not voting for any", not realising that abstaining from a vote is giving a vote indirectly.

So, therefore, I feel that leaders of thought, educated persons, people to whom others listen, have a duty. The older politicians did their part. They instructed us very, very carefully in the value of the vote. I will never forget some of the speeches of people like Dr. O'Neal, or the writings of people like Wickham and Inniss and people of this sort. That was the kind of diet that we grew up on. I think we have to realise that all of this is part of education.

Sometimes, when I say something to the honourable Minister of Information, he gets angry with me because I am always bothering him and saying, "I have not seen anything appear on this Bill" or, "I think that we should have said rather more" and so on. But there is a work of education to be done in the adult population because they are the people making the decisions now. You have only to listen to the phone in programmes on the radio to realise — I do not wish to use the word, "ignorance" because I do not want to insult anyone — but how much lack of knowledge there is about matters affecting the daily lives of people.

When we are in times of hardship and people feel overburdened, they see all the difficulties, they see all the problems, they stand up to the situation much better if they understand what is happening and why, and they

are better equipped to help themselves in finding a solution to their problems.

I feel that the participation of the Defence Force in the Youth Service has to do with cost. I would expect there is room for a residential camp because that was the American facility. So, there is probably room there if we are thinking of a residential camp.

Secondly, you have to pay people to give instruction. Voluntary work is very good, but it is not always reliable; and when you are using voluntary persons, you have to take what they give. You cannot be too critical, you cannot be too demanding, and if it is an activity which has to go on for a long time, you cannot expect people to work for nothing. I would expect that there would have to be some paid instructors.

In the Defence Force, in the facility, you have a collection of young men being, I hope, well fed, paid and having skills. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister at one time remarked – I do not remember the occasion – that this Defence Force was going to be a useful force, that he was going to use it for doing things in the community. This is what I understood. If I am wrong, the honourable Minister will correct me.

Therefore, if you have skilled people in the Defence Force and they are there just marching up and down doing drill and things like that, I do not think there is anything worse for a community than an idle Defence Force.

The Minister seems to feel that he could use some of the skills which these young soldiers have, I suppose in the Skills Training Programme, the drill or other activities. So provided there is a mixture of civilians with military people looking after the affairs of the camp, I say, "Do not let us prophesy what is going to happen" because it is a pilot scheme. At first, there is only going to be about 120 young persons, and the scheme is voluntary. The scheme is small enough and there is time enough to watch it and see what is going to happen.

A few nights ago, the welfare officer who is in charge of the planning for the scheme – he has been seconded from his job as the Welfare Officer of the island and he is working with others – gave a very detailed account over the radio of what was being planned. If people were really interested in the scheme, they would have heard what I heard.

We are all saying that our young people need attention. The family situation in the Caribbean has always been weak and it is not standing up to the stress or the demands of a permissive society. We have become a more permissive society. In a permissive society the

individual has to be strong, because there is nothing to prevent him from using his freedoms wrongly. Convention does not keep him in place. We feel that young people are without the supervision that they should get at home, very often without the kind of supervision they should get at school, and we are seeing that they need something between leaving school, or dropping out of school, and getting a job.
4.30 p.m.

Now, I am not putting a case for Government, because I do not know anything about what Government is planning other than what I have heard from the Welfare Officer, but I feel that if we feel so strongly about it, and we are so knowledgeable about it, we should offer our help. People like the noble Senator who has so much experience in youth work will be very valuable to the exercise.

I am getting on in years now. I am obviously no longer young, but I have gone back to doing youth work. Nobody has told me yet that I am too old and they do not want me around. I have gone back to doing youth work, because the need is there, and so I hope that our noble Senator, with the wealth of experience he has gained in the university of experience, will rush to give his services. He can teach the youngsters how to bowl without throwing.

I am going to sidle towards the theme which is really mine, and that has to do with education. Looking at the figures it is obvious that as far as the financial constraints have allowed, Government has tried to fulfill its obligations of providing education for the young citizens of this country. Education is still one of the largest votes. I could not get the addition of the Capital and Current expenditures for all the Heads to be done, but certainly in the Current Expenditure. Education looks about second, and it cannot be too far down the line when you add the other things, so that I can safely say that Education is one of the largest amounts in the Estimates. This in itself indicates that Government is saying that education is important.

I want to congratulate the Government on putting confidence in a woman, so that for the first time in our history we have a woman as Minister of Education. I think that one of the results of this is going to be that that Ministry will probably become rather child centred. I think she is likely to be the sort of person who is looking to see that the children are getting all the attention that they need. She has already been rather outspoken, decisive and imaginative and so on, but I trust that the teachers and all the people who work with her will assist her in arriving at wise decisions.

As I said about tourism, I say the same about education; the whole community must feel itself involved

in the exercise of ensuring that Barbados gets the best possible system it can afford. Most people who have children have the opportunity of attending the meetings of parents and teachers, and one of the most depressing sights is that at a Parent-Teacher's meeting the number of parents you see there is a very small fraction of the number of children attending the school. I do not think this means that parents are not interested in their children, but I think it means that parents do not realise what a vital part they play in the education of their children. The parents are the children's first teachers, and the earliest years of their lives, when they are most under the care and at the mercy of people who have to look after them, is the time which is the most important. So adults, parents and others, must see themselves as part of the school, part of the arrangements for looking after the young people and for helping them to grow up.

Formerly there were people in our community — I suppose there must still be some — like Chamberlain Hope and D. D. M. Thorpe, that writer of historical anecdotes, and a number of persons of this sort. I even remember being taken to argue with Eric Williams when I was a youngster and he came to visit Barbados. People who were interested in young people saw to it that they met the kind of people who could help to straighten their thinking and encourage them. Now we leave young people alone, we let them run around together in a herd, when they are not capable of helping each other. We leave them without any guidance and without any supervision to stumble as well as they can into adult life, on the way committing a number of errors for which they may pay very dearly.

From the figures and the notes I see that the World Bank Project for the building of ten primary schools is progressing, and this in itself is important. I have never in all my life in Barbados seen any plan for building ten primary schools at once. That means that Government has put its money where its mouth is. We have heard all along how important primary education is, but we are seeing a definite effort to give the primary schools better physical conditions.

There are still some of the older one-room schools. I hope that, even although the present situation is not very promising, as soon as it is possible those schools will all be given at least a staff room that their teachers can have to work in, because they must look with very great envy at the teachers working in the other schools which will have facilities so much better than anything that they have.

Nursery education is expensive, because the toys and equipment the children have to use are costly. I know that there is a whole network of child care centres going up and I know of the very excellent work being done by the Child Care Board and those people who are

seeing that some kind of education is being done with the children in the day care centres. There will be areas, particularly rural areas, where those day care centres will not exist because, I suppose, the population is more spread and small. I am hoping that some consideration will be given to having a nursery class at those primary schools which are not in an area where there are day care centres, because this is traditional in Barbados.

4.40 p.m.

This is nothing new. When it was time for the workers to go out in the crop season, they would often come to the Headmaster or the Headmistress of the village school and ask if he or she would take in the smallest child so that the biggest one would not have to stay home and look after him. Very often they were taken, and it was just a kindness. It was not unusual for children of early age to be somewhere about in a corner of the primary school.

I hope that since we cannot build a large number of nursery schools since we have day care centres, that we might look at making nursery rooms at some of the schools and putting a nursery teacher there. Those earliest years are the most important, and I will repeat, if we believe that, we must act as if we do and see that children get early diagnosis and treatment for handicaps of any kind, and that they get a good start. This is a very rugged world so let us do what we can for children early.

As soon as you mention the primary school you will hear reference to the Common Entrance Examination, which is the regular talking point. I have already seen some letters in the Press on it and nobody seems to realize that the situation has changed completely. It is no longer a highly competitive examination. There are not enough places for everyone yet, but there are now enough places to ensure that a child of any reasonable level of attainment can easily get a place in a secondary school or secure a bursary.

But the stress which the child undergoes is not the examination. The stress is imposed, so to speak, by adult attitudes. The adult begins to promise the child something attractive if he obtains a place in a particular school, and very often the corollary is if you do not get in, there is something that you will not be given or somewhere you will not be able to go. Pressure is put on the child and it is not pressure to gain a place — that is simple now, it is not difficult now to gain a place in a secondary school — but pressure is put on the child to get a place in a particular school.

I want you to go to a certain school or perhaps certain schools; that is what the pressure is all about. Many bright children have scores far, far higher than they need to attain, but they are put through the mill

and made to have these very high scores, in order to ensure that they get to certain seats of learning.

I think that this is going to remain until we make a definite decision about Sixth Form education, about how Sixth Form education is going to be organized. It is probably in Sixth Form schools that people want to secure places. Parents feel that if the child is bright, they would like it to go to a Sixth Form school, so that is where the problem is. The problem is not with the examination. The anxiety which the child feels is the anxiety to score a high mark to get to a particular school or schools.

Let us remember we have a way of looking back on the past and somehow the past always looks rosy. Sometimes the things we remember never existed but we remember them just the same, and people forget that there was a time when children sat not one Common Entrance Examination, but three or four examinations. If you were a girl, you sat at Queen's College, St. Michael's, Foundation and perhaps Alexandra. You sat at least three, and if the parents were really desperate, that child sat four examinations to make certain that she gained a place in one school. That went on until late into the 1950s, 1958 — 1959. People forget that. Boys sat examinations at Harrison College, Combermere, Lodge and Foundation at least. I do not think they ventured as far afield, if they were in town, as Alleyne and Coleridge & Parry, but those children sat four examinations; they went from school to school.

It was the Heads who said, "Let us stop this and have all examinations on one day and then let us exchange our mark sheets, and if there are any people who have done well and one school cannot place them, one of the other schools would place them." Then we moved on from that to setting the same paper, and then after that the Ministry of Education introduced the first step of what you call the Screening Test, the first examination, then there was the second examination. We went all that way and now people are saying that it is a wicked thing to put that poor child to sit an examination.

When he enters the secondary school, he is going to have to sit an examination every year to go up into the next form, so he will have an examination from age 13 until he sits the G.C.E. and passes it. Let us remember that what is happening now is at least fairer than what was happening before, and that we can take the stress off the child by adults being sensible and not making a lot of fuss about the examination. You know very well when your child is doing reasonably well, and such a child will get a place, because there are enough places available.

I do not think we have got all the schools we need yet. I notice that I have not seen Wotton School

appearing again in the Estimates. I hope that the rescheduling is only for the time being.

A few days ago, I visited a newer secondary school. I am very fond of going to schools, Speech Days and other functions, not the big important ones, the others. In that school I saw evidence of enthusiasm, good organization, sound teaching, good human relationships and discipline that was firm and kind.

I think that any parent who refuses to send a child to a newer secondary school of that sort, or who does not seize the opportunity now to get to get their child there, is foolish. It is a good school. It is a very good school but I do not know how many bright children it has. They did not confide in me that there were any prospective Barbados Scholars entering, but we have good schools of that sort.

4.50 p.m.

It is a good school, not one that has been in existence 100 or 200 years, but it is building an excellent tradition, and from the work exhibited the teachers are highly qualified. You can see the work in art, domestic science and in commerce and so on, and from the amount of imagination that went into the work, the teachers were obviously well qualified persons.

I do not usually call the names of schools, but I am going to mention St. Leonard's Girls' and I am going to mention it because it was a school that had to face tremendous difficulties. It was not enclosed, it was very close to the community around it, there were all kinds of problems with trespass and all kinds of handicaps. I think eventually they had to be given security guards on the site, and they lacked many things. At one time half the school was on one site at Deacons Road and the other bit was at Richmond.

I noted recently that two of their senior staff were appointed as Deputy Heads at two other schools. A school of that sort, with all those difficulties, is not only doing a good job for the girls, but it is producing staff; it is developing its staff so that they can go from there to be Deputy Heads. I saw two in one week — of other schools. These schools are producing their own Heads and Deputy Heads and these two Deputy Heads are good; they are well qualified, they are able people and any school should be glad to have them.

The point I am making is that this Government first of all saw to it that late achievers were not turned out of school at the age of 14 in order to make room for the 11 year olds. That is the first thing it did. It was a very courageous step because nobody was ready for it and it

was very difficult getting it done, but at least Government laid down the principle that all meant all, and that the least able children were to have their chance of an education.

I am told that the time is up, but I would like to add, Mr. President, if you will allow me, that it would be a good thing if the Heads of these schools in giving their annual reports and so on would cease to lament about the kind of children they do not have. A good school can be made out of any kind of children, no matter whether they are bright or whether they are not. It depends on what you are doing, and popular opinion must support the teachers.

I hope that in the not too distant future the Minister of Finance will look again and perhaps, with discretion, restore study leave. Teachers are perpetual students, and for teachers not to be able to get study leave of any kind I think would be a disaster. I hope that this is not so and that they will be able at some time, some of them, to have study leave.

I hope that in assessing those schools which are undertaking a task which is new, for the teachers, they will bear in mind that the teachers themselves have to adapt to the changes and to the new outlook that is necessary, and so we should help them as much as we can. We must loudly declare our confidence in them.

I hope that teachers will get adequate consultation, so that before the Minister acts on matters which concern the teachers, such as planting mango trees out of which the children are likely to fall, they will be adequately consulted. They were very pleased with the consultation they had when the new Education Act and the Regulations were being prepared. They appreciated that consultation, and if we want the best out of teachers, we must have confidence in them, we must treat them as professionals and we must consult them about things which relate to their work. More ideas should be going from the classroom up to the Ministry, instead of always coming in the other direction.

Mr. President, thank you.

SENATOR Mrs. M. REECE: Mr. President, I am going to be very brief. I want to look at one area that has not been touched and that is the public library. Sir, I notice that there is an additional vote there. Now, there is a subhead which, according to the notes, makes provision for improving the reference and adult section of the library and the relocation of the Richard B. Moore collection of books.

Sir, the library is an old institution. It has spread its wings out, it has gone to schools and it has gone all over the country. It is providing a very good service, and

I believe I should get straight to the point, that the hours of the library should be changed, if they are to improve the use of the research section of the library.

There is a thirst for knowledge. There are students out there anxious to do research in the adult section. The working hours in business houses are mostly 4.30 to 5 o'clock at the latest. Maybe you could look at the idea of opening on two evenings or two nights during the week so that people can do their research. That takes care of the library.

I am sorry that Senator Hall is not in here. The year of the youth will soon be with us and I believe that the Government has taken steps to implement the National Youth Service. I believe that Senator Hall said the age would be 17 to 25; he says that it is on page 28 of the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. I have searched the manifesto on page 28 and I have not seen that. It is not here, but it states that the scheme is supposed to be non-military. I believe that we have always been a disciplined society and that in children who have belonged to the Guides, Scouts and Cadets, you can see some kind of discipline in these young people. Their shoes are clean, they are neat and tidy, and have a pride in themselves and in the country.

Sir, the anthem of our country should be played at all functions wherever possible and at sports on the whole. There is no respect for our flag. I have noticed the flag tattered and torn on buildings, Government buildings and private buildings. I have even noticed one institution had their flag removed, sent to the sewing room and bound with about an inch and a half of white binding and had the gall to fly it back on the building in that condition, I think somebody called them and asked them to remove it. There is that pride that is lacking in our society.

On the area of immigration, the leader of the Opposition mentioned that at the Arawak Cement Plant there are a number of non-nationals. What he forgot to mention was that although they might be carpenters, they are ones with specific skills, and he should not mislead people into thinking that we are giving work permits to carpenters just like that. He should have taken time to find out what kind of work permits they had, what skills they were offering and what were the stipulations laid down for them when they were issued the permits.
5.00 p.m.

Sir, the Immigration Department can be complimented on setting up an Advisory Committee. That Advisory Committee has compiled a Negative List to determine the categories under which work permits can be issued. I believe the honourable leader of the Opposition should have taken time to mention things like that.

The other area not covered was CERO, the Central Emergency Relief Organisation, which is doing a good job in this country. We cannot compliment that organisation without mentioning Grace Pilgrim, who is doing a fantastic job there. I would have hoped to have seen an increase there, in order to provide more staff for that organisation. It is now being run by what I would term as a skeleton staff, and without the help of certain citizens who go there every week to make a contribution and to help wherever possible, I am sure that organisation would not have been as good as it is today. That has improved from the days when it was a hurricane relief organization to now, a disaster preparedness organization, and I believe that more emphasis should be placed on the service given by that department.

Sir, one other area, the prisons. I was hoping and am still hoping, that at the Regional Police Training Centre I can see some section devoted to the training of prison officers. I believe that prison officers should not be employed by somebody applying for a job and given the job as an unskilled person. Prison officers need to be trained just as a police recruit has to be trained in police work.

It is unfortunate that after police do their good work — and I believe they have a new image now, they are doing a very good job — and arrest these criminals, that then, because of lack of the knowledge of proper security and how to care for prisoners, some of these prisoners manage to make good their escape. I hope that in time, we would see the prison officers being trained at the Training Centre and, maybe, the Defence Force.

We tend to scare off the Defence Force and wonder why we have it and things like that. We did not wonder that when the prisoners were out. They did a very good job then and I believe they would continue to do that.

I have no quarrel with the Youth Service being part of the Defence Force. They are disciplined. I believe they are there to defend us, if and when trouble should arise in this island, and you cannot wait to prepare after something happens. I believe that we take our protection in our homes and, therefore, the country should have its protection also.

Last but not least, confidentiality. I am sorry that the two members of the Opposition are not in here. I am glad to hear Senator Hall say that he does not like reading other people's letters. I was appalled to see the gusto with which people take to producing letters written to other people.

The letter was read, and I must say that I am in total agreement with what was written in the letter, but I believe that there is a lack of confidentiality in people in our society, both in the public service and the private

service, and people have to learn that there is such a thing as loyalty to your job and to your country. Too often, sometimes I believe at the highest level, we see what we call leaks to the Press and I believe that if people are supposed to be trustworthy, then they should set about proving that they can be trusted and not, as I would term it, try to leak things to the Press, or to their friends or whatever have you.

Sir, those are the three areas in which I wanted to make a contribution.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Clarke.

SENATOR Miss J. CLARKE: Mr. President, any debate on consideration of the Estimates have to be taken against the background of the economic times in which we find ourselves. I think that is true in Barbados, as it is true in most countries of the world. The fact that we are but a dot in the ocean does not, in any way signify that we can expect to evade the issues which affect the world as a whole.

We are living in trying times, and there is no evidence on the horizon that we can anticipate a speedy recovery to the world economy. There has been talk here and elsewhere of hardships and it has been suggested that the standard of living has deteriorated. I do not support this view, because I do not believe that we have really felt hardship in the way that it is possible for us to do so.

Certainly things are harder than they were a few years ago, but I think that we would be a very pitiable sort of people if we were not able to stand the strain. Regrettably, what we are seeing around and about us is a situation where people have become soft and they are therefore not facing situations as they should.

I am not old enough to have experienced the deep recession of the Thirties, but from what I am told, it was far worse than what we have experienced. In fact, it is certain that this particular economic crisis, which has been sweeping the world, is the worst in the last fifty years, and, it may get worse, but I certainly hope it will get better.

What concerns me is that we have to be able to face it. We have to be able to deal with it. We have to be able to understand that we are going to have to feel the pinch. We are going to have to tighten our belts some more, and, this is evidenced in the Estimates which are before us.

I do not think that any of us in this Honourable Chamber, Mr. President, would envy the civil servants,

who have been responsible for putting together these figures, their task. I think that we have to recognise that they have been working against a situation of restraint and constraint, and we have to give them adequate support. But having said that, let me say that I would have liked to have seen the Memorandum to the Estimates expanded so as to provide more background information which would have been helpful to us as we prepared for the debate.

Let me also say that I am concerned, because although I recognise the fact that we have to share the economic cake, such as it exists, as best we can, I think that we need to be very careful that we do not keep on the track that we have been working on for years. By that, I am not suggesting that we should go overboard or go off the rails; what I am saying is that we may need to take new initiatives. We may need to use this period of adversity towards redirecting some of our focus.

When I look at the Estimates and I see that payroll costs in the Government are running at as high as 40 per cent, I am concerned. I recognise that it is inevitable for the Government to have high payroll costs, but I think that we have got to be able to improve our efficiency. We have got to become more cost effective. We have got to be able to redirect our funds more profitably.

In the private sector, it is recognised that payroll costs, like rents, are heavy factors of the operating costs of any business. But such items of expenditure must nevertheless bear some reasonable relationship to other overhead costs. In the Government Service, we have to try, wherever possible to improve the situation. We have to bridge the gap and try to become more cost conscious and more cost effective.
5.10 p.m.

When I look at the payroll costs indicated for the various Heads, I find that there are only five departments which fall under 30 per cent, and the others range between 40 and 96 per cent. The average works out at about 40.8 per cent for 1982-83 and 42.7 per cent for 1983-84. I know that it is not immediately possible to change this or to turn it around, but I think it is something which we have got to watch.

I think, too, that we have got to give some attention to our priority when it comes to the allocation of scarce funds. We have been talking about diversification of agriculture, Mr. President, for at least 20 years, and we are still talking. We are still trying, but we do not seem to be making the kind of progress which should have been evident by now. When we look at the ten year figures and we extract expenditure under certain Heads, we can see a progression through the years based on the fact that there has been more revenue available, but I am not so sure that the proportion is being allocated in

the best national interest. I say this against the background that I feel that we must focus our attention on the productive sectors. These, after all, are the sectors which generate the revenue on which the whole economy runs.

When I see that in 1972-73 Agriculture was allocated \$3.4 million as against Education with \$24.1 million; Trade, \$1.1 million; Tourism, \$1.5 million; and Defence and Security, \$.190 of a million, out of a total Current Expenditure of \$104.7 million, I say that way back then we should have been looking at our priorities, at our focus, in order to see how best we could share the cake among the various sectors of the economy.

It is true that ten years later, in 1982-83, the Estimates for Current Expenditure show that Agriculture has moved from \$3.4 million to \$14.2 million, but bearing in mind the importance of agriculture to our economy, I question whether we can continue with this trend. I think we have to do much more than we are presently doing.

If then we look at the Ministry of Trade, Mr. President, this again is of vital interest to the economic life of this country, and from \$1.1 million in 1972-73 we are showing \$4.4 million in 1982-83 and now \$4.8 million. I do not think that this is enough if we are to really get industry moving.

There was criticism yesterday of the role being played by the IDC, and I believe there may also have been a touch on the Export Promotion Corporation. These agencies are trying their best with limited resources, and if they are going to make any significant impact they are going to need a greater portion of the available revenue.

We touched on the CARICOM situation, we touched on the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility, and I do not propose to touch on those at any length. What I would like to say is that where industry and trade are concerned, we have got to do something to break the CARICOM syndrome, because part of the problem with CARICOM is that all the member countries of CARICOM have been gearing themselves to trade within CARICOM, without recognising the limitations of such an approach.

It has been obvious for some time now that we have got to seriously attempt to break out of that syndrome and seek to improve our industry to the point where we will be concentrating on development of international trade. This is not going to be easy, and it is going to be costly to begin with, and therefore I say that we must seriously look at the implications. We must recognise that it is pointless flogging the CARICOM situation, because there are definite limitations. We have got to make it possible for the agencies responsible for trade

and industry to be able to do the sorts of innovative things which need to be done in order to get industry strengthened.

Tourism has been aired at length. I do not propose to speak for very long on this, but since tourism is also a vital sector on which our economy rests, I feel I must touch on it. Like many people, I feel that the rates in tourism have been high and that they need to be corrected, but I also have to recognise that this is not going to be achieved very easily. It is not simply a question of slashing hotel rates.

There has been talk of the business of crime and the impact that this has had on the industry. There has been recognition, I believe, that air fares are also a consideration. Obviously the economic climate from which our visitors arrive is also significant. People are no longer in a position where they will travel on an impulse. They have to think carefully about how they are going to spend their money, because the economic scene at home is not easy.

We cannot therefore make simple comparisons between one tourist destination and another. We cannot simply look at the Bahamas and say, "The Bahamas are getting their share, why aren't we?" We have to consider the fact that the air fare between North America and the Bahamas is quite different from that between Barbados and North America. So while we would like to see hotel rates come down, and while we must agitate for this, we have to recognise that there is no simple solution to the problem.

Certainly we must change our approaches, we must improve our methods of marketing Barbados, we must work on the attitudes of Barbadians at home and abroad so that they become true ambassadors for our country.

When it comes to that, we get back to the point of greed. A lot of the problems with regard to tourism stem from the fact that we saw the tourists as having endless funds, and therefore we found everybody with an eye to making a dollar trying to see how best they could exploit the tourists. I have no quarrel with exploitation of a resource, except that it must be done with reason, and so we must not be so greedy as to end up by killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

Tourism is vital, Mr. President, and we have to do whatever we can, individually and collectively, at the level of the citizen, at the level of the civil servant, at the level of the hotelier, at the level of the worker in the industry, at the level of the Government, to restore it to a healthy position.

Now perhaps the fact that we enjoyed very good growth in past years led us to a position of complacency

where we did not do our homework properly and therefore did not recognise the signs which were there, and so today we are feeling the consequences. I do not think we should see it as being hopeless, but we have to seriously work towards rectifying the situation, because if we do not, we are going to suffer even more, and then there will be really cause for people to speak of hardships. 5.20 p.m.

One of the problems with the tourist industry, which obviously, relates to prices, Mr. President, is the fact that we concentrate on a winter season, and because we do not have year-round tourism which fills the hotels, the rates necessarily have to be higher than would be the case if they could rely on a year-round tourist traffic.

Now, maybe we need to concentrate our attention on trying to shift from the winter season approach and try to spread the industry more evenly across the year, but the truth of the matter is that the bulk of our tourists come from countries where they want to get away from the cold climates. However this is not to say that the industry may not be able to find a device by which we can effectively create a spread across the year.

Now, Mr. President, there was also some comment yesterday as regards housing. I would just like to make a very small input on housing because I believe that while it is true that Barbadians have down through the ages all sought to provide their own homes, we are now finding ourselves in situations where too many people are relying on Government to provide housing.

There is a limit to what Government can do and therefore I think we have got to take another look at our approach to housing with a view towards encouraging self-help, and with a view towards devising new schemes whereby Government can make money available to people who wish to improve their homes or who wish to acquire homes. We all know that the costs of construction are very high today and this is therefore a limiting factor, but I believe that where the finance can be made available, the age-old interest of Barbadians in owning their own roofs over their heads will prevail.

One of my concerns with the present situation, Mr. President, is that I do not believe that Government housing should be for the benefit of middle-income earners. I believe that Government housing should be for the benefit of low income earners, but what I fear, Mr. President, is that there is an increasing number of middle-income earners, or lower to middle, who are making use of the facilities, which then makes it difficult for people who have greater need to be able to benefit. I think that there is need for some consideration to be given to this.

When we talk about attitudes in the tourist industry or industry generally, or the community at large, I wholeheartedly support the points made by Senator Lynch. It

is a concern of mine that very often people who have an opportunity to speak in public make bad use of the time and set out to mislead the people.

It is all good and well when you can read between the lines and discard nonsense, but when you are not in a position to do this, you take it as said — and in the process, hatred and envy are developed. I believe that a lot of the crime against the person, a lot of the animosity which is evident in this society, comes from statements and public utterances from people who should know better and from people who, when all is said and done, will not be out there working in voluntary organizations seeking to make an impact by way of correction, by way of trying to retrain, or by trying to bring people back on to an even keel where they can understand that respect for law and order is important, as is respect for other people's property.

I would like to think that as reasonable citizens in this country, and as members in this Chamber, we can all individually and collectively make it our business to try, wherever possible, to avoid public utterances which only do harm to the country in the long run.

Now, we speak very glibly, Mr. President, about our level of education, our standard of education, and we boast about this. But I think that the time has come when we have to take another look. When I compare the figures for Education, Current Expenditure, Mr. President, between 1972–73 and the present time, I find that out of \$104.7 million of the total Current Expenditure in 1972–73, \$24.1 million went to Education. In 1975–76, Education received \$42.2 million out of a total of \$184.4 million. In 1978–79, it received \$59.9 million out of a total of \$286.1 million. In 1981–82, it received \$97.2 million out of a total of \$473.4 million. In 1982–83, it received \$99.3 million out of a total of \$501.4 million and in this year's Estimates we are providing \$108 million out of a total of \$514.9 million.

Despite this incremental level of expenditure, Mr. President, I am not satisfied that we are getting a reasonable return on that investment and I believe that this is largely due to the fact that we have provided too much, and so the value is not appreciated by parents or students the way it should be. I believe that we have to look very seriously at finding a mechanism by which we can maintain a reasonable level of expenditure for Education while tightening up on the system and while emphasizing a need for involvement by parents.

I believe that we may have to come to the point of requiring an input from parents, because I do not see that we can continue a system whereby such a large part of the national budget is going into education. This is not to say that I would deny the importance of education; not by any means, Mr. President. What I am saying

is that when we look at our present economic situation, when we compare the fact that the allocation to the Ministry of Trade is \$4.8 million, the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture in these Estimates is \$14.3 million, and we have to be concerned about the state of the economy, then we are going to have to take another look at how we allocate the funds which are available. It is not going to be easy. It is something which is going to be painful but I think we have to do it in the interest of the national well-being.

There has been mention, Mr. President, about foreign affairs, and we had quite an education earlier on on this aspect. What I would like to say, Mr. President, and this bears relation again to the point I am making that we must focus on the productive sectors of the economy, is that I think it is very necessary that we must seriously look to our foreign representation and consolidate it so as to maximize the money which is being spent.

5.30 p.m.

I feel that when we think of foreign affairs, we must do more than focus on the social aspects of Barbadians living abroad. We must focus on trade and tourism as part of foreign affairs. I think that it is impossible for us to continue to try to do separate things. I know that efforts have been made to bring agencies at work abroad together, but I think that probably something more needs to be done.

• Finally, Mr. President, before I sit, I would like to make a small input on the matter of defence and security. Now I have no serious quarrel with the National Youth Service being handled by Defence and Security, because I see this as one means of bringing a sense of discipline to our young people while at the same time channelling them into various activities, which will be more profitable in the long run than leaving them to sit on street corners to smoke marijuana or do anything else that they may be inclined to do.

I feel that the discipline attached to the Defence Force coupled with the experience of the Chief Welfare Officer will mean that the voluntary youth service will be adequately taken care of, and will be in the long run of benefit to the community. Like Senator Lynch, I believe that the youth service is a new programme and, like all new programmes, it must be given time. It may have teething problems to begin with, but these will be worked out with the passage of time.

Now when some people speak on Defence and Security, Mr. President, the impression is given that the Government is spending large sums on defence and security which could be better spent in other areas. My review of the Estimates does not reveal any such situation. In fact, I find that, in reviewing the current

expenditure set out on page 13 of the Estimates, in 1982-83 the percentage allocation to Defence and Security was 2.671 while in 1983-84 it is 3.13 per cent. Now that is negligible, Mr. President. When I turn then and look at the allocation for Police, I find that the 1982-83 Estimates carried a percentage allocation of 3.71 while the 1983-84 Estimates carry an allocation of 4.19 per cent.

I link these simply to show that there are aspects of the work which are related, which are similar, and therefore the cost to the Defence Force is not by any means excessive. Furthermore Mr. President, when it is recognised that defence and security includes security guards at Government offices, and includes the Immigration Department, it is surely obvious that, in terms of actual allocation to the military *per se*, it is not substantial.

While I can appreciate the fears that people have that a Defence Force can get out of hand, I would like to trust in good old Bajan commonsense and hope that if we can stem the tide which seems to have been heading downhill where attitudes and behaviour are concerned. If we can bring people back to a position of pride in country and pride in self, and if we can influence those people who make misguided statements and therefore lead astray others and create the scene whereby bad practices can be developed, then, Mr. President, I think we would be working in the right direction, and the Defence Force should not be an agency to be feared.

I started, Mr. President, by saying that the Estimates have to be taken against a background of the economic times in which we are existing. I also acknowledge the fact that the civil servants must have had quite a task putting figures together and we must compliment them for this, but I must also point to the fact that because of the economic climate we can see drops in Government revenue which we have to watch with some concern and care. We have seen where figures have been juggled in order to offset shortfalls, but we have to be very careful that we do not do anything which will upset the apple cart. As I said, we must recognise that the productive sectors of the economy generate the fuel on which the economy runs and these must be of very prime concern.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR StC. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, this is the second time that I have had the privilege to take part in the debate on Estimates in this Honourable Chamber and, of course, the first time that I have been afforded the honour to reply on behalf of two Ministries.

I intend that my reply will be a sober one based on the international economic reality of the world today. I

have warned, Mr. President, on a number of occasions that Barbados cannot exist in a vacuum. We are affected by the international economic recession like any other developing country in the world. It would therefore be surprising, Mr. President, that at a time when things are bad in almost every country in the world, Barbados could be expected to go on performing miracles indefinitely and not be affected by the current worldwide depression.

Mr. President, turning more specifically to the two areas to which I intend to reply, I want first of all to direct my attention to some of the criticisms that were made by the Opposition, or as Senator Simmons more succinctly put it yesterday, some of the swipes which Senator Greaves took at the Government. I want to go right into it and deal with the first criticism, and that was levelled at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

Senator Greaves started out with unemployment. Sir, notwithstanding the current rise in unemployment throughout the world, the level of unemployment in Barbados today is no worse than it was prior to the election in 1976. In fact, it is nowhere near there, because in 1976 before the election, unemployment in this country stood at some 22 per cent.
5.40 p.m.

But what is so strange about Barbados today, given the current international situation? Is it not a fact, Mr. President, that from the second half of 1980, until the present day, unemployment has risen, perhaps with one or two exceptions, in every developed and developing country in the world? Barbados is no exception.

I would sort of scuddle across one or two examples that I would like to give here, Mr. President, because of the necessary overlapping which would occur with my very able friend, Senator Griffith, who is dealing with Finance and Planning in his reply.

But I must say, seeing that criticism was levelled at unemployment in this Ministry, that such criticism as to any increase in unemployment in Barbados today must take also into consideration that figures that were given to us since last year, Sir, include statistics such as, for example, 10½ million people unemployed in America. My information is that it is still continuing to rise. Statistics also show something in the region of 3½ million in England and 2 million to 2½ million in Canada. Throughout Europe, Sir, unemployment is on the increase.

No country, with its economy based on the free Market Enterprise, has been able to check, even though steady it may be, the rise in unemployment. As recently as last Friday, right here in the Caribbean, at a stroke, 400 people were laid off in a single industry. And yet

when 20 to 30 people, much as this Administration regrets, are laid off in this country, it brings a big outcry. But right here in the Caribbean today, Sir, it is nothing for 400 or 500 people to be laid off in a day. That is the economic reality in which we exist.

In the United States, experienced trade union negotiators, in an effort to save jobs for their workers, embarked on a policy of accepting a decrease in their wages, and they are foregoing certain working improvements in order to keep jobs.

In England recently, there has been a study carried out by the Manpower Services for the Confederation of British Industry, which came up — and this is an independent body, Sir, — with the idea that unless there is a marked reduction in the wage demands in that country, this would lead to an already aggravated increase in unemployment and, in the final analysis, given the current trend of economic affairs, Britain may well become the world's first de-industrialised country. These are very serious statements, Sir.

It is with such a background that these Estimates are laid before this Honourable Chamber. We cannot, as a responsible Government, lay Estimates and pretend that all is rosy in the garden, because it is not in any garden in the world, Sir; none whatsoever. Indeed, Mr. President, but for this Government's capital works programme, something which the Democratic Labour Party has criticised us for time and again, saying that we were bunching too many projects at the same time, unemployment would have been far higher in this country than it is today. That is a fact of life too.

The people who were saying that we were bunching these projects did not seem to realise that, had we ceased work in these programmes, the unemployment rate would have been even higher. But then again, Sir, the people who make these charges surely must understand this. Why they pretend the contrary would happen, I do not know.

I will leave unemployment at that point, Sir, because I am sure that my colleague, Senator Griffith, will have more to say about that in his overall coverage of the economy.

I turn to wages. On wages, Senator Greaves charged that the Public Service was continuously under pressure. In fact, he said that Government has instituted a repressive attitude in relation to the public workers. Sir, no mention was made of the fact that the largest increase ever made in the Public Service in this country was made by this Government not so long ago. No mention was made of that, Sir.

Senator Greaves did not complain, however, about any repression by Government in relation to his own

union. One suggestion is, Sir, that this may well be the result of more experience and responsible leadership in the Barbados Workers' Union. I will say no more than that. But in debates of this level, I think it is only fair to give a true picture so that the man in the street can understand what is actually taking place in this country.

Party politics is all well and good, but when the interest of the country is at stake, it is my belief that politicians should be forthright, should be truthful, and tell it as it is — and stop hiding behind party politics.

There has been legislation or threats of legislation, Mr. President, by almost every Finance Minister in the Western Hemisphere within recent years, particularly during the last year or two, in order to bring some, not all, of the trade union organisations in certain countries to their senses. So when it is said that this Government is now in the habit of legislating wages, this must also be taken against the background as to the reality of the situation, and the reality of the situation in this country is that the vast majority of the trade union leaders are members of the Democratic Labour Party and they are not going to do this Administration any favours. That is a fact of life also.

Government must govern firmly. This Government will govern fairly. This Administration is noted for that, Sir. When the time comes for this Government to take firm decisions for the good of the country as a whole, let there be no doubt that this Government will do exactly that, Sir.

I would not say very much about the criticisms made about the Statistical Department in relation to unemployment and so forth in this country, because Senator Greaves has been doing this for some time now. Suffice it to say, Sir, that it is that same department and the same personnel that was set up by the Democratic Labour Party, and the methodology, the system used, is the same. It was all well and good when it was set up under the Democratic Labour Party. But now, all of a sudden it is bad. I cannot understand that, but I am sure that the Democratic Labour Party can understand the logic in that type of reasoning.

5.50 p.m.

The last charge which has been levelled here is that the industrial relations policies have been demoralising to the workers of this country. You know, Sir, when one is sufficiently brilliant and equally articulate, one can look at words almost like figures, and juggle them and come up with all sorts of weird meanings. This same Government that is so repressive to the workers has introduced an unemployment benefit scheme in this country, which came into force in July last year, where the workers of this country can now qualify for up to 40 per cent of their average income in the form of

unemployment benefit. All of this is by a repressive Government, not by the Democratic Labour Party!

It is this same Government which put a development plan into operation in 1979, and it is on-going, which implemented the now famous Skills Training Programme. There is now a National Training Board, which will shortly, I am advised, take over the administration of the Skills Training Programme and will deal with apprenticeships and training in a number of fields.

If I could be permitted, Mr. President, to give very briefly some of the statistics of the Skills Training Programme since 1980, I will just take three trades at random. Between 1980 and 1982, this programme was responsible for training 103 young people in masonry, and has managed to place 80 out of that 103 in employment. It has managed to train 107 in steel bending and has managed to place 84 in employment. It has managed to train 105 in plumbing and has managed to place 76.

Mr. President, it must be borne in mind at all times that many trainees find employment through their own effort. I cannot see, for the life of me, how an Administration like this can be said to be repressive on workers. I know the Democratic Labour Party has no record to match that.

Very briefly, Mr. President, the last thing I want to touch on in relation to the Labour Department is something that I am touching rather reluctantly, and that is to do with severance payment. I do not want to really say a lot about this because of your guidance yesterday as to Senator Greaves' proposed Resolution.

What seemed to have excited Senator Greaves are the words "Cabinet decision". These words have a special significance to lawyers, and they ought to have significance to an experienced parliamentarian like Senator Greaves, because a Cabinet decision is not law, and until any measure in Cabinet has been brought to these two Honourable Chambers and has been progressively taken through its appropriate stages, to receive the assent of the Governor-General and to be placed on the Statute Book, that measure remains a measure; it is not law.

Therefore, I do not think that Senator Greaves' deliberation on severance payment because of a Cabinet decision deserves any more reply than that. All I would say is this, the very fact that it is a Cabinet decision means that there is always a chance for further consideration. I do not know, but it is not on the Book and that is what I would say.

Mr. President, Senator Greaves did not say this, but we can say it notwithstanding this criticism. There is no

known country in the world with a more favourable severance payment scheme than here in Barbados. That is all I am going to say. It is for me to say that, he is not going to prove our case wrong, and I rest at that.

With your permission, Sir, I will turn briefly to housing because that is one of the areas for which I am responsible today, and one of the areas which also came in for some criticism. He said that Government's performance in housing was scandalous. Well, as Senator Linton said earlier, also Senators McClean and Clarke, these Estimates must really be taken against the economic background of this country today.

The National Housing Corporation was given a total of \$8.6 million for the financial year 1983-84. Now, let me hasten to add, Mr. President, that this is indeed a decrease of some \$2.4 million, but that is not the end of it. Government has embarked on a programme since 1976 to build houses that could not be matched by the Democratic Labour Party, and I would not really bore the Senate with statistics. Senator Greaves knows this.

I will go right into the matter and let the Senate know that Government has acknowledged that in housing in this country the system adopted for building houses for almost three decades worked all right in the past, but is now obsolete, and we further recognise that there is now time for a fresh start. We have therefore, in addition to our current programmes of housing still under construction, embarked on a number of measures which are more sensible, which show more insight and which show more planning, in an effort to house the people of this country. We will be soon drawing down a sum of money from USAID, a large sum, millions, to start the construction of low cost housing for low paid workers in this country. Low income earners will be able to go along, Sir, with the minimum of formality, only enough to guarantee the loan and so on and so forth, and borrow up to \$35 000 to construct a house.
6.00 p.m.

We have also, Sir, joint ventures such as, for example, between the Government and private developers, such as Ideal Homes, with a project at Wildey where they will be building two and three bedroom houses at a cost of between \$40 000 and \$50 000, including the cost of the land. These are innovations in housing in this country, Sir.

We also have, Mr. President, further protection and encouragement in house building indirectly through the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act. By this, Sir, qualified tenants on plantation tenancies may borrow money to purchase freehold land. As you know, once you own the land, you begin to think more positively. You start to build wall, even if you start from behind with a wall kitchen and toilet and so forth. With the second phase of

the USAID money, up to \$8 000 will be made available for people to carry out repairs to their existing homes. That is also very significant, Sir.

In relation to old age pensioners and persons who are earning a net wage of \$100 a week and less, the normal rate of interest would be decided by the Barbados National Bank, which is the existing agency for the loan scheme. But as regards to old age pensioners and persons earning \$100 a week and less, there is a special interest rate when making loans to such persons, and at no time would that interest rate exceed 6 per cent. All of these are significant inroads into our housing policy in this country and the Democratic Labour Party can make no claim to these policies. They are way above them, Sir.

Mr. President, in closing I can only repeat what two Senators from this side have already said. All the contributions made in this Honourable Chamber in relation to this debate, Sir, must be taken in relation to the present situation in this country as well as in the entire world as a whole, and if we look at it in this light, I say again that Government, and as Senator Clarke said, the civil servants, who have helped us to put these Estimates together, must indeed be commended.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Applause.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: I have been waiting quietly for two days to make my contribution to this debate. It is unfortunate that sometimes when we get some outlandish statements in this type of forum, there is not the immediacy of rebuttal. I say that because I have been straining at the bit since I heard some nonsense yesterday, which was produced, unfortunately, in one section of the Press this morning. I do not blame the Press for this, but it leads me to conclude that, although it is not a recent awakening on my part, there is a lot of hypocrisy in politics in this country, particularly in the Democratic Labour Party.

I say that because from my own experience of politics and political science, the understanding is that people who aspire to political power are usually more radical than people who are in power. That is a canon in political science. But when you have a party that was in power in this country for 15 years and lost power as recently as 1976, where some of the evil things that were done in those years are still fresh in the minds of the people of this country and where some of the spokesmen in that party can come with a straight face, not only in this Chamber but outside of the Chamber, and make statements which seem to indicate that they either did not understand what was happening all the time or that

they are still on this path of trying to mislead the people of this country, it is hypocrisy.

There are a lot of people in my party and outside of my party who keep telling me there is no point harping on the past, but I learnt a long time ago that the way of the past shows the way of the future and I will always have 1961–1976 to deal with whenever I speak of the future and whenever I speak of the present in politics in this country. I intend to keep hammering at the period, 1961–1976, until the people in the Democratic Labour Party stop being so hypocritical.

We have had an intervention in this debate from Senator McClean, and I mention Senator McClean because I want to compare Senator McClean with Senator Greaves. I hope Senator McClean does not feel insulted because of that. The reason why I want to compare them is that those two members of this Chamber – there are others, I daresay, but I just want to deal with these two – are both people who have been exposed to training in graduate school, and we find that when you are in graduate school, there is a certain kind of educational understanding that you have. By that I mean that if you are going to make criticism of any issues, you must be able to bring some kind of data to support your criticism. We have seen it in Senator McClean's presentation where, for instance, in this Estimates debate he is prepared to criticize what he sees as necessary for criticism and he is prepared to give alternative views, express his opinions and give detailed comments and so on.

Now that, to my mind, Sir, is the essence of a trained mind; somebody who has been trained to think and analyse. I am not going to say the same thing about Senator Greaves, although he went to a graduate school, I understand one of the best graduate schools in the United States of America, Rutgers University, where he did a Masters Degree in Labour Economics and something else.

I am very happy that the people at Cave Hill have a teacher like Senator McClean to teach them. I cannot say the same thing for people who come from the Labour College. When we look at the criticisms that were made in this Chamber yesterday by Senator Greaves, who is the spokesman for the union, as he said, and the chief spokesman for the Opposition in this Chamber, and when we look at the phraseology attributed to those criticisms, "negative, repressive, dangerous, harassment, catching hell, mismanagement, senseless high interest rate policy, unrealistic capital works programme, high national debt, political patronage, very bad policy," it was all designed to catch headlines – and catch headlines it did. But we were not able to enjoy any analysis of support in all the phraseology, and I dare say, Sir, that if Senator Greaves had been able to make an analysis in support of the kind

of statements he made, we would have found that he was weighed in the balance and found wanting.
6.10 p.m.

What I will do in my intervention, Sir, is just to make some comments about things that happened between 1961 and 1976, but I am not going to use any catch phrases. I am going to use specific instances. When I talk about political gimmickry, we can go back to 1961 when we had a crash programme in this country which generated headlines. People were walking about the streets digging up holes and filling them back, and we were told this was good economic policy, a policy which did not guarantee any permanent jobs, but it was good economic policy, and it was popular in this country.

We were told that if you give the people free education in this country, it would be better for them. In 1963, when the free education was introduced, at the time it was costing the Government something like \$144 000 a year, so it was a political master stroke. Everybody was able to go to school free in the secondary schools and it was a great thing for this country.

The Democratic Labour Party sowed the wind, and we have reaped the whirlwind. In 1976, when we took up this Government, we found people living in the housing areas with a backlog of \$3 000 and \$4 000 in rent at \$5.00 a week, so you can calculate how long ago they did not pay any rents, and why they did not pay any rents is because the Democratic Labour Party people told them you do not have to pay rents. It was a whole question of vulgar political patronage. People owed three or four thousand dollars on houses.

What we found was that the Democratic Labour Party, with this kind of political patronage, was encouraging the people of Barbados to be irresponsible, and it has continued to this day. That is why you find that people are not interested in taking care of the books that we have to buy for the free textbook scheme. The Government is paying for it. You do not have to worry about caring anything in this country. You build schools and you get vandalism. People do not have to work to get an honest dollar because they were encouraged from 1961 — 1976 to believe that if you joined the Democratic Labour Party, there is a passport to freedom and good living. That is why in 1976 when the Government changed hands the Democratic Labour Party supporters were so vicious, because an era was ushered in of good and sensible Government, and we had decided that all the nonsense must be brought to a standstill.

There was a great deal of difficulty. I can tell you that in 1976 there were people who were out there in the wilderness, people who were hoping that when we came in, unfortunately, because it was the climate of the day that we would have fired the Dems and hire Labourites.

Some of our supporters were saying that, and they were very disappointed when we said we could not do that. People who were in the wilderness for fifteen years said, "We want jobs, fire the Dems." Even in New York, in the Consulate, we heard Barbadians in New York who supported the Barbados Labour Party ignorantly saying, "Now we will get the jobs." That is the kind of political patronage that we were exposed to in this country.

There were people in the School Meals Programme who were saying that they were going to sabotage the School Meals Programme in 1976 after the Democratic Labour Party Government lost. That is the kind of attitude that was fostered in this country because there was this whole syndrome of a freeness, and now we can hear nonsense and hypocritical statements from people who ought to know better. I say ought to know better, but I should say that they are naive.

One heard about taxation policies. Now in the Sixties, when the global growth rate was 8 per cent, we never heard about any free tax year in Barbados. Up to 1976, people in this country working for \$25 a week were paying a Sales Tax, Consumption Tax and Income Tax.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Don't get in this because you are a babe in the woods in this. You have just joined the Democratic Labour Party, so you would not know what they were doing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Address the Chair.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: I am sorry, Mr. President. I want to lick Greaves, but he is coming to take the licks for Greaves. There are a lot of Greaves I have to put some lashes in, not only Senator Greaves, so I am practising on this one.

In 1976, imagine that, \$25 a week in this country and you had to pay a Sales Tax that the Democratic Labour Party said was bringing in \$6 million a year, in the kind of system that we have here!

In 1974, we had an inflation rate in this country of 40 per cent, when small shops were being closed by the hundreds because of the mad policies that the Democratic Labour Party brought into this country. I do not want to call any names now; I have to spare some of my friends. Shops were being closed. We had a Price Control Commission where we had a 40 per cent inflation in 1974 in this country. That had some impact on the workers and you had a workers' representative sitting in the councils of Government; not one, two!

All the sweets in the world economy went to bits from 1973 when the oil crisis struck. Just like the OPEC cartel now with its problems, the Democratic Labour Party fell apart also. The maximum leader ran off and said he was going to charge his batteries. Up to now he is still charging them, because I heard him say something since then, which I will bring to this Chamber, which tells me that he is still charging his batteries, and apparently, he is on some false charger. I do not mean false charge criminally, I am talking about a false charge as it relates to a battery charger. The battery charger apparently is not working too well.

Sir, look at what has happened since then. I do not have to apologise for the fact that the Barbados Labour Party Government gave this country good Government. I am not going to apologise for it at all. What I want to say of our Government is that we have been too lax in boasting about what we have done in this country. There is no point talking in politics about being efficient and effective and hiding it under a bushel, giving the Opposition a chance to talk nonsense. It is about time we put them in their place and tell them what they did not do.

I heard Barrow, the Leader of the Opposition — I really want to be respectful, but I have too much in my system to let go in the short period of time — Errol Barrow walks about this country saying that they did not have a high national debt when they were in power and now the national debt has gone through the window. But if you looked at the situation, you saw a low national debt, high unemployment, a laissez-faire policy where the Government of the day decided that they were not getting involved in the economic activity of the country, so therefore there was high unemployment.

When the United Nations Development Programme did a study of the unemployment in this country and came back and said it was over 28 per cent, the then Prime Minister said, "No way; it cannot be so high, it is 22 per cent." Now Senator Greaves said that we say our unemployment is 13 per cent and he does not believe the data; that every time we give out data, it is subjective. So we say, "yes, it is 13 per cent and it may be wrong. It may be higher," it may be 15 per cent. But by the same argument, when the Democratic Labour Party said it was 22 per cent, let us use the same yardstick.
6.20 p.m.

Let us say, for argument's sake, that there was subjective information that they were going to deal with. We say it was 13 per cent and the data was wrong, okay let us go to 15 per cent. I do not care about that. But when Errol Barrow admitted to the public that it was 22 per cent, I want to know how high it really was. I want to know who I must believe, an independent body like the UNDP or somebody who has something to conceal like

the Democratic Labour Party? Twenty-two per cent! Where was the union then? Where was the Barbados Workers' Union? Supporting Barrow?

We hear some apologetic statements by union spokesmen. I mean, it sickens me when a bright fellow like Robert Morris, who is supposed to be a historian — well, I guess his history stops at 1976 because when he says that the unions must side with the Democratic Labour Party because they are closer in philosophy and they have a greater interest in the workers than any other party in Barbados, I guess he was talking to the converted because he was talking to the DLP people at the Auditorium, who went there to be re-assured in their folly. That is what he went there to do.

But when you look at the facts and figures — that is what I want to deal with, the facts and figures — how can anybody honestly say that the Democratic Labour Party has a greater interest in the workers in this country than the Barbados Labour Party?

Let us face the truth. In 1980, with a world economy still in difficulty, the right honourable Prime Minister of this country removed all direct taxation from people who were working for \$90 a week or less — I understand that you can work for \$120 a week in this country now and not pay Income Tax. You do not have to pay a Sales Tax. We took away the Sales Tax as soon as we came into power, because we knew it was nonsense. We knew it was nonsense, so we took it off.

In 1980, the right honourable Prime Minister of this country removed 30 000 people from the Tax Roll by the stroke of a pen. And, you know what happened? The unions said it was a conservative Budget. That is what the unions said, that it was a conservative Budget. We put more money in the hands of the workers of this country to spend and the Barbados Workers' Union criticised the Government. This is what happens in this country!

We introduced something in this country called "tax free months." I was very glad. I want to see some more come back now, too. We never heard about them yet under the Democratic Labour Party Administration. Yet still, you would hear from the union and Evelyn Greaves what a tactless Government this is.

(SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Senator Greaves.)

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: I am talking about Evelyn Greaves who works with the union. Allright. Well, Senator Greaves then. I am sorry, Mr. President. Oh, the Senator is sick with the flu now?

(SENATOR W. W. HALL: I am going to call him for you.)

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: I want him in here.

I am not going to try to defend the Government about a high national debt. Suffice it to say that with a high national debt, since 1976, we have created over 20 000 jobs in this country. We did not borrow money to pay current expenses. We borrowed money to generate capital projects in this country, which brought more jobs to people in this country. That is important. How can the union or anybody say that we are anti-labour when all of our policies are directed towards increasing the labour force in this country?

And I am not talking about gimmickry, about crash programme jobs where you dig up mud and then plant it back the same place for three months.

(SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Work under an umbrella and a pair of shorts.)

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: I am not talking about that, I am talking about permanent jobs, good economic planning.

You see, what happened in 1961 is that people like Errol Barrow got up and used a few phrases about the economy, inflation and gross national product and said he went to the London School of Economics and people were impressed. Everybody started beating their breasts and saying, "We have an economist now to save us."

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SENATOR C. A. GRIFFITH: Yes, in 1960. In 1960, when we were in power, the work force was 91 000. When we came back to rescue the people of this country, we found that the work force was 78 000. That was a loss of 13 000 jobs, when the world economy was going at a rate of 8 per cent per year. Thirteen thousand jobs lost between 1960 and 1976!

Yet still, we are anti-worker. For all that we have done in this country, we are anti-worker, we are for the white man. What have they not said about us? We are for political patronage.

In 1978, in the by-election in St. Michael South Central, they said it is political patronage. Cameron Tudor got up at a meeting in Britton's Hill and told the crowd, "I am sorry for you BLP people because we Dems still got the jobs even though the BLP is in power." That was Cameron Tudor, and we hear how we were victimising people. Our own supporters were trying to get us to say, "Look, we want jobs." We had to adopt an even-handed policy. We could not use a criterion

of because you are a BLP yardfowl or supporter, you must have a job first. We could not use that. We had to use an even handed policy.

Let me hear about the cement plant.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: You have to go to St. Lucy.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Yes, yes, I have to go to St. Lucy, because the St. Lucy ex-representative has just walked in.

We have heard about the cement plant for some time now. People accuse the Democratic Labour Party of not having any ideas; they cannot conceptualise. I am not saying that at all. What I am saying is that the Democratic Labour Party has ideas, but they cannot implement them. We talk about a cement plant, the Democratic Labour Party talked about a cement plant, but the difference between the two is this. We talked about a cement plant in 1979 with the Trinidadians as a part of a Memorandum of Understanding. In January 1984, we will be having the first batches of cement coming off that plant in St. Lucy.

(SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I bet you it does not happen.)

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: In 1984, January, we will have the first batches of cement coming off.

(SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Remember that date.)

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Not only that, Sir, but it is another project which will have multiple benefits to this country. We are going to have 250 permanent jobs. We are going to cut down on the need to import cement. When we have problems with the availability of cement, it leads to increased cost in construction by the delays in this country. That problem will be solved. We will have enough cement not only to satisfy the demand in this country, but the demand in Trinidad.

What we did was to look for markets first, see what the market will bear and then decide to get a plant constructed to satisfy that situation. That is what you call intelligent planning. Cement which comes from that plant will be used in the massive road building programme which we have been involved in in this country, and which will continue even after 1986, or whenever the next election is.

But look at the Democratic Labour Party. They conceived a cement plant to be built in Guyana and they bought a boat first, a boat that was built to carry arms.

When the then Prime Minister was asked, "Why did you go and buy a boat?" he said, "Dr Bull is an eminent scientist." That is how the then Prime Minister answered the question, "Dr. Bull is an eminent scientist."

Let me tell you who Dr. Bull is, if you all do not know who Dr. Bull is. Dr. Bull is a man who spent some time in jail in North America; a man who used to entertain the then Prime Minister of Barbados in his house in the Laurentian Mountain; the man who was the Director of Space Research Corporation, which was moved out of Barbados to Antigua. That corporation is the same corporation that was making shells to send to South Africa to kill black people.
6.30 p.m.

That is the same Dr. Bull that Barrow was praising, who was a personal friend of the former Prime Minister of this country. Let the former Prime Minister of this country deny that. He and Carlton Brathwaite used to spend vacation in the man's house in the Laurentian Mountains in Canada. I can say that with authority.

Let us get back to some of the garbage. I have a plan for the garbage, so you will not have much problem with that very soon. There is some more garbage, because when I can hear, for instance,.....

Asides

Mr. PRESIDENT: Other Honourable members must remember that the Standing Orders do not allow for interruptions.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, let him interrupt. He cannot stop the truth. This is one of the statements we heard, the IDC is not performing for the massive sum of money it gets from the Government. This is another of Senator Greaves' statements. The Democratic Labour Party did a very good job in bringing foreign industry to this country. I will never deny that, I must praise them for that. They had their IDC office in New York, they supported it and brought plants to this country to give jobs to Barbadians. I would never deny that, but we understand now that IDC is not performing.

We had a study done by some of the experts, and the experts say that we should go into the high technical industries, which makes sense, because when we analyse the job situation in this country, we have to understand that the workers in Barbados are highly paid, and there is low productivity. If you compare this with South Korea, all the Asian countries, in Taiwan and those countries it is high productivity and low wages; people want to work 16 hours a day for ten cents. I am not saying that people in Barbados must work for those kinds of wages, but the reality of the situation is

that if you cannot compete with them in terms of the prices of products, forget it. All the American firms are going to South East Asia because they are getting their product at the low input of labour cost.

Do not think that any American or British, or German investor or industrialist is coming to Barbados because he likes Barbados. He is looking for a climate where he can get his goods produced at a reasonable cost and where he is free to repatriate his capital whenever he so desires.

We commissioned the study because we want to be able to bring jobs which will take advantage of the quality of education in this country, even though we know it is dropping because of indiscipline in schools, indiscipline by some of the people who teach and this whole freeness syndrome. Even although we know that, we know that, inherently, Barbadians are intelligent people, they are easily trained to do the work that is necessary in a high technology area. So, therefore, we are prepared to take the steps to solve the problem, because we know what the problem is, and we get criticised for it by a man who is a labour representative, a man who is supposed to be a representative of the workers.

I have a certain consolation. The consolation I have is that when we get these outlandish statements which generate headlines, they do not have any impact on the people, because we know it from our experience in St. Lucy. Those same statements were carried to St. Lucy and the people from St. Lucy pushed them back into the Senate.

Let me touch on transport. We hear attacks on the Transport Levy, we hear it is anti-worker. Everything is anti-worker in this country; everything! The Transport Levy has generated, I think, \$11 million, but what have we done with that Transport Levy? We are going to construct a new bridge at Bridge Road, we are going to build a new bridge to replace the Chamberlain Bridge, everybody is going to benefit. Highway improvement at Halls Road, Transport Levy funds. So far in Bridgetown, alone, if you want to be honest with yourself, go around and read the signs, "Your Transport Levy at Work" — we have spent \$700 000 out of the levy surfacing the roads in Bridgetown. This is a levy that is supposed to be anti-worker, anti-people, because that is what we hear every year.

We have been able to buy something like 80 buses, because when we looked at the situation, we recognised that one of the biggest cost factors within the Transport Board was the whole question of maintenance. When we came into Government, the taxpayers were subsidising the Transport Board to the tune of \$17 million a year. We analysed it and said we would have to stop it

somehow. This year, I think the Estimates call for something like only \$10 million, and we get criticised for that, too. Trying to save the taxpayers money, not our money — it is not Tom Adams' money, it is not Nigel Barrow's money, O'Brien Trotman's money or Lionel Craig's money, it is the taxpayers' money — we got criticised for that!

We have not put the Transport Levy money in somebody's pocket; whatever cash we have in reserve has been invested. There is no idle cash lying around. Four million dollars is in fixed deposits, so it is not lying around. This is sensible financial management.

I do not know anybody in this country who does not drive or walk on the roads in the City of Bridgetown, or even go on the Spring Garden Highway, because \$2.9 million of the Transport Levy fund will go to complete the Spring Garden Highway. That is not the end of highways, the St. Barnabas Highway will be finished soon, and then before 1986 we will have the University to Warrens Highway. That will pass through St. Michael North, I just want Philip Greaves to know that. Then we are hoping — but we know we are going to start by 1986 — to carry the road from Wildey straight to the airport — an express road. I have all the plans here, I will pass them around and let you get a look. I should not be bringing secrets out of school, but we can let the people know what is going on in this country.

That is the kind of work we are going to do in this country, and we will use Transport Levy funds. We are going to use capital funds to do it because it is a capital project, and it is going to generate jobs for the people in Barbados.

We cannot accept criticisms of the Central Bank. The Democratic Labour Party has criticised the construction of the new Central Bank building, a building that is going to generate 400 jobs — and a union representative criticised it. Whose side is the union on?
6.40 p.m.

You know, Mr. President, they say that I get angry and I quarrel and so on, but I have a certain passion for this country, and we keep worrying about why the people in this country, particularly the young people, are so cynical about politicians. They say politicians are dishonest people, they do not mean what they say, and sometimes when I hear politicians speaking, I sometimes regretfully have to agree with them. Because when you hear an ex-politician like Senator Greaves, an active union leader, get up and make the kind of statement which appeared in the *Advocate* newspaper this morning, a statement without substance, people become very concerned that here it is you are having this kind of attack on the Government.

They are wondering what is happening. It is our fault that they are wondering. I will admit that. We have a public relations problem. I am saying it publicly and I have said it and I will say it until we improve our image. People like Senator Greaves will always get away with that murder until we correct that problem.

I remember that in 1976, the former Prime Minister legislated salaries after his Budget. We hear how the Barbados Labour Party legislated salaries. As a matter of fact, the spokesman said that we had legislated more salaries than anybody else in the Caribbean, and that was to cover the fact that the Democratic Labour Party legislated salaries in June 1976 and 1972, when the NUPW was wrongly abused by the then Prime Minister. And we did not hear a thing from the unions about legislating of salaries!

As a matter of fact, in 1976, when the workers at the Post Office were protesting about the legislating of the salaries, the union chastized them, and in 1980, when we said we were legislating the salaries to give them 38 per cent, the union encouraged them to go slow, take the money and work to rule. But we have to come in here and sit down and hear about reckless management and all kinds of nonsense that you have to deal with.

Mr. President I just want to quote here, because I feel I should sit down now. I will keep the rest. I am not even going to talk about energy at all today. I will deal with that eventually, because I understand that the Leader of the Opposition is now going to petition the U.S. Congress — that came out in some news statement today — to investigate the Mobil people from whom we bought the oilfield.

I know that the Leader of the Opposition hallucinates sometimes, and if he seriously believes — but I do not think he believes that — that the people in Barbados believe he still has that power that he can petition the Congress in the United States to investigate Mobil, he is fooling himself. That is the kind of statement we get from a man Well, I believe he must have said he was an Alderman too.

Mr. President, this has some bearing on you, too, because I believe if your memory serves you well, you should remember this. In 1972, March 17, Hansard, page 4467, Debates of the Estimates, the Rt. Hon. E.W. Barrow, said this:

"I have never been to a CPA Conference in my life. I do not intend going to a CPA Conference as long as I live, not knowingly anyhow. I do not believe in the CPA anymore than I believe in the CIA."

Well, Mr. President, I know in 1981, in October, in Fiji you headed a delegation of a CPA group. I want to deal with this here now, because I have the report of the CPA meeting here and

Mr. PRESIDENT: I want to hear what he said.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: This is a report of the first speech made by the Rt. Hon. Errol Barrow, Q.C., M.P., Leader of the Opposition of Barbados. This is the same person who was at a CPA Conference. He said he would not go to one as long as he lived, not knowingly, and I believe he was transported here, not knowingly, because here is what he said.

"Now I have a confession to make, Madame Chairman. I do not know what part of the world I belong to." This is not knowingly. "I know where I was born. As I told you a few days ago, I was born in the middle of a cane field."

That is the speech made by the Rt. Hon. Errol Barrow in October 1981 after saying in 1972 that he did not intend to go to a CPA conference as long as he lived. That is the kind of leadership that this country has been exposed to for 15 years.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, there is a lot more I could say. You were exposed to all of that nonsense in Fiji, but I do not want to give out anymore. I have a lot more to dish out when I have a Press conference to deal with the nonsense I heard today. We have a Government that takes a decision, and a sovereign Government to deal with what the people elected us to deal with and then we can hear the Leader of the Opposition saying that he is going to order Congress to investigate an American company. What nonsense are we hearing. Must the people constantly be fed with this!

Before I sit down, I just want to give you another anecdote. In 1974, we had the Public Order Act introduced in this country, ostensibly to control public speaking, to stop the criticisms of the then Government, to stop the Eric Sealy's of this world from speaking. The Democratic Labour Party boasted — the Leader of the Democratic Labour Party boasted from 1971–1976.....

Asides

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: He said he did not keep any meetings for five years because he did not want to foul up the night air, and he did not want to keep the people awake at night, and to back it up, he introduced the Public Order Act.

Now we hear only this year, only last month at whatever they had at the Auditorium, that he says that

there must be need for people to go to the public platforms and state their case. But is it not ironical, Mr. President, that if you go on the public platform to state your case, you will always be reminded that in 1974 you were told that you cannot keep a meeting after 11 o'clock? You will always be reminded of the follies of the Leader of the Democratic Labour Party.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. President, I just want to make a short reply to a couple of points raised by the Senators in the corner.

First of all, Senator Hall — I will deal with him first. He spoke today, batting at No. 8 as he used to bat in another place, batting late in the order still batting low in the order and not of high quality — and he talked about the Defence Force and the National Training Scheme which we are proposing.

He tried to make out a case, on the one hand, that the Government had some point because he was associated with youth training in Trinidad and he knows the value of youth training. Then he tried to make the point that it should not be connected to the Defence Force, taking a side swipe at the Defence Force in the meantime, as well as trying to suggest that one Harry....I do not know who is Harry. The last Harry I know used to be a friend and colleague of Senator Greaves in the CCL.
6.50 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let us have a little order, please.

SENATOR THE HON. O'BRIEN TROTMAN: The only Harry I know from Guyana is the one who is Senator Greaves' colleague in the CCL, but he talked about one Harry in the National Training Service. Now I have had this checked. Nobody in the Ministry of Defence and Security, nobody in the Defence Force, nobody in the National Youth Training Scheme knows anything about anybody called Harry.

But you see, he wants to talk about Senator Greaves and the sort of people Senator Greaves has in the CCL, and he was not too sure because you have got to understand this, Mr. President, that he is an employer's representative and he has to get at his friend Senator Greaves through the Senate. He cannot confront him over the bargaining table, so he comes through the Senate and throws these kinds of side blows at Senator Greaves' colleague Harry, and Senator Greaves knows a lot of Harry's business, who Harry is, and what Harry did not do and what Harry did.

I was not on the administrative committee as far as I know, but he wants to talk about Harry, that is the

whole point, and instead of talking straight about Harry, he is going to talk about the National Training Scheme and all kinds of foolishness.

I want to say something quickly about the Defence Force. We are spending \$16 million on the Defence Force. It represents just under 3 per cent of our expenditure, and it is unfortunate, Mr. President, that the Defence Force is becoming a football by some ill-advised politicians in Barbados. It seems to me, quite clearly, that the moment you kick about the Defence Force, the further you push the Defence Force from the people of Barbados, the more likelihood of the Defence Force acting against the people of Barbados, and the Democratic Labour Party is constantly seeking to isolate the Defence Force from the people of Barbados. I do not want to be here when and if the Defence Force becomes separated from the population because of their stupidity.

The Defence Force has been established for the specific purpose of patrolling our coast, for the specific purpose of protecting Barbados from likely invasion, and we are proud of the Defence Force, even though it is a small force as it is now. The same young men whom they are going to write off are the ones who are going to teach the young people of Barbados how to be disciplined and how to acquire skills in St. Lucy, but the Democratic Labour Party is seeking constantly to isolate the Defence Force from the people of Barbados, and I hope, for the good of all of us, that they do not succeed in their folly.

Now to deal quickly with the other colleague, the workers' representative now. We heard a lot about the harassment of small people and we heard about legislating of salaries. We harass small people, but under the Barbados Labour Party, the small man, who they say we are persecuting, became a reality in Barbados.

The same mini buses that used to be hounded down by the Police Force under the Democratic Labour Party are properly established as small businessmen. The same mini busmen are now getting loans from the Development Bank to buy buses, and the buses look proper too, not old pickups like under the Democratic Labour Party. They have new little Leyland buses with good Acme bodies. These are the people whom they say we are persecuting; we are anti-small man, we are anti the mini buses.

We created the mini bus. We gave small people a chance to get into the transport business in this country. We made concessions to taximen, providing that if they bought diesel vehicles to replace the present fleet, they would have the taxis duty free. We helped the small taximen, but we are anti-small people.

Mr. President, the most recent anti-small man campaign, in which even the Church has got itself

dragged in, because it suits the church to get itself in things it does not always understand, is how we are gunning down the small man with his canteen, who can sell the same bread and fish or something for \$1.00. I want to know where the Democratic Labour Party was and where the church was when the Ministry of Trade, by its folly, was closing down small shops all across Barbados. All that is happening now is that the small businessman, who they put out of business in 1974 and then in 1975, is coming back to his own under the Barbados Labour Party.

The Barbados Development Bank, under our administration, in 1981-82 can report on page 16 that the number of loans approved increased from 114 to small business to 165, and the corresponding dollar values are \$3 million and \$5.1 million, an increase of 65.9 per cent. In small manufacturing, the Development Bank said that growth in this sector increased markedly by $\frac{1}{2}$ million, the increase in the number of loans approved was even more marked, moving from \$9 million to \$31 million, an increase of 244 per cent.

The point I want to make about that is that — because as Senator Griffith would say, they would say they conceived that — the Development Bank under the Dems was used to finance the folly of Bath. I do not have to go into Bath and the mal practices and all the things that went on at Bath. That was the subject of a Commission of Enquiry in Barbados. The Development Bank's money was used under the Democratic Labour Party to finance International Seafoods, a shrimp industry without shrimps. That is the kind of things they did, and the best thing that International Seafoods has done so far is to have kept two boats so that the Defence Force could buy two of the boats and turn them into patrol boats. But we do not like small people!

Senator Greaves stands up in his place and talks about industrial relations and harassment by the Barbados Labour Party Government, and he says that the Government gives the lead and the rest of the community will follow, suggesting that we are going down some anti-worker path.

Before I get into this anti-worker thing, I want to just tell him something, because we hear about the workers' representatives in Harmony Hall, there are workers' representatives in Roebuck Street, there are workers' representatives in Fairchild Street, there are workers' representatives in Dalkeith House, and whenever anything comes up, they represent the workers. I want to know, Mr. President, who do they think voted for the representatives of the Barbados Labour Party? Who do you think voted him out of St. Lucy? It is the workers of St. Lucy that voted him into the Senate, so if he wants to talk about workers' representatives, it is the Barbados Labour Party that represents the people.

You represent a little piece of the action, we represent the whole works, so I do not want to hear any foolishness from the Senator about their representing workers and we are anti-workers. Who do you think voted Senator Hall in here? The workers of West Central. They voted them in here, so they cannot be workers' representatives. The workers put Vic Johnson in the House.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: You will be back next session, too. We have different plans for you. 7.00 p.m.

I want to look at the question of public sector negotiations. I want to say, Sir, that when the Barbados Labour Party came to office in 1976, the Government was spending \$84 million in direct personal emoluments on the central Civil Service. In seven short years, that has gone to \$211 million. In other words, Sir, our wage bill has doubled and almost trebled in less than seven years. I would challenge the workers' representatives to identify one other developing country in which wages have risen so fast! But we are anti-worker.

On this whole anti-worker campaign about how we keep down the workers, I want to know Senator Hall's position. I want to know if he is in the anti-worker campaign with Senator Greaves or if he is in the anti-worker campaign with the Employers Confederation. He has to sort out that first. He has an internal struggle as to which anti-worker campaign he is from.

We hear about people being laid off in the Public Service. In 1981, there were 110 000 people working in the Public Service and that has not changed significantly in the last two years. What has changed, Sir, is the fact that several of the temporary posts which we came and found in Government, with persons working not knowing whether or not they could be sacked the next day at the discretion of the Minister of Establishments, is that since then we have brought several amending Establishments Orders to the Senate and to the Other Place to ensure that those persons were put on the permanent establishment so that their jobs could be permanent and their jobs could not be jeopardised by any ministerial discretion.

(SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Acting in Hollywood).

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: No more Hollywood.

They had them in a position, Sir, where the Minister of Establishments only had to say one morning, "Close the temporary posts." He does not send you home, he stops the temporary posts. And when the posts are stopped, then the Personnel Officer says, "Well you

know, Mr. Jones, or Mr. Smith, we would like to employ you but we have not got any more in the vote, so you have to get laid off." That is how you all used to do it. But we have established the posts and said that they cannot be sent home.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: It does not bother me, Sir. It does not bother me. The NUPW and the BWU can struggle over the nurses, I am not in that.

We have given them protection in the Public Service, but people in the Democratic Labour Party can be heard on platforms saying we are anti the workers. We give them the best salary increases they ever had; we are anti-worker. The only time in the history of the Barbados Public Service that civil servants got an increase in wages which was higher than the increase in the cost of living as shown in the Index of Retail Prices was under our Administration.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: It is not true? Well, tell me which year it was. I want to give way. Tell me which year it was, if it is not true. I was sitting in the Senate. I am challenging you to say which year you gave a better increase. And you were in the Workers' Union. Not you, Mr. President, Sir, I do not mean you at all, Sir. I mean Senator Greaves, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: These exchanges are unnecessary. Senator Greaves, stop it.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: It never happened before, Sir. All through what sixties, what?

In the last exercise they had to do with revision of salaries, they allowed the cost of living to run at 40 per cent per year. They legislated salaries in 1972. They legislated salaries again in 1976. That is where the term came from.

They gave the workers less than one third an increase *vis-a-vis* the increase in the cost of living. And then the Workers' Union representatives got on platforms and joined the Democratic Labour Party to curse the National Union of Public Workers because they quarrelled about the small increase. He is representing workers, Sir, and they were cursing the other union because they sought an increase. Well, that is the sort of behaviour you have to tolerate from the Barbados Workers' Union and the Democratic Labour Party.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Mr. President, on a point of order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What is the point of order?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I think it is a matter of record that the Barbados Workers' Union took a very strong position against the legislation of salaries in 1976, to the extent that the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union and myself, who were members of the Lower House at that time, voted against that action by the Democratic Labour Party.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: And I heard the Deputy General Secretary, Leroy Trotman, cursing the Head of the NUPW, over the same thing. I do not know how many years you have in BWU. Do you want the transcript? Do you want it too? You voted in the House one way and went to Marl Hole Gap and cursed the union.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot resolve this conflict. Go ahead.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: You do not have to resolve the conflict, Sir. The workers in St. Lucy are resolving it. The workers in St. Michael West Central are resolving it. Do not get in this, Mr. President. The conflict cannot be resolved from the Chair, Sir.

The last point I want to make, Sir, is that he made a side swipe at an item, "Loans and Advances" under which the Government proposes to provide for car loans to parliamentarians. That is supposed to be the end of the world.

The Government took a stand several years ago that the conditions of service of parliamentarians should be linked as closely as possible to those of other persons who work in the public sector. For that reason, the allowances have some relativity, and it is considered that the same way that public officers get assistance in acquiring motor cars so that they can do the Government's work, parliamentarians from both sides of the Honourable House should be able to make use of a similar facility. It is merely part of Government's programme of ensuring that there is some relativity between the Public Service and parliamentarians.

Nobody is going to buy cars with the money and give to the representative of St. Michael West Central or the representative for St. Lucy to drive around. If they want to make use of the facility, they can make use of the facility on as identical terms as are given to public officers.

There is nothing to sneer about. One gets a car loan and one repays the car loan, and that is the end of the matter. If they are going to say that you must not facilitate parliamentarians to service their constituencies then, they must say so.

The Government has given parliamentarians secretaries so that they can carry out their duties to their constituencies properly. And now, we are going one step further and saying we must even give you assistance in travelling to the constituency.

If the Democratic Labour Party wants to say that we must not go to the constituencies because they do not believe in these things, Sir, if they want to say that the parliamentarians must not be able to make contact with their constituencies, they must say so. But do not come and sneer about the loans to parliamentarians and try to give the impression that somebody is getting a house loan or mortgage or some foolishness.

The last point I want to raise quickly is the question of Ilaro Court because.... The honourable Leader wants to deal with that, Sir. I will give way.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Barrow.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, I have enjoyed the two days of debate and I am pleased to see that the new members of the Senate got off the mark in their very first appearance, and I am pleased to see that every Senator, except for Senator Ward, who unfortunately was not here, has made a contribution.
7.10 p.m.

I am further pleased, Sir, that I believe I can wrap up this reply very quickly because where there were comments made specifically about the Ministry of Information and Culture, for example comments made by Senator Simmons, I have been able in the course of yesterday and today to make what information I had available to him, and that is now out of the way. Between the Ministry and the NCC, we can resolve whatever else there is to resolve.

In relation to Senator Linton, I was pleased to be in a position to point out to him that in terms of who will not pay anything, he had the wrong party. I have made the information available to him which shows that there is a credit, but not on the side of the NCC, it is on the side of the MIC. We have settled those little matters and therefore I have only mentioned them for the record.

The other small matter which I need to settle for the record is the speech of Senator Hall. This speech was summed up in one question, as I recall, whether Government did not intend to add three seats to the present number in the Other Place. The answer to that, as far as I know, is that it is not so. Whether when the Boundaries Commission is appointed and meets it wants

to recommend, nine, ten, eleven, one or four, that is a matter of looking into the future, and I am really not able to do that with the same facility as Senator Hall.

I believe, Sir, that in that way I can settle those points which seem to me to need settling in this way. There is one other point perhaps I should settle as I move on, but indeed it lies in with others made by Senator Greaves, and I will therefore settle them as I go on down the list.

Senator McClean spent some time this morning on the CMCF, and Senator McClean drew my attention to the fact that I had overstated the case when I stated that it was not in our interest to have the CMCF wound up. The point is that I overstated the case because I happened to know at the time that there were certain matters being considered, and so as I was playing it a little too safe, I did quite clearly overstate the case.

I am now, Sir, in a position to say that last week the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility reached its limit of US\$100 million, and on Friday the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados informed the Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago that no further trade could be done through the Facility, but would have to be done by bilateral arrangements, with settlement being made in hard currency.

At the time when the Facility reached its limit, nearly US \$70 million was owed to Barbados. Guyana at the same time owed over US \$80 million. Evidently, the reason for the default is the inability of the Government of Guyana to pay its debts under the arrangement.

As far as trading relations with Barbados are concerned, the following accumulated surpluses existed on that date. Barbados had a surplus with Trinidad and Tobago of over US \$50 million, and in relation to the Eastern Caribbean, a surplus of over US \$18 million. In relation to Jamaica, there was a surplus of approximately US \$2 million. The only country which had an accumulated surplus with Barbados was Guyana, which enjoyed an accumulated surplus of about US \$6.5 million.

I am also in a position to state that since the decision to allow the Barbados dollar to float against the Jamaica dollar, trade with Jamaica has not ceased, as has been represented in some quarters. Decramastic tiles, for example, are still being traded, but what has happened is that a number of items are being traded under a system of barter, and whereas before Jamaica enjoyed quite a substantial advantage in the trade, as would happen once you are using barter, the trade has now evened out.

Sir, if you move the Jamaica trade from one of advantage to a 50-50 arrangement, evidently some things

will suffer, and if the information as at present indicated is correct, there will be those who will be sorry to see a brand of gin, known as Gordons and bottled in Jamaica, disappear from the shelves. I think we can just offer sympathy, and on behalf of such persons who might feel a little hard done by, I can only hope that that is not true.

I believe, Sir, that I will be forgiven if, in the interest of time, I do not take up at this stage any of the other points which were raised by Senator McClean, with the exception of one, and it is his reference indeed to the present problem between Government and nurses. There has only been one light side to that dispute so far, and that was provided today by a clerk in the NUPW office who demonstrated dressed in a nurse's uniform. I can assure you that the matter has no more humour than that in it, and Government recognises it as serious, and the nurses, I am sure, recognise it as serious.

The position is really that I think Senator McClean's formula here that the number of hours worked multiplied by the number of nurses will give you your equation for nursing care is, in the circumstances, a little simplistic. What has happened is that we have a four night week and we also have an overlap in one of the day shifts of some four hours. I believe that most people will agree with me that that kind of overlap is at least a little long.

I think that at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which would have more intensive nursing care requirements in general than a geriatric hospital would, you will find that the overlap is something like one hour and a half. And one has to recognize that the overlap has to relate to special circumstances. Perhaps in a psychiatric situation you may need to have a larger number of persons on at a given time in the day, whereas you will find other ordinary hospital arrangements.

7.20 p.m.

If, therefore, we look at one of the simple operations which will have to be done every day by a nurse, you ask yourself, "Will it normally take more than one person to feed somebody who is not a psychiatric patient?" And if you see the overall picture — I hope Senator Greaves is not getting the flu again, because I still want to reply to him — what happens is that by putting a number of people on duty at a given time of the day and using the four night week, you will find that in the Geriatric and Psychiatric Hospitals at night where you should find two people on duty, you often find one with the result that in order to provide some kind of supervision — I am sure in fact it has happened on more than one occasion, I do not believe that some people maintain that it is a practice, but the fact that it has happened at all means it is very serious — a nurse may well be forced to lock patients up in order to get about their other duties. When patients are locked up like that, we

all understand the danger of that situation, particularly in the event of a fire.

In other words, Mr. President, what we have to look at is that in terms of arrangements for patient care, the present situation is not tenable, and I am anticipating a return to the bargaining table very shortly. It is not for me to anticipate what kind of solution might come out of it, but I believe that both parties are going to have to sit down and talk and see where improved arrangements for patient care can be arrived at, even if there is some adjustment in what it is that Government is proposing. But there must be something done in order to improve the arrangements for patient care.

A lot is being said in this atmosphere of contention. I notice, peculiarly, that people are talking about standardizing hours. People are talking about standardizing this and standardizing that, when what is the point of focus is something I do not think any of us should look away from, and that is that proper arrangements must be in place for the care of patients — and proper arrangements are not currently in place.

I have gone out of my way particularly to mention this because I do not want to get into any dispute with any union, but I think we need to understand what is at the bottom of it. I am not commenting on the merits or demerits of any particular person's case, but what I am saying is let us recognize that that is the aim, and therefore what has to be done is that we look at as many possible ways of achieving that aim as we possibly can.

There were a couple of points made, Sir, in the course of things by Senator Greaves. They sounded so familiar that what I did was to ask for and receive a copy of last year's Estimates Debates. When I did this and Senator Greaves realized that I was following him closely, with the exception that whereas last year he said \$20 million was spent in Carifesta, this year he said \$25 million; apart from that, he decided that instead of talking about the Defence Force in that order, he would skip it and talk about Ilaro Court and then came back to the Defence Force.

I noticed one omission in his speech. He did not talk about the road in Josey Hill. If you look in last year's speech, there it was about the road in Josey Hill. I think that since time was so short, he did not get to the road in Josey Hill. I do not think we should interpret it as I thought it was at first, that he was beginning to lose interest in Josey Hill and Pie Corner, too.

But Senator Greaves made a number of statements. I heard Senator Griffith on them and therefore I do not need to go after them in the same way, but there are not substantiated statements. He does not believe in making a

point, producing evidence and therefore trying to persuade anybody.

I do not know what his technique in debate was like when he was in the Other Place, but he has certainly distinguished himself with this technique up here, which certainly involves a certain amount of shouting, a certain amount of phrases and really very, very little substance. But in all this, ever so often, we come up with something which is what I call "headline material", and I believe that that is exactly what it is intended to do.

Now, what, Sir, is the point of referring to the IDC study only to throw out a figure of 340 jobs, when the study, which I have read, is an endorsement of the promotion policies of the IDC. But Senator Greaves never said that. It is my candid opinion that he could not have said it, because somebody merely pointed to one part of the report and sent him in here with it. He did not read the report, so, as always, he could not have said what was between the covers.

I had reason to read it because I had to assist IDC in one of their promotion tours. In the report, they endorsed the fact that we have recognized the need to go after the high technology industries, and they have analysed a whole number of areas in which there should be the promotional thrust. These, in some instances, happen to be the areas which the IDC already recognized itself and embarked on, so, in a sense, the report itself is a very strong endorsement.

Now the next thing is, what is the point of talking about 340 jobs when he is looking at a particular small situation and netting out certain things? What is the point when you have a situation where you have increased from 50,000 to 100,000 the jobs provided in this country over the same given time span we are talking about? I really cannot see a loss, but I believe that one day Senator Greaves is going to get serious, and I hope it does not prove too much for the nervous system of any of us.

For example, take Intel. Intel would not be something that would appear in those statistics, but Intel would not appear in those statistics because Intel has used its own funds for its own development. The fact that it is now employing something like 980 people will not show up in that set of calculations, but that was an industry that was first brought here by the IDC, and that is what is important. As a matter of fact, the more industries that you have of that sort, if they are here, that show their commitment to staying here by using their own capital for expansion, the more successful one can say the work of the IDC is.

7.30 p.m.

The only effect of Senator Greaves' comment was, in fact, the usual kind of slur. When it is not at people, then it is at organisations, but really I am at a loss to understand how anybody who has been around for as long as the goodly Senator could still be really involving himself in that kind of school boy tactic.

The CBC. Senator Greaves attacked CBC as an agency of misinformation. Now if I stand here as Minister responsible for Broadcasting and tell you that I have a little bit of sympathy with his position, you are going to be surprised, but what do you leave me to do when I see CBC run a beauty contest between Peter Morgan and J. C. King for about five minutes one night in which they are representing the Academy of Politics as an independent institution, a non-partisan institution, organising a programme which anybody can use? If that is what Senator Greaves is talking about, well then CBC will have to take its licks.

But let us be more serious. Senator Griffith could refer to what the Leader of the Opposition said today because the Leader of the Opposition had a Press conference — you know, one of those things called from time to time to reminisce and to talk a certain amount of foolishness — and he spoke and spoke. Senator Griffith said he said he is going to petition the Congress, I believe he said he is going to order the Congress, but anyhow we are not going to worry about that. He spoke and it was on CBC, and that is how we know about it.

Now prior to 1976, no Leader of the Opposition had ever been interviewed by CBC. Press Conference, no way! Covering the party's annual conference just like you see the high and mighty Branford Taitt addressing the nation on CBC on the occasion of the Democratic Labour Party's Annual Conference, it never used to happen before, and I have always argued, because I am the person that changed all that — we were shut out and we still won the elections — that it does not make sense to shut out your opposition. They are enjoying it in a way that we have never been able to enjoy it when we were in Opposition.

Senator Greaves was on CBC last night monopolising the news, and while they had Senator Greaves monopolising the news, the fellows had me reported as moving the motion on the Appropriation Bill. They reported that I was echoing somebody. I talked first and echoed it. If that is what Senator Greaves wants to criticise, fair enough, but I do not really think that Senator Greaves should be so hard on CBC, because they had the beauty contest between J. C. King and Peter Morgan. After all, I think it was Senator Hall that referred to Peter Morgan in here this afternoon as a cross fertilization of ideas.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: On a point of order, the honourable Leader of the Senate is misquoting me, and I think he should withdraw that.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think you said that. You did not say that.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I must certainly apologise to the Senator, but you see, the very Morgan was the Minister, who, when he was Minister, CBC would sometimes start the television news read the headlines and then the phone would ring and they would be told what and what not to leave out.

Anyway, Sir, I think Senator Simmons answered Senator Greaves' folly on the business of CBC yesterday, and I do not want to mention CBC and Senator Greaves, except for one thing. I have noticed that there is a lot of talk about people in crucial positions, as Senator Greaves put it, in the news room, people who are non-Barbadians.

I have taken the trouble to ask the Corporation for the list of non-Barbadian employees. The point is that it had about seven or eight names which, except for one person who lives here — her parents live here, who came here with their parents — who has a Master's degree in Communications from Syracuse University and who is a producer, and who has had experience in radio before and who is now living in Barbados but is working on a work permit, all the other persons I notice are not persons on work permits. So according to how I understand it — maybe Senator Greaves understands it differently — they are people who have been accepted as people suitable to live and work in this country.

I am talking about somebody like, say, the Director of advertising in Radio who happened to be married to a Barbadian citizen and who only had to register if she wanted to be a Barbadian citizen — I do not know if she has so registered — but in any event has been living here for about twelve years or so. I am sure Senator Greaves would not want to deny somebody like that a job. I do not need to call names. It is just that if the Opposition comes in here and starts talking about non-Barbadians, then they should not require me to call the names. They would know whom they were talking about, I believe, if they ever knew what they were talking.

Senator Greaves is talking about News, and there is one person in News who is not Barbadian by birth. That person worked at *Rediffusion* and was never referred to as a non-Barbadian, but as soon as she joined CBC, she became a non-Barbadian. I notice that Senator Simmons called Reds Perreira's name yesterday, and he used to get cursed as a non-Barbadian voice on radio when he was

at CBC, and you hear him on Rediffusion and VOB now, but he is not non-Barbadian anymore. The hypocrisy of these people!

Senator Simmons made a point in general terms yesterday, and I am going to leave it at that. I am not going any further, because we are not stretching out this session tonight.

Senator Greaves spoke about Portuguese carpenters down at the site. Now he also came in here with a letter written to the Manager of the Board of Tourism. He also delivered his tale of woe about the plight of the people of this country, people who, mark you, enjoyed a per capita income of US \$1,600 at the end of 1975 and enjoy a per capita income of US \$4,000 today.

I was reminded all the time Senator Greaves was talking about the Tourism Board's letter of the fact that Mr. Robert Best, the Managing Editor of the *Advocate-News*, is a member of the Board of Tourism, and as a member of the Board of Tourism would not only have known of, but would have had access to and would indeed have a copy of this letter, and has never felt free to make use of it in his capacity as a journalist.

When Senator Greaves read the letter in here, we were all listening and there were some members of the Senate whose natural inclination was to jump in and attack the Board, or attack Mr. Hinds, or attack somebody else, and to attack and to attack. But have we really considered the piece of nastiness of the representative of the Barbados Workers' Union, Mr. LeVere Richards, in being a member of a Board, being in receipt of a letter which says that it may be shown by the General Manager to any member of the Board and making political use of that letter? Have we considered the nastiness of the man?
7.40 p.m.

The last time Mr. Frank Walcott was going to fire Mr. Richards, the Executive begged for him. I wonder why. A piece of nastiness, if ever there was one!

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. President. I really do not think that I could sit here and allow Senator Barrow to attack a colleague of mine without any foundation.

(SENATOR ST.C. E. HOWELL: Who gave you the letter?)

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: You. It came from you. Oh yes, it came from you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are you addressing the Chair on a point of order, Senator Greaves?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I got the letter from Senator Howell.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish members would not make spurious points just for the sake of speaking.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: It is of no effect, Sir, for Senator Greaves to defend Mr. Richards. After all, Sir, in all the confusion that is being caused down at the Cement Plant in St. Lucy.....

SENATOR ST.C. E. HOWELL: Mr. President, I really do not think that Senator Greaves seriously expects me to get up to deny it. Senator Greaves and I are no friends for me to give him any letter. I am not a member of any Board. I only knew Senator Greaves when I first came in here. I do not think that really is worthy of a reply from me. It is a nuisance.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: At least he has denied it for the Record, Sir.

Mr. President, Senator Greaves did not defend Mr. Richards, because Senator Greaves knows how much difficulty they had in the union trying to believe that the real reason for some of the unrest down there in the cement plant was Cuban infiltration. He knows how the General Secretary and Mr. Leroy Trotman tried to make people believe about Cuban infiltration. And then when they discovered it, the two people involved in the sabotage, who were sent home, are people closely associated with Mr. LeVere Richards. So they do not only have trouble with Richards down there.

I believe Senator Trotman remembers the days of the strike there in Roebuck Street. It was there, Sir, when Richards called out the people on strike and could not get them back in — and Walcott nearly fired him then, too.

I am making a point, Sir, that the Barbados Workers' Union, as a reputable and responsible body, should not put people like Richards on a Board when the man is not capable of understanding his responsibilities as a Board member, and the sense of confidentiality that you have to carry to all of the business of the Board.

Senator Greaves will get in here, sail close to the wind, run close to the edge, but he would never do that kind of contemptible thing. And in fact, had he thought that I was going to ask him to make that letter a document of the House, he might have refrained from reading it. But he is still getting over it, because his action encourages Mr. Richards in his worthlessness.

What Senator Greaves — if Mr. Richards informed him — should have said, was that the Board of Tourism

asked for an increased subvention. That letter represents a part of the insistence by the Minister of Finance that they justify the request for an increase in subvention by showing what new approaches they would have to the marketing of the tourist product. And that when under cover of a letter of March 3, 1983, the Board was finally able to justify its position, the Ministry of Finance then agreed that the Board should get the additional \$1.5 million in subvention which it was requesting for its promotion activities. That simple statement represents the entire factual framework of this letter.

But we have the prostitutes and the vagabonds of this world, who find themselves serving in capacities to which they have absolutely no calling. The Barbados Workers' Union has been in trouble with Mr. Richards before and it will be in trouble with Mr. Richards again and again, I predict. Mr. Walcott would be well advised to go back to the Executive again, and this time to make sure he comes away with a decision to let Mr. Richards go.

If I were a Minister of Tourism, Mr. Richards would not be on that Board now. I can tell you that, Sir. Not any longer. I would be amazed if at this point, even as I am standing here, he is still a member. There is absolutely no way that I think a Minister should tolerate that kind of nasty, treacherous deceit from a saboteur like Richards.

There are a couple points, Sir, which I should deal with rather more quickly. One is a statistic. I think Senator Jemmott in speaking, used a figure of about 80 per cent in terms of telephones. In Barbados, it is approximately 70 per cent in households.

Let me deal with it in terms of population density. We at present have one telephone in Barbados to every three and a half persons, and with the expansion programme currently being carried out by the Telephone Company, the saturation for which they are aiming, and which we will achieve within this five-year term, is one telephone for every two and a half persons. This is an extremely important statistic, because information technology is undoubtedly the fastest growing industry and, of course, that has a great deal to do with the kind of climate in which we are able to attract economic activity.

On the matter of housing, Senator Jemmott's contribution centred on the activities of the National Housing Corporation. I wished that other contributions on housing would have moved into the other field as fully and with as complete a grasp as Senator Jemmott demonstrated when he dealt with that area of housing.

I have another quarrel with Senator Greaves now too, Sir. I thought I had finished. But Senator Greaves

came in here quarrelling about Government's intentions, in particular, with this business of the Severance Payment Act. This time I think the Senator was really not close to the line, but over it.

He knows very well that when labour legislation is contemplated, of whatever kind, there is consultation. He knows this because the other day we did the Factories Act. So even if he had forgotten it, he would have remembered it, and he reminded us of it, because he was talking about changes in the Factories Act, as it came to us, not being such changes as he had agreed, and being representative of things other than he had seen in the Bill when it first went to Parliament and so on and so on.

It means, Sir, that Ministers of Labour cannot now consult with trade unions in this country without the trade unions taking the opportunity to make public capital out of the nature of the consultations. If that sort of thing continues, Sir, there would be absolutely no point in having these consultations.

I certainly do not expect that if a matter within my jurisdiction had to go out to bodies that had a direct interest for their comment, I would hear it outside, far less hearing an officer of a union that has to do directly with it, inside here, discussing the matter.

In that particular respect, I must say that it is Senator Greaves that I am surprised at. I always thought that he would behave a little better than that. In fact, in all the noise he has ever made in here, he had never intimated to me before that he would do that.

Laughter.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I am really shocked, really shocked! I mean, what is this country coming to? What really is the country coming to?
7.50 p.m.

You cannot discuss anything with the union now unless you hear fellows out there saying certain things, knowing very well that they will in turn write to the Minister of Labour and say we object to these things, we think this would be a reasonable position, but we do not like that, and knowing very well that after the consultation process is completed then legislation will be brought to Parliament. What is this business of trying to jump the gun? There must be something happening in the Opposition ranks that we do not know about, people jockeying and fighting for positions. What are they trying to jump the gun for?

In the final analysis, the proposed amendments to the Severance Payments Act are still going to have to be discussed by the Ministry of Labour and the unions, and in the final analysis something will have to come to

Parliament, and it will come back to Cabinet before it comes to Parliament.

What is more, I wonder also if that was the only proposed change in the Severance Payment Act of which Senator Greaves knew. The other ones that I know about are not things that he is likely to complain about. Maybe there has been no consultation yet on those. I would like to believe that he will talk about all and not just try to colour the whole picture in the way he did.

Senator Greaves, having looked at the Estimates, declared himself as seeing an insight into the Budget. He therefore forced me, Sir, to choose between believing him and believing his chief. His chief said the Budget is being written in Washington, and I believe if Senator Greaves is going to see any insight into the Budget, he will have to go to Washington if his chief is right. I hope Senator Greaves was not meaning to call his chief's bluff or to say that his chief was not telling the truth.

Senator Greaves went into a great frenzy over interest rates. That is the one where CBC said that I was echoing somebody. I believe I should make the record clear on this one. I am on record in here, and I have been on record for a long time, about this business of interest rates. As a matter of fact, Sir, back in the 1970s, if we could go and dig up enough old papers, we will find that when the Democratic Labour Party repealed, as they did in 1970, the Rate of Interest Act by which interest in this country was held to 8 per cent, I wrote on it then. That is about 12 or 13 years ago. I have for a long time been a believer in a low interest rate regime, a long time, and it hurt me a little bit when I saw that last night in its television news CBC said that I echoed somebody in this thing about interest rates.

I believe that about a year and a half ago when I was making the point in here that central bankers like to encourage Governments to raise interest rates and that it was a line of advice that I do not like, Senator McClean was the only other person who spoke on the point, and it really hurt me then to be called an echo. I do not think CBC knows what the word "echo" means, but so it was.

I want to remind Senator Greaves that the repeal of the Rate of Interest Act was a specific deliberate legislative act of the party that he has the honour, or otherwise, to represent, so he cannot come in here cursing about interest rates. And his chief who used to be the Minister of Finance, who piloted that through Parliament, should be ashamed to be out there in the newspapers claiming that interest rates are too high. They repealed the thing and cleared the way for interest rates as high as they did.

Senator Greaves referred to Sir Maurice Byer's speech, and he forced me to go and read my speech on

the Abortion Bill only to find that I did not in here use this thing about 5 000 abortions. That figure was used in the debate in the Other Place and was repeated in here by somebody in the same context. It was a figure used by taking the known statistics and making certain projections. What he did not do was to tell us that Sir Maurice Byer congratulated the Government for the wisdom and the foresight of doing something about abortion legislation. He complimented the Government, he praised the Government for its progressive and enlightened action, but again Senator Greaves was very very selective.

Now, Senator Greaves was at his most selective best when he kicked up his noise about Ilaro Court. Sir, with Ilaro Court, one of the distinguished properties in this country, you always have to ask a question, is it to stay in the way in which the last caretakers of the Government left it and rot away, or be like Farley Hill? There was a Farley Hill house there, you know, Sir, and the Government of the day bought it after the insurance money was collected, so the walls are there, the park is there, and the grounds are there, but the house is no more. Are we therefore to see Ilaro Court suffer that same experience, or worse, just stay there and fall into decay? It does not make sense owning property if you are not going to spend money on it and keep it up, and I do not believe there is anybody who would question that statement.

I am not worrying now about Senator Greaves' point about what is being spent, because he is not being serious on this point, but Senator Greaves is saying the Prime Minister must make up his mind as to whether he will live there or not. Who is it that passed the legislation that said a Prime Minister can live where he feels like, and if he is not going to live in Government accommodation then he is going to get a housing allowance of X amount? So he can either live in a Government house, a house provided by Government, or he can live where he feels like.

It is probably true that at the time when the Democratic Labour Party passed that legislation they did not think that there would have been another Prime Minister other than the one there was then, ever in the history of Barbados. That is perhaps true, and I am not blaming them if they thought so. After all, we know of a case in the Caribbean where one leader is supposed to have asked, "What kind of idiot are you that you could lose an election?" So, apparently, they were not supposed to lose the election, but they lost it.

If you go and pass a law which says that the Prime Minister — and the mistake probably was that it did not say the Prime Minister by name — is to enjoy a particular condition, then how are you going to come back and quarrel with the Prime Minister for exercising the very option that you say he is to exercise? I would wish

formally to state for Senator Greaves' benefit that the answer to his query — I do not know if he queried, he does not usually ask, he usually says things and moves on — but the answer to his point, if point there is, is that the Prime Minister quite properly exercises an option allowed by law, and that that law was passed during the time when the party that Senator Greaves has the honour to represent was the party forming the Government of this country. That is the only answer I know, and I know that that is correct.

8.00 p.m.

Mr. President, I believe that I have answered as many points as I can cover within the time limit for the reply and I wish once again to thank members for their contributions. I have dealt, I believe, with the entire speech of Senator Hall in the course of my replies. I have certainly dealt with as much as Senator Greaves' speech as was capable of reply.

I wish merely to end on a very serious note and it is this. When I make mention of the Tourist Board and that letter and the role of Mr. LeVere Richards, I am not saying anything for rhetorical effect. I feel very, very

strongly that the country cannot afford that type of dastardly conduct.

Thank you, Sir.

Applause.

The questions that the Bill be read a second and third time and passed were 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*.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Just before I put the question, I would like to compliment members, generally speaking, on the very high standard of their contributions and to join with the Leader of Government Business in complimenting the new members on the very nice contributions they made.

The question that the Senate adjourn sine die was put to the Senate and agreed to.

8.05 p.m.

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