
THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1981-86

THE SENATE

Monday, March 18, 1985

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Monday, March 18, 1985, at 9:50 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator the Hon. O'B. Trotman, (Minister of
Health)

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

Senator J. E. D. Williams, (Parliamentary Secretary
to the Prime Minister)

Senator H. R. Linton;

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

Senator D. A. C. Simmons

Senator Miss J. Clarke

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

Senator L. A. Ward, G.C.M.

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

Senator J. E. Jordan, and

Senator H. E. Yearwood.

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

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Fellow members of the Senate, this meeting has been called for the expressed purpose of paying tribute to the late Prime Minister, Tom Adams. Before we go into the tributes, I will ask the

Clerk to record as having been read for the first time the items so appearing on the Order Paper.

OBITUARY SPEECHES ON THE DEATH OF THE LATE PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS, RT. HON. J. M. G. M. "TOM" ADAMS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, it was on Monday last, one week ago, that all Barbadians received the chilling news of the death of the Prime Minister, Tom Adams. Since that time many have paid tribute to the memory of this great Barbadian; many have commented on the loss not only to his family, but to the entire country and to the Caribbean. Heads of State and Heads of Government from abroad, and Barbadians in every walk of life, the professional classes and the labouring masses, have all paid tribute, for it was true of Tom Adams that he walked with princes but he never lost the common touch.

For the Record, I must make reference to a biographical note bearing what we all by now know, if we did not know it before, John Michael Geoffrey Manningham Adams was born at *Tyrol Cot*, Spooners Hill on September 24, 1931 to the late Sir Grantley Adams, first Premier of Barbados and the only Prime Minister of the West Indies Confederation, and Grace Lady Adams. He was their only child.

As a child, he attended St. Ursula's School and later Harrison College, where his brilliance and dedication to hard work brought him, in 1950, the reward of a Barbados Scholarship in Mathematics. He then, like his father before him, who had won a Barbadian Scholarship, entered Oxford University and read the P.B.E. after which he entered Gray's Inn to read Law, and graduated in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. He was called to the Bar in 1959.

During his university career, he served as President of the West Indian Association of Oxford University, and he was also Vice President of the West Indies Students

Union in London. After his studies, he worked as a producer with the British Broadcasting Corporation, as a West Indian producer and freelance broadcaster, until 1962, when he returned to Barbados. It was at the BBC that he met his future bride, whom he married in 1962. Tom and Genevieve Adams are the parents of two sons, Douglas Philip Grantley and Rawdon John Herbert. 10.00 a.m.

He returned to Barbados in 1962 to begin a career as an outstanding lawyer. He became involved in politics, and by 1965 he was General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party, in 1966 Senior Member for the parish and constituency of St. Thomas, and remained the representative for this constituency until his death. In 1971, he became Leader of the Opposition. In 1976, he led the Party to a landslide victory at the polls and became Prime Minister. In 1981, he again led the party to victory at the polls.

He had a keen interest in sport, especially cricket, about which he was a significant statistician, but having an interest in wider sports, which interest led him to the conclusion that the stadium should be repaired, and the National Sports Council was able to embark on a loan of \$750 000 from a commercial bank. He thought that those repairs were a national responsibility, and we owed it to our young people to finance such repairs from the Treasury.

His hobby of philately is well known; he had a very large and varied collection of stamps. His love of gardening and photography are perhaps equally well known.

Mr. Deputy President, I will never forget Monday, March 11, 1985. I spent that entire morning, that entire day indeed, in meetings of one sort or another. In the middle of the morning, I received a message from the Prime Minister, which was official confirmation that he would unveil the emancipation statue on Sunday, March 17, and make a speech. I made a mental note that I wished to telephone and seek his advice on the matter and would do that later in the day. Meetings went on, and I decided, as time became more pressing, that I would still have time for a quick lunch before Cabinet. That was the afternoon when Cabinet met to discuss the Estimates. Time and circumstances took care of everything. That call was never made, that lunch never materialized.

I went from my office to Cabinet. When I arrived, a most appalling gloom hung over the room. I got out one question, "What is wrong with you?" I received the most debilitating response I had ever heard or ever hope to hear. "Tom Adams dead" was all that one colleague could manage. Otherwise, there was silence. The looks on the faces of my colleagues told the awesome truth, and I believe that my chair came to my rescue.

I have lost a dedicated leader, a trusted colleague and a close friend. There is no description of what I felt

then, or, indeed, of how I feel now. But there is one comparison. It does not feel as badly now. We human beings adjust to everything.

I knew Tom Adams as a leader of men, decisive, bold and imaginative, thoughtful and compassionate. His hand was firm, but gentle. His style of leadership, as his entire career in public life, benefitted from his outstanding personal qualities. If he thought something was wrong, he did not take hasty action or look for easy solutions. He first had it fully enquired into, then the solution could be arrived at. When people appeared to be at fault, he was not quick to condemn. He was resolved that no one should be denied application of the rules of natural justice, and could often be found to forgive because of attendant circumstances.

The truth was that he hated to see people suffer. It was this concern that led him to provide for the aged and disadvantaged in our society by enhancing pensions and providing services. His greatest disappointment would have been that he went to his grave before the implementation of the National Health Service for all Barbadians. He was driven by a conviction that this was the entitlement of all Barbadians. This conviction was, no doubt, fired by his knowledge of the state of his own health, and this would have allowed him to share the experiences of those who suffered, and that is why he sought to provide particularly for those in need, who are unable to provide for themselves.

We know now that the rheumatic fever he suffered as a child cause injury to his heart, and that he was well aware of his affliction. It was characteristic of him that he kept this from all, except those who absolutely had to know, for he would not wish to burden others with his troubles. We will not know how much he suffered within. Mercifully for him, when the end came, it came swiftly. But there was also, I believe, this knowledge of the extent of his own frailty that made him so much the personification of life.

He knew how to enjoy life, and he dedicated himself to creating for all Barbadians the opportunity for the better enjoyment of life. He would have loved to have witnessed and directed the construction of one major roadworks project, in the achievement of which he invested so much of himself. This he saw as vital to our economic reconstruction. But he saw it as vital in another important dimension, a means of putting people to work. He understood well, in economic and social terms, the disadvantages of high unemployment. He cared more about the personal frustrations and suffering of unemployed men and women. It was this concern that informed his vision of Barbados as a modern society blessed with prosperity and caring for its people; for Tom Adams loved people.

10.10 a.m.

Much has been said about his oratorical gifts, debating skills, extensive and profound knowledge voracious appetite for reading, political judgment, capacity for organisation and management, whether at national or party level and his attention to detail, and indeed all these things come to mind when I think of him. But the most vivid image for those of us who often saw him – his family, the children of others, and young people generally – would be his capacity for love and his enjoyment of the vitality of youthful company.

Another view of Tom Adams would be that of the busy leader who somehow always found time for what others might term the small concerns of his humblest constituent. Those who have witnessed this should have learned what he knew instinctively. It is the sum of these small problems that contributes significantly to the complex whole with which political leaders must concern themselves. He himself was humble and therefore empathized with the poor and the disadvantaged. He cared, and therefore he heard and understood their complaints.

I often heard it said of Tom Adams when he was alive that he tried to achieve too much, he was ahead of his time, he tried to move Barbados forward at too fast a pace. If any of this is true it is probably because he knew he had so much to do and feared he had not enough time in which to do it. What is true is that he drove himself at a ferocious pace. He demanded hard work and excellence of his colleagues, but he saw no sacrifice as being too great to make for his people. Ultimately, he gave his life in the service of his country.

His copious personal endowments have been chronicled elsewhere. Much tribute has been paid to the loving husband, the caring father, the affectionate son, the charming host. He has been called "Adams the fighter." He was a Barbadian patriot, and a Caribbean man devoted to the total development of our region as an integrated polity. He even knew how to stand out among colleagues, how to immerse himself in the problems of office, how to take difficult decisions and yet never to isolate himself, never to be lonely.

His love of people was complemented by his love of nature, which he expressed so fully in pursuit of his hobby gardening. It was a joy and experience to visit the garden at his home at Walkers Terrace, St. George, and see what he had been able to fashion, much of it with his own hands; a beautifully laid out garden, the permanent arrangement of the map of Barbados, displaying the best horticulture has to offer. Gardening took as much, if not more, of his time as philately did.

Personally, I am grateful that I knew him for almost twenty years, and over that time enjoyed and shared a close working relationship and a deep friendship. It was a beautiful experience; bliss was it in that dawn to be alive.

It is my honour, Mr. Deputy President to move the following Resolution –

WHEREAS John Michael Geoffrey Manningham Adams, Honorary Fellow of Martin College and University of Oxford, Member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, one of Her Majesty's Council, Member of the Honourable House of Assembly for the Constituency of St. Thomas since 1966, Prime Minister of Barbados since 1976, passed his life on the 11th day of March, 1985;

AND WHEREAS this Right Honourable gentleman dedicated his distinguished and illustrious life to the service of our country, the well-being and progress of its citizens and its advancement in the world of nations;

AND WHEREAS he also committed himself to the consummation of the movement for Caribbean integration and unity and to earning the highest respect throughout the world through our efforts and achievements in the countries of the Caribbean and its people;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate pay our highest tribute to this great and outstanding Barbadian patriot and express our most profound sympathy and condolences at the tragedy of his loss at the height of his powers and as the Head of our Government, guardian of our society and democracy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable Senate convey our sentiments and profound grief, regret and sympathy on behalf of our nation and of ourselves to his widow, Mrs. Genevieve Adams, to their children, to his mother, Lady Grace Adams, to his other relatives and friends.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is proposed that the Senate concur in this Resolution.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support this Resolution and to state that in doing so it is my sad but sincere duty as one of the spokesmen for the Opposition in the Senate to join with my colleagues in expressing deep sympathy on the passing of the late Prime Minister, Tom Adams. At times like these we are not merely party spokesmen; we are Barbadians. It is therefore as a Senator in this august Chamber and as a Barbadian that I speak here today.

The late Mr. Adams must have been one of the few Barbadians who, through birth and social standing, was able to move easily among all the various social groups, both white and black, in this country. Mr. Adams was one of the most fortunate and well-endowed Barbadians of the century. I do not believe that anyone in this

Chamber was as well endowed. His family circumstances were propitious, mixed and solidly middle-class, his father was a brilliant lawyer, a leader already worshipped as a champion by the broad masses of the people, even if hated by the entrenched wealthy and power holders.
10.20 a.m.

In his domestic environment, Mr. Adams was exposed early to the world of politics and public affairs, and to the clash of sharp and mature intellects. Educationists tell us that it is one's exposure at an early age that influences one's development in later life. Mr. Adams' own inherently sharp intellect, his disposition for hard work and his attention to detail only enhanced those positive aspects of his life. He was undoubtedly a success at school, university and beyond.

Mr. Adams was able to pursue predilection for good living and public affairs. There may be very few persons alive in Barbados today who have visited the Eastern Bloc, far less the seat of communism, Moscow. Tom Adams was able to do this over twenty years ago. He had no need, like most of us, to hurry his education, since it can be seen that he was carefully preparing himself for the role he was to play in the political life of Barbados and the wider Caribbean. So his education was not only the formal part at the university, but also his exposure to life in the wider world.

Tom Adams, undoubtedly, was a dominant figure in his party, his Cabinet, in Parliament and the country. We did not always agree with what he did or the way in which he did what he did, but this is the nature of politics, and history will no doubt record his contribution to the progress of this country. It is difficult, I dare say, to speak dispassionately about his contribution from such a close range, and it will be for historians in the future to faithfully and truthfully chronicle his role in public affairs in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

What should we learn from his life? In the first place, we have to recognize that we are but mere mortals who are governed by a Superior Being. This we must never forget. Tom Adams was a human being, with all the frailties which we as human beings possess. I believe that Mr. Adams' death will have a sobering effect on the political life of this country. I believe that we who are involved in the political cut and thrust daily ought to realize that we, too, are merely human beings. I hope that we will see a change in the approach to politics in his country.

I join with Senator Barrow in his moving tribute and in the Resolution which he has read here this morning. I certainly am giving my support to this Resolution.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. Deputy President, I, too, would like to associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the Senate and to agree with the Resolution.

Monday, the 11th day of March, 1985 will go down in history as one of the saddest days in the memory of Barbadians, both here and abroad, because it marked the passing into the Great Beyond of our esteemed and beloved Prime Minister, John Michael Geoffrey Manningham "Tom" Adams. Multitudinous tributes have already been paid to his memory from leaders of countries near and far, from people in all walks of life, and to attempt to re-echo those tributes would only be trying to gild the lily. When I heard of that fell sargeant death had claimed the life of our Prime Minister, the words which came flooding into my mind were from Julius Caesar: "Oh what a fall was there my countrymen."

Then I and you and all of us fell down."

The majority of Barbadians, I am sure, had the gut feeling that so long as Tom Adams was Prime Minister of this country, whatever might be the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune that beset us, be it the IMF, the recession or the Marxist attempt at overthrowing democracy in this region, our confidence in his ability, far-sightedness and expertise to meet those challenges and surmount them remained steadfast and inviolable.

It has done all Barbadians' hearts proud to observe the comments from all West Indian leaders, from the President of the United States and the Prime Ministers of Great Britain and Canada, who have all been impressed by Mr. Adams' massive intellect and comprehensive grasp of the social, political and economic problems, and the wise and thought-filled contributions that the late Prime Minister made in all discussions. It was refreshing to me, too, to hear the compliments paid to Tom by all and sundry in this country, those who spoke over Guttaperk.

I was especially touched by the remarks and comments coming from the lower echelons in the society, those people referred to as "the grass-roots people." They will always tell you that the late Prime Minister was always ready and eager to listen to them, and that, to me, is the hallmark of a great man — that he could listen and found time to listen to the outpourings from the hearts of the harmless citizens. There can be nothing greater than that. That shows that he, with all his gifts and achievements, realized that he was still a servant of the people, and we hope that many other politicians will learn that lesson. He was truly a great man, a giant of a man. He bestrode this narrow country like a colossus, and I do not use that in a pejorative sense.

We can best revere his memory, by trying to put into practice the vision he had for this country and for its people, by holding aloft to others that vision, for he

realized that nowadays people are not as conscientious in their work place as they ought to be. He felt that the work ethic needs to be rediscovered and restored. That was part of his vision for this country. He also felt that unemployment should be almost non-existent, and he felt most truly that the democratic form of Government should be helpfully preserved. I am sure that if those who come after him will try to hold aloft that vision that he had for this country, we shall go forth conquering and to conquer.

10.30 a.m.

Last, but not least, I should like to wish our new Prime Minister God's richest blessing in the onerous duties that he will have to undertake. We hope that he would be guided with wisdom.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Mr. Deputy President, the Right Honourable John Michael Geoffrey Manningham Adams died last Monday, March 11, 1985. During the past week, several tributes have been paid to him. Tributes have been paid to Adams, the great politician. Tributes have been paid to Adams, the parliamentarian. Tributes have been paid to Adams, the debator and orator. Tributes have been paid to Adams, the broadcaster and journalist. Tributes have been paid to Adams, the attorney. Tributes have been paid to Adams, the stamp collector. Tributes have been paid to Adams, the great Prime Minister.

I wish to spend a few moments in paying a short tribute to a very close friend, Tom Adams, the man. I will therefore not repeat any of the tributes which have been paid to him in his official life; those have been very well done. I regard Tom Adams' death as being most untimely, because it is my judgement that very few Barbadians knew Tom Adams. In fact, I dare say that very few Barbadians even knew his name correctly. Because his public image so overwhelmed his private life, a few people got to know him at a personal level, and I was fortunate to be one of those persons who knew Tom as a very sincere and loyal friend.

I have had the privilege of knowing him for over twenty years, and I sincerely believe that it is only recently that the people whom he loved most, the poor and the downtrodden, were beginning to appreciate Tom Adams as a man. Tom was a person of great compassion, a man who was tremendously soft at heart, notwithstanding any of his outward and public images of being a strong man. I have known Tom to quite willingly make concessions, if he thought that in making a concession he would allow someone else to save face. That is the kind of man Tom was.

His love for great detail and precision has been mentioned earlier, I never could understand how a man

who was so busy in public affairs could be so meticulous as to take time out, every day, to make a careful book entry of every cent he earned and every cent he spent. And whereas, I have heard tributes paid in which persons said that he never raised his voice in anger, I believe that the only time I have heard him raise his voice in anger — because you must understand, Mr. Deputy President, that when he shouted, it was a deliberate controlled shout; when he was angry, he would merely whisper — was when he thought that someone who was close to him, another staff member, so mismanaged his business as to put him in some financial disadvantage. He could not understand people who did not manage their money properly.

Tom always accepted challenges. If, for some reason, we who were close to him suggested that some adverse comment should be allowed to go unnoticed, he would always counter, "If you turn your back to trouble, they will strike you down from behind." He never turned away from trouble. He was a man who had always been determined to succeed, and did not easily accept failure. An example of his determination was demonstrated to us last year when the two of us, along with a few friends, left Barbados to go to St. Vincent to see Soufriere. I thought we were going to see Soufriere. Tom wanted to conquer Soufriere. When he got to the foot of the mountain in late morning and was advised that it was much too late to attempt the upward climb, Tom made it quite clear, "I will come back next year and conquer Soufriere. He will not now make that trip.

As a politician, he did not believe in the personality cult business. Some time ago, I believe around 1978, when we acknowledged that his popularity ranking was dropping, we approached him with various measures which we considered would help him to lift his image in the public's eye. After listening carefully, the advice tendered was, "Now, boys, I want you to understand one thing, I do not agree with personality cults and there is going to be no Adams Cult in Barbados. The Barbados Labour Party stands together and sinks together."

As a person working very close to him for eight years, he was a man who took time off from his Prime Ministerial duties to return every telephone call that was made to him, having no regard to who was the caller. If he could not make it the same day, he would return the call the next day with an apology for not calling the day before.

He was as easily at home with his friend Ed in the late evening as he would be with a visiting Head of Government at Sandy Lane. I well remember his entertaining a visiting CPA team at Alexandra's for dinner. After the formalities, Tom decided he was going to have some fun, because he was a fun-loving man, and when the senior Parliamentarian from Britain turned to me and

said, "Certainly, the Prime Minister is not going to go into that crowd," I said, "Just you wait and see." Tom left us, went across the floor and led the young lady from a completely different generation on to the floor and proceeded to take over the disco floor at Alexandra's. He knew how to live.

Those of us who have gone to political meetings with Tom will know how careful he was to make sure that arrangements were in place for persons to get back home after public meetings. If anyone found himself stranded, despite proper arrangements, that person could be very sure that they would get home via Tom Adams. He would not leave one person stranded, whether he was from St. Lucy or the other point in St. Philip.

After serving with him for seven years as Parliamentary Secretary and then Minister of State, I can say that he had a very smooth way in driving his staff, never shouting, never quarrelling, but merely setting a very fast pace for himself and letting it quietly be known that he expected all and sundry to follow. We who have had the privilege of knowing him at a personal level and working with him closely have lost not only a great Barbadian and a great colleague, but a most sincere and loyal friend.
10.40 a.m.

I wish to associate myself with the Resolution moved by the Leader of the Senate.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Mr. Deputy President, the closer that you are to anyone, the more difficult it becomes in times like these to make some kind of comment. For the last sixteen months I have worked very closely to the late Prime Minister. It was during 1983 that he felt that I was the kind of person that could have been entrusted with the running of a Ministry. I considered it then, and I still consider it now, an honour and a privilege to have been able to serve the late Prime Minister. The mere fact that he was a man who strove for excellence and recognised me to be the kind of person that would give of my best, and to a level that would satisfy him, meant a lot to me.

During that period of time, I felt that it ought to have been a period for me to learn from someone, and each and every day I learnt something more from the late Prime Minister. How I would look forward to especially the evenings, when I would be in his office and we would talk from one subject to the other while he was doing his own work. And it is true when people say he had the ability to be reading and minuting a file and talking on a matter completely different to someone else. It was a gift that I saw only in one person, I think.

The other day, a Barbados Labour Party supporter made the comment that she was at an Executive Council

Meeting when Mr. Adams was talking to one of his close colleagues and someone else at the end of the table was making a contribution. After having spoken for some time, the person paused and said, "But, Mr. Chairman, you are not listening" Mr. Adams stopped the conversation that he was engaged in and said "But your last comments were" and repeated them. Everyone smiled, and the person proceeded.

I will always remember the late Prime Minister because he always took time out to share his knowledge. People refer to any meeting that he conducted as being rather informal, and that is true. I do not think I have ever seen the late Prime Minister conduct a meeting in what one might consider a rather serious atmosphere, but at the end of the day, not only did he get those matters on the agenda done, but each and every one of us went away a little wiser than we came in there on many other matters. He felt that each opportunity was an occasion for him to share his knowledge with other people, and this is why, although I am sad today, I am happy to say that I know we have a stronger party because he always shared his knowledge. We always understood his goals and his aspirations, and all those people who were that close to the Prime Minister are better prepared today to carry on the fight and the struggle which his father began.

I believe that the Prime Minister knew that the time would have come when he would have departed us, and he felt that the least he could have done was to have left a more informed political party. He always believed that the party was bigger than the man. I recall that one occasion when something was going to be done and coming out of that there might have been a situation in which the late Prime Minister might have gained some importance, he said that if that is going to be the case, then he would prefer it not to happen at all. He was a very humble person.

In the area of industrial relations, I believe that the labour movement in this country has lost a true friend. He understood the art of compromise. He was always prepared to be at any table until arriving at a position where no one, no party, was disadvantaged. I recall a few years ago attending a meeting which was, to my mind, a critical meeting, because at the time the National Union of Public Workers had some difficulties with Government hospital workers. There was the whole question of the number of nights off and the like, and on that occasion he wanted an input from each and every one around that table. At the time I was working with a local organisation, and part of my duty was to work shift as well, and I remember telling him 'Mr. Chairman, for one, I believe I am the only person this evening who understands the difficulty in working shift duty, because I want to tell you all it is quarter to ten and at ten o'clock I have to be on duty tonight.' He said "As far as I am concerned, a number of things have to be

done in order to redress the situation." I said 'I firmly believe that the Union has a genuine case and we ought to look at it sympathetically.' He asked, "What do you suggest?" I gave him my suggestions, and I am happy to say that in less than 48 hours the matter was resolved in the interest of all concerned. He never wanted just to win a fight for the sake of winning. All he wanted was that justice be done. I firmly believe that the labour movement in this country has lost a true champion.
10.50 a.m.

Comments have also been made about the fact that he strove to maintain democracy not only in Barbados, but in the region. Never did he find it difficult to get up and to criticize, whether it be in Barbados or in respect of a group of persons or an individual. If he had to criticize any political leader in or outside of the region, he did so, especially when he knew that he was trying to maintain the principles and practices of democracy, and I think it is to his credit. I trust and hope that more persons in Barbados and in the region will fight for what is right.

We are all beneficiaries of the fact that he shared his knowledge, that he has made his mark and that we are more informed as far as his goals and aspirations were concerned. He was my leader. He was my teacher. He was my friend. He was my father. He was my mentor. I have his memory to remain with me for the rest of my life. John Michael Geoffrey Manningham Adams, I shall never ever forget you.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to associate myself with this Resolution. Like some of the earlier speakers, my knowledge of the late Prime Minister has been entirely in the formal sphere. My closest contact with him would be as a Member of the National Economic Council, of which he was chairman, and at times, I communicated with him on matters pertaining to the affairs of Government, largely in the economic sphere. From what I have observed, I can entirely agree with all that has been said about him. I have seen enough aspects of his behaviour which contradict anything which I heard about him.

I want to identify, however, as his outstanding attributes, in the circumstances in which he had to lead Barbados, his thoroughly professional and scientific approach to politics, his inclination to operate on the basis of careful analysis rather than on whim or prejudice, his open-mindedness and his recognition that any view of any reasonable person must be essentially a tentative view, subject to the change in the light of further evidence. I believe that these qualities have resulted in great benefit to Barbados in terms of the decisions which he has had to make in this country. I remember well that when he came to office, he was confronted with a situation in which Barbados seemed to be on the verge of

severe balance of payments problems. His advisers in Government were telling him that Barbados was experiencing chronic balance of payments problems and he had taken up, very presumably on their advice, the notion that we must go through wage restraint, the five per cent, and all sorts of measures were to be introduced as far as import controls and such matters. These were to be implemented to save Barbados from this chronic balance of payments situation.

I believe that at the time I might have been the only voice speaking out against that, and I indicated quite clearly that that was not the case. I articulated my opinion as to what was the position. I indicated the level of wage settlements that Barbados could endure. What I told him was exactly what I told the teachers in the Secondary Teachers Union that they should ask for. It is a matter of history that they got what they asked for. At the time, I told him, in a letter touching on the same matter, that the only difference between the Ministry of Finance under the Barbados Labour Party at that time and the Ministry of Finance under the Democratic Labour Party was the Minister of Finance, and if he relied entirely on the advice of his officials, he would be relying on exactly what his predecessor in office relied on, and the consequences would be exactly the same; so he had to rise above that situation if Barbados was to go forward. I must say that he did in a most excellent manner.

I think that what we must do is to honour his name not so much with speeches, and some of that is necessary, but by espousing the good things which he stood for, by carrying forward his style of Government; and if by chance there were any flaws in his style and we know of them, honour him by removing them and making Barbados that much better for it. I am certain that that is what he would want us to do.

Mr. Deputy President, I thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Hall.

Senator Hall, before you speak, I must on behalf of the Senate say that we welcome you back to our meetings, and we congratulate you on your success in Australia.

SENATOR W. W. HALL: Mr. Deputy President, I thank you for your kind words. I was not going to mention that I have not been here for some time. I was going to let that stay until we came to the Estimates or something like that, when I would renew my acquaintances with my fellow Senators.

In another two or three minutes, at 11:00 o'clock, I should have been winging my way to Antigua, where, as you know, the West Indies will be playing New

Zealand in another twenty-four or forty-eight hours. But I could not do that, knowing fully well that the Senate was meeting today and during the time tributes would have been paid to the late Prime Minister, Tom Adams. Only a few days ago, when I returned from Australia, I was very shocked, terribly shocked, at the news of the Prime Minister's demise. I think that I was transfixed by it all, its suddenness and the finality of it. That is what death does to you. And in the last seven days we have seen all Barbadians, people from all walks of life, children, old people, young people, mourn the death of the late Prime Minister.

I met the late Prime Minister for the first time some twenty-eight years ago in London, at the West Indian Students Centre. It was paradoxical that in the following twenty-eight years, I would have met him on fewer occasions than anyone else in this Chamber. In that time I must have spoken to him no more than five or six times. I therefore do not know much about Tom Adams the man, but I do know about him as Tom Adams, the politician.

11:00 a.m.

There have been numerous tributes paid to him in the last week or so, but tributes are such that they are a lot of good things or nothing at all. People tend either to say things punctuated with platitudes or they hide away and say nothing, so it was revealing to me today to listen to the Leader of the House and to Senator Trotman so that I could learn something about Tom Adams, the man. Senator Trotman, in his own inimitable style, said to this Chamber that the Prime Minister counted his pennies as he earned them. And why not? There is an old adage in Barbados, that if you count your pennies, the dollars and the pounds will take care of themselves.

The knowledge that he loved poor people comes home very strongly to me, being from the proletariat. I am happy that that was the case. And they went on to tell us many of what you can really call the inside stories and give us some idea of what manner of man was Tom Adams. As Senator Trotman said, very few Barbadians knew him, not even how to spell his name. I think it is "Jon" instead of John.

We are all saddened about his rather sudden and untimely death; not only all Barbadians, but I am quite sure people around the Caribbean and even further afield.

I have to say something which must be taken in the spirit in which it is meant, and even if it is not today, I am quite sure that in the future it will be. I feel that even though we have mourned the sad loss of our dear departed, there will be some lessons to be learnt from his life, from his aims, his aspirations, his hopes, and how he set about doing the work that he did. We have to under-

stand that God is no respecter of persons, and that in the midst of life, we are in death. If we understand that, we will in the immediate future recognize that there is a need for us all to put Barbados first as we pursue those aims that we all thought would be worthy to pursue. Those of you who know his policies, those of you who know exactly what he intended to do, it behoves all of you then to make sure that his dreams become a reality.

I must confess that when I heard the Leader of the House say that the 11th March was a sad day, my mind went back to the 13th March, 1967. That was the day Sir Frank Worrell died. The world really mourned the passing of that great man. I must confess — I would not say that I flew in God's face — that I wondered why is it that such a great man, at the zenith of his career, at the age of forty-two, with so much to do for the advancement of the West Indies in the eyes of the world, cricket-wise, must be cut off like a flower. I questioned that. Then, in magnificent isolation, I came to realize, as all of us will in a very short time, that it would do his memory and all his aims and aspirations a lot of good if those of us who were left behind tried to carry out the work and the good things that he portrayed. Those who have followed that great man have done exactly that, and the West Indies, cricket-wise, have gone from strength to strength. So can it be in the political arena here in Barbados. I feel that unless we do that, it would be like having an impressive landing at the wrong airport. We have to make sure that we are definitely on the right track.

As I said before, there have been lots of tributes paid. They tell us what a fierce debator the late Tom Adams was. We know of his wit in Parliament and his strong rebuttals, and we know how competent he was in his off-the-cuff remarks. It has been said by his friends and colleagues that he bestrode Parliament like a colossus, and Senator Jones said he bestrode the country like a colossus. The Dean, in his eulogy, said that he was told by his dear wife that he lived life to the full.

We were told that he was a Caribbean man. That impressed me. That is why today, I have chosen to wear the West Indian tie, rather than a black tie.

I have worn the West Indian tie because I believe, as you have so ably set out as part of the Resolution;

"AND WHEREAS he also committed himself to the consummation of the movement for Caribbean integration and unity,"

that we in the Caribbean must, of necessity, thank him for his efforts for Caribbean integration.

I feel, however, that all the Senators under the sound of my voice must understand that service and humility is the key note as far as politics and our very

living is concerned in Barbados. I believe that our lifestyles must depict this, so that, at the end of the day, we must be worthy of emulation. I feel that we cannot be impervious to the emptiness that surrounds us. We cannot be impervious to the hopelessness that surrounds some of our people in this society. I feel that if you believe that the goals of the late Tom Adams were right, those of you who have the destiny of our people in their hands, albeit *pro tem*, would put Barbados first. This is the important thing. Put Barbados first and make sure that all his dreams become a reality, for happy are those who dream dreams and pay the price to see them come true.

11.10 a.m.

I can recall one meeting only a year ago with the late Prime Minister in India, when I sent an invitation to all the Heads of Commonwealth Governments in Delhi, India, to forego the luxuries of a well-earned, I am sure, vacation in Goa, a holiday resort of some renown, and to come to Bombay to witness the test match between the West Indies and India. Two Prime Ministers and a Deputy Prime Minister in the persons of the late Tom Adams, Kennedy Symmonds and Lester Bird came to India, and such was the inspiration that their visit sort of provoked at that time that West Indies moved from a very serious position to one of strength, and inevitably won the match.

During the time we were there at lunch, I do recall the late Prime Minister saying to me, in a very jocular fashion, that he was going to call the elections while I was in India; and there was such a mischievous look in his eye that I did not know whether to believe him or not. I would, however, have to put the Record right and deny that I telephoned the Leader of the Opposition and told him to watch out, that the Prime Minister is coming with a googly rather than a leg break. But, the fact that he came with the other two politicians, two Leaders of the Government, to watch the West Indian cricketers play, was a great thing for the boys and for me as the manager of the team. That typified the type of love he had not only for people but I am sure for cricket in particular, and I am sure you know very well that he was a great supporter, follower and statistician. And when the West Indian cricketers heard on the plane coming from Australia that he was no more, I can tell you that all of them spoke with one voice; all of them said that it was indeed a sad day for the Caribbean.

I wish to say, in all honesty and in all sincerity, that I personally have not only been saddened by his death, but I do feel that people of the West Indies will be the poorer because of the contribution he has made not only to Barbadian politics but to West Indian integration. I have no bitterness in my heart. Some people believe that because you are a member of the Opposition, things such as death on the other side do not particularly involve you. But as a human being, as a Barbadian, who

love people, especially all Barbadians, I must say that we have to give credit where credit is due, and the bitterness that seems to engulf our people in different political parties, perhaps his death would sort of simmer that down a bit. The bitterness that seemed to have engendered between, for instance, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados in recent times, can only be said to be improved; in fact love and understanding have replaced bitterness when I note with some satisfaction that the new Prime Minister of Barbados and the Prime Minister of Trinidad have decided to reopen diplomatic relationships between our two countries.

I do feel that as long as we in Barbados understand that bitterness is only a wasted emotion and that as politicians we have to do the people's work, we are servants of the people, but more particularly we are also servants of God; and as long as we allow Him to guide our path, as long as we allow Him to share our thoughts, and not only in moments such as these, I am quite sure that this Chamber and the people of Barbados will be a lot better off.

I would like, in conclusion, to offer my sincerest and deepest condolences to Mrs. Adams, her two sons and Lady Adams, the late Prime Minister's mother. I sincerely hope that Tom Geoffrey Manningham rests in peace.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Griffith.

SENATOR C. A. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

When I reflect on the most dramatic news that I have heard for a long time, and reflect on the words of praise that have been heaped on Tom Adams, I think we all in Barbados should feel a certain sense of pride that this country has produced a distinguished son; indeed, the kind of personality that comes once in every hundred years.

I have been particularly privileged in a way, more privileged than many other people, to have known Tom Adams. It is fair for me to say that two men who I considered great have been influences in my life. One was the late Louis Lynch, Headmaster of the Modern High School, a man who died at the age of 52, and Tom Adams, whom I met for the first time in 1971 at the home of Nigel Barrow, just after the Barbados Labour Party had sufficed in winning at the polls in the country.

I would never forget that first meeting, because although I had read and heard a lot about him from my mother, who was very close to Lady Adams, I was never prepared for the kind of personality that he was. At the time I was living in New York, and I was home on holiday; and when I went back to New York, I was resolved that this is the kind of man that we needed, and

that the people who had the interest of the Barbados Labour Party at heart would have to fight in every way possible to ensure that at some point Barbados had Tom Adams as its leader. It was not difficult then for us when Lionel Craig and L. B. Brathwaite asked us in those days to try to galvanise support for the party to move, because we had one goal, and that was to ensure that Tom Adams became Prime Minister of this country. Those were dark days in New York, as indeed there were in Barbados, but we were kept on course because of the one goal that we all shared.

I became close to Tom during the four years I served as Consul General in New York, and the high points of my service as Consul General were whenever he came to visit the City. I doubt very much that many people knew how much he loved New York as a city. For him New York was a place where you could come and relax, go to the theatre, shop, take in the beauty of the city, the museums and the other attractions. Many a day he and I would go for very long walks, and I learned about New York City from him in those days. He used to teach me about its history, where estates were in Manhattan and about the layout of the city; all of those things you could not get from reading in books about New York, he could impart to you because he knew the city so well and he loved the city dearly.
11.20 a.m.

It was he who urged me to resist going into private life, because he felt I should give service to my country. In 1981 after the elections, when he encouraged me to come home to work in his office as Parliamentary Secretary and as a Minister, I thought it was one of the high points in my life, because it was an opportunity to sit at his feet and learn a lot about politics and the Government. To me, he was a teacher, friend, brother, and indeed a father figure, who was prepared to listen and give advice at all times. I, like a few privileged people, treasured those many evenings after long days of hard work when we would just spend hours late into the night in his office talking about life, politics, about his vision for this country and the Caribbean, and about world affairs. He was always ready with a story designed to make you laugh or smile.

Through it all, one thing came through, his concern for human kind. He would always agonize over decisions which would impact severely on the life of people. Whenever people tried to sully his name, because some people saw him as a distant and aloof man, I had one solution — I would always bring him and the people together, and they would go away impressed. That kind of behaviour in this country ought to be changed. People do not know you from a distance, but they can find all kinds of disparaging things to say about you. I know from many experiences that people who met Tom Adams, after having some very harsh and unkind things to say about

him, came away with a different view; they came away converted.

I know that I have lost my friend, my brother, my teacher; a man who commanded loyalty and respect, which he returned in kindness. It was a real privilege in my life to be closely associated with him. I experienced great pleasure during my many trips abroad attending international conferences when people would come up to me and give great credit to Barbados as a country, and great credit to its leader. I have said, time and time again in the past, and I still say it, that he was one of the most respectable and greatest leaders in international politics. I say that without fear or favour.

Only three weeks ago I was in New York finalizing a programme which was organized by an international institution. The programme was designed to honour Tom Adams as one of the most outstanding leaders in the developing world. The international institution had planned a fund-raising venture, with Tom Adams as a key-note speaker, and the funds that would have been raised would have been used for the people in the Caribbean. This programme was postponed from October last year and it was rescheduled for June, and I came back to Barbados only two weeks ago in concert with the Personal Assistant, Mr. Glyne Murray, to finalize the details of this project for the Prime Minister.

He possessed the rare combination of intellectual powers, compassion and humility, and, in summary, I am reminded of the words Shakespeare's Mark Anthony spoke of Brutus: "This was the noblest Roman of them all. His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'this was a man'."

I am satisfied that his memory will be appropriately honoured at the appropriate time, but I know the amount of effort and work he put in to try to get the new Industrial Access Road off the ground for the benefit, economic as well as social, of this country. I believe that one of the most appropriate ways that his memory can be honoured is that whenever that road is finished, it be named 'Tom Adams Memorial Highway.'

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: Mr. Deputy President and honourable Senators, I believe that I am one of the few people who have been associated with the late Prime Minister for the amount of years which I have been. I knew him as a youngster, when I happened to be one of the people who was allied very much to his late father, Sir Grantley Adams, and as such, as a youngster around his father, I got to know him in those early days. He gave me the impression of a young man who was very keen in politics and in the people, the two 'Ps' as I would put it.
11.30 a.m.

Many people knew Tom Adams as the politician, the statesman, the lawyer. I am privileged to have known Tom Adams as the man. Tom Adams was a true Barbadian and a true Caribbean man. Behind sometimes that sternness in his speeches and approach to people was a kind and sympathetic person.

I have had the privilege and the honour to have served him, as his personal aide, when he was Leader of the Opposition. I have had the honour of serving with him when he was Chairman of the Party and I was the General Secretary. We both, I would say, have had a very political life, and I always saw in this young man one purpose, and that purpose was to serve Barbados and the Caribbean.

Tom Adams loved politics; he revelled in politics. He also loved people; he always liked to be among people. I have had many experiences with him. Sometimes, like a little child, when he had a political meeting to go to, you would hear him saying, just like a boy who wanted to go and bat, "Just waiting, just waiting." But behind that, after the meeting was finished, there was no more pleasant a man to meet than Tom.

Contrary to what people think and said about him being vindictive, I think he was one of the most forgiving persons I have ever met. I have had some differences with him. At one particular time, he was the Chairman of the Party and I was General Secretary, and it was just a matter of what we should do in relation to a matter of the party. I got a little hot under the collar and I started to say, 'Mr. Adams.' He said, "Not Mr. Adams, say 'Tom' as you usually say, or let us break up this meeting." I continued to say, 'Mr. Adams', and he said "Look, let us finish this meeting." To show you the stature of the man, the very next morning he asked his then secretary to phone and ask me to come and take lunch with him the next day at the Hilton. I was a little stubborn, and stupidly said, 'I am not coming.' But he was able to get Billie Miller to convince me that I should go, and when I decided to go to the Hilton, there he was, just like a little boy who received a gift from his father, as pleased as ever. We had our lunch and we left, back on an even keel.

Like most people, I do not think I can find words really to express my true feelings. I have lost not a Prime Minister, not a leader of a political party, but I have lost a dear friend. All of you at the party level know what he meant to me.

Even at odds he would stay by my side, even if after he would say, 'Clarence, you know, you should have done such.'

Tom Adams had a true love for the common man. I will give you some of his experiences. I remember seeing him at meetings, and you should have seen the type of

people who went around him and hugged and kissed him. Only in the last by-election in St. Peter, there was a meeting in Road View, and there were about four little fellows between the ages of seven and eight who wanted to see him. I asked them if they would like to speak to the Prime Minister, and they ran away. Later on, they came back, and when I asked, they said, "Yes." I told the PM and he left and shook their hands and touched them on their heads, and they went up the road as pleased as ever. I am sure that that will live on with them for many years.

The Caribbean and the world have lost a great man. I know that it was always his desire, as it was his father's, to have a fully, well-knit Caribbean community. It was always his desire that we in the Caribbean should live as a people. I am sure, as Senator Hall has said, that if those of us who are left would strive to achieve that objective, we would have done his name proud.

I looked upon him not only as a Caribbean man, but also as an international figure. I had the privilege to be in Montreal, Canada, last year when he went there to address some business people. To show the simplicity of the man, when he saw me, I went to him and he said, "Clarence, I could not imagine that you and I could have met in these circumstances." He was so pleased to see me there that he said, "You are even dressed. You look well." I said, "What do you expect me to do?" This was the man. There were these people waiting for him and yet he could find time to meet, and see the importance of meeting another friend.

We thank God, and we should give thanks to God that he did give us one who has served us. We can only pray to God that those who are left behind will continue to do what he set about to do, and I know that that is to look after the well-being of this country. This country is a fortunate country and has been blessed. It has been blessed from the point of view that God has always provided good leaders. We have had the late Sir Grantley Adams, we have had Mr. Errol Barrow and we have had Mr. Tom Adams, who has gone, and He has endowed us and He has given us Mr. 'Bree' St. John. The support that we have given Mr. Adams — I am sure that he would only be too glad to know that we are giving Mr. St. John that support. Unlike some people who do not know and who did not know, I can say that there was a great relationship between these two people. I know that they have never made any political move without the other one knowing.

I am a bit emotional and I do not want to go any further. I would liken it unto this, "Shadows and sunshine, so too our lives are made. How great the sunshine, how small the shadows." I would say for Tom Adams, "Shadows and sunshine, so too was his life, but the shadows were small but the sunshine was great."

I can only pray that the Almighty God, in his mercy, would let light perpetually shine upon him.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR Mrs. E. M. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy President, so much has been said and written in acknowledgement of the brilliance, the outstanding achievements, the humanity and charm of our late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John Michael Geoffrey Manningham Adams, our Tom Adams, that, perhaps, I seem daring in my effort to find a new vantage point from which to approach yet another tribute in his memory.

I cannot, as so many others have done, claim close acquaintance with him. We have from time to time exchanged a few words. My recollection of this great leader indeed will always be inextricably entangled with my impressions of his parents, Sir Grantley and Lady Adams, who were close to my generation. I had more contact with them, at an exciting and challenging period in this country's development, since the former Grace Thorne was a young teacher at St. Michael's Girls' School until she married the courageous young lawyer, Grantley Adams. I knew her there as a student. From time to time she had reason to reprimand me, but the reprimands were always so beautifully embroidered with terms of endearment that it was impossible not to accept the reprimand cheerfully. I therefore joined the lusty cheers which expressed relief and joy with which we hailed the news that Tom had at least arrived safely in this world and that his mother was out of danger. He was for us a special baby. Which school girls do not like a romantic story?

11.40 a.m.

It seems to me that the early life of our late Prime Minister is an interesting study of the making of a Caribbean statesman. He inherited much from a brilliant, courageous father and a wise, affectionate mother, herself of considerable ability. He shared with them a splendid library, and must have gathered much from their conversation. He would have met the great crusading politicians of Barbados and the other Caribbean territories, and the many outstanding figures from overseas. Contact with true greatness is the best possible preparation we can give a young person for starting in life.

He also met the budding trade unionists, and I remember being somewhat daring in clamouring up the steps of the Workers Union building to hear young Frank Walcott, Hugh Springer, Mencea Cox and those pioneers, preparing for entry to the House. They seemed to have a kind of practise lesson on Wednesday nights and sometimes I went up to hear it. I was not allowed to win the debate in which I seconded the Opposition — I think it went that the West Indian Islands cannot progress any further without Federation. I remember that after the

debate was over, someone whispered to me "We could not let you win that debate in this building." So, I had to lose it. All the time these men were in quest of widening the franchise as a means of attaining social justice, and the fiery eloquence of his father sparkled in parliamentary debate in a manner which his son would also grow to enjoy.

He would have learned something of real life as he played around with so many young lads, who now tell us of those happy days together. Life was not always easy for that family. I remember going to see the exhibition at *Tyrol Cot*, and among the various documents and letters I spied a letter reminding Sir Grantley that his son's school fees had not been paid, so his life was not always a life of affluence. He knew the realities of life, especially during the dark days of the 1937 Riots. He, himself, was somewhat caught up in the events of the time.

He would have seen many simple people entering *Tyrol Cot* to speak with his father, to bring some grievance or to ask some favour; for Sir Grantley Adams was extremely accessible. Even I could hail him on the street, wave at him, approach him, ask him a question. He was very easy to talk to. He had some of that charm which his son also shared, but I think the son was even more charming. He would therefore, from all the circumstances of his environment, learn from his father that faith in the common sense of simple folk who could easily approach this rising politician.

Tom Adams therefore became well-educated, a well-balanced man, working hard, playing hard, if not always successfully, delighting in music, art, gardening. He was well prepared for the life work of scholar, lawyer and politician. In what I think was his final speech, he referred to that great book 'Beyond the Boundary' by C. L. R. James. I think that that book should be reprinted; firstly, because I can no longer find my copy and, secondly, because I think that it should be required reading for all the schoolboys of our country, and I think that with the first cap a member of the West Indian team receives, he should at the same time receive a copy of that book.

Tom Adams pointed out the importance of cricket to the young people of our area and the responsibility which rests upon sportsmen to be suitable models for the young. I would like to repeat this same kind of injunction to politicians. You, too, are the heroes of your people. The scepticism which sometimes young people are now showing, when they talk about democracy, warn us that it is time we stop playing around politicking and stand firmly for the democracy in which we are supposed to believe.

11.50 a.m.

I think that a great political party remains great in defeat, and it was when Tom Adams led a group of seven Opposition parliamentarians between 1971 and 1976 that my admiration for him became based in something greater than childhood memories. The fighting spirit, the debating skills, the knowledge which that small group of parliamentarians showed made their strength appear far greater than their numbers would have suggested. This, I think, was the base of a promising Government to come. Leading the Government party, Mr. Adams seem to me to be at great pains to foster the two-party system. The Opposition was small in number, but he congratulated them when they participated well in the debate, and accorded to the experienced Leader of the Opposition the praise which he thought was merited by his thoughtful interventions.

Though many experienced surprise and shock — that word "shock" has been much used — and I must admit that I have few adjectives to which I can resort, because they have all been used up — at the passing of Mr. Tom Adams, I regret that I was always fearing that he was subjected to too many heavy pressures. He seemed to carry them with considerable self-control, sometimes even with humour. It would be expected that he would daily meet the cut and thrust of political life. The circumstances of our time continue to be difficult and, apart from financial problems, he was continually faced with a series of crisis, beginning with the Cubana disaster before he had even settled to the task of government. The Grenada crisis was a particularly testing time, for he had no precedence on which to rely. What he did on that occasion was a great compliment to Barbadian people, for he put his future on the line in feeling that he would receive support of his people. Now that he has passed, I am especially glad that we did not fail him, for we found, to our dismay, that in international fora there was no understanding of the difference between invasion and friendly subterfuge. United Nations understood nations, they understood Governments; they did not seem to understand that it is possible for a Government and its people not to be one and the same.

This was a particularly difficult time, and the entire Caribbean area became unsettled. If his brief heart ever faltered, he never showed it. With pressures of these kinds, I must admit that I was not entirely surprised that his brilliance, his charm, all the great promise which he had, was not supported by an equally strong physique. He had the courage to make unpopular decisions. As we praise him, let us remember those occasions when he was a very unpopular Prime Minister because he dared to make the decisions which he thought were to the ultimate benefit of his country. He could not truthfully be accused of failing to do what was right for the country because a general election was around the corner. Now that he is no longer with us, we see the wisdom in the style of leadership which he adopted.

Throughout the Caribbean there has been a loss of outstanding young men. We meet brilliant men from Grenada, Dominica and many of those other islands. They are in the outside world making a very fine contribution, but their island lack their leadership. Let us thank God that Tom Adams loved his country enough to resist the beckoning of the outside world and to return here to work and to die for this country.

His Ministers seem to have considerable freedom of speech and action. Indeed, we often raised our eye-brow, since we understand that in Cabinet Government, everybody has to say the same thing. Not so, it seemed, in Tom Adams' Cabinet. They seem to have considerable freedom of speech and action, but before our very eyes they have all developed because of his trust in them. They are ready to shoulder the new responsibilities which they must now assume. More than any other leader in this region, Tom Adams prepared his team for continuity.

There was a feeling of security because we had become accustomed to his skillful handling of affairs. It is not therefore surprising that so many persons seem despondent about our future. Our late Prime Minister so loved his country that he saw to it that, unlike many other leaders, he gave his bright young men the opportunity to shoulder real responsibilities, and he freely permitted criticism.

I read some comments about the kind of remarks he may, perhaps in a moment of annoyance, have made to journalists. How is it that we have forgotten the courtesy, the willingness to be cornered by trying questions? The freedom that he gave to journalists in news conferences and interviews was something new. We had seen when journalists perspired in front of him and could hardly speak. Those same journalists have failed to give Tom Adams credit that the encouraged young journalists and he accepted really tight questioning. What is more, he enjoyed it. He had all the words ready.
12.00 noon.

Let us give him his due. We give him his due now and regret that we did not always do so. It is really sad that a man should have to die before the truth about him could be told. We Barbadians are extremely good at saying, "Goodbye." If you want to hear yourself eulogised, retire or die. Then you become a very perfect person.

All his Ministers seem to me to be ready. Let us trust them as much as he did. He must have known what he was about when he selected them. Our late Prime Minister had, as his Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Bree St. John. He has already led his party, in the early years in Opposition. He has always been regarded as a person of the highest integrity. I can hardly think of any politician whom I so often heard described as a person of

integrity as Bree St. John. He has handled so bulky a portfolio that even the Opposition complained that there should have been a Minister of Tourism, that his portfolio was too heavy. I do not know how to interpret their concern, but they did express it. I think that he has his own special style, his own special strength, and that he will receive the support of the Ministers with whom he will have to work.

Mr. Adams made no secret of his dream for Barbados as a prosperous country where all will share in the fruits of progress. In that dream, he included the other Caribbean territories. He taught us to be concerned for them and to share what little we have with them. How else can we be critical of the more developed countries where the West Indians feel unwelcome, as economic difficulties overtake the communities to which they have migrated? On that fateful night in October, 1984, we shared the grief of the Grenadian people. On Saturday, a grateful contingent from that island shared our grief at the passing of our Prime Minister. This is what being a West Indian is about.

Do not let us cry too hard about the \$20 million he spent on CARIFESTA. Perhaps, our lack of experience and other problems caused the cost to be a bit high, but I have never felt that it was too high a cost to pay for bringing West Indians together. It was a wonderful feeling to walk down on the Market Day and hear all the cadences from the different West Indian Islands, and sometimes re-establish contact with people we have met long years ago. Above all, we rejoiced on that occasion.

We thank all those who came to share this sad occasion but we rejoice in our sadness that all the West Indian leaders were together, a phenomenon which I doubt that even a conference of Heads of Government would have been able to bring about. There was Mr. Chambers, Mr. Burnham and Mr. Odum — all one. And did we not all raise our voices in joyful song, "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord?"

I cannot end without mentioning Lady Adams, to whom this country owes so much. It is remarkable that in all her difficulties, with all her responsibilities and the rearing of her son while her husband was busy, she found time to teach so many girls and boys in Barbados. She was always just as careful about our manners, our behaviour and our initiative, self-reliance and learning, as she was with Tom. If I am not meticulous, it is not her fault. If I cannot write legibly, it is not her fault. She tried very hard. We are grateful to her that she made that outstanding contribution in her own right, quite apart from the support and help she gave to her husband and her son. She always used to say that she missed children when she was not teaching. This is the essence of a good teacher. She liked to be with children. This is another debt which we owe her.

Mr. Mahon, who seemed to know Lady Adams and Sir Grantley very well, in a TV appearance during the week, summed up his tribute in simple words. In all the vicissitudes of their eventful life, he said of her relationship with Sir Grantley Adams just these words, "She stuck with him." I think perhaps, that this is a kind of challenge to us liberated ladies, that we can, while fulfilling our ambitions, while doing a good job in our own right, still stick by the man we chose. She has been a fine example.

It is not easy, and those who are closest to us know us best. I think a hard-worked politician must often be a very trying person at home. Those who love us best suffer most when, in times of despondency and failure, we turn on the people nearest to us. It is very natural. Barbados owes Lady Adams a tremendous debt of gratitude for the son she reared so carefully, for the husband she supported so loyally, together with all of her heavy responsibilities and those which he himself carried.
12.10 p.m.

Yesterday, in an article by my dear friend, the Acting President, I think he remarked about our failure to record our history. I do not think he put it in those words, but I think that is what he meant. We let so much be forgotten. In a very very short space of time people make mistakes with the simplest of events which we should all have remembered. We need to record more, we need to write more, we need to tell our children more about the events of our time.

There are lads in school who are saying that Sir Grantley Adams never did anything. Obviously, they never met the people who lived before and after the time of Sir Grantley Adams or they could never make such a statement. This is true not only of Sir Grantley Adams but even of great people like Sir John Gay Alleyne or Christopher Codrington. The intentions and high ideals of all these people are questioned by some people who one might call pseudo-historians. But it is our fault, because we should have told them, before any teacher did, what these things have meant in the history of Barbados.

I have no doubt that someone will write the biography of Tom Adams, but I hope that one of our outstanding women historians will begin interviewing Grace Lady Adams now, because I am sure that she must be a great storehouse of all kinds of interesting information about the great figures of our time and about the history, especially of those years in the middle Thirties, about which we have always heard so much. I would like to see a really good biography of Lady Adams. We see biographies of very few women. There is no biography of Nello Taitt, there is no biography of Nurse Gibson, and we could go on. I hope we will set to work to see that there is a really first-class biography of Lady Adams, and that the material begins to be collected while she can tell

it as it is and we do not trust it to some inaccurate historian. May she be sustained by her memories of success achieved, of failures overcome and happiness shared. I am sure that, in all her grief, she is a very proud woman today.

Mrs. Genevieve Adams and her two sons have their own claim on our warm concern and sympathy. She is assured that, like Ruth of old, she can say to her mother-in-law, "Your people are my people; your country is my country;" for she has earned her right to call Barbados, home.

SENATOR C. D. SEALE: I wish first to say that I associate myself with the Resolution tabled by the Honourable Leader. I first met our late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Tom Adams, on February 21, 1976 in Church Village, St. Philip, on the eve of the by-election in St. Philip North. I was immediately infected with his charm, his personality, his quality of leadership. During the rest of that year I conversed regularly with him. When the General Elections in 1976 were called, I was in England on holiday, but I had great interest in my country, and I returned for the last few days of the campaign and then returned to England to continue my holiday.

It was there in London that I received a message that the Prime Minister of Barbados wished to speak to me. They were not the days of direct dialling, so it took a long time to get through. However, when I got through to the Prime Minister, I first said to him, 'I have never yet talked to a Prime Minister on a phone.' He laughed and he said "I would like you to take up the appointment as Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank". I said 'Thank you very much, Sir. Thank you very much for the honour you have given me. I am no banker, but I will try my best.' He said, "David, I have confidence in you."

I have said already that the late Prime Minister was the most knowledgeable person I have ever met, and a joy to converse with. I do not think Barbadians relate to him as a racing man, yet he knew his racing. I recall on a number of occasions we chatted about English racing. He could tell you, for instance, that when Larkspur won the Derby in 1962, seven horses fell on Tottenham corner. He could tell you that Psidium won it at 66:1. But more than that, he followed it intimately in Barbados as well.

Other conversations we had ranged on many things. I remember once at Ilaro Court, I was admiring the grandfather clock. Not only could he tell me where I could get a clock of similar type, but the price as well the complete workings of a grandfather clock. I also remember that when we were in Spain to attend a meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank, we took a day off and went to view the many tombs there. When we got to the

place, our guide turned out to be Spanish-speaking. However, that was no problem, because Tom Adams knew the history of every tomb. He knew everything about what we visited, and it was joy to sit and listen and talk with him. He always liked in our conversations to play the devil's advocate role. He sort of took some information and then he played it back a bit with you, but in the end, if you knew you got through to him, in about a day or two after you knew what you said came true.

He knew the price of every article in a supermarket. Every time I chatted, he let me know about the price of this, the price of that. On Saturday last at the races, for instance, he knew the best vintage year of wine. He also knew the price of champagne. He knew the best types of champagne. He knew just about everything.

I believe one of the greatest tributes we can pay to the late Tom Adams is the fact that although we learnt of his death on Monday last, although we viewed his lifeless body, although we attended his funeral and we witnessed his burial, yet we cannot understand that he is dead; yet we do not know that. That is the indelible mark he has left upon us.

I consider myself privileged to have served the Government under his leadership. I loved him so; I loved him like a brother and I will never erase from my memory the loyalty, the devotion and the love I felt for him. His contribution to this country and to the wider Caribbean may, perhaps in time, be equalled, but it will never be surpassed.

In closing, I wish to extend to his wife, Genevieve, a most charming lady, a most knowledgeable lady, a most understanding lady, to his sons, Roddie and Douglas, and to his dear mother — the grand old lady of Barbados, our own Queen Mother, my condolences. My deepest sympathy goes out to them at this time of their grief. They have carried it with honour and dignity.
12.20 p.m.

Barbados is a very fortunate country in that, within minutes of the loss of our great Prime Minister, we were able to appoint another Prime Minister, with equal integrity and with equal intelligence, and a leader whom, I have the deepest confidence, will lead with great honour.

SENATOR J. E. JORDAN: Mr. Deputy President, I would wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by honourable Senators who have spoken previously in such glowing terms of the work and life of the former Prime Minister, Right Honourable J. M. G. Adams. I must confess that on Monday, March, 11, I was particularly saddened when I heard the news of the passing of our great Prime Minister. But time heals many a wound, and I felt easier on Wednesday last

when I first learnt that he had a rheumatic condition earlier in life, and that it may have affected his heart, but that he lived life to the fullest. Because in spite of that, he made sure that he carried himself in such a way that he did not bring disrepute to himself, his party or to his Government. I consider that to be a great hallmark of a great statesman.

I first observed the work of Tom Adams in the early 1970s, when, as a schoolboy, I would visit the public gallery of the other Chamber. I was impressed with the depth of thought, with his eloquence and with his concerns, generally, for the people of this country. What struck me during the past week was that a colleague of mine was surprised to have learnt that Tom Adams had won a Barbados Scholarship in the discipline of Mathematics rather than in the classical areas. Certainly in his public behaviour, he displayed competence of oratorical skills that would have usually been associated with someone of that particular training.

I consider the life and work of Tom Adams to be an inspiration to the young people of this country, particularly the young politicians of this country. It would do us all well if we were to attempt to emulate him. As Senator Seale said, his contributions will be difficult to surpass, but even if one can do slightly less than what he did, I think that would be a great accomplishment for any young politician.

I was also touched by the sentiments expressed by wide and varied cross-sections of persons in our community. However, I must make the comment that my reaction to some of the paid advertisements which appeared in the Press, in which some advertisers offered condolences to the people of Barbados in addition to the Government of Barbados and his immediate family, was not favourable. It was not favourable because the impression I got was that many of these local companies did not consider themselves as part of the people. I was more pleased with the recent advertisement which said that, "We share in the grief and the sorrow of the people of Barbados." For how is it that your mother or your father could have died and you say to your brother or sister, "I wish to express my condolences?"

Senator Griffith did remark earlier that he believe that some befitting building or some project should bear the name of Tom Adams. I wish that some consideration be given to the Central Bank Building bearing his name. On Thursday of last week, while driving down Roebuck Street, I recognized the splendour of the building and on Friday, the following day, after visiting the cathedral yard just to see where the body would be interred, I noticed that his final resting place was within line of sight of that building. I think that one of the most fitting tributes that we can pay to the memory of our late Prime Minister would be to name the Central Bank Building in his

memory — that among others. The Airport-West Coast Road, when completed, will be another facility that should aptly bear the name of Tom Adams.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Tom Adams for the eight and a half years that he has given us between 1976 and 1985 as the Prime Minister of this country, and, like many others, I express my condolences to his immediate family.

SENATOR H. E. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy President, I, of course, wish to associate myself with the Resolution which was passed here this morning, and I particularly wish to express my deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Prime Minister.

I believe that I am one of the persons in this Chamber who has had a pretty long and memorable relationship with the late Prime Minister, because I believe I am one of the few people here who was at school with him although I was slightly his junior. But my relationship with the late Prime Minister was developed more in the United Kingdom, where we shared many memorable moments from time to time. In fact, we lived in the same flat at different times, and we belonged to the same political party in the United Kingdom, the Earl's Court of the British Labour Party. He was a very senior officer in the Earl's Court Branch of the Labour Party; I became Vice Chairman and then I went on to run in the Local Council elections, a fact which really delighted the late Prime Minister, because he thought it was something which did Barbadians proud.

So much has been said about the greatness of the Prime Minister that I do not know if I should say a lot more, because I have to agree with everything that was said. We knew the sharp intellect of Tom Adams. We knew of his powers as an orator. We knew of his wit and humour.

The last time I saw the late Prime Minister was last Friday night. On Monday afternoon, indeed like everybody, I was absolutely shocked when I heard he was dead. The week before he had tried to contact me while I was in West Berlin, and it was because of that that I went straight to St. Albans to see him and to find out what he really wanted. I tell you, Sir, when I heard the news on Monday, I was absolutely shocked.

I believe that his passing must be regarded as a lesson to every citizen of this country. I think, firstly, that it should bring home to the population, the tremendous pressures under which the political leaders are forced to work in their interest. Secondly, I think his death has brought home to us the great respect and admiration which the population of Barbados had for the late Prime Minister, not only as a politician and a lawyer but also as a man. We have heard some very glowing tributes in here

this morning from the various people who knew him and I think that all of these things should be remembered by us all.

12.30 p.m.

I think that one of the other lessons which we should learn is that, in times of death, the overwhelming majority of Barbadians are prepared to unite. I think we should not overlook what has happened in the last week — the amount of people who were prepared to come to offer some sort of sympathy, to offer their services in one way or the other. We saw the efficiency and the dedication of organizations like the Defence Force, the Police Force and others, which showed that in these things, and in order to do something for a great man, they were willing to move immediately.

I also think, that we should look at the wider Barbadian public. I think another lesson that his death has taught us, is that in Barbados we have a very disciplined community, in that when you looked around these Parliament buildings within the last few days, you saw the discipline which was exhibited by the people who came to view the body. You saw those people standing there in an atmosphere of disbelief circling the Parliament Buildings. I think that the atmosphere around these buildings in the last few days was very chilling.

I have no doubt that what has taken place in the country over the last few days showed that people from all walks of life had an admiration and a very, very deep respect for the late Prime Minister. I think that the respect and the confidence which other leaders, not only in the Caribbean but in the wider world, had for our Prime Minister must be a tribute to the leadership which we have had in this country over the last few years. The late Prime Minister was certainly respected when we note the quickness with which so many leaders from all over the world accepted invitations to attend this funeral and view his body, as it laid in state. I think that we can all be proud that we indeed had a first class leader, who should be remembered not only in Barbados and in the Caribbean, but throughout the world.

I should like to say, too, that we in Barbados, I believe, are in a very fortunate position. We have had, at very short notice, to call on another person to take over in such sad days. I think that we are fortunate that we have an equally able person, in the person of the new Prime Minister, Mr. St. John, who, with his Cabinet, will be able to continue to govern the country in the interest of all its citizens. I am sure that the late Prime Minister would have wanted this. I hope, that everything in this country goes well for the people of Barbados.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Mr. Deputy President, I should like to associate myself with this Resolution. I cannot claim to have known our late Prime Minister very

well, but I should like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed about the Prime Minister's contribution to this nation and to the Caribbean as a whole.

My dealings with the Prime Minister were chiefly on behalf of the sugar industry and, unfortunately, whenever we did have an interview with the Prime Minister, it was to express our problems to him. He always listened to us sympathetically, and I must say that he has given the industry his full support during my time when I was dealing with him for the industry.

He has given support to the industry which we felt was greater than support that we had received in the past, although it is true that the problems were greater in his time, not because of his doing but because of the world condition. He will be greatly missed, not only by us in the industry as such but also by the people of this nation and in the Caribbean.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Deputy President, it was October, 1960, when I had just gone to London University to study that I met the late Prime Minister, Tom Adams, when he was then working with the BBC at Bush House in Aldwych. Thereafter, on a very regular basis for the next two or three years, I was very close to Mr. Adams and, indeed, Senator Yearwood, as we all used to hang out at the West Indian Students Centre on weekends or repair sometimes to 47 Nevern Square, Earl's Court, where Mr. Yearwood and the Prime Minister had a flat.

What immediately struck me about Tom Adams in those days was — it was clear to me — that he was quite the brightest person that I had ever come across from the Caribbean. He had shortly before that finished his Bar Finals and he used to be in the Students Centre. He was President or Deputy President of the West Indian Students Union some time before, but he used to be at Collingham Gardens virtually every weekend with Tony Highland, who was the warden, and some of us Barbadians, and his good friend George Stoll from Guyana, who was the Bestman at his wedding.

He used to, as Senator Seale said, play intellectual games with all of us and, invariably, we all lost, because our depth of reading had been nowhere near that of Tom Adams. Because he was such a clever, intellectual, intelligent person, and particularly because he was the son of Grantley Adams, when the Federation was collapsing in 1962 he became an object of derision among non-Barbadian West Indian students in London. He was disliked, I think, because he was Grantley's son, and, out of a sense of envy and jealousy, because others could not cope with his massive intellect. And yet, he never reacted against us. He knew there were persons in the Student

Centre who did not like him for those specific reasons, and he just determined to ready himself for leadership. 12.40 p.m.

The first time I realised that was one evening when we were watching a test match on television in the Students Centre and Radcliff Hewitt said to me, as Tom was sitting watching the television and at the same time reading something; "He is going to be a Prime Minister of Barbados; the fellow is just too bright." Those were Radcliff Hewitt's words about 1961 – 62.

He returned to Barbados and I became very close to his father, who used to come to London every year around March or April attending ILO conferences. Tom would always send his regards for me by his father, because I had borne a letter of introduction to Tom Adams when I went in 1960 from Fab Hoyos, who was one that ensured that I joined the Barbados Labour Party in 1957 when I was still at school at Lodge School. Tom never forgot to send regards by his father to his friends in London, and I know that from time to time he certainly used to send Christmas cards to the West Indian Students Centre, to "Pony" Hynam, for all of the Barbadian students.

We met again in 1966, during the Constitutional Conference, when I was undertaking the role of journalist then for Rediffusion and the Daily News covering the conference. Tom, Mr. St. John, Henry Forde and Freddie Miller, gave me unlimited access to them to make the reports more meaningful. Once again, one was able to witness, at very close hand, the tremendous intellect of Tom Adams, as he and Bree St. John, in particular, used to discuss what they wanted to see included in the Barbados Constitution, especially in the area of the entrenched provisions.

I came back to Barbados in 1970, and, on the instigation of Mr. St. John, in 1971, threw my hat in the political ring. After Mr. Adams became leader of the party in 1972, he came to me one day at the Labour Party Headquarters and said "I do not want you to run in St. Philip again. (I believe Senator Barrow would know this view the Prime Minister had) I would like you to run in St. Michael North-East" which was a constituency then held by Ms. Gertrude Eastmond). I was on the point of saying 'yes' to him when there was the demise of Mr. Neville Maxwell, and an urgent decision had to be made as to who should run in St. Philip North. On Sunday, January 10, I think, 1976, I volunteered to run for St. Philip North, and made the boast then that I would win the by-election. Tom understood, but he said to me, "This is going to put a spanner in the works because I wanted you in the St. Michael team." I said, 'I have to run in St. Philip.'

I must say that I owe my entry into politics as a House of Assembly Member and the winning of the seat

in St. Philip North largely to Tom Adams, because in 1971 it looks, from this distance now, as though, in racing terms, I had merely gone for a gallop, because in 1976 for the by-election I saw how an election should be properly organised and how it was properly organised. Even though he relied heavily on myself and a very humble but very intuitive man called 'Pabbo,' Ernest Johnson, for information as to what was required at the local level for the campaign, Tom master minded the whole campaign from the national point of view – what speeches we were going to make, where we were going to make a particular type of speech, what would appeal to people in a particular district and such. He worked very closely with the two of us. I saw the organisational skills of Tom Adams in the by-election of 1976.

Howard Roberts wrote, I think it was yesterday, that he knew that we would win the by-election in St. Philip North. That is not entirely accurate. The day before the result of that election, a strange thing happened. I was out campaigning, and he said "I am not coming with you today, I am going to Brereton," which was the hardest area, and he and Howard Roberts went to Brereton. We had a meeting in the afternoon, and when we assessed what was going to happen, he asked for a little pad and he started to do some calculations. He said then "If we achieve this percentage in Brereton and that percentage in Ebenezer – you tell me you can win Church Village – we will win."

On the night of the count he sat with me and he put his arms around me. It was one of the few occasions that I saw the affectionate side of Tom Adams, because he was not a man effusive with affection, but he sat next to me and he had a calculator on the night of the election and as the return came from Brereton, which was the first box counted, he said to me "The swing is not yet big enough. If you can get half in Ebenezer, we will win." And so it proved. I got half of the box in Ebenezer, he did a calculation, he got up from me and said "I am just going to walk around here now and think what I am going to tell the people, because you have won." He had calculated that I would win on the first two boxes! Tom Adams' mathematical skills have been seen at the level of a schoolboy winning the Barbados Scholarship. We in the party who have been close to him have seen him in elections use his gifts for figures to a very high and successful degree. 12.50 p.m.

After the by-election of St. Philip North and his winning the General Elections in 1976, he told me that he wanted some of us, who would have eventually to take over in the Labour Party, to get the experience of government by sitting on statutory boards, and he called me one day and told me that he wanted me and Johnny Cheltenham to head the I.D.C. and Housing respectively, because he was going to groom us. He said he understood

that Johnny and I would have for the next five years to ensure that we got an economic base, so that when he called on us at some future time, there would be no excuses, because there should be none. He was very firm, but at the same time very understanding.

I have had a long relationship with him, going back to almost twenty-five years, and there has never been once, face to face, that either of us has had a hard word for the other. If I disagreed with him, I would say that I disagreed, or he disagreed with anything I did, he would let me know, but never have we been rude or rough with each other.

I have a letter, written to me on the 4th February, signed by Tom, from Ilaro Court, and I wish to read this into the Record, because I know that Tom Adams genuinely respected all of us in the party and was concerned that we should continue the fight to ensure that the party which he was leading got a third term in Government. But he also understood that some of us had difficulties, and it was he who made the move. This is the letter:

ILARO COURT
TWO MILE HILL
ST. MICHAEL
BARBADOS

Tel. 809-429-5172

February 4, 1985.

Senator David Simmons
19 Neil's Plantation
ST. MICHAEL.

Dear David,

Of all the great imponderables that the Party faces in their run-up to the next General Election none is perhaps of greater interest and, if I may say so importance, than whether or not you will be a candidate in St. Philip North or elsewhere. I should first of all say that I would be very happy indeed if you would carry the Party's flag once more in St. Philip North, but I understand that you will have to give the matter a great deal of thought. I wonder if you can come and have lunch at Ilaro Court with me some day when we can discuss the matter. If you could ring my secretary and let her know what Monday, Wednesday or Friday you are available in the next two weeks I should be most obliged.

Yours sincerely,
J. M. G. ADAMS

I had to go away immediately after this, and then he went to Japan and Jamaica. Only on the Friday before he died, he got his secretary to call me to ask if

last week would have been convenient for us to have lunch. Of course, it never happened, regrettably.

Tom Adams was a man who had a broad vision of where he wanted to take Barbados. I used to tease him and say to him that he had to be careful about projects that would appear too big for our small country, and that he should be aware of what happened in Guyana. He said that he was fully aware of what Nkrumah had done and had failed, but that he wanted gradually to move Barbados to a stage where it could compete, even though small, with our North American neighbours. I have seen this written somewhere else, and I am sure that he has expressed this as a general vision that he had for the development of our society.

I got to know him well as a lawyer. He had a number of interests in the law. He was most interested in the law of defamation and, as Mr. St. John said on Friday, he did very well out of it too. He was very interested in the Law of Elections. He did a lot of cases, particularly in the islands, in relation to election petitions. But I remember him more so as the most skilful lawyer that I have ever come across on the matter of costs. I heard someone earlier today refer to his entering in a book each day's income and expenditure. I know that when he won a case and costs were awarded to his client, he got them. He collected, which is not a feature that many of us pursue with any degree of proficiency. He was excellent on costs, and the concern which he expressed recently to the President of the Bar Association and Registrar on the matter of costs, in my view, did not originate because he himself understood the cost and taxation of costs, but, as he expressed in the letter to the Registrar, because he was concerned for the general public that attorney fees should not be at the level where justice could be denied because a litigant could not necessarily be in a position to pay some of the high fees that are charged. I entirely endorsed his position at the Bar Association Meeting.

Tom Adams saw himself not only as a lawyer, but one who had to guard the public interest in the practice of law, and the last relationship that he had with the Bar Association before his death was again in pursuance in the protection of the public interest; a noble ideal indeed.

Having worked closely with Tom Adams, having known him when neither of us had political responsibilities, as young men in London in the early 1960s, prior to the collapse of the Federation — indeed he led a number of us on a delegation to his father, Mr. Norman Manley and someone else — I do not remember now — in 1962 when we had a march trying to save the Federation; it was known as the "Save the Nation Federation" March — what I know of Tom Adams impels me to disagree most profoundly and to disassociate myself from some of the remarks published

on March 13, 1985 under the name of Mr. Cameron Tudor. One understands platitudes. One understands a need for objectivity in the assessment of political figures. But this particular article from the *Nation*, page 5, on March 13, 1985 is, I think, highly subjective and unfair criticism, and in the poorest possible taste, from one who had held the offices of Deputy Prime Minister and ambassador for Barbados overseas. How could it be fair for one who begins to say that he did not really know Tom Adams well to then pontificate with the kind of venom that was hidden in the pen to say that Tom Adams was a deeply unhappy man? He said "the acuteness of his inner despair is best seen in his reliance for comradeship on persons who had no enemies but were almost detested by their friends."

That is not true! I can say that Tom Adams was a happy person. Even if he knew that he had a heart condition, he never showed it. With his friends, with us in the party, he was nothing other than a happy person.

I quote again:

"Without intending it, he has brought us all to a clearer understanding of power, what it is and how it is not to be used."

Destructive! Untruthful! At variance with the facts and all the tributes that have been paid by persons within and without of Barbados! I cannot let this occasion pass without dealing with this so-called appreciation, which I think has been written — I am going to choose my words carefully, lest I get carried away — by one who himself ought to recall the number of times he has had to beg and lean on Tom Adams for support and help; not least in asking Tom Adams to see to it that people like himself, ex-politicians get a better deal in terms of their parliamentary pensions than, he said, Mr. Errol Barrow was prepared to do.

I know a lot, but I am not going to say too much at this stage. However, I detest people who are wicked, and who will, for short-term political gains, and even at a time when Democratic Labour Party supporters were openly paying respect, if not love, to the memory of the man who was Prime Minister of this country, write this. One whose renown is not at all, could never be, the same as Tom Adams. To write this kind of thing is a scandal on the public life of Barbados, using terms like, "for whatever good Tom Adams was able to do". He said Tom Adams did not like to lose. I wonder if there is any one of us in here who likes to lose. Show me the man that tells you he is a happy loser, and I will show you a fool or an untruthful person. That statement was made at Government House the day that Mrs. Leacock was sworn in to serve her one day in Parliament. He told Cameron Tudor there and then that he did not like to lose and that is why he was going back to court with the matter, because he felt that he had a case that could be

vindicated in the court. But he has made that into something that, as I said, he should be ashamed of. But this is not the proper place to expatiate on Mr. Tudor. The time will come shortly when I will be more at home in dealing with Mr. Tudor on these matters.

As a Caribbean person, Tom Adams gave his heart. I was heartened by some phone calls which I had from overseas during last week; in particular, the one that came from the Organisation for National Reconstruction in Trinidad. They asked me to purchase a wreath on their behalf and have it sent to the funeral, which was done. The expressions from the ONR as to what he meant to them, to Trinidadians generally, were truly heartening. Some phone calls which I had from two lawyers in Jamaica last week who had been here two or three weeks before for the Caribbean Canadian Conference expressing shock and saying that they looked to Tom Adams for leadership in the Caribbean, certainly for the preservation of democracy — that kind of appreciation tells me that the work that Tom Adams did for the region as a whole will not be easily forgotten. He has followed in the tradition of his father, and of course, he was, if you like, merely fulfilling what was the philosophy and is the philosophy of the Barbados Labour Party. But he committed himself to it.

Those of us who are or intend to be in active politics have the example of his political life as a shining beacon to us. I have never known him, particularly since he became Prime Minister, to shirk the responsibilities of office, to be lazy about anything. He seemed to have the facility to be engaged in a serious matter and at the same time, inject the levity that would allow for free and frank discussion. The last such meeting I had with him was in the Estimates Committee earlier this year; in January, I think it was. I was trying to get some money for the Sports Council and he started me very low, and I had to say to him, "You are lower than last year." He cracked a few jokes, and at the end of the day, we got \$2.2 million, which was just slightly short of what we wanted. All the persons from the Ministry who were there could say that he did not lord it down on you. He did not make you feel inferior, that 'here was the Prime Minister'. The humility of the man was coming through at all stages. He allowed you to talk freely with him, exchanging ideas. I have known him to call me several times. He liked to call after 5 o'clock. "David what are you doing in the office at this time?" "What's happen to you now, Mr. P.M.?" "I know that you will tell me the truth. What are the people saying about so and so?" And he would draw you out. He was never difficult to get on with. It was not the attitude of a man who was unhappy.

1.10 p.m.

In relation to his interest in sports, I share what Senator Barrow said in his opening this morning on the

Resolution. As I said in my tribute from the Sports Council last week, he really wanted to see that the young people of Barbados got what they wanted to help them develop. He was concerned about unemployment and that is why he was working so hard to ensure that the access road, which is causing the problem with the Inter-American Development Bank, got off the ground, so that he could do something to alleviate the problems of unemployment among the youth.

I will never forget the Monday night at the party meeting, when I asked him for the \$750 000 to do the stadium. How he readily responded and said to all of us in the meeting, "\$750 000 is no more than the Government can give the young people of Barbados." In two or three weeks that Resolution had been passed, and we now have a new track at the stadium. My regret as Chairman of the National Sports Council is that he will not be there on the 6th April, when we open the CARIFTA Games, to see that he has given the money and we have got a new track. The young people of Barbados have at least twelve years on that track to look forward to and to develop their talents. He must have known that the people wanted this as a matter of urgency. He gave it readily. I trust that the performances at the CARIFTA games will be such that will make us proud of what he has done for the people of Barbados.

In cricket, let it be recorded that he understood the problems that were likely to affect the West Indies cricket team as a result of relationships with South Africa by other West Indian cricketers, and he pledged that Barbados would play its part in contributing to a fund, but in a more direct and in a more meaningful way. Mr. Gordon Greenidge, Mr. Desmond Haynes, Mr. Malcolm Marshall and Mr. Joel Garner can attest to the generosity of the Prime Minister as Minister of Finance and as a person who was committed to helping cricketers as to what he did for them in the last two to three years. I will not disclose it in the Record, I can tell members privately; but I know that they appreciate it, because they have each one in turn asked me over the years to convey their thanks and gratitude to the Prime Minister, in whose realm the particular decisions rested.

He wanted to see the development of aquatic sports in Barbados, and in his last public speech — I think it was at the Sports Council Annual Award Ceremony — he encouraged our young people to get back into aquatic sports, swimming and water polo. I will have to pledge as Chairman of the National Sports Council, that we, out of respect for his memory and his thoughts, will do all that we can to try to promote aquatic sports. What he said the night made sense. I will not go into it now, I will have an opportunity during the Estimates to do so, but it made sense.

He also said that he would love to see every secondary school in Barbados have a squash court. It does not cost a lot of money to erect one, and it is said to be something that would promote the better health of the young people. We will have to do those things, because his interest in sport was genuine. Senator Hall gave an example from India. If we think carefully, every year the West Indies have played cricket since he has been Prime Minister, he has made an effort to attend the test matches, particularly when they are played in England, Sir. Last year, I think he was at Lords for the game that we won there.

Mr. Adams was a very humble man; definitely not a show-off. I cannot say that in the twenty-five years I have known him, he wielded power in an offensive way. I agree with all that the others have said. If he had to set you down, he set you down gently. Others I have known have been crude and rude. I cannot say that of Tom Adams. Others I have known would speak to you today and tomorrow would ignore you, having set all eyes on you. I cannot say that that was Tom Adams.

I have known him to have been the same to somebody with whom he had an altercation as he was the day before. He did not appear to me to bear malice. And as for being vindictive, I cannot agree that that could be so. I trust that Mr. Tudor does not write another article and say that, because he would have to be the last. The fact that Mr. Tudor could write in 1978 that supporters of his party did better under Mr. Adams than Mr. Adams' own supporters is testimony to the fact that he could not have been vindictive.

We have lost a great political leader. I have no difficulty in saying that. I disagree with the budding priest at St. Thomas who said yesterday, and caused persons to walk out of the church, that he was not a great man. I disagree with that same budding priest at St. Thomas yesterday who said that it is sheer idolatry. I disagree with the same priest, because people in the Caribbean and people in Barbados need heroes, they need idols.

For me, Tom Adams was a hero. For me, Tom Adams was an idol. For me, Tom Adams will always be a hero and an idol.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Mr. President, there is absolutely no way in which I can elaborate or improve upon or otherwise add to the glowing tributes which have been paid to our late P.M., as he was affectionately called by most of us on this side of this table. That he was a brilliant scholar is not in dispute. That he was an accomplished broadcaster is also accepted. That he was a thorough and skilful lawyer is unarguable. And if we accept the definition as a person actively engaged in politics, especially party politics, it cannot be denied that

he was also a politician. What is more, if we define a statesman as a person who shows wisdom and skill in conducting state affairs and dealing with public issues, or as one experienced or engaged in the business of government, it cannot be denied that he was a statesman in the true sense of that term.

1.20 p.m.

By all accounts, he was a free man and also a Freemason. I take those two together, because as a free man he cherished not only his own freedom but also that of others, both politically and socially. As a Freemason, he no doubt would have been taught some useful lessons in being charitable to his fellowman. As a practising Mason, he would have been familiar with that part in the masonic ritual which tells us that death is a subject which admits of no levity when mentioned by mortal man. That part of the ritual goes on to state that the young may die, the old must die, and the wisest know not when. His exposure to the discipline of Freemasonry would have prepared him, despite his untimely death, for his rendezvous with the Great Architect.

I can add no more to the wonderful tributes which have been paid to him. However, and for the sake of completeness and for the Record, I must relate what the man Tom Adams has done for me from a personal standpoint. It was in 1976 that I first made close contact with him, during the by-election in St. Philip North, which Senator Simmons spoke about, earlier, and history has recorded the small part which I played in that by-election. Apparently, however, it was as a result of that election that one night during June or July in 1976, I received three phone calls. The first one was from Senator Simmons, who was then a sitting MP — he had won the by-election — and who told me then that the BLP would like me to run in St. John. I well recall at the time that I was playing a card game — that was very much liked by the Prime Minister himself — and that night I told Mr. Simmons that he had just interrupted me in a wonderful hand which I was holding in that game and he should not call me back that night. The next call I received was from Mr. Ezra Alleyne, who came with the same words of entreaty. It so happened that I had another good hand, and I told him not to call me back that night either. The third call that I received that night was from the Prime Minister and he said, "Hutson, I know what it is to have a good hand and to be interrupted. I am not going to talk to you now. Could you come and see me at my office tomorrow?" The 'tomorrow' being a Saturday. I said, "What about?" He said, "I do not want to interrupt you now. You play your card game and you come and see me tomorrow." I said, "What time?" He said, "Choose your own time. I will be there all day." I met him at his office at 9.30 on the Saturday morning. He said to me, "Did you win?" I said, "After all those interruptions, I could not win." He said, "Not to worry. You are going to be a winner someday", and he then

went on to invite me to become the candidate in the upcoming General Elections opposing the then Prime Minister.

It is obvious that his approach was the correct approach, not only that I had been enjoying a card game at the time, but because, obviously, he did not come to me in that frank and brutal way when he told me that the party wanted me to run in St. John. When he got me into his office, he said to me that he thought, along with several other members of the party, that it would redound to the benefit of the party, and possibly to the country, and no doubt intimating to me if I would agree to become the candidate in St. John. I could not quite believe him at the time, but I felt enthralled by the idea and as time went on I developed some enthusiasm. The rest is now history.

It is through the late Prime Minister that I am now enjoying my position in this august chamber. It was through the late P.M. that I was given the opportunity to serve at a relatively high level in the public life of this country. In 1981, when I lost the election in St. Philip South, I remember that I was lying in my constituency house alone — I had been totally deserted — when the phone rang. I picked it up half asleep and half awake, and the voice at the other end was the voice of the late P.M. He said, "Hutson, how are you feeling?" I said, "A bit down, but otherwise okay." He said, "Hutson, I would like you to serve in the Senate a second term." I said, "PM, have you made up your mind about that?" He said, "Yes, why not? Have you not?" I said, that I could not have made up my mind, because I did not expect to be asked, and having lost an election, to actually have been asked, so I could not have given it any thought, and that in any event I did not think that I would be in the right frame of mind to serve in the Senate the second term. He said to me, "Hutson, I would like you to run in St. Philip South for a second time, and I think that another term in the Senate will give you ample opportunity to develop your debating skills and give you further political base from which you can fight your fight whenever the election is called the next time." Even then I did not answer. He asked me to call him the following day, which was the Saturday, and I did not call him. At about 12 o'clock on that day he said to me that he was completing the list of Senators to go to the Governor-General and he wanted to know if I was willing to serve. I said, "It seems that you are eager to have me and I will be willing to serve in the Senate."

On the last occasion that I talked to him from a very close range was sometime in September 1983, when the BLP had celebrated his anniversary in King George V Park. I was part of the organizing committee, and I had made certain remarks which, apparently, had caught the imagination of the Prime Minister, to the extent that he said to me that he wanted to discuss certain matters with

me and that he would invite me to his office to discuss them. That anniversary was held on Sunday, and on Monday, I got a telephone call from his secretary inviting me to his office on a Tuesday. The Tuesday I went there, and it was not like the normal meetings that I had had with him before. He is a man whom I have never known to smoke, and he offered me a cigarette. Then he got his secretary to bring me a cup of coffee. As you will recall, Mr. Deputy President, that was about the time Senators in here were coming and going out the door just as fast, and I was saying to myself, "Something is amiss here. This is your turn, Hutson boy - coffee and then cigarettes, too, from a mahogany box at that! Something is wrong here." However, I sat it out for half hour, and the PM came out and ushered me in, and he said to me, "Hutson, have you been attending the Senate regularly?" I said, "As regularly and as I have time to permit, Mr. PM." He said, "Have you been getting their punctuality?" I said, "As punctually as my business would allow me to." He said, "Having attended as regularly as your business would permit and attended as punctually as your business would permit, have you been making the contributions that you were making in your first term in the Senate?" I said "As much as my business would allow me." He said, "Hutson, I have got complaints to the contrary. I would not tell you from whom, but I got complaints to the contrary. What are you going to do about it." I said, "You have caught me at a good time. The reason I have not been attending as regularly as I should have been or as punctually as I should have been, or contributing as regularly as I had been was because of certain matters which had just been brought to an end and I expect you will get reports to the contrary from now on." He said, "Okay. That is all right then. I will listen out for those reports. Be off now." And I was off. 1.30 p.m.

True to form, last year, during the first by-election in St. Peter, as you would probably recall again, Mr. Deputy President, I was charged with the responsibility of chairing most of the meetings that were held in St. Peter, and I had occasion to come into regular and close contact with the Prime Minister. One night I was just sitting sipping a drink waiting to introduce the PM and he said to me, "Hutson, I know your attendance at Senate has improved." I said, "So it has, Mr. PM." He said, "You are even getting there early." I said, "Yes, Mr. PM." He said, "I notice you have made one or two contributions since I spoke to you." I said, "Yes, Mr. PM." He said, "You see what a little talking does to you now?" I said, "Right, Mr. PM."

Laughter.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I just recounted those incidents to show you how he treated the lowliest of us who happen to sit, on this side. I do not think he has ever shown any preference for one member of the party

as opposed to another member of the party. Some people out there have it that he had some favourites and that other people were not his favourites. I cannot say that. I have benefitted tremendously from the late PM's guidance and counselling. We were, in fact, brothers. I happen to be a Freemason like the late PM. But apart from that, he treated me not even like a brother, but like a son. I have as much reason as anybody else to regret the untimely death of the late Prime Minister. I think, if there is one thing I have learnt, it is a lesson which I learnt from him, even before I became a Freemason, and it is that it is very important that we should treat our fellow men on terms of strict equality.

It is with great regret, that I join with my fellow Senators in supporting this Resolution, specifically the final recital, where we are seeking to convey our "sentiments of profound grief, regret and sympathy on behalf of our nation and of ourselves to his widow, Mrs. Genevieve Adams, to their children, his mother, Grace Lady Adams, to his other relatives and friends."

All I can say now, Mr. Deputy President, is, 'May he rest in peace.'

SENATOR Miss J. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support the Resolution which is before us, and I wish to associate myself with the remarks expressed by previous Senators in paying tribute to the man who was our Prime Minister for over eight years. As I do this, I very much regret that I do not have the eloquence, the turn of phrase which he possessed to allow me to do just credit to him on this occasion. And I must also say that, as I do this, I cannot help wishing that we could blot out the events of last Monday, that we could somehow put the clock back. What a pity it was that someone was not with him at the time of his attack so that vital and life sustaining help could have been given to him in time to save his life. But this was not to be, and although we grieve his loss, and will do so for some time to come, we have to recognise that His Heavenly Father knows best and has taken him from us. While we do not understand the reason, we cannot question God. We can, however, rest assured that He is working in his usual mysterious way in bringing his purpose to fruition, even though we cannot fathom the meaning of His action. We do not know what perils God has shielded him from by his seemingly untimely removal from this earth.

And so, life must go on. Simple mortals that we are, we have to thank God for his life and work among us and ask Him for the strength to bear his loss with fortitude and grace, and to carry on his good work. I have no doubt that had they been given the opportunity to do so, there are many who would gladly have taken his place so that he might continue to live and work among us. But this was not to be.

This great man, seemingly in perfect health, has been taken from us in the prime of his life, when he still had so much to offer to the development of our country, the Caribbean and the wider world. As we listen to the glowing tributes paid to him from near and far, we cannot help being proud of this son of the soil who has so distinguished himself as a world class statesman.

My only personal regret is that I did not get to know him better. Like many, I admired him from afar, but never really had the opportunity to spend enough time with him, to get to understand him and to know what made him tick. That he was highly motivated with concern for his fellow man was easily seen by all but the blind or dishonest. While I readily admit that he was not a saint, I am convinced that he was more saintly than most of us. And when it is considered that he had to work while being continuously under attack by those who were not worthy to touch his shoe laces, we can only say that his faith in God must have been stronger than even the most discerning among us realize.

Over the years, I have asked myself why certain people in this country seemingly set out, with satanic glee, to assassinate his character at every turn. I ask myself why people from all walks of life were so gullible as to believe every lie that was told about him. I pray that those people who have knowingly and wilfully tried and, to some extent, succeeded in blackening his name will hang their heads in shame and recognize the error of their ways. I pray, too, that they will take a deep and penetrating look at themselves, and try to turn over a new leaf. Let them try to respect and emulate the qualities which set him head and shoulders above men.

I have been concerned for a long time over the fact that people who hold themselves up as responsible citizens have studiously and deliberately sought to influence the innocent and the unsuspecting among us into believing that Tom Adams was a demon, if not the personification of Satan. I refer those persons to the words of the hymn writer of the hymn we sang last Saturday:

"Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound:
His strength the more is."

It is true that to whom much is given, much is expected, and although we have the satisfaction of knowing that he fulfilled this particular obligation with flair, with style and with ease, we cannot help but ask ourselves whether we expected too much of him. It is an unfortunate fact of life that we tend to expect the impossible of those who hold high office. In so doing, we often forget that they are human, too. We expect them to be perfect beings. We expect them to be able to withstand the darts which we ourselves could never take. Is it any wonder that persons such as our late Prime

Minister have to grow an outer skin which gives the appearance that the poisoned darts of their detractors do not penetrate? As we reflect on his time in office, we must surely contemplate the fact that he must have agonized privately on numerous occasions when the slings and arrows which were so often fired at him hurt to the core.

1.40 p.m.

I am convinced that God, in his infinite wisdom, has spoken a sharp word of rebuke to us through the removal of Tom Adams from this particular vineyard. I believe that God is calling us to wake up to the realities of our situation and to recognise that it is our duty to serve our country with the same level of dedication and commitment as was displayed by Tom. Like Senator Greaves, I hope that his passing will move us to improve the level of our performance in and out of Parliament.

As people of Barbados, as people of the Caribbean, as people of the world, we must so order our lives that we can demonstrate in a tangible way, our regard for this brilliant and sensitive man who touched our lives and now is no more. Like Senator Hall, I feel that we must continue to put Barbados first, as he did, and let his death be the unifying force which I believe God intends it to be.

As we recognise our personal weaknesses and frailties, and we appreciate our limitations, let us pledge ourselves to do all in our power to walk in his steps with heads held high to the glory of God and our country. Even as we salute our late and revered Prime Minister, we must thank God for the ease with which the Honourable Bernard St. John was able to assume the high office of Prime Minister last Monday. May he be spared the attacks which were so often showered on his predecessor.

May Tom Adams' family, his wife, his children and that dear old lady, his mother, be strengthened in the knowledge that any sacrifice which they may have made in their personal lives to permit him to serve us as he did, was to the glory of God.

SENATOR Mrs. M. O. REECE: I rise to associate myself with the remarks that have been made before this Chamber.

It was last Monday, some two hours later, that I received the news of the passing of our great leader, and I have never in my life undergone such a strain. It was told to me at that time that I should not say anything. I do not think anybody understands what it takes to hear something like that and be told not to say anything. I remember people in the office asking if my brother had died. It is a moment I would never like to pass through again as long as I am on this earth.

I believe a lot has been said. Like Senator Lynch, there are not many more adjectives I can add to what has been said. But I would just like to mention some of the tributes I have heard in passing, because some of us have not been able to go on radio and have our feelings recorded.

One saying was "I wish God could give me his brain." One person said it should be donated to the museum. People have said, with all due respect to the Almighty God, that they wished it could have been them instead. People have said, "I wanted to hate him, but I had to love him." The comments that you hear from the ordinary folk on the road makes one feel good about his passing.

Sometimes we say that if somebody came back, we would flee, but at least I felt up to Saturday that it was not true, it was not real, and that it was some dream from which we would awaken at some time. It is good when somebody can pass on and leave that feeling with you, that the person is not dead, that you keep seeing them and hearing them, you keep feeling their presence and there is not that feeling of death passed on.

What he has left for us is great, and we treasure it, and we hope that his passing will be a consolation to us who have been left behind. And let us realise that, in the twinkling of an eye, each and every one of us could be gone.

SENATOR Mrs. G. G. READER: Mr. President, I just want to associate myself with this Resolution and to say there is very little left to be said about our late Prime Minister. He was a man of honour and I think the whole of Barbados, certainly everybody I have met, have felt diminished by his passing.

In the words of Shakespeare, he was my friend, faithful and just to me; my heart is in the coffin there with Caesar and I must pause till it comes back to me.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Honourable Members of the Senate, we have all spoken and paid our tributes to our late Prime Minister. These tributes have poured in from the whole community as well as from overseas, and if it is possible to soften the blow of so unexpected a retirement of an honoured and respected leader, then these tributes and our own will have helped to do so.
1.50 p.m.

Much has been said about the qualities of Tom Adams, his intellectual capacity and his political skills, his loyalty to his friends and colleagues. My own contact with Mr. Adams was minimal. We met on rare occasions but still often enough for me to have gained some sense of the quality of this man and to be impressed by the

range of his curiosity, and what I saw of his courageous appetite for knowledge. He seemed to need desperately to know everything that there was to know, and no aspect of human behaviour was too obscure to command his attention.

My parents and his family were well acquainted with each other, and my grandmother, who before she was married taught in the infant section of his grandfather, Captain Adams' School, St. Giles School. I heard stories of a stern old martinet of a headteacher, and so I know something of the background which produced the man who has proceeded to be such an adornment to Barbados.

I think his richest gift to his country has been the gift of his talent, through which he has made a generation proud to be a Barbadian. I do not propose to try to outdo the facility of the language we have heard today, nor do I attempt any profound analysis of the contributions which Tom Adams has made to this country. But I should like to share with you some lines from a poem which I think are appropriate at this time. The poem is called "AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION" by Dylan Thomas, and the words are:

And Death shall have no dominion
Dead men naked they shall be one
With the man in the wind and the west moon
When their bones are picked clean and
the clean bones gone
They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again
Though lovers be lost love shall not
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion
Under the windings of the sea
They lying long shall not die windily
Twisting on racks when sinews give way
Strapped to a wheel yet they shall not break
Faith in their hands shall snap in two
And the unicorn evils run them through
Split all ends up, they shan't crack
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion
No more may gulls cry at their ears
Or waves break loud on the seashores
Where blew a flower may flower no more
Lift its head to the blows of the rain
Though they be mad and dead as nails
Heads of the characters hammer through daisies
Break in the sun till the sun breaks down
And death shall have no dominion.

Members of the Senate, it is customary to put the question at this stage. All members have spoken in favour of the Resolution. I merely ask, for the Record, that you express your unanimous agreement to this Resolution by standing in silence for two minutes.

The Senate stood in silence for two minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, as I rise to move the adjournment, there is one brief announcement, which is in view of the fact that the Other Place is meeting. Luncheon arrangements are not what we would have normally expected, and the Clerk has made arrangements for us to go to the restaurant at Queens Park where we may have lunch immediately after we adjourn.

I would normally have been moving the adjournment to Monday, March 25. But in view of the occupation for most of the day, both here and in the Other Place, in paying tributes, I have been advised by the Clerk that it should be more appropriate that we should move our date of the Estimates back by one day, so that if there should be an overrun in the Other Place, then they may conclude on Monday.

Accordingly, I move that the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 26, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and the Senate was adjourned accordingly.
2.00 p.m.

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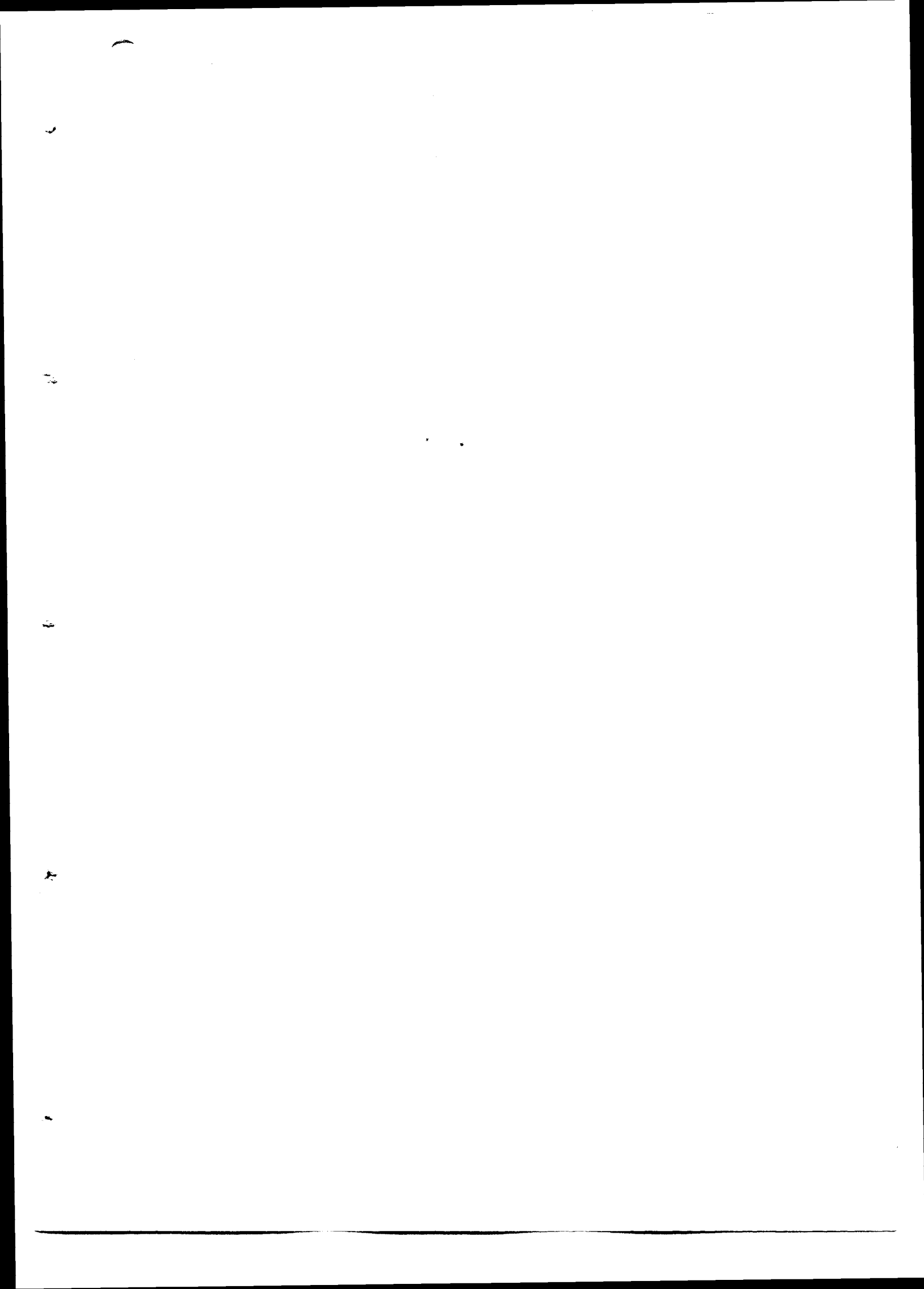
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THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1981 – 86

THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 26, 1985

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Tuesday, March 26, 1985, at 10:20 a.m.

PRESENT

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

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

Senator the Hon. O'Brien Trotman, (Minister of Health);

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

Senator J. E. D. Williams, (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister);

Senator H. R. Linton;

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

Senator D. A. C. Simmons;

Senator Miss J. Clarke;

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 the Rev. Canon I. McK. Jones;

Senator L. A. Ward, G.C.M.;

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

Senator J. E. Jordan.

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

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

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

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, the Order Paper reflects at least, in respect of Order No. 1 that a matter is down for the first reading and it will therefore be necessary for us to suspend the relevant Standing Order.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I move the suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 45(1) and (2) for today's sitting.

The question that Standing Order Nos. 45(1) and (2) be suspended for the day's sitting was put to the Senate and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to introduce the following:—

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, 1986.

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Indian Ground, St. Peter.

A Resolution to approve the Land Development Duty (Rate of Duty) Order, 1985.

I also draw attention to the fact that on the Order Paper, Orders Nos. 6 and 7 have already been read a first time and, therefore, should have been appropriately down for second reading.

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARRŌW: Mr. Deputy President, first of all, Order No. 1, standing in my name, should stand in the name of Senator the Honourable Clyde Griffith. Order No. 3 standing in my name, should stand in the name of Senator the Hon. O'B. Trotman. Order No. 4, standing in my name, should stand in the name of Senator O'B. Trotman. Order No. 6, standing in my name, should stand in the name of Senator the Honourable Clyde Griffith along with Order No. 7.
10.30 a.m.

The Order of Business which we propose today is as follows No: 2, 5, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 1.

In the event that the files arrive on time, and the matters are matters of no particular subtlety, I would like the Honourable Senate to agree that we should proceed with the two Resolutions which we have given notice of before going to Order No. 1.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SPOONERS HILL, ST. MICHAEL

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Spooners Hill, St. Michael, for the purpose of housing development.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution has to be seen in the context of Government's policy in relation to sites and services, providing a number of fully-serviced lots, that is lots with the necessary infrastructural facilities, and it relates to the compulsory acquisition of an area of land at Spooners Hill, St. Michael, comprising a total of 10 340.4 square metres. It is owned by four persons, Wilhelmina Brathwaite, Marjorie Myles, Mary Broomes and Cuthbert Carter.

Initially, it was envisaged that a much larger area of land would have been required for the project – in fact, the acquisition notice published earlier mentioned seven parcels or a total of 17 171.86 square metres or some 4.2 acres – but after the NHC had prepared the preliminary design, it was realised that it would have been of particular advantage to the Government to acquire certain parcels of land that were originally earmarked for development. It was also determined that it would have been uneconomical to construct road access to some sections of the area and that the omission of those areas of land would have no adverse effect on the housing development proposals.

These four parcels of land, the subject of this Resolution, embraced a fair amount of unused and under-used land, and the existing land use pattern in the area is predominantly residential. The programme for implementation will involve the provision of 17 fully serviced house spots for sale and it is expected that some road repairs in the area will be necessary.

Sections 3 and 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, have already been invoked, the necessary contract for the road works has been awarded to Rayside Asphalt and Paving Company Limited, and work is expected to start very shortly. It is now necessary for us to seek parliamentary approval so that the necessary legal processes for acquisition may be completed and the owners compensated.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CAVE HILL, ST. MICHAEL.

Order No. 5 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Cave Hill, St. Michael, for the purpose of housing development and for the construction of the Airport to the West Coast Highway.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, this Resolution seeks approval for the compulsory acquisition of two parcels of land containing 20 011.88 square metres and 4 370.5 square metres situate at Cave Hill, St. Michael and belonging to the estate of Frank Inniss, deceased.

Action for the compulsory acquisition of these lands was initiated in May 1984 with the invocation of the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228. At that time it was proposed to use the two vacant parcels of land, considered to be fine building land, for the construction of public housing or, alternately, for a sites and services scheme. However, before the housing development programme could be formulated, it was discovered that this land would be adversely affected by the proposed corridor of the new Airport to the West Coast Highway and may therefore be unsuitable for housing development after construction of the road. As a consequence, the Government proposes to proceed with the acquisition of the two parcels of land in order to facilitate the construction of the said highway, and therefore parliamentary approval is being sought in this connection so that the matter may be finalised and the owners duly compensated.

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

10.40 a.m.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: In rising to support the Resolution, I should just like to indicate that at an appropriate time, I would be interested in hearing some explanation as to why the path that the road is going to follow, especially from St. Barnabas onwards to the airport, has been chosen, that circuitous path, as opposed to a more direct path. I will also want to know about the scheduling of work on the road, the arrangements for financing the road and things like that.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I wish to give Senator McClean the assurance that, in the course of the debate on the Appropriation Bill, Senator Trotman, who will deal with Transport and Works' matters, will provide what information is at present available, which is pretty nearly all the information he sees.

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

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (PART-TIME OFFICERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1985

Order No. 3 was called, to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1985.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: A few months ago, this Chamber approved the Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) Order. At that time, we were considering the upgrading of several posts in the Public Service in what is known as the super scales, and, as a result, some of the upper rounds of the Service were affected. It has been discovered that due to an oversight, the post of District Medical Officer was omitted in that Order. The amending Order today seeks to correct that omission.

District Medical Officers are those thirteen officers who attend to the needs of the poor and the aged. At present, some of them are permanent officers, and it is important that we correct the anomaly in order that they get their corrected pensions, especially when the retiring benefits are being calculated.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1985

Order No. 4 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment General (Amendment) Order, 1985.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: The reason for this is very similar. The Civil Establishment General Order was amended, and even though these posts are shown in the new Order, due to an oversight, again a clerical error, the posts affected were not upgraded, as they ought to have been at that time, and at present the officers are receiving slightly lower salaries than they ought to have been receiving. This Resolution seeks to correct that.

The posts involved are the Assistant Comptroller of Customs in the Customs Department, Security, who should have been graded S7 and is currently graded at Grade 8, the Security Officer Grade 1, who should have been graded in Z 10(3) and is graded Z 10(6), the Manager at the School Meals Department, who should have been graded S6 instead. At the Mental Hospital, the Hospital Director, who should have been graded at 5 and is presently graded S6, and in the Ministry of Housing and Lands, Senior Administrative Officer, who should have been graded at S5 and is graded at S6.

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

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, before we move to the next Order, two items in the Order of Business are affected by a note that has just been received and I am asking that we recommit the Items, "MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL", and "PRESENTATION OF PAPERS".

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have now received the following Message, No 5/85, from His Excellency the Acting Governor-General to the Honourable, The Senate:

"His Excellency the Acting Governor-General has the honour to refer to his Message No. 3/85 regarding the absence from duty of His Excellency, Sir Hugh Springer GCMG, KA, CBE; Governor-General and to inform the Honourable the Senate that the period of absence from duty by Sir Hugh has been extended to 14 April, 1985.

His Excellency, the Acting Governor-General further has the honour to inform the Honourable Senate

that the designation, under Section 29 1(a) of the Constitution, Senator the honourable Sir Arnott Cato, KCMG to perform the duties of Governor-General during Sir Hugh Springer's absence has been extended also to 14 April, 1985

Signed: A. S. CATO
Acting Governor-General,
22 March, 1985."

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

The Land Development Duty (Rate of Duty) Order, 1985.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1985

Order No. 6 was called – To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Cap. 5.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: On the abolition of the office in 1973 and the establishment of Finance and Planning, the functions of the Financial Secretary, under the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Cap. 5, was assigned to the Director of Finance and Planning. The Act, however, has never been amended to reflect this change. It is now proposed to remove the anomaly. A further amendment proposed by the Bill concerns the matter of delegation by an accounting officer of the functions falling to him under the Act.

As the law stands, there appears to be some ambiguity regarding whether an accounting officer should delegate any of his functions to a person who does not hold an established post in the Civil Service. This has resulted – and I can speak from personal experience on this – in a situation in which the accounting officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegates his functions in respect to the Overseas Missions to the most senior officer in the Ministry holding an established post, that is, the most senior civil servant, who is considered the authorized representative of the Head of the Foreign Service, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
10.50 a.m.

It is anomalous that the Head of the Mission should not be in full control of the matters pertaining to the administration of the Mission. The arrangements whereby a subordinate officer exercises superior authority in the matters relating to the administration of the accounts has been, in some cases, a cause of friction between that officer and the Head of the Mission. The amendment, therefore, is intended to remove the anomaly and the

potential for friction by clearing the Act of ambiguity. The accounting officers, their authorized representatives, and indeed all persons with any responsibility for the financial management in the Public Service, will continue, however, to be required to discharge that responsibility within the constraints of the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Financial Rules.

To put it briefly, it simply means that the Bill will make provision now for the duties of the Financial Secretary to be administered by the Director of Finance and Planning, and also to ensure that there is removal of the friction which is prevalent in many of the Overseas Missions where the senior civil servant, who is usually the Deputy Head of the Mission, has some elements of control, particularly in the financial area, and is accountable directly to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is the Head of the Foreign Service. In cases where you have a political appointee, that appointee cannot dictate, in effect, the administration of financial matters in the Mission. It has caused some difficulties in the past and the effect of the Bill is to try to resolve some of those difficulties.

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

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I cannot support this amendment, and more so as I sat and listened to Senator Griffith. I have not been convinced by the reason which he has given for the major part of this amendment.

The first part which this Bill seeks to amend is, in my view, merely cosmetic. There is no problem with that. I think that the most important area has to do with what Senator Griffith attempts to pass off as a minor matter, but I think that it is one of fundamental importance. He indicated that there has been friction in the Missions overseas between the civil servants and the Head of the Mission, especially if that Head of the Mission is a political appointee, and he went on to make the point that it is the Government's view that the Head of the Mission should be responsible for all aspects of the Mission, including responsibility for financial administration. I think that this is a dangerous development, and one which is not deserving of the support of this Chamber.

In looking at this one has to examine the composition of the Overseas Missions and their administration. I did a very quick analysis of what obtains overseas as far as appointees are concerned. You will find that at the United Nations at the Head of the Mission is a political appointee. In Caracas, the Head of the Mission is a political appointee. In Canada, the Head of the Mission is a political appointee. In the United Kingdom, the Head of the Mission is a political appointee. To the O.A.S. and USA, as far as I can recall, that Mission is headed by a career civil servant. In Brussels, that Mission is headed by

a career civil servant. These are the major Missions overseas, I do not think I have left any out. This indicates a pattern, and whereas one would not want to seek to cast aspersions on the integrity of the persons who head our Missions at the present moment overseas, one could very well see that to shift responsibility in an area which has been tried and established, and proven to be useful particularly in the area of checks and balances, into a situation where political appointees now and forever more can be responsible for the handling of the finances and the disbursement funds relative to funds which have been allocated to the Mission, is a step which we ought to be very careful about, and certainly is a step which I cannot support.

It is very clear that there must be rules relative to the administration of financial matters. You have rules which govern the expenditure of Government monies, and I am wondering if, moving from this, the Government would not very shortly come up with a further amendment to the Financial Administration and Audit Act to make the Ministers of Government here responsible for the day-to-day financial administration of their various Ministries, in the same way that they would want to bring about this change in the Overseas Missions. I am not saying this is what will happen, but certainly one could see that this could very well be a logical development.

I am very concerned that the Government is seeking to introduce this particular change. I think the change will open the way for all kinds of infelicities. I am saying that without any fear of contradiction, because we have had information about the kinds of requests for the payment of bills by persons who travel overseas on behalf of the Government, who, even although they have travelling expenses with them from Barbados, will still make requests on the Mission overseas to settle bills on their behalf. That is where the conflict arises, that is the conflict that Senator Griffith is talking about, and therefore, to put the responsibility in the hands of a political appointee, then one could see very clearly what would happen. And when I say that it will open the way for all kinds of infelicities, I am saying this from a point of view of knowing of the kinds of requests which have been made on accounting officers and which they have quite correctly refused in the past.

It is for that reason that I am unable to support this amendment and, therefore, will be calling at the appropriate time for a division on this matter. I think it is an important matter of principle and each member of this Senate should state very clearly where he stands on this particular amendment.

11.00 a.m.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I do not have any difficulty with Senator Greaves stating his position. The only difficulty I have is with understanding

what he is trying to say. I would dismiss it as arrant nonsense to suggest that the people who are Heads of Missions are not people of integrity, whether we deal with people like the Ambassador to the United Nations, who is a man of many years' service in the law, or the other Ambassador, who would be anathema to Senator Greaves, the Ambassador to Caracas, Senator John Connell, and I suppose that is what the real motivation is.

Senator Greaves has made heavy weather of what is a simple and straightforward matter. Parliament decides what the public funds will be spent on — and it does not matter whether the person is a career civil servant or whether he is an officer on contract. Senator Greaves prefers to use the term "political appointee" because he wants to becloud the issue, but we are dealing here with whether you are an officer on contract or whether you are a career civil servant. Whether that person is capable of observing the financial rules in the administration of the vote under his control is something which you can only come to a conclusion about by making a personnel assessment. Not every civil servant steals, but some civil servants given responsibility for money have stolen, and some have gone to gaol. That does not mean that no civil servant is to be trusted with the administration of public funds, so do not let us get in here and talk foolishness.

Why should a Head of Mission, who has in his vote monies which are to provide for his travel in the course of business, doing a job he is appointed to do, be dictated to in this respect by a junior? Let us assume he is appointed Ambassador to the United States and that he has Consular Offices — because we have a series of Honorary Consuls across the length and breadth of the United States — and for the proper execution of his office he must travel across the United States. Let us assume that \$10 000 is provided for that purpose. Why should he be subjected to a junior officer telling him whether and when he can travel? That is the kind of issue that causes friction, and I want Senator Greaves to go on record as saying that that is correct. It is not that anybody wants to spend money on things which the law does not authorise, it is that if you want to frustrate your Head of Mission, all you have to do is to say you are not going to pay a bill, and this has been happening.

We may as well just talk straight about what is happening, because Senator Greaves would have us believe that people will be asked to make improper payments, that people have had requests put to them for payments which are not within the ambit of the law. I know of none, and if Senator Greaves knows of any such instance, then he should bring it to the attention of the Senate, bring it to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, bring it to the attention of the Public Accounts Committee. He can give it to one of his mem-

bers who will bring it to the Public Accounts Committee. That is the way to deal with these things, not by slant and innuendo. Do not suggest things which you are in a position to assist us in finding out about.

I know that there are areas in which people have to do things in relation to the execution of their duty. Let me put another position. Suppose it is the judgement of a Head of Mission that in the interest of his country, he ought to spend X or Y dollars entertaining nationals or other people of significance to Barbados. That is a judgement which you expect a Head of Mission to be able to make. How are you going to justify some little officer, somebody who has not yet been thought worthy of managing a vote in the Public Service, looking at the Ambassador and telling him "you can decide to have your party for nationals but" — and he does not say he does not think it is necessary, because if he says he does not think it is necessary, then he would be mashing the crease — ".....but I am not going to pay?"

What is more the recourse in those cases is to the Permanent Secretary, and all you have to do is have a Head of Mission and a Permanent Secretary who do not get on, and all the Permanent Secretary has to do is when the request eventually goes from his sub-accounting officer in the Mission to the Permanent Secretary is to treat it with deliberate speed — you know, whether you are taking action, or taking speedy action, or whether you get to it in due course. That is the kind of thing I mean. That is all he has to do.

If those situations are going to continue, then we are going to continue to frustrate the people that we put there to do a job for Barbados. If he wants to say that the appointments are not suitable appointments, I think Senator Greaves should come out and say so. If he wants to say anything about the people who head the Missions, that is what he ought to do, because unless you are suggesting that the persons heading the Missions are not capable of financial responsibility, then there is absolutely no point. It would be foolishness, even beneath Senator Greaves, to suggest that if a person is a political appointment and not a career officer, then he cannot manage a vote. If he has information which would justify the position he takes, put the information on the table. That is what he ought to do. Let us see the information and let us see why, therefore, he is making the point, but I submit that on the basis of what Senator Greaves has said there is absolutely no ground for opposing this measure. If it is something he knows, let him come in here and say it, but do not come in here with innuendo, do not come in here with suggestions unworthy of this Senate, in order to justify a position which probably is a position based on spite.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I rise to speak in support of this Bill. I speak against the background of

three to three and a half years which I spent in the Barbados High Commission in London as an employee, and more particularly as a person employed in the Accounts Department of that High Commission. I do think, from my experience, that a Bill such as this is long overdue. Perhaps part of the reason that it has not been brought before was that the Government officers who are there to support the various High Commissioners or Ambassadors or what have you understood their duties properly, understood their duties particularly towards the nationals of those countries, and, most importantly, understood the policies of the Government which they were supposed to serve. But, as Senator Barrow said, difficulties arise, where you have public officers whose political leaning, or affiliation, or inclination tend more towards the Democratic Labour Party than towards the Barbados Labour Party. Or, as Senator Barrow has reminded me in an aside, those who do not like political appointees, or the particular appointee in the post with which we are concerned.

11.10 a.m.

I was serving in London in the Accounts Section. I served under three High Commissioners and one High Commissioner got the support of all of the accounting officers. That was Mr. Cameron Tudor, and he got it, I believe, because he was a leading member of the Democratic Labour Party at the time when he had been posted to England and he took an entourage with him down to England. He took the men he wanted and he was able to stay at Iverta, if you forgive the turn of phrase. He took the persons he wanted — I had better be on the safe side so that I am not accused of casting any aspersions on the character of Mr. Cameron Tudor — and he had the full support of the persons down there, so he did not get any trouble. He was able to stay at Iverta and run the High Commission.

It was different with other High Commissioners. You had the situation where a High Commissioner thought that certain periodicals, magazines or newspapers were important. It was important that the Commissioner should have access to them in order to advise his nationals properly, or even to enable them to read them. But the accounting officer felt otherwise, and they were not bought. If they were bought, the High Commissioner was required to make a long distance call sometimes to purchase a newspaper, the value of which was not as much as a long distance call, and he had to call at every turn to get the authority of the Permanent Secretary in order to make a purchase of a simple thing. It happened in Canada, too.

Asides

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Very often our nationals are in distress. Very often our nationals go to Canada, or the United States of America or England and

they are held by Immigration and questioned at length. They request assistance from the High Commission and sometimes the High Commissioner would have to get up from at home, and go to the airport to assist the nationals. But very often you would have first to call the accounting officer to get permission to travel so that you can claim travelling or the petrol later on — and woe betide the nationals if the High Commissioner could not find the accounting officer and he was not minded to travel out of his own fund! Even if he got permission, sometimes the accounting officer would then have to ring down to Barbados to find out if he could spend money on something such as this. This did not occur occasionally, it occurred with monotonous regularity, and it occurred more often that not when civil servants whose leaning tended towards the DLP filled the posts of accounting officers.

I am flabbergasted, to say the least, to hear the comment made by Senator Greaves that this Bill, if it is passed, will open the way for all kinds of infelicities. He is saying that the Heads of Missions are inherently dishonest. He is saying that he cannot trust them. He is saying not to give them this kind of responsibility — they are crooks, they are thieves, they are vagabonds! He has cast aspersions on the character of people who have made a tremendous contribution to this country, including His Excellency John Connell, men of impeccable integrity. He gets up in here and says do not trust them, you cannot trust them to manage a vote — they are thieves, they are vagabonds! That is what he is implying because he said that he was saying without any fear of contradiction that this is going to open the way to all sorts of infelicities. He is saying also that simply because a man's name does not appear in the Civil List, because he is not an appointed civil servant, his integrity is, of essence, less than that of a man whose name appears within that list. He is saying, Sir, that his integrity, your integrity, my integrity is less than an appointed civil servant. By analogy he is saying that. He is saying that you cannot trust a man if he is not an appointed civil servant.

How can Senator Greaves come in here and call Dr. Forde a crook? That is what he is doing. How could he get in here and call His Excellency Harold Moseley a crook, or a thief? That is what he is saying. How could he get in here and call a man who was on his side for seven years, who rendered yeoman service to his party, indeed to this country, and is still doing so, His Excellency John Connell, a crook, a thief and a vagabond? That is what he is doing. He is telling all of Barbados that you cannot trust Harold Moseley, you cannot trust John Connell, you cannot trust Dr. Forde, you cannot trust Dr. Lawrie, you cannot trust Ranny Fields. Not one of them has a criminal conviction. Not one of them is given to theft. Each one of them, without exception, has made a contribution, and in several instances, a greater contribution than Senator Greaves

has ever made to this country. Senator Greaves has never disclosed what salary he is receiving from the Barbados Workers Union. If he is talking about integrity, let him disclose his salary and his allowances from the Barbados Workers Union. He is talking about people travelling from Barbados and going overseas with allowances in their pockets and still claiming allowances when they get over there!

His argument, by analogy and by extension, is that if a civil servant is in charge, they cannot go up there and claim these monies, for if they claim, they would not get paid, but if Dr. Forde is in charge, they can go up there, claim this money and they will get paid. What foolishness is he talking? Let him call names. Let him tell us the names of the Democratic Labour Party members who went away and claimed money once they had travelled overseas. His assertions, his allegations are absurd. They are untrue, and, above all, they are mischievous. They are designed, I believe, — I should not attribute to the honourable Member any intention to mislead this Chamber — but he certainly is attempting, through this Chamber, to mislead the public of Barbados by pretending that he has an insight into something with which he has never had any direct connection. He does not know how it works. He does not understand how it works. He is just setting out, in my view, to be mischievous!

SENATOR THE REV. CAN. I. McK. JONES: I must have been sleeping, but I must say that I did not get that impression from what Senator Greaves said. I may be wrong but I thought I heard Senator Greaves say that he did not want to cast aspersions on anyone's character. I think he said that. I may be wrong, but that is the impression that I had.

I must say that I, too, do have some misgivings about this, and I want to ask some questions. If the Heads of Missions have the authority to deal with financing, are all Heads of Missions competent in financial matters? Are all Heads of Missions accountants, or financiers or whatever you like to call them? That is the first thing I would like to know. If they are not, should they have that power to deal with finances?

What has me a little unsure is that I read here in the Bill that the accounting officer may by instrument in writing delegate his authorized representative on such conditions as he determines any of his functions arising under or by virtue of this Act, but such delegation does not relieve an accounting officer of his accountability under this Act. I may have misinterpreted this, but this seems to me to be saying that if a Head of Mission were to over-spend, that is, spend more money than he ought to be spending, that he, the Head of Mission, is not accountable, but the accounting officer who is delegating the functions would still be responsible. I do not know if I am reading it right, but that is the impression I got.

11.20 a.m.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order: You do not have to be an accounting officer in order to be surcharged if you overspend the vote. The sanctions are there whether you are on contract or otherwise.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: So long as I am sure in my mind that whoever is responsible for spending public funds is also accountable to the public for spending those funds, I am satisfied. That is all I want to know.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I think we should take note that the Bill provides for delegation of authority under clearly specified conditions, and these conditions can be specific to the particular case, and indeed within a Mission it may be possible, where the situation warrants it, to delegate different functions to different people. The question as to whether any particular person is competent to be the Head of Mission or whatever, is something that the accounting officer should consider at all times when it is a matter of delegation. The Act is not providing for the authority to devolve permanently on a Head of Mission to be the accounting officer in all circumstances, and as such I see nothing wrong with the amendment.

I am of the opinion that many Heads of Mission would be suitable people to have full responsibility for such matters within the Missions. I can also appreciate that there can be circumstances under which you could have someone, a Head of Mission, who might not be suited for that particular purpose, in which case then you do not delegate to him.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: I could talk for hours on the experiences of a Head of Mission working with a civil servant who was deputy, and if I had the opportunity to do so, it would make a mess of the puerile argument that was advanced by Senator Greaves.

The point has been made about infelicities and about theft. In New York, there were two occasions where money was actually taken from the Mission, and indeed the Heads of Mission in New York at the Consul and the U.N. are political appointees. The civil servants there are the authorised representatives, and the point I am making is that mistakes were made with the civil servants, and in one case the accounting clerk himself had to go and confess that he had taken the money and that he was getting into a deeper and deeper hole with the money, and he alerted the Head of the Consulate of what was happening and the trouble he was getting himself into. So you cannot say that because a person is not a civil servant that he will not understand what is happening, or indeed because a person is a civil servant and is an authorised representative they will be better able to monitor the activities of the Mission in question.

I call to mind Senator Jones' point as to whether our Heads of Mission are competent to deal with financial matters. You can answer that by saying that there are a lot of Permanent Secretaries who may not be competent to deal with financial matters because that is not their training. It does not require any specialised training to be able to monitor or indeed to accept responsibility for Government funds, so there is no need for a Head of Mission to have training in accounting to run the financial affairs of the Ministry.

There has been talk about infelicities. From my own understanding of the situation within the last seven to eight years, indeed the last ten to fifteen years in both this Administration and the last Administration, there has been only one Head of a Mission whose name has been found to be associated with improper financial acts, and he was a political appointee under the Democratic Labour Party. On one occasion his name was found on cheques written in the name of his office as Ambassador to the U.N. from a noted gun-runner, and these cheques were written to him when he was Ambassador to the United Nations. That is probably what Senator Greaves is talking about. On another occasion, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, the last Minister of Foreign Affairs under the Democratic Labour Party Administration, had to overrule the civil servants in favour of the High Commissioner to London, who was being paid twice. His cheque was deposited in an account in Barbados and at the same time he was still being paid the same sum of money, and the then Head of Mission argued it was the fault of the civil servants and he should not be paying back money as was requested, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs ruled in favour of a political Head of Mission. These are the instances where I know infelicities were practised and none under this Government, and I think it is a puerile argument to be made against the Bill.

Under the current situation where because of the need for authority to extend certain funds, for instance the Distressed Nationals Vote, I could cite a particular case where the cost of getting permission to repatriate a distressed national was four times higher than the cost of the ticket. Indeed it happened when I was Consul-General in New York and there was a man who needed to be repatriated, he was in bad shape, and the authorised representative insisted that he had to get permission from Head Office, and the cost of communications, telephone calls, was close to \$US1 000, and I then called up my travel agents and got a ticket for \$235 to repatriate the man and had a fight to get a refund. So there are cases and cases you can cite where a Head of Mission is in an extremely awkward position if he cannot incur certain expenditure in the carrying out of his duties. It is very important.

Another point that was made here — and I think it is a rather malicious point, because it smacks of a mis-

understanding of Government activity — was when the Senator talked about requests made on Overseas Missions to cover expenses of Ministers. In some cases, when a Minister has to travel abroad on Government Business, he is given a subsistence and a meals allowance, and in some cases you may find that the Minister has to entertain — this is a part of doing business — and you cannot go around and accept people's bounty or accept people's entertainment and then be not in a position to reciprocate. I think it is nonsense for Senator Greaves to be talking about Missions being asked to supplement the expenses of Ministers. If that happens, it is not a personal expense of the Minister. It may be an expense incurred in the course of doing duty on behalf of the country. It is simple and straightforward as that.

The position has been taken in this Government that if there is a Mission, the Minister is not given entertainment expenses if he is going to a country where we have a Mission. If you go to a country where you do not have a Mission, then the Minister may be required to entertain on behalf of the Government and therefore he is given entertainment expenses.

I suppose if the honourable Member wanted to understand more about these things he would make an effort, but in these circumstances it suits his purpose to have a knee-jerk, puerile reaction to what I consider a matter that ought to be straightened out, and straightened out a long time ago.
11.30 a.m.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Clerk, would you please note that

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sorry, Sir. I did indicate that I wanted more than just a notation.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have not finished speaking.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sorry, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Greaves, expressed a desire to have a division. Will you please take the vote.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: SENATOR the Hon. N. A. BARROW; SENATOR C. A. GRIFFITH; SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS; SENATOR H. R. LINTON; SENATOR J. CLARKE; SENATOR M. O. REECE; SENATOR JORDAN, SENATOR C. JEMMOTT; SENATOR Mrs.

READER; SENATOR E. M. LYNCH; SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN; SENATOR Rev. Canon. I JONES and SENATOR WARD. (13)

Noes: SENATOR E. E. GREAVES and SENATOR W. W. HALL. (2)

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. Deputy President, I beg to propose that Senator Linton be the Chairman of Committees for today's sitting.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Mr. President, I beg to move that the Senate resolve itself into a Committee on this Bill.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and the Senate resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill, SENATOR H. R. LINTON in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1985

Order No. 7 was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 73.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: This is an amendment which gives effect to the Budgetary Proposals which were laid in the House of Assembly by the Minister of Finance on 17th April, 1984, and the opportunity is being taken, at the same time, to make certain National Insurance benefits taxable, as those benefits which are to be taxable were inadvertently omitted from previous amendments.

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

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: In rising to support the Bill, I would want to point out that there is an anomaly in our Income Tax legislation, to which I drew attention some years ago. It relates to the manner

in which tax credits are given to people in the lower income scale. The manner in which this is done, it is entirely possible to move into a higher income bracket by a few dollars and end up with a lower take-home pay, because you lose your tax credit. If the tax credit is worth X dollars and you are right on the border getting that X dollars and you get a dollar more in income or five dollars more in income, you lose your tax credit.

There are many people who experience the situation when they work overtime. They find that it can be reduced when the accounting officer does the calculations, and this has led to all sorts of problems in the workplace, a disincentive towards effort on the part of people who are on the border-line of the tax credit and things like that.

It is a very simple matter for Government to amend that to have a graduating system where you would never get that type of reversal in your take-home pay: that you get more take-home pay rather than a situation where, when you pass a certain threshold, you can drop down by sixty dollars or whatever, and then drop back down again.

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

On the motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. GRIFFITH, the Senate resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill, SENATOR H. R. LINTON in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Senate is in Committee.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I beg to move that the sections be taken in groups of nine.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 9 were called and passed.

11.40 a.m.

Clauses 10 to 18 were called and passed.

Clauses 19 to 27 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

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

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT INDIAN GROUND, ST. PETER.

Order No. 8 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Indian Ground, Saint Peter, for the purpose of providing recreational facilities.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Government has commenced action for the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at Indian Ground, St. Peter, for the provision of recreational facilities, and the provision of Sections 3 and 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, Cap. 228, have already been invoked.

The Indian Ground, St. Peter area is one which at present has no established playing field facilities and it is, therefore, proposed to utilize the land in question for the development of a full-size playing field. Consideration is also given to the provision of a pavilion and hard courts on the site. The land is relatively flat and requires little preparation in order to develop the necessary playing facilities. The catchment areas for these sporting facilities would be French Village, Prospect, Orange Hill, Sedge Pond, Roebuck, Four Hill and, of course, Indian Ground itself.

The National Sports Council has already begun developmental work on the land. In fact, the field has been levelled and graded. We therefore seek Parliamentary approval for the compulsory acquisition for 40 720 square meters or approximately ten acres of land at Indian Ground, St. Peter, so that acquisition proceedings can be finalized and the owners duly compensated.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DUTY (RATE OF DUTY) ORDER, 1985

Order No. 9 was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Land Development Duty (Rate of Duty) Order, 1985.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Chapter 78 of the Laws of Barbados is an Act to make provision for the imposition of duties on sales of lands where the Government undertakes or proposes to undertake substantial expenditure from public funds to impose betterment charges on the development of lands in such areas, and to provide for matters connecting or incidental thereto. It was first passed in 1962, on August 30, and represents a form of Capital Gains Tax, the idea being that if Government has spent money which enhances the value of the land on a subsequent transaction, Government should be able to recoup.

Subsection 4 of Section 5 says, "No order made under this section shall come into force unless by Resolu-

tion of both Houses." The task before us, therefore, is quite simple in that the rate of duty has been fixed, and this Resolution seeks to give the legal power to bring it into force. The areas specifically referred to in the Resolution are the St. Barnabas Road area where I believe everybody knows the Government is spending a lot of money.

I move that the Senate concur in this Resolution.

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

THE APPROPRIATION ACT, 1985

Order No. 1 was called – To move the Second Reading of 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 1986.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: I am particularly honoured, for the first time since I have been in this Chamber, to be given the pleasant task to move the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the year 1985–86. We will have specific areas of responsibilities. My focus, therefore, will be on certain areas which have direct impact on the economy.

11.50 a.m.

To provide the framework for the discussion of the 1985–86 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, it is necessary to draw attention to some of the economic and financial trends which we have been observing during the past year. In the past four years the emphasis of our policies in the Government has been on stabilisation of the economy in the face of adverse international economic circumstances. Specifically, great priority has been placed on safeguarding our foreign reserves position and on protecting our productive capacity so that we would be in a position to take advantage of any opportunities for renewed economic growth.

The benefit of this approach is supported by some examples. One, our estimates of real activity show that the economy grew by 2.5 per cent in 1984 after three years of relative decline, and two, the general standard of living has not declined, because we have been able to comfortably meet our international and regional obligations specifically with regard to goods, services and debt.

We are particularly heartened by the evidence of renewed strength in the main sectors that are germane of our economic development. As I said before, I will concentrate my presentation on the major areas which have direct economic activity. The areas which are social in nature will be addressed by others during the course of this debate.

In the area of tourism, 1984 will be remembered as the year in which the industry rebounded from the doldrums. By the end of December 1984, the contribution of tourism to GDP had risen from \$186.5 million in 1983 to \$206.8 million. The resurgence has continued into 1985, and although there has been a marginal decrease in the number of visitors arriving from Europe there has been a substantial increase in those coming from North America.

Many factors are responsible for this. One, the resurgence of the U.S. economy particularly and the resulting confidence North Americans feel in the turn around. Two, the work of the Board of Tourism and its overseas staff, the yeoman service which they have put in to bring the industry back to the point where we are looking for a bumper year ought to be congratulated and commended. Three, direct advertising in the North American market. The direct appeal to the consumer, we are satisfied, has brought tremendous benefit to the country, since the consumer, rather than waiting for input from the travel trade, is now able to go and ask directly for rates of travel to Barbados.

It is the Government's intention during the 1985–86 financial year to increase promotion in the North American market to make up for some of the business which we have lost from Europe, a loss which can be traced directly to the strength of the dollar against European currencies. Consequently, the provisions under the new Ministry of Tourism and the Environment have been increased to cover the cost of additional promotion, beautification of our island for nationals and tourists alike, and to arrest the serious beach erosion problem which we have been experiencing. It is expected that the Board will spend some \$13.6 million on advertising and promotion for the coming financial year, an increase of 91 per cent over the fiscal year 1984–85.

In the manufacturing sector, we find that the sector is making some recovery in spite of the loss of some of the markets which we previously serviced. The recent breakthrough of furniture into the United States of America is very heartening, and the steady progress which we are making in that direction indicates that our success there will in due course more than compensate for the loss of some of the CARICOM markets.

In the past year there have been business failures in this country. Unfortunately, critics of the Government have seen it fit to lay the blame at the feet of the Government, but on examination it can be seen that many of the criticisms are unfounded. Protectionist policies even within CARICOM may be attributable as a factor when companies in Barbados depending specifically on the regional markets were not able to diversify the markets or their products when the time came. In retaliation, there have been some calls for

protectionism in this country, but the Government must take the view that protectionism can hurt us more than it can ever help us. Consequently, we have taken a more enlightened approach to the problem.

The Government has initiated dialogue within the region, it has encouraged open trading practices, it has given unstinting support to regional institutions, it has kept to the spirit and letter of regional agreements. The Government has also given broad tangible support to the manufacturing sector not only through incentives but through the solid support of the Export Promotion Corporation. In the coming financial year a grant of \$1.8 million has been made to the Corporation to meet its expenditure on administration and promotion.

The Government has also encouraged the manufacturing community to seek extra-regional markets. We have recognised that operating in new uncharted waters is not an easy task, and it has therefore provided as much tangible support as possible. The success of the furniture industry is but one prime example of the benefits that can be achieved in the Government's programme to assist the private sector in going outside the region. Many business failures in Barbados are also attributable to bad management. Surely Government cannot accept the blame for these. People who are in business or who go into business practising unethical or bad habits are in effect sounding the death knell for their businesses at the outset.

Another matter which has been cited as a major cause of failure in the business community is the illegal importation of garments. In spite of the fact that we in the Government do not believe that this is a major cause of the problems, we have moved, nonetheless, to meet the complaints that have been made. We have set up a Committee to investigate the practices of illegal importation of garments, but the Committee cannot be effective and do its work unless there is co-operation from the public in the matter of reporting practices of illegal importation.

The Government has gone further than that. It has introduced legislation with teeth in it during the past year, but the problems in the garment industry are more fundamental, and the Government has recognised this and moved to find solutions to these problems. These problems are more related to design technology, quality and productivity especially as it affects prices of garments in the highly competitive markets. These factors have been identified as factors which must be addressed if the garment industry in Barbados, and indeed in the Caribbean, is to survive in today's world.

In the area of agriculture, there has been steady progress in spite of the present difficulties which the sugar industry is experiencing because of the fluctuation

in exchange rates. Our non-sugar agriculture and fishing continue to make inroads into foreign markets, and great emphasis has been made in capital provision for the benefit of agriculture, because we are satisfied that we cannot continue to live with the fact that this country will have a burgeoning import bill. In the last year the bill was something like \$60 million, and great emphasis is being made to reduce the importation in the agricultural sector.

12.00 noon.

I want to cite a number of capital projects which have been identified for the benefit of the country. The establishment of the Central Agronomical Research Laboratory is a priority with the Government. Government is seeking to accelerate its agricultural diversification programme with an effort to place agriculture on a proper footing. We intend to seek funds from the World Bank to finance construction of a new laboratory. A preliminary estimate of the new laboratory puts the cost at Bds. \$4.4 million. This laboratory has been provided for in the Barbados Development Plan 1983-88.

Another area which will attract capital is the area of crop research and development. The white potato research is being intensified in an effort to develop an appropriate technology for commercial production. A project proposal has been put with the Agricultural Research Centre for technical assistance, mainly in the form of expertise, for the white potato research programme. This project is expected to cost some Bds. \$450 000, of which the International Development Research Centre will provide a little over \$200 000.

Another area which is attracting Government's attention is agricultural diversification, a World Bank Project. Funds for this project will be financed by the World Bank, of course, and emphasis under this project is being placed on the development of an irrigation system for a wide range of crops, the expansion of peanut production, the expansion of onion production, the re-establishment of cotton as a major crop for the generation of foreign exchange, improvement of information flows to the farming community, improvement of the marketing systems and improvement in the efficiency of fertilisation use. The project is due to end this year. However, efforts are being made to have it extended so that a long-lasting impact can be made on the development of the agricultural sector.

The National Fruit Orchard Project is a project which is being developed by Government with financial assistance from the European Development Fund. A group of foreign consultants undertook a feasibility study on the project but those recommendations were found to be inadequate, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs is currently consulting with EEC officials in order to have the project finalized.

There is a view that for this project, implementation should be in stages so that maximum use of the funds would be exercised. This project comprises seven components: the development of demonstration orchards, assisting existing food producers, research, nursery improvement, fruit processing, technology transfer and bee keeping. Demonstration orchards will be established at three locations — Codrington, St. Michael; Graeme Hall, Christ Church and Bruce Vale. Phase 1 of the project will focus on Codrington where seven hectares will be put under avocados, grapefruit and limes, while another 1.8 hectares will be used for citrus research.

We will also, this financial year coming, be starting a census on agriculture. The last census on agriculture was undertaken in 1971. Data generated from that census is no longer relevant as a basis for our development planning. The Government, therefore, intends to undertake new agricultural ventures in order to:

- (1) Collect and compile current qualitative and quantitative data on agricultural resources, production of crops and livestock and the basic organization of the sector itself.
- (2) It will provide an appropriate base on which sample surveys on any aspects of Barbadian agriculture can be reliably planned; and
- (3) Will provide the basis for improving the Agricultural Statistical Information System.

The full cost of the census is expected to exceed \$500 000 and will involve over 500 persons during the enumeration exercise, which, it is anticipated, will spread over a six-week period. We are currently exploring a number of avenues in order to help mobilize the required financing.

The Government has also committed itself to the further development of the livestock sub-sector. This is in recognition of the fact that imports of livestock products represent some 28 per cent of total food imports and consequently tend to be a drain on the country's scarce foreign exchange resources. In order to help develop the livestock sub-sector, the Government is seeking technical and financial assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank. Towards this end, an application has been made to the bank for technical assistance to undertake a feasibility study for an integrated livestock development project for Barbados. It is expected that this study will be undertaken very early in the coming financial year. The study, which is expected to cost U.S. \$128 000, will pay particular attention to the development of low cost feeding systems

to facilitate increased production of mutton and beef. It will also address slaughterhouse facilities.

There are a few other projects in agriculture which are worth mentioning. There is the Scotland Soil Conservation Project, which is about 50 per cent complete and is due to be completed by the end of 1986. This project embraces the reshaping of 175 hectares of land in the Scotland District at Swan, Turner's Hall and Greenland, the construction of water courses for draining those areas and the construction of roads, the research element based on the collection of rainfall run-off data, stream gauging, soil testing and sampling, fruit trees and forestry experimentation, the upgrading of machinery and plant of the Soil Conservation Unit and the institutional strengthening and restructuring of the Soil Conservation Unit. The total cost of the project is estimated at Bds. \$9 million to be executed over a four-year period from 1983. Partial financing is being provided by the Inter-American Development Bank.
12.10 p.m.

One area of very great importance is the fishing industry. Under the Fisheries Development Project in the Ministry of Agriculture, there are three separate projects which the Government is pursuing; the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour Project, the Speightstown Fisheries Project and the Tent Bay Fish Landing Site Improvement. Together they are seen as a second phase of an overall fisheries development plan to upgrade existing facilities and create new modern terminals in order to increase the quality and quantity of fish landed, hence to improve the living standards not only of the wider population through greater fish consumption, but also of the fishermen by ensuring them a ready market at competitive prices, the improvement of fish-landing facilities to be matched with a data collection and analysis component in the Bridgetown Project. This component will increase accurately the statistical information of fish availability, landings, processing and consumption being used by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs. In addition, a technical co-operative component, also under the Bridgetown Project, will make expertise available to assist the fishermen, through the Fisheries Division, in gear technology, improved fishing methods and marketing strategies.

I would just like to cite the Tent Bay project, because this is one that has attracted a lot of interest. This aspect of the project involves the improvement of the entrance channel between the reef, the provision of minor facilities for sale of fish and the construction of an access road. The channel is to be widened and deepened. As a result of this work to the channel, a greater influx of wave energy is expected and to correct this erosive action a revetment wall is to be constructed

along the eastward edge of the land from Atlantis Hotel northwards to at least 150 metres. The buildings to be constructed would be small and would include only one fish stall, an office, a weighing area, small storage space, tractor housing and wash-room facilities which do not now exist. So much for agriculture.

In an open economy such as ours, great emphasis must be placed on the management of our foreign resources if we are to improve our standard of living and if we are to maintain a significant and substantial standard of living. In this drive to improve the standard of living, it must not be forgotten that we have a problem of unemployment, and I consider it a serious problem. The Government recognises that unemployment continues to be the main problem in the economy. The level has now reached some 18 per cent, a level which is both economically and socially undesirable and unacceptable. This high incidence can be attributed to the slow growth of the economy in recent times, and more precisely so for the need for us to pursue fiscal restraint in the face of difficult external market conditions.

The Government is committed to the reduction of unemployment, and the improvement in our economic circumstances now affords us an opportunity to do so. To this end, we will aggressively seek external market outlets for our manufacturing sector and continue to broaden the market diversification programme which our tourism sector has recently embarked upon.

We have already put in place the legislative framework to promote the growth of services and other offshore businesses, and we will seek in the months to come to take the fullest advantage of this initiative. These offshore services — offshore banking, exempt insurance, shipping, international business companies — not only will provide additional revenue and provide jobs particularly in professional categories, but will also result in business activity which would be to the lasting benefit of the tourist industry.

On the public account we will seek to expand employment opportunities by an expanded capital works programme, particularly in the area of housing and road construction. Such initiatives will, however, not be executed at the expense of maintaining a sound external position and equally sound and prudent stance. In other words, the Government's stance is that as we move forward to resolve the unemployment situation, careful watch will be maintained to ensure that our foreign reserves position is not compromised.

Our foreign reserves are healthy at this time, thanks to the direct input of many sectors in the economy. The contributions of manufacturing, tourism and agriculture have seen to it through the direct earning of foreign exchange, but the position and indeed the strength of the

Barbados dollar has been enhanced by the contribution made in the energy sector.

Over the past three years, our efforts at oil production had seen us experiencing a saving of some \$40 million in foreign exchange. The Barbados National Oil Company, established in 1983, has achieved success beyond our wildest dreams. In the last calendar year ending in 1984, the company produced over 50 per cent of our domestic demand for petroleum products. For the financial year 1984–85, ending 31st March, 1985, the company will produce over 640 000 barrels of oil, which means that it has already surpassed the target set for 1986–87 in our new Five Year Development Plan. On a budget this financial year of \$31.8 million, its revenues are projected to be \$36 million, which shows that the company is a substantial company in this country. The projections for 1985, the coming fiscal year, are that it will spend some \$34 million to generate revenues of \$35 million and indeed continue in its efforts to make Barbados self-sufficient in the area of energy.

In the energy sector, great appreciation must also be paid to the work of the National Petroleum Corporation. In a recent study it was found that the natural gas reserves in Barbados now stand at some six trillion cubic feet. That is a substantial amount, and because of this, efforts are being made by the Government to use natural gas more to the benefit of Barbadians in several areas, and indeed through the increased use of natural gas save more foreign exchange.

An LPG plant, which was approved as a joint venture project by the Cabinet, will soon be set in operation. It is a plant which will have Canadian private sector and local private sector participation, and it seems as though it will be a very good project for the entrepreneurs. When it is set up the plant will produce some 25 per cent of the LPG used locally, hence saving that amount in foreign exchange to take advantage of the increased production of oil, hence associating natural gas from Woodbourne.

12.20 p.m.

A new pipeline from Woodbourne to the Belle will be built this year which will in effect be generating more power. So the Barbados Light and Power Company will be encouraged to use more natural gas and hence reduce the impact of high-priced fuel oil, which works to the disadvantage of the consumer.

Again, because of the high production of natural gas, the Government has taken a decision that the National Petroleum Corporation should negotiate special prices and develop a special tariff regime with the private sector where diesel is now being used to encourage a turn away from diesel which is imported. Such a move would redound to the benefit of the country through the saving of foreign exchange.

To take advantage of the increased production in natural gas, the Corporation has embarked on a very ambitious programme this year, and it is hoped that some \$4.5 million will be spent on the capital programme designed to provide more installations for the domestic use of natural gas. This programme covers certain areas of the country that never before benefitted from natural gas. It touches areas in St. Andrew, and it extends to some areas that are already utilizing gas. There will be concentrations of natural gas installations in some places like the Bush Hall area and the Station Hill area, also the general area of Eagle Hall, Christ Church, St. Thomas, Hillaby, St. Andrew; Hillaby, St. Thomas; the area of Rockley New Road; in Church Village, St. Philip, where there is a natural gas well; in St. Patricks, Christ Church. We are looking also at St. Philip South.

Applause.

Aside.

Laughter.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: Suffice it to say that we are in a position now to provide more domestic installations. And by providing more domestic installations, we resolve the difficulty that people face with buying LPG and being tied to a specific set of LPG because of the type of bottles that they are using, and restrict the inconvenience of the constant trekking to the outlets to buy LPG. I think that, as time goes on, we will see less and less of that activity in Barbados.

In the area of alternative energy, the Government hopes some time towards the end of this year to have a wind generator set up in St. Lucy for the purpose of testing the feasibility of wind generation in the use of electricity. That project, which was touted since 1982, has experienced several delays because we would not be dictated to by the Inter-American Development Bank. Indeed, the latest delay that we have faced has come because we have had another fight with the IADB on the whole question of who qualifies for the project; that old bugbear, who must qualify and who must not qualify! But we are determined that the wind power project must go on, and go on for the benefit of Barbadians and not the international consultants. The public relations aspect of the wind energy unit have been such that we are now getting calls from several private operators. Having seen the success of the wind energy project in Cane Garden, St. Thomas, there are now a few companies which are interested in setting up their own windmill. That augurs well for the country.

The Refuse Generation Plant is still a project which has not yet been approved by the Cabinet, although we

have had the feasibility studies in. When completed it will be able to generate some five megawatts of electricity.

In the area of energy conservation, a significant amount of work has been done, and some of the result of the work that has been done has some relevance to Government's expenditure, indeed to Government's fiscal position. The Energy Conservation Project that was started by the World Bank envisaged audits being done in the public sector as well as the private sector. Areas in the private sector have been identified for conservation opportunities, but because of the financial constraints of some companies, we have not been able to implement these conservation opportunities. In the public sector, however, a significant amount of work has been done by the Energy Conservation Unit. Grantley Adams International Airport, the Treasury Building, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital, the National Insurance Building, the Government Analyst Laboratory and the National Stadium have been subject to audits. I understand that the National Stadium has already taken energy conservation into its refurbishing programme, and the authorities ought to be congratulated. There is also the Barbados Water Authority and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs building at Graeme Hall.

The findings at the Grantley Adams International Airport, where the annual bill is \$1.8 million, show that in the first year of implementation of conservation measures we can save some \$573 800 or 32 per cent of electricity consumption. In order to save that, in the financial year coming the cost of conservation measures would be some \$374 400. In the Treasury Building, the savings in the first year, some \$56 000; at the QEH, \$199 000; the Government Laboratory, \$16 000 — not much by comparison. But, essentially, what we are saying is that the opportunities for conservation in the public sector have been identified and the Government has taken the position that it will support the cost of implementing these opportunities for conservation. It would cost some \$1.3 million to provide the equipment and materials needed to implement the energy conservation measures. The total savings in the first year are over \$1 million and the pay back period on the investment is a short 16.6 months. So we can see from that how important the energy conservation measures are and what impact they can have on Government's revenues, not only in the coming financial year but also in the future.

I just want to touch on another area which has some impact on the revenue position of the Government, the area of civil aviation and shipping. During the current financial year, the Grantley Adams International Airport has shown an increase of \$2.1 million in revenue collected over the corresponding period last year. It is anticipated that the revenue collected for the end of the financial year will exceed the revenue target by \$2 million.

12.30 p.m.

There is a project, called the Regional Airport Project, which was developed by CIDA as a result of the prior recommendation by the Caribbean Maintenance Operation Study, and this project will benefit Barbados in the area of technical assistance and fire fighting equipment. Within the region a number of airports have been identified for assistance through the Canadian International Development Agency, but Barbados is one of the first countries to come out and implement its part of the arrangement, so we will be the first to benefit in this programme.

The objective of the project is to ensure that the Caribbean's aviation facilities are of the standards to permit continued economic growth and development by upgrading the operational safety and physical maintenance towards internationally required standards. The project will be divided into four main components: airport management and maintenance assistance, fire-fighting and rescue assistance, navigational aids and telecommunication assistance, airport facilities assistance. Barbados has already met most of the requirements and benefits totalling \$2.3 million, mainly in the area of the new foam fire truck and stretchers, as well as technical assistance and airport management and airport finance. This project is due to be started within three months and office space has already been provided for its implementation.

I turn to a review of the Estimates for 1984-85. As indicated in the Memorandum of Estimates which is now before us, the projected out-turn for the current fiscal year is as follows:

Current Expenditure	—	\$569.7 million
Current Revenue	—	\$571.8 million
Current Accounts		
Surplus	—	\$2.1 million
Capital Expenditure	—	\$111.4 million

We are left with an overall deficit of \$109.3 million.

The revised revenue for fiscal 1984-85 is much lower than the original Estimates, mainly because of the decrease in corporation taxes and import duties. If you recall, during the Mini-Budget presented September last year, there was a revision of the Stamp Duty and other duties in order to strengthen Government's fiscal position. At the time, it was suggested that the revised duties would contribute to inflation. As far as I can gather, there has not been any dramatic increase in inflation because of these revised duties.

The decrease in corporation taxes indeed can be attributed to the fact that some companies were having great financial difficulty. As I have said before, some companies have had difficulty because of the contraction of the regional markets and because of their inability to adjust to this contraction and move to other extra-

regional markets. I have said before also that there were other companies whose difficulties stemmed directly from their failure to manage their affairs in a proper and professional manner. In the case of the import duties, the shortfall can, in part, be attributed to the very success of our economic stabilization policies. These policies were established to dampen the quest for foreign-manufactured consumer goods, and the analysis within the Government shows that, because of the fallen imports and because indeed we have been importing more from areas against which the Barbados dollar is strong, we have had cheaper goods and, therefore, a fall-off of revenue to the Government.

Through the credit controls we have had to curb import expenditure by credit and income controls to counteract the slow growth in our export earning position. Indeed, the overall volume of imports decreased as a result. This was compounded, as I said before, by the fall in the price of non-U.S. goods occasioned by the strength of the U.S. dollar.

These developments, the Government intends to arrest during the next fiscal year, 1985-86. I am sure that at some point early in the fiscal year the Government will be setting out its policies for arresting the problems in the proposals that we expect to come sometime soon.

I now turn to the Estimates for 1985-86 of Revenue and Expenditure which we will be debating in this Honourable Chamber. The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1985-86 are as follows: Current Revenue — \$625 442 674; Current Expenditure — \$642 799 318; providing a Current Account Deficit of \$17 356 644. With a Capital Expenditure Budget of \$179 915 528, this provides an overall fiscal deficit of \$197 272 172.

These Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure have been bound by certain considerations. Although there is ample evidence of renewed growth in the economy, we expect that such growth will not be immediately reflected in a major increase in Government's revenues. The private sector has experienced in recent times low levels of profitability, and it certainly will need a breathing space before it can contribute handsomely to the public purse. In addition, although our external position still remains sound, with four months of foreign reserves, we do not propose to rapidly accelerate import expenditure in search of public revenue. In other words, we are not going to take the position that controls must be relaxed in order to generate revenue through duty, and the estimates of expenditure revenue is relatively conservative.

As far as Current Expenditure is concerned, we have had to make the necessary provision for the recent increases granted in public sector negotiations. Personal

Emoluments for the Central Government and the secondary schools have increased from \$237.3 million to \$290.9 million. This represents an increase of \$53.6 million or 22.6 per cent. When we include the salary elements of Grants to Statutory Corporations, the personal emoluments component will increase by over \$3.3 million. As such, personal emoluments will account for approximately \$314.1 million, or 48.8 per cent of Government's current expenditure.

12.40 p.m.

The Charge of Debt has stabilised at just over \$105 million in the face of the fall in international and domestic interest rates. At 16 per cent of estimated revenue it represents a modest price to pay for the tremendous amounts we have secured through loans in the standard of our infrastructure, an expansion in educational facilities, the upgrading of our health facilities and the addition of major elements to our productive capacity. By comparison, when we think of the difficulties that countries that are better endowed than Barbados face in terms of servicing debt, we can think of wealthy countries in South America — Brazil, Argentina, for example, even oil rich Venezuela — we can go to the Iron Curtain countries like Poland, most of the countries in the world that are supposed to be more richly endowed than Barbados, we find that they have difficulty in servicing their debt. We have a very good record for meeting our obligations. I think it can be attributed to the good sense and management of the Government in this regard.

Another factor which we must not ignore when it comes to the question of debt stabilisation, of course, is the question of interest rates. We must be mindful of the fact that the interest rates regime in a major economy like the United States of America will always have an impact on debt service. A movement of a point in the interest rates can have a significant impact on the debt of countries and — indeed I have seen it happen with countries like Brazil and Argentina — a movement of a point can easily increase their obligations by some \$200 million, depending on the size of their foreign debt. It cannot be ignored that the management of the United States economy, where the whole question of big budget deficits do occasion increased interest rates, has an impact on developing countries and their ability not only to service debt but to manage economies efficiently.

Barbados is not without exception in this case, except that now we have seen a downward trend in interest rates, the impact it has had on our Charge of Debt is that the Charge of Debt has stabilised. It does not mean that it will remain in the region of \$105 million for the rest of the financial year, because if something dramatic happens again in the major industrial countries, like the United States of America, we could find ourselves with an increased Charge of Debt, or indeed a decreased

Charge of Debt, depending on how the rates of interest move. I must stress, however, that to cope with the increase in public sector wages that we experienced last year, most stringent controls have been placed on the increase of operating expenses of Government departments. Except in rare cases, such as the Police Force and the Fire Department, such increases have been kept within the limits of the inflation rate.

In these Estimates a Current Account deficit of \$17 million is forecast, but the Government, I can assure you, will be making a valiant effort to eliminate this deficit through prudent management and the monitoring of quarterly allocations to the Ministries. I think this is a point that must not be lost on any of us in this Chamber. Because we make projections of revenue and expenditure for a given year it does not mean that the projections are indications that the money will be spent or not spent. They are just projections, and there are internal mechanisms within the Ministry of Finance and Planning to monitor expenditure of Government Departments. The device of quarterly allocations is a mechanism.

Capital Expenditure is set at just under \$180 million, which is a decrease of \$9 million as compared to the estimate approved for the financial year 1984-85. The Government is of the view that engagement in large scale Capital Works programmes is one way of solving the unemployment problem, because these programmes will provide significant and substantial employment opportunities. The point is, however, that we have been constrained from moving in this direction by the pre-emptive or indeed statutory claim on Government revenues caused by the increase in public sector wages. Not that there will not be any Capital Works programmes, but we are aware of the fact that, in spite of some opposition, we have to build the Industrial Access Road from Spring Garden to the airport and a few other major road programmes that have been put in the pipeline.

The main point is that the pre-emptive claim on Government revenues is coming from the dramatic increase in public sector wages. Nonetheless, our Capital provisions allow for some employment generation through substantially increased allocations to roadworks, as I mentioned, and to housing. In housing, it is expected that a great deal of activity will be taking place this year because of proposed substantial injections so that people may benefit from mortgage loans, and indeed a step has already been taken to have the general workers window reopened at the National Housing Corporation.

In the field of agriculture, I have mentioned substantial Capital Works programmes in agricultural development, and we expect to make a total investment in agricultural diversification of over \$19 million.

There is also provision made for the repairs and improvement of runway facilities at Grantley Adams International Airport and for the continuation of recent efforts to improve our primary and secondary educational facilities.

I should also point out that some \$44 million has been earmarked for Government to protect its Capital position in some commercial ventures, notably the Arawak Cement Plant, which has made a substantial contribution to the building industry in this country, and will continue to do so. So far for the financial year since its operation began, the Arawak Cement Plant has shown a sales revenue of some \$11 million.

12.50 p.m.

Support for Caribbean Airways will continue. It may be argued that Caribbean Airways has lost some \$6 million, but the fact that Caribbean Airways is bringing tourists out of Europe to Barbados and generating something like \$18 million in revenue for the Government gives us good hope that we cannot ignore the contribution of Caribbean Airways and indeed, CARICARGO.

In general, the emphasis has been placed on projects for which institutional financing has already been secured, those which can expand, or protect, our productive capacity, and others which are geared to improve the quality of life for all Barbadians.

In relation to the financing of these projects, we anticipate calling upon more than \$60 million in concessional loans, as well as using surpluses of the National Insurance Scheme and the Health Levy Funds to support public investment. It is anticipated that over \$25 million in domestic banking system credit will also be used in the process. The Government does not anticipate that this will put any inordinate strain on the availability of credit to the private sector, since the amount of \$25 million is in conformity with levels maintained in recent years. The Government also has as an option of using the Central Bank accommodation, which is, at present, way below statutory limits. We will be very careful in how we utilise Central Bank accommodation because of the fact that using Central Bank accommodation does have a direct impact on the country's foreign reserves.

Our overall fiscal position has been prepared with great care, and is a finely-balanced one. On the one hand, we seek through it to expand employment, but not at the expense of arrears on our foreign reserve position. Equally, we have made provision to carry our statutory current expenses without, at the same time, impairing the growth prospects of the private sector.

We are confident that we will, in the face of all of the circumstances, continue to maintain our sound fiscal

and external position, ease unemployment and make the way for renewed private sector growth. We look forward to the private sector, trade unions and the general public to join us in accomplishing these objectives, and the certain knowledge of their co-operation and understanding that we will continue to manage with courage and confidence, and face the future with expectancy and realistic hope.

Before I sit down, I would like to draw to the attention of the Chamber that there are a number of corrections. I do not know if members have been made aware of these purely, I suppose, typographical and arithmetical corrections. These should have been circulated.

Asides

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: There are additional corrections in the amendments that have been circulated which ought to be addressed. I want to draw the Chamber's attention to the page before page 4. Instead of "4", the figure should be a dollar sign; it makes a big difference. On page 5, under Ministry of Health, it should be \$49 434 202 instead of \$49 439 202.

In sum, I hope that I have given honourable Members a framework for discussion on the Government's fiscal programme for the ensuing year. I suppose that there will be much debate and discussion on some of these areas. I give honourable Members the assurance that whatever information they may need to help guide them in his debate, we, on this side, are prepared to provide it.....

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

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is proposed that this Bill be read a second time.

Senator Greaves, we are under some constraint over our lunch since we have to move. As you know, we cannot lunch here and we have to go to Queen's Park. You have already caught my eye, so I want to suggest that we suspend now and start with your speech when we return.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is suspended until 2.15 p.m.
1.00 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The sitting is now resumed.

Before I call on Senator Greaves, I just want to say a few words about the conduct of the debate. I would be very grateful, and I am certain all honourable members would be, if in the speeches the speaker makes fairly clear reference to the documents which we have before us by page or paragraph so that members do not have to be fumbling to find accurate reference. It will certainly help in the conduct of the debate and the ease with which we can follow what people are saying.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: In the period just before we had our luncheon break, Senator Griffith presented what I thought was a fairly detailed outline of the economic situation facing the country, against which background these Estimates have been prepared. It was a change in the approach on the part of the Government relative to the presentation of these Estimates, because unlike in previous years when Senator Barrow during this Parliamentary term has had the privilege to present these Estimates, we were never, at least during the time that he did them, treated to the kind of detailed approach which was exhibited here today by Senator Griffith. I said rather facetiously to him at the end that I thought he did a job which might very well put him in rivalry with Senator Barrow. The only problem is that I am not too sure what is the nature of the contest, but it is very clear that he is playing for some kind of stakes.

That aside, I think that there have been a number of problems which have been identified and which I would certainly like to draw some attention to, briefly though these comments may be, because I recognise that this may very well be the last Estimates that we will be debating in here before the next general elections, and you could understand that a little more detail may be paid to some of the Heads which we have to look at during the course of my address. I am trying to get some reaction out of Senator Simmons' face, but he is keeping a poker-like face; he is not betraying anything whatsoever.

Senator Griffith has highlighted unemployment as one of the problems facing this country, and I think that it is something which we have to pay very close attention to, because I do not think it is comfortable — I hope certainly not for the Government and certainly not from the point of view of the society — when we talk of an unemployment rate of 18 per cent. We know that even in the compilation of these unemployment statistics there is some leeway, and in truth and in fact, if you really were to get a true figure of the unemployment situation in Barbados, it will be in excess of 20 per cent, and we have not even taken into account the level of under-employment that there is in the society. So if you have a direct unemployment figure of 18 per cent and you take into consideration the other things which one has to look at, if we are going to give a thorough analysis of the situation relating to unemployment in this country, it is worse than that.

I think that the time has come when this particular cancer in our society must be attacked, an attacked vigorously. It is true that Senator Griffith gave some idea as to the approach which the Government intends to use during this coming financial year to deal with this particular problem, and one of the areas which he has highlighted has to do with services and offshore business and the attraction in that area.

For some time, we have been hearing quite a bit about the impact which foreign services activities and offshore businesses would be having not only on employment, but also on the financial activities of this country. Indeed, if you were to read I think it was the late Prime Minister's Budget speech of 1978, you would recall the tremendous play which was made of that area and the fact that thousands of jobs would have been created. I can very well remember his making the point that the Barbados Workers' Union had seemingly taken a position against this kind of thrust in our economic development, and he was waiting to see when these thousands of jobs were created whether we would want to organise them within the ranks of the Barbados Workers' Union. We have been hearing a lot of promises from this particular area, but I am not satisfied for the time that we have been attempting to attract these kinds of businesses that we are making much success of it, and certainly from the point of view of the kind of anticipated impact which the attraction of this kind of service would have on the unemployment situation here in Barbados. So it would seem as if this particular area holds up little hope.

It is true that from time to time road construction will provide an opportunity for jobs for people in Barbados. But these jobs are really not the kind of jobs which will last for a long time, these are temporary kinds of jobs, although I am not at all trying to deny the kind of impact which this could have on generating further economic activity.

I believe that when we talk in terms of long term policies for solving the unemployment situation in this country, then the construction of a highway, in my view, will not do as much to provide long term jobs as one would expect. One would even question the argument which has been advanced that the road which is going to be constructed from Grantley Adams Airport to the Spring Garden Highway will open up the kinds of opportunities for jobs as is touted at present. It is a very interesting thing, because originally we used to hear that this road was going to be an industrial access highway. Now we hear it being promoted as the Airport to the West Coast or the West Coast to the Airport highway, and there must be some story in the change of the emphasis. I have some serious questions to ask about that in terms of what is the real purpose of it, because I am not too sure that there is any area in Barbados that is that inaccessible to industry, or industrial development for

that matter, that the investment which is being put into this particular development is money being well spent. 2.40 p.m.

The fact of the matter is, however, that we have to recognize that this would only deal with the situation in a temporary kind of manner. When we are talking about employment and the creation of jobs, we have to be talking in terms of long term policy of job creation in this country. All of the activities which are related to the development of a strategy on a long term basis for really making a dent in the situation which has been identified by Senator Griffith in his introduction, and certainly has been identified by the Democratic Labour Party, is an area which needs more than just a passing concern. It is something which must occupy our attention for a long time.

I believe that in spite of the glowing picture, the rosy picture, which has been painted about our economic future, we have still in this country very serious economic problems to contend with. We have a situation where we have been moving from a - 4.9 growth in the economy in 1980, - 2.6 in 1981, - 4.3 in 1982, zero growth in 1983 to a position where we understand that there is an anticipated growth in 1984 of somewhere in the region of 2.5. Even given that particular growth rate for the past year, 1984, it is fairly clear that this is just a dim glimmer of hope. And when this is put in the context of the entire prospect for economic activity and the revival of the world economy, one would see that, in spite of the kind of rosy picture which is being presented, we still have some very serious problems, and our growth in the immediate years ahead seems to be very much in doubt. As a matter of fact, I think that when one really examines very, very clearly and closely the areas which would have contributed to growth, one would see that quite a bit of it has to do with the Government having to inject massive sums of money into the economy - by borrowing, that is - in order to provide that kind of activity. In short, what I am saying is that the private sector has not been able to respond for a number of reasons to the kind of activity which would have the effect of promoting growth even further. It is fairly clear that this is because the private sector has had to face very serious problems with their markets, and, generally speaking, it is a reflection of the low level of economic activity which obtains in the country.

If one were to look at, let us say, the last year which has passed, one would find that private sector investment has been almost nil. I was trying to reflect, during the presentation of Senator Griffith, on the areas of public sector activity which has taken place within the last two or three years and I could not find that there has not been much lead in that particular area. I think that what, therefore, the Government ought to be looking at is the whole question of stimulating that kind of activity.

Senator Griffith did indicate that the Government proposes a number of approaches to deal with this particular problem in the hope that public sector activity would be stimulated, but, I think that we have to recognize that not only must the Government provide the financial framework within which this kind of activity can take place, but it also has to look at the whole question of our marketing approach, and, I dare say, maybe having a thrust in a number of new areas which have not been tapped before. It is in this regard that I believe that the Export Promotion Corporation will have its work cut out, in terms of finding new markets, getting the information out of the people in the private sector and the investors as quickly as possible, and in a form that they can make some sense out of it. One would hope that a lot of emphasis during the year would be placed on that particular area.

To move from that general approach and look at the Estimates, against the background which was set out by Senator Griffith, one would want to look at a number of areas to see how these problems are being addressed: encouraging public sector investment, reducing unemployment in major areas, diversifying our economic activity and, I should have mentioned this earlier, developing a strategy for training and education that would develop skills within our potential working population that would enable them to respond to the needs of a society which is, as it were, on the move, and one which we hope would be on the move if the Government can get the kind of strategy going that would really deal with the problem. But, as I said, I am not convinced that the approach which has been outlined will do this.

I want to address my attention to an aspect of the revenue before I move into the discussion of the Estimates in some detail. The Head which I want to refer to is found on page IX. It is under Property Income.

You will recall that when the Central Bank of Barbados embarked on the super-structure across the road, the Government was at pains to point out that it would cost the taxpayers no money. All sorts of arguments were used, that this is a building that was being built with money that would have been available to no other organization or institution and the Government could not have used the money for other purposes. We contended that this kind of construction would have reflected adversely in some way on Government finances; the question of cost and the way how it is interpreted, is for all to see.

2.50 p.m.

If you were to look at the contribution of the Central Bank to Government finances, what do you find? I believe if you would take a historical look, you would find that the Central Bank has been contributing to the revenue of the Government, I suppose out of its profits. In 1984-85, the Estimates estimated that the

Central Bank would have contributed about \$6.5 million to revenue. The Revised Estimates, however, show that the contribution will be a "wee bit" over \$3 million. The Estimates for 1984-85 show that the contribution was only \$1.6 million.

It is hardly a case of the Central Bank becoming less and less profitable as an institution. I think we all know that the Central Bank has proven to be a fairly profitable activity in terms of the direct contribution which it makes towards the revenues of this country. I suspect that the reason why one would find this reduction in the contribution of the Central Bank to the revenue of the Government would be because of the re-payments which have to be made, and which it is probably preparing to make, on the construction of the new Central Bank. We maintain that kind of investment would have been much better spend and would have been much more socially beneficial and satisfying if that kind of money could have been injected in the housing sector in this country. We further maintain, as we said over and over again, that the Central Bank could have acquired buildings in Bridgetown at a much cheaper cost, and without at all reducing its desire to centralize its operation. I thought that I would make that point, because sometimes if one were to wait, one could get the reasons when one advances arguments in a number of areas.

The other point I want to make, and it is a little disturbing, is that when one comes to deal with Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure in Barbados, more and more one is finding that these Estimates are very limited in the kind of picture which they paint of the financial activities of the Government. I must confess at this point that I am not sure how we will be able to get around that, but let me explain what I mean. There are a number of statutory corporations and a number of funds which have a direct bearing on economic activity in this country, and indeed on the whole governmental structure, but which do not come into the purview of these Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

Take, for example, the Transport Levy Fund. Last year I searched in the section dealing with Revenue, and there was no mention of the Transport Levy and the amount of money being collected in that particular area. This year the same thing happened. There is no mention of the amount of money which is collected under the Transport Levy, but yet the Transport Levy is important from the point of view of the amount of money which is deducted from peoples' wages and salaries. It is also important from the point of view of the purpose for which it was intended and presumably for the purpose for which it is being used. I say "presumably" advisedly. The point is we have no opportunity in this debate to get information on the Transport Levy to see what has

been collected and what is spent, and indeed how it is spent. We have to be, as it were, guessing and stabbing in the dark. So one is free to make whatever charges one feels like making about the use of those funds because the information.....

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Oh yes, you will hear some later on. I hope you are prepared to deal with it.

The Health Levy is another example. There are monies which have been deducted, and for which they ought to be an account, but again they do not come under our purview at a time like this when we are discussing Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue, when these very levies are going to be used in governmental programmes. One would have hoped that one would have seen that kind of relationship being brought to the fore, but, alas, that was missing. So we are therefore operating against a background of incomplete information. Be that as it may, let us move to the areas of concern, Ministry by Ministry, or department by department, as the case might be, and I certainly will comply with your request, Sir. I indicated to you when you spoke to me just before the luncheon recess that I had intended drawing attention to the page that I will be dealing with as I go along in the course of my address. 3.00 p.m.

If you could turn to page 4 under Public Personnel Administration, Head 13 - Services Commissions, last year in discussing the Services Commissions I made some statements which were very serious statements in terms of the functioning or non-functioning of the Public Service Commission. I do not intend to repeat the charge which I made then here today, but I am still of the view that the Public Service Commission does not function as a Public Service Commission. It is a rubber stamp.

If you were to just move now to the actual Public Personnel Administration, you will find that under General Administration in the description, the functions of the Services Commissions are described as follows:

"(a) The selection of candidates for appointment in the Public Service."

We know that is a joke. On paper it sounds good, but in practice it does not operate.

"(b) The promotion, transfer and discipline of officers in the Public Service."

It sounds very good on paper, but in practice it is a bare joke. As a matter of fact, and I will say this now, I believe Senator Trotman, along with some other Minister or Ministers sitting in this Senate, would know about this very well.

Why is everybody looking at Senator Barrow? I did not call his name. I see Senator Clarke looking at Senator Barrow, Senator Reece looking at Senator Barrow. I have not started to accuse him yet. When I get to him I will deal with him. The thing is that they have interfered in disciplinary matters, and I will give you a specific example of this. When you get that kind of interference by the political directorate, it destroys the confidence of the people who are appointed to do the job. It also destroys the morale of the people who have to work in the Civil Service, and I am saying that a lot of this has been happening.

Senator Barrow may very well argue that if they are the Heads of their particular Ministries, then they have to make the decisions. But how do you expect a Civil Service to function when a Minister can drive up Broad Street, see an ambulance parked and go to his office and call the hospital and demand disciplinary action being taken against the driver of that vehicle? The result of that was that there was a work stoppage at the hospital and the Minister had to back off his demand. When Ministers put themselves into that kind of position, it is direct interference. This kind of interference can be repeated dozens of times.

(SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: If I go outside now and see one I will do it again).

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I thought you would have denied that you did it, but you did not even know why the ambulance had stopped.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Just let us get on with the debate, please.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: You do not even know why he stopped the ambulance.

Aside

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: It could pick up you quicker than it could pick me up, you know, because you do not even know where you are going now. You do not know if you are in St. James or in St. Lucy.

This kind of interference is not only evidenced directly in the Civil Service, but it is even worse in statutory corporations, but we will come to that later on.

I believe that if we are going to be talking about productivity, if we are going to be talking about people giving of their best in order to pull this country forward, then the atmosphere in which people work, the kind of security that people feel that they have in any job situation, must contribute a great deal to this, but I am not convinced that the actions and the activities of some

of the Ministers of the present Administration are doing much in this particular direction. Far from doing anything, they are undermining by their approach confidence and morale in the Public Service.

We come to the Chief Establishments Officer on page 5. Last year when I spoke on this particular Head, I made the statement to the effect that the Chief Establishments Officer was ineffective in the job which he is supposed to do, and it was not anything to do with the person. I want to make this point very, very clear: it was nothing to do with the person who is doing the job, because I believe that there are a number of competent people in the Public Service, but they have been so brutalised by the present Administration that they really cannot function.

I believe that one of the main reasons why the department of the Chief Establishments Officer is so ineffective is because the department is not allowed to function in the way it should function. I would like to suggest once more that there is need for specialisation in that particular area, the development of a corps of people in that particular area of Government who would have the expertise and who would carry the necessary weight in decision making as far as matters which come before them for resolution are concerned.

3.10 p.m.

Right now there are many, many outstanding matters in the Public Service, grievances, to be resolved which cannot be resolved because you get some departments of Government and some Ministries who as it were, do not care two hoots about the Chief Establishments Officer and what it is that he wants. They will do things in their own way and in their own time. I think that this also reflects a lack of direction in the public administration strategies in the country, but at the same time, I am saying that because the department is not given the kind of support and the kind of integrity that it ought to be given, it means that it is unable to function in the way that it ought to function. I would hope that Senators Barrow and Trotman who, I believe, had some experience in dealing with personnel matters in the Public Service, having been at one time like myself a civil servant, and at one time was General Secretary of the National Union of Public Workers, which had to deal with lots of these problems, would appreciate the point which I am making in this particular area.

As I have said before, if you hear me make a criticism of something that I see wrong, I do not criticise out of spite, as Senator Barrow might want to suggest, but out of a genuine attempt to see things done in a professional manner and to see an opportunity being created for maximum effectiveness and productivity out of any given situation. So the criticisms are genuine, they are constructive criticisms, they may be couched in

little destructive terms but they are genuine when you examine them, and I am quite serious.

I would really hope that, rather than smiling and attempting to make some fun out of a worthwhile suggestion, some serious thought be given to it. You cannot go wrong when you go down that road. Set broad policy objectives and broad outlines and then, I am sure, the people would know what you are after and they would be able to follow them. But when they are told one thing today, tomorrow another thing and the next day something different, people's morale can be shaken and their confidence would be destroyed, so I would hope that that would be looked at seriously.

I want next to turn to the Audit Department at page 15. The Audit Department is a very important department of Government and I do not believe that we have to make a case for the Audit Department in here, because its role is well-known. But I detect that, more and more, it seems as if the Audit Department is playing a diminishing role in the auditing of public accounts, and I wonder if some of the criticisms which the Audit Department has made against some statutory boards, the accounts of which it used to audit, have anything to do with it.

The Audit Department in a report on the Child Care Board for the financial year 1 April 1982 – 31 March 1983 made some very serious observations about the accounts of the Child Care Board. For example, they said on page 1 of the report:

"Statement of Receipts and Payments, General Account, a total of \$215 024.25 shown against Miscellaneous, should have been shown as \$206 809.25, and the sum of \$28 722.48 against Non-Recurrent should have been shown as \$36 937.48. This is as a result of an amount of \$8 215, the cost of one Suzuki 1980 motor car, being charged to Item 13 – Loans to Individuals." The purchase of this vehicle appears to have been sanctioned by the Board, but it seems that there was no provision made for the purchase in the approved estimates.

This is a serious charge and I believe it ought to be investigated. We ought to hear something about that in here today. We have the Chairman of the Child Care Board in here and I would hope that one would hear some comment on this. It is true that Senator Reader was not the Chairman of the Child Care Board at that time, but she was a member before and should know something about it.

This is a serious charge which has been made, but you know what has happened? Do you know that the Auditor General does not audit the accounts of the Child

Care Board any longer? These are audited by a private firm now and again, I am not attempting to cast any aspersions on the integrity of private firms which do auditing, but it must raise some questions.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order: Am I to understand that Coopers and Lybrand are the Auditors?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I do not know. The Chairman is there. She should be able to tell you. 3.20 p.m.

There seems to be a good and sufficient reason for shifting from the Audit Department to a private auditor...

Asides

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: All right, a reputable firm, which means that the Audit Department is disreputable. You are saying that the Audit Department is disreputable. It is not a firm, but it does auditing, and you are questioning the competence of the auditing done by the Audit Department. That is what you are saying, because you are now going to a reputable firm.

There are other disturbing things in this report. As a matter of fact, I do not think that we in the Opposition will let this just go by the board, because lots of things have been pointed out here in this report which need investigation. I believe that the Government ought to conduct an investigation into the operation of the Child Care Board in this country. A lot more things will come out when this investigation is conducted.

Another statement made by the Auditor General on page 2 is:

"There was a payment of \$16 000 stated as an advance to meet the purchase of materials for repairs to certain children's homes. It could not be determined whether or not the full amount was disbursed as there was no record seen with respect to the material purchased."

What has been happening, it would seem, is that the Child Care Board has been paying out money to some firm or firms for repairs to the buildings under and operated by the Child Care Board and it does not seem as if any bills have been produced, or are being produced, by the firm or individuals concerned to substantiate the claim which is made.

I am not making the charge, the Auditor General is making the charge. What I am saying is as a result of the charge made by the Auditor General. I am calling on the Government to have an investigation into the operation of the Child Care Board, and I am saying that a lot more will come out when an investigation is made,

because the same practice is still going on where repairs are being done to buildings and no bills are being submitted to substantiate the claims, just a statement. The Auditor General made that charge, I did not make any charge. The charge is here on page 2 of the Auditor General's Report.

Another statement made by the Auditor General on the same page 2 under "General" (g) is:

"The Board approved the sale of one vehicle, probably a Commer Van. Disposal thereof however was not found to be in accordance with Rule 117(4) of the Financial Rules."

There was disposal of a van not in accordance with Rule 117(4) of the Financial Rules, which presumably states that Government vehicles or Government property must be disposed of by public auction or as directed by the Ministry of Finance. So somebody is playing hanky-panky in there, and I believe that this ought to be looked at, and I would certainly hope that this would be investigated. Either there is something to the Report of the Auditor General or we will not be able to believe anything that the Auditor General writes again of any department. So it is a question of the Auditor General having put himself on the line here, and his department is being put on the line, and it has to be tested. Either we are going to believe what is said in here, or we will no longer believe anything that the Auditor General writes about any Ministry or any department, and I think that the Auditor General, as the public servant that he is, ought to be given a chance to justify the position which has been taken in here. It is on this basis that I am calling for this investigation.

If we can move on to agriculture, which is on page 31, Senator Griffith in his introduction spent a long time on agriculture and the role which the Government is planning for agriculture to play in our economy, both in terms of our economic recovery and in terms of reducing our food import bill. I believe, like him, that agriculture has an important role to play in our economic activity and certainly in the whole area of feeding ourselves and at the same time reducing our dependence on outside sources for our food. It is a matter of record — and I am not really being political in the statement which I am making, because it is a matter of fact — that the Democratic Labour Party initiated a programme of agricultural diversification in this country which has been unmatched. We first introduced agricultural diversification where we shifted from purely agriculture, which is sugar really.....

Asides.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: A couple of houses slipped in between! Mr. Deputy President, I do not under-

stand what they are talking about. Have they not built houses since they came into Government? Have they not taken land out of agriculture and put it into housing? I still see some being taken out of agricultural production and put into housing. It is all part of the nature of development.

We have a limited area of land. If you are going to be talking about diversification of the economy, getting into industry, providing proper houses for people, where do you expect the land to come from? Out of the air? We have a limited amount of land here, so some of the agricultural land must get touched. I do not understand what nonsense Senator Barrow would want to have us believe!

3.30 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Do you see? If that did not happen, where would you live?

Aside.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Quite seriously, this charge has been made and some members of the Democratic Labour Party sometimes seem to think that it is a sore foot and therefore back off from it. I will face it head on. Yes, some land was taken out for housing. So what? You have also taken out some land for housing, too. So what?

Aside.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: As a matter of fact, you do not have to take it out now. It was cheaper in those days to have taken it out than if you take it out now. Otherwise, you may not have bought land to put your house on, considering the price of land now. So you have benefitted directly from it.

Anyhow, Sir, that was just by the way.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is a long way off, Senator Greaves.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: A long way, but necessary. Sometimes we have to travel long routes in order to get to our objective.

I think that we have to recognize that a lot more emphasis has to be placed on our agricultural diversification programme. That is why it is disturbing when you have situations where people are encouraged to go into the production of certain things like onions, peanuts and poultry

Aside.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: You too? Everybody seems to be heckling me today. When it reaches the point where Senator Reece can heckle me, things are really bad in truth!

Laughter.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I do not think we are going to get posted overseas any more though. But anyhow, I am not worried about that.

Now, ...

Aside.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Yes, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Have you lost your words, Senator Greaves?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: No, Sir. I am still very much on track.

I just paused for a little.....

(SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Station identification.)

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: When you have a situation where people who have been encouraged to go into the production of these crops and the establishment of a poultry industry then to be faced with a decision, obviously by the Government, to give licences to import the very produce that people have been encouraged to go into, one must really question how serious the Government is about this agricultural diversification programme. Because the very Ministry which is responsible for agriculture and which is responsible for encouraging agricultural diversification, is the same Ministry which gives licences to people to import onions, peanuts and poultry parts. I think that this is a very serious weakness on the part of the Government when this kind of situation can arise, and arise within the Ministry. I think it shows a conflict between the commercial policy of the Government and its domestic agricultural policy. I think that there is need for some co-ordination in this particular area.

A couple of weeks ago in this Chamber, Senator Seale, I am sorry that he is not here today — was ranting and raving, if one can rave in the Senate,.....

Laughter

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES about a statement which was made by a gentleman from the BAS. At the time, I must confess that I had not seen the newspapers, so I really was at a loss to find out what he

was so agitated about. It is only when I got home that evening and I looked at the newspapers that I saw what could have been the cause for his being so upset, where the BAS executive had made a charge to the effect that onions and peanuts were in good supply in Barbados — you know my words, I was waiting for you to say something — and they gave licences for importers to bring in these crops at the very time that there was a glut and an adequate supply of these crops here in Barbados.

I think that when you get a situation like that arising in this country, it shows that there is lack of co-ordination; at least, that there is no policy. I should like to think that if you are going to be talking about diversifying our agriculture, we ought to have an approach so that these kinds of situations would not arise. There must be no conflict between the commercial policy on the one hand, and the agricultural policy. One would not want to advocate the killing of the retail sector, not at all, but, at the same time, certain controls have to be put in effect in order to provide an opportunity for the agricultural diversification programme to work.

If one were to look at the components of the food import bills, one would find that there are four areas: cereals, fish and fish preparations, meat and meat preparations and dairy products. These, as I understand it, account for between 70 per cent and 80 per cent of the food which is imported into Barbados. There are some areas that we can definitely make an impact in. In the area of cereals, to do with flour, which would be corn and rice and maybe cassava, those are going to be limited; very, very limited. The conditions are not right for producing rice here. With cassava, maybe, like in Guyana, you may want to replace wheat flour by yam flour or rice flour or breadfruit flour. But I do not think that that would be appropriate. For one thing, it would be a question of people's taste and quantities. I am not pushing that particular line, although I must say that there is something that can be done in that particular area to diversify and to find some effective use for these particular things.

As far as meat is concerned, we are also limited in that area. But in one aspect of the meat production, certainly in the area of poultry production, there is a lot which can be done, because there is a considerable amount of poultry which is used in this country and which is still being imported. I think that the Government can certainly look at this in its strategy for diversification, which would reduce the food import bill and, at the same time, provide an opportunity for people to become productively employed in that particular area.

On the area of fish, fish preparations and fish processing, I believe that there are many opportunities which exist in this particular area, and it is a source which can

be tapped in a variety of forms. It would seem as if the Government has indicated that this is an area which it would look at very closely.

Vegetable production and the whole question of the processing of food is an area which ought to be looked at. I believe that in this area that a lot can be done in the rural developmental process. So our strategy, even though it may not lead to self-sufficiency in our food products, nevertheless, it can go a far way in relieving some of the problems in that area.

3.40 p.m.

I would like to suggest the following:

1. Government should concentrate on identifying a core of full-time small and medium size commercial farmers.
2. Marketing institutions should be established to support these people. In this regard, I would suggest the concept and the role of the Barbados Marketing Corporation ought to be reviewed and revived in order to make sure that it plays a role in this particular strategy because I think it has a very important role to play in this.
3. Institutions which will deal with credit should be created.
4. There must be a well-organized and developed extension service and not the on-and-off service that we have been getting for the last couple of years.
5. Processing facilities should be established to provide the kind of support for the group of farmers I identified earlier on.
6. We should seek to provide the most efficient agro-technology for them. Irrigation, for example, is something which ought to be looked at very closely and the method of irrigation, whether spraying in the air is the most effective and most efficient. These are things which could be looked at, because I am submitting that there are ways of getting around some of the extravagance in this area and introducing some efficiency.

We recognize the role and value of sugar to the economy and also to the soil. This has been established and, therefore, we ought to concentrate on generating a wider range of commercial uses for sugar and sugar cane. There are a number of studies which have been done in this area which would give some lead in this particular direction. Internationally, I would suggest that we ought to work assiduously with other cane-producing countries to get an effective international sugar agreement. Part of this strategy would be to try to control beet sugar production. Whether this particular approach has been used to try to convince the developing countries, I am not too

sure, but we need to do this if we really mean to help the sugar producing Third World countries. Certainly some efforts have to be made in that direction.

A great amount of money is spent on chicken parts which are imported in this country. It is claimed that the farmers here do not like to go into parts, but there is technology available to do this kind of thing. The Government should pioneer a move in this direction to make sure that the parts of the chicken which are imported in large quantities could be done here and made available on the local market from local sources.

I believe that some of these areas would go a far way, along, of course, with the other incentives which ought to be given to the farming community, particularly that efforts ought to be made to provide a proper marketing strategy for farmers and for their products. This will go a far way in ensuring that our agricultural diversification programme would take off and can be going at a reasonable pace and productive pace.

I want to make a quick reference to the Co-operative Department and to the role of the co-operatives in the whole developmental process in terms of not only generating economic activity, but also savings. It is interesting to note that the Co-operative Department has not been expanded for years. I would like to think that since there has been a renewed interest in the co-operative movement, particularly in the area of credit unionism, the Government should pay some very close attention to the Co-operative Department and to ensure that it is adequately staffed. At the present moment there is one Registrar, who I understand is acting, and three officers. I believe that something should be done to this department in terms of expanding it so that it can offer a wider range of facilities and assistance to the co-operative movement. It would be much more rewarding, I suggest, if more encouragement to this department in terms of staffing and developing the kind of experience and expertise, particularly now that one finds that there is that kind of interest in co-operatives, generally speaking, in Barbados. That will also have an effect on our whole approach and the kind of impact which it will make on the development of our activities in Barbados.

3.50 p.m.

I thought about the provision of extension services for the small farmers, and I was very pleased in looking at the Capital Estimates under Agriculture to see that there is provision for the construction of an agricultural station at Springhall, St. Lucy. As you are aware, there used to be an extension officer at Jerusalem in St. Peter some years ago, but because of the misguided policies in agriculture which were pursued by the Government some years ago, one saw for practical purposes the closing down of a number of these agricultural stations, and

hence a de-emphasis on the role of extension officers in the whole agricultural activity in Barbados. It would seem as if the Government has now been convinced of the need for these and are now seeking to re-establish an agricultural station in the north. After all, I believe that the natural place for it would be in the area where they have indicated that it will be put up, not because it is in St. Lucy, but purely because of the fact that that is the location of the Springhall Land Lease Project where there are numbers of small farmers producing a variety of crops and in need of technical advice.

This is something which I would certainly be supportive of, and I would hope that it is not just an entry in the Capital Estimates, but that it will be a policy that would be pursued. I say that because I know that over the years we have seen a number of things entered into the Capital Estimates only to disappear some years subsequently, not having been done. I believe that this particular move would be in the direction that I would want to see it go in terms of providing that kind of advice in the northern part of Barbados.

With those remarks on Agriculture, let me move to Education, on page 64. In looking at Education, one can ask, and must ask, what policy can one detect as a policy being pursued by the Ministry of Education? I ask that because if one were to examine very closely what is happening in the area of education, one would find that there are a number of problems which have developed, and there does not seem to be any clearly defined policy for education, let us say, for the next ten to fifteen years.

Some very clear things have emerged, however, since 1981, and I will identify them. One would have to ask oneself the question whether the policy which is being pursued is (a) to drastically effect savings, and (b) to increase revenue in the Ministry of Education. Let us look at some revenue raising measures that have been introduced, and also some measures which one could probably suggest as measures that would effect savings for the Ministry.

One can cite four areas of revenue raising activity:

- (1) the imposition in some instances, and in others the increase of fees, for certain courses at the Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College for Barbadian citizens;
- (2) the increase in fees for the loan of textbooks from \$5.00 to \$20;
- (3) the imposition of local examination fees in the range of \$30 and \$40; and
- (4) the increase in petty fees at schools. (They may be "petty" but I know they give a number of people a lot of licks to find).

In the area of savings, what do you find? That the Ministry of Education has stopped, if not all, almost all adult evening education classes and has discontinued the Evening Institute. Study leave for teachers to the University has been stopped. Domestic Science Centres, which used to be held at some schools between the hours of 5.00 and 8.00 in the evening, have been stopped. The uniform grant has not always been paid out and lots of savings have been effected in that area. The manipulation of the School Meals Programme to reduce the cost of the meal has also been effected. There is also the non-supply of certain textbooks under the Textbooks Loan Scheme — at least, dictionaries and work books — and, furthermore, the proposed amalgamation of about 37 primary schools to eliminate 18 existing schools, and this would, I dare say, effect savings and salaries related to 18 Heads, Senior Teachers and other staff, and would reduce the maintenance costs. There is a proposal to close nine schools by April 1985 and nine others later on.

The next point I can identify in this area has to do with the reduction in the number of teachers, 105 in the 1982–83 financial year. That was when the school roll dropped by 1 602 pupils, as against 34 in 1983–84 when the school roll in the primary schools dropped by 1 577. So you retrench 105 teachers in 1982–83 when the roll in the primary schools dropped by 1 602 and by 34 when in 1983–84 the roll dropped by 1 577. Of course, there is a proposal — I am not sure if it has been put into effect — to change the whole format of teacher training at Erdiston Teachers Training College where the students would now be asked to finance their own training. 4.00 p.m.

There are a number of issues, I submit which have to be looked at in Education and which must be dealt with if we are going to say that education will play the kind of role that it ought to play at this time, and for the next two or three decades. I believe that our strategy in education must be the pursuit of secondary education for all, and those who are not academic must still be able to come out of the school system with their potential so developed as to make a mark and a contribution in the society. Hence, the programme of education which has to be mapped out must be able to deal with this kind of challenge.

We have, for example, the challenge of the new technology, including the computer. Are we really preparing people to deal with this new technology which is coming at us at a very rapid pace in all aspects of our lives? One must see a definite thrust, a definable policy, in the area of the introduction of computer studies in our school curriculum. It must be properly done; the teachers must be trained, there must be proper content in the programme, with an objective which can be easily identified, and of course, it must bear some working relationship with the work out-put. I suspect that the

Government will say that they have put computers in most of the schools, but I am submitting that putting a computer in a secondary school is not all that is required. I am talking about a programme to really bring us into the computer area. The question of the training of operators, technicians and programmers must be part of our strategy, and it has to be properly worked out.

One could not speak in this area without noting that, in spite of the many promises and in spite of all the talk that there has been the provision of guidance counselling in the various secondary schools, this is totally lacking. I believe that if we really are going to be able to deal with the problems which exist in the school system, it is absolutely necessary for the Government to initiate, without delay, a properly developed and co-ordinated programme of guidance counselling in all of the schools in Barbados.

We have, for example, the incidence of drugs, which is not now incidental in our school system but it is widespread; and not only in the school system but throughout our society. I think that we owe it as a duty to the youngsters in the system to give them some guidance in that particular area. I do not think that enough is being done, and that is why we are finding that so many of our young people, apart from being turned off and feeling so hopeless in our society, are falling into drug addiction.

We have also to deal with the problem of violence in the schools. A lot of it is not reported in the newspapers, but there is an increase in violence in the schools, and I am saying that if we work out a policy and we had in place a well-defined guidance counselling programme that some of these problems could be avoided.

The new Education Act — what can be said of that? That seems to have caused so many problems in our society and in the teaching profession. I believe that they have been identified on so many occasions that I need not spend much time on that here. However, I do not think that I could let this opportunity pass without expressing the concern which has been expressed relative to the status of the teachers in our community. Has that been settled yet? Are they civil servants or are they not civil servants. As I understand it, there is still a legal matter before the courts still to be clarified as far as that is concerned, but, this kind of uncertainty, I am submitting, leads to a lowering of the morale in the teaching profession.

Added to that is the fact that throughout our system there are still too many teachers who are in an acting capacity or in temporary positions. They do not know from year to year or from day to day whether they will have a job the next day or the next term. I understand Senator Barrow has a plan to deal with that

because there are two teachers who have been seconded to the National Cultural Foundation who he is sending back to the school.

4.10 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order: The honourable Senator is well aware that only the Chief Personnel Officer has that power and that he extended the secondments for six months, and they said they wanted to go back.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: There is a plan for that, but the point is that when you get that kind of situation it must have an adverse effect on the morale of the teachers.

Next, the Ministry of Education or the Minister of Education made what a number of people and I consider to have been a very serious error — taking headteachers to court. I believe that this kind of atmosphere which exists in the profession at the present moment is adversely affecting the children in the school system, and I think we ought to be concerned about this. I do not even think that the matter has been settled, and until the whole arrangements relating to teachers have been settled, then I would think that we are not going to see much progress in that particular area.

The area of teacher training is something on which much more emphasis has to be placed, because it is a fact that in the area of Vocational Studies and Home Economics there is a very serious deficiency of teachers. I think this has been further aggravated by the rapid move towards co-education throughout the school system and the fact that there has not been a commensurate increase in the training of teachers in this particular area, because both Home Economics and Vocational Training would be on the curriculum of all the schools. There has not been enough preparation and planning done, with the result that there is a very serious deficiency which has now shown itself, and which indeed has shown itself up for some time. I would like to suggest that the Government ought to pay some attention to this particular area.

I could not leave education without stating that the way in which the new Education Act is being interpreted and implemented by the Ministry of Education has reduced the headteachers to nothing more than conduits or clerks in a system. The whole idea of being creative, of taking decisions which they used to give and take before, cannot now be taken without reference to the Ministry of Education or some directive coming from the Ministry of Education about all sorts of things, and I am saying that they are functioning like clerks. I do not think that it is good for our educational system. I think that we ought to change our course very quickly in that particular area, because it is an area which affects our national life in a very deep way, and I certainly would

not want to see any further deterioration in this area, because it is already bad.

I will move to Health.

Could you give me an indication as to how much more time I have?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have about sixteen minutes.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I am only a quarter of the way. Page 80. It is not often that one gets an opportunity to discuss Health in the Senate. We in the Democratic Labour Party are very concerned about the state of health in this country. In 1976, I think it could be said with some pride that the Barbados Labour Party inherited from the Democratic Labour Party a good institutional base in health, a plan for multi-purpose clinics. We had at that time more than a very comparable ratio, comparable to other countries and better than most of them, of doctors to patients. We had, of course, already implemented the National Insurance Scheme, which had aspects of health components in it, and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is a teaching hospital, with that teaching programme at the University of the West Indies, provided Barbadians with access to a wide area of specialist and specialised services, and I think that it can be said that the QEH was in a reasonably good shape.

The Barbados Labour Party came in with all sorts of promises. They talked about the implementation of a free National Health Service. That was in 1976. We are almost into 1986, and all we are getting up to now is still talk, talk and talk — talk from the Minister, talk from the Barbados Labour Party, and no National Health Service! As a matter of fact, they misled this country into believing that this health service that they were proposing would have been free. When we pointed out to the people of this country that it would not be so, they insisted it was going to be free, but no sooner than they gained the reins of Government we heard who could expect a health service to be free; only a madman would expect that you would have a health service and would not have to pay for it; when before the elections it was going to be free.

What you have had, as I said, is bare talk, and what is even worse is that the Government has, in my view, been robbing the taxpayers, robbing wage earners and salary earners in this country for a number of years through the withdrawal of money from their earnings on a weekly basis for a Health Levy. They have been robbing, taking money by false pretences from the people of this country. It is nothing short of highway robbery, and nothing has been forthcoming for the people who expectantly every day looked for this health service. I believe that the Minister of Health would be able to

indicate to us, the many millions that have been accumulating over the years. What is being done with it? All we are getting are promises, promises, promises, promises which, it would seem, the Government has no intention of fulfilling, or is incapable of fulfilling.
4.20 p.m.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is in a mess. The equipment there is obsolete. The hospital has demonstrated its inability to handle a number of cases. There is need for modern equipment and also for the implementation of a proper maintenance programme for equipment and buildings at the hospital. There is a very serious shortage of medicines, medical supplies and other supplies at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We believe that, as a nation, we are paying a lot for health through our taxes and through the levy, and that this country deserves better treatment from the Government than it is giving.

We therefore, want to suggest that the Government should look very seriously and urgently at the modernization of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We further want to suggest in line with the provision which we have taken over the years that the St. Joseph Hospital in the north should be approached with a serious proposition, which would include some financial assistance to that institution, to have it properly incorporated into the health services of this country, to play its role in the northern part of Barbados in the delivery of health care to our people in the north, particularly in the area of the handling of emergencies. I think that this is a very serious point and one would hope that the Government would pay some attention to it.

To move quickly to Transport and Works, on page 126, the Barbados Labour Party Administration, from the time it came into power, seems to have had a particular dislike for people who either have to use the transport services or who operate the transport services, by the frequency and the extent to which they have imposed taxes and levies and fees in this area. If you look at all the Budget Speeches and non-Budget Speeches, by the financial policies which have been implemented you would find what they have fashioned in the area of transport. Bus fares have been raised, I do not know how many times, by the present Barbados Labour Party Administration since 1976. The fees for road taxes and the registration of vehicles have been raised. Taxis and minibus operators have been heavily taxed. The Transport Levy has been extracted to the tune, I understand, of about \$33 million in a few years. Drivers' Licences have gone up. You look right through!

What are we getting for it? They say that it is supposed to improve public transport; their buying new buses and all of that kind of thing. But what has been happening is that, yes, you are having some new buses,

but there are a number of buses which cannot function and which do not function. You only have, for example, to go over to the Transport Board yard on a Monday or a Tuesday and find the number of new buses which are in there because of a policy which is being pursued by the Barbados Labour Party Administration. The Minister, for example, has ordered that the service people, the mechanics, should not work on weekends. So when buses break down, they cannot be serviced until the Monday, and therefore the buses are kept in there Monday and Tuesday until they get back on the road. This creates hardship to people.

We have more than a serious problem of administration. Furthermore, I would make the statement to the effect, without any fear of contradiction, that the management of the Transport Board is not allowed to manage by the Minister of Transport, and that he intervenes on an almost daily basis in the administration of the Transport Board.

That is not the only problem in the area of Transport and Works. We have a very serious problem in this country relating to drainage, a problem which ought to be attacked and attended to in a very serious manner. We have roads throughout Barbados which are in need of repair and have been in need of repair for many years — and the Government has done nothing about them. I travel the length and breadth of Barbados, so I speak with authority on this matter. There are many roads which are in dire need of repair and the Government is extracting money from people and it seems that nothing is being done in that particular area. I believe that this is a very serious reflection on the Minister of Transport and Works.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have two minutes to wind up.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: It is a pity that time has more or less run out on me, because there are a number of things that I would want to say on the operation of the funds at the Ministry of Transport and Works and the way in which the Minister has been utilizing these funds. The details would be too distressing, but at the appropriate time, you will hear a lot more about it. I am sure that when the Prime Minister hears that he will have no alternative but to remove the Minister from office. There are some very, very serious things which are happening there.....

Sir, I did not say that I wanted to deal with Information and Culture. If you would just give me.....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have one minute, Senator Greaves.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: It would be difficult for me to say what I want to say in a minute.

(Aside: Go ahead.)

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Before I move from Transport and Works — this is very important — I have expressed some concern, ever since the By-Pass Road in Speightstown has been operational, about the need for street lighting and stop lights, by the corner which Senator Barrow knows only too well, at Church Street corner. I remember that the last time I raised it in here, Senator Trotman did indicate that street lights would be put down there. A number of accidents are taking place on that highway, as on the Spring Garden. I really would like to urge the Government to do something very quickly to provide proper lighting in that area and to have some kind of warning system, by street lights or otherwise, at the junction where Church Street meets the Speightstown By-Pass. It is a very serious junction and lots of accidents have been taking place.

I will have to get my colleague, Senator Hall, to deal with the Minister of Information and Culture. But I am concerned, Sir as I am sure you are, and all people in Barbados, about what is happening in the Ministry of Information and Culture and the fact that there seems to be a rift and a conflict between the Director of Culture and the Minister of Culture. Let me give you two examples, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think you have time for two examples.
4.30 p.m.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Give the minorities a little leeway. This is special pleading.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I know it is and I really sympathize with you, but you chose your priorities when you dealt with the subjects.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I would like to begin by making contact with a point made by Senator Greaves on Page IX, Property Income — Central Bank. Senator Greaves drew attention to the fact that it is now estimated that Government would get about \$1.6 million in revenue from the Central Bank in fiscal year 1985–86 as compared with \$6.5 million in the 1984–85 Estimates, and indeed, if my memory serves me correctly, perhaps even more substantial figures than the actual outturn in earlier years. He was wondering whether the building across the way had anything to do with this. I think that it would have had something to do with it, but the impact of that building is yet to be found, because I believe that if they are following conventional practices, the interest on the loans that they would have acquired in relation to that building would have been capitalized as interest during construction and would not have been reflected as a current expense reducing the revenues, net incomes, as such. It could have had an effect to the

extent that they used other resources that were not borrowed and which could otherwise have been applied in a way which would have earned them some type of revenue, and to the extent that this is not fully reflected in the interest during construction, that could have had an effect on the income of the Central Bank. But that, as of now, is a secondary factor — the impact of that building is in the future and is going to be severe in terms of the revenue of the Central Bank.

The reason why this has happened is to be found with the CMCF situation. If you notice, the Central Bank has among its assets an amount of \$120 million as a claim against the Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility. Even in the initial stages that was an asset earning very low rates of interest. Even if it was earning high rates of interest, I presume that, following conventional accounting practices applied to banks and other businesses, that debt is long past due, and in banking terms would have to be classified as a loan of doubtful value and they would not be permitted to accrue any interest in relation to that. Indeed, if you look at the financial statistics published by the Central Bank, you would see the figure outstanding as \$120.1 million. This would indicate that you are not accruing any interest, or in the alternative that somebody is paying them money. I do not think anybody is paying them any money. Even if they were paying them money, that should go to set off the principal first, rather than go as accrued interest. So there you have \$120 million as a non-earning asset. Eight per cent of \$20 million is \$9.6 million; 10 per cent is \$12 million, and lies the tale.

The Central Bank last year probably made \$12 million less in interest revenue than they should have, if they were sensible in managing the affairs of this country three, or five years ago. That is the price of that CMCF blunder. The other part is the \$120 million, at the very best a loan of doubtful value. I think it is a bad debt. And when we hear statements about our having four months' reserves, we must not forget that half of that figure is represented by that \$120 million claim against the CMCF. The moral of that is that we have to tread particularly cautiously during this financial year, as we had to tread during the last. Later on I will be speaking more about this in terms of the implications for these Estimates which we now have before us.

It seems to me passing strange that Government has gone on and there is no indication of anything happening to anyone as a consequence of Barbados losing \$120 million and the associated interest annually, let us say \$12 million per annum of that amount. Nothing has happened, and the blame lies somewhere between the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank. Somebody should take the blame, even if it is the Minister of Finance himself. If not the Minister of Finance, he should

apportion it where it belongs. But that has not happened; maybe it is in the future.

Getting to the Estimates themselves, I want to draw attention to two errors. I have a long list of corrections which was circulated and I looked quickly at them, and I do not see any indication that the errors to which I want to direct attention have been picked up. The first one is something of a presentation error as opposed to an error of substance, and this is on Page 11 of the Memorandum. The numbers are at the bottom of the page where you have Part 2, Capital and then you have Financing. Sometime before, I believe that I drew attention to the fact that these headings do not correspond very well. This "Financing" at the moment relates to the financing of the deficit rather than the financing of the Capital. There was a time when it meant financing of the Capital, and in it you would see a statement about the Current Account balance; if it was a surplus and contributing towards Capital. But an economist in the Ministry of Finance some years ago felt that the people had made an error, and they modified that presentation. Now, really what you have is a statement of the financing of the deficit and, therefore, there should be a new heading setting it out from Capital. This is not the financing of the Capital Account, this is the financing of the deficit.

If you look at the figures there, they do not really add up. I have been looking at them and it seems to me that what has happened is that the wrong figure has been placed against the European Development Bank. That \$62 227 378 presumably is a sub-total relating to the sum of the European Development Bank, and everything above identifies sources of financing for the deficit. The difference between that \$62 million and \$197 272 172 is the stated figure of \$135 044 794, funds to be raised through loans and so on. It would seem to me, therefore, that the correct figure for the European Development Bank has been omitted. Assuming that all the other figures are correct, the figure for the European Development Bank should have been \$2.3 million. This is the interpretation I have given to it, but I would ask Senator Griffith to check this detail and perhaps advise me before I finish my presentation by way of a point of elucidation, because if I am wrong I might want to modify some of what I am saying. What I am saying would be predicated on the assumption that the figure against the European Development Bank should be \$2.3 million, based on my system of drawing inferences out of what is, evidently, a misrepresentation of the information.

The other point I want to direct attention to is to be found also in the Memorandum, on page 7. On page 7 of the Memorandum, there is a note indicating that the above statement does not include public debt of \$536 740 633, sinking funds in respect of the public

debt, \$40 312 897 valued at cost, or \$40 024 438 valued at market value, nor does it include contingent liabilities of \$89 139 634. I wish to submit that that figure for contingent liabilities is not correct. I am not saying this because I know the correct figure, but it stands essentially on the face of the record, so to speak, that this figure cannot be correct. The reason why I say that is, according to Section 6 of the Barbados National Bank Act, Cap. 322A, that section provides for a Government guarantee of deposits and interest for deposits held with the Barbados National Bank. I think the Annual Report and Accounts for 1983 of the Barbados National Bank has been circulated to Members of Parliament and I presume tabled in Parliament, and according to that, at the 31st December 1983 the total deposits held with the Barbados National Bank was \$183 565 000, so all of that constitutes a contingent liability.

4.40 p.m.

I should however explain about contingent liabilities. It has not indicated that the Government would in any way have to pay anything in relation to these things. With most of the contingent liabilities, the reasonable expectation would be that Government would not have to pay a cent. For instance, Government has guaranteed a loan to the Light and Power Company, and one would presume that Government would never have to pay off that loan, but it still stands as a contingent liability in the same way that the deposit liabilities with the Barbados National Bank stand as a contingent liability also. Therefore, that figure cannot be correct, and I would wish to draw it to the attention of the officials in the Ministry of Finance and to the Minister of Finance. Indeed, an awareness of that contingent liability should fortify them in feeling that they should share the concerns of the late Minister of Finance in that they must take all reasonable action to protect the capital of the bank. But they must do more than that; they have to know what constitutes reasonable action, they have to develop the capacity to know and do what is right. Recent events indicated to me that the Ministry of Finance is far, far off mark in endeavouring to do what lies within their authority to improve conditions at the Barbados National Bank. At this stage I probably should say I have some kind of interest, or erstwhile interest, because I used to be a Director of that bank for a period of about ten months, from 11th April 1984 to the 15th day of February 1985, and so, in a sense I regard myself as having an interest in these matters pertaining to the Barbados National Bank, and I duly declare that interest.

I would like to proceed, for the benefit of this Chamber and others, to explain the significance of this Annual Report and Accounts for 1983 which has been highlighted in the Press, made the headlines and been the subject of comment. There is an indication here that in 1983 the Barbados National Bank made a loss of \$1.5 million or thereabout, and that since its inception up to the 31st December, 1983 it made cumulative losses of

about \$7 million. Some people might consider this as requiring some type of alarm on their part, there was a time when I would comfortably have said to them, not so long ago, about two months ago, that there is no need for alarm because the matter was well under control. I still want to say to the depositors, however, that there is no need for them to become alarmed, because their deposits are guaranteed by Government, and I commend them for their wisdom and high responsibility in holding faith in the National Bank and leaving the deposits there, despite the adverse publicity the bank has been getting recently, much of it well deserved, I must say.

Getting down, however, to the interpretation of the financial performance by the National Bank in 1983 — remember I was not there then, I went there some four months after the relevant date here, and my efforts were essentially designed to try and help turn around the bank. I did not have enough time to do it, but I have a feeling that while I was there we had some measure of success — the first thing is to be able to understand the content of a bank statement such as this. If you look at the income statement, apart from noting that you have a loss of \$1.5 million, you will see an item called Provision for Losses on Loans, \$4.4 million. Notice the word "provision". This does not correspond to losses which have been made absolutely and finally. When you are engaged in banking, you have to make reasonable projections on the quality of your loans and make provision against the contingency that you might not be able to recover all of your loans. You have to do this in a systematic way which accords with accounting principles pertaining to commercial banks, because the Barbados National Bank is essentially a commercial bank. It cannot be two types of banks at the same time. One entity can only be one thing, and the National Bank is a commercial bank.

A national bank, basically, is a financial supermarket and can go into all forms of lending, except specifically restricted by law or by what is prudent in terms of what the directors say. It is not a narrow specialist institution such as a mortgage bank. The fact that they have an agricultural division is no big or new thing. Commercial banks engage in agricultural lending too. Without the agricultural division the bank would still be here, except that it might have been organised differently from the beginning, and perhaps in the end it would have to be organised properly in relation to how a commercial bank should be organised. So we have here essentially practices which are acceptable among commercial banks.

This means, therefore, for instance, that the accounting procedures which the auditors would approve of for a commercial bank would be different, let us say, from a development bank. The first thing I want to say

is that if you take the Barbados National Bank and presume in terms of its loan portfolio that its loan portfolio was that of a development bank and apply the same procedure for loan losses as adopted by the Barbados Development Bank, instead of showing a loss of \$1.5 million in 1983 the bank would have shown in its account a profit of maybe \$5 million. The objective condition on the ground would be the same, but the document you have before you would have been different. The reason for this difference in terms of commercial banking relates in large measure to the way in which they are funded. Commercial banks borrow money on deposits from people and lend it out, and development banks get a lot of grant money or long term loans from Government, they get loans guaranteed by Government and such, so the implications on the liability side are rather different as for a commercial bank, and therefore other practices would be acceptable for them as far as accounting procedures are concerned.

The second point I want to make is that these loan losses and the cumulative amount of loan losses as at 31st December 1983 are almost \$14 million. A lot of those can be reversed through skilful commercial banking by commercial bankers who know what they are doing, and who are given sufficient rein to do what they ought to be doing and not have incompetents as millstones around their necks. When that happens, and if it happens soon enough, that situation can be turned around.
4.50 p.m.

It is almost eight years that the Government has saddled the National Bank with the wrong leadership. Elsewhere it is said that eight is enough and nine might be too much, and that is what I want to say to the new Minister of Finance, whoever he is or whoever he will be. It is time, after eight years, that the Government of this country should place the leadership of the Barbados National Bank in the hands of people trained and experienced in banking, not just civil servants. There are two types of people who are skilled in banking matters, fellows who actually are bankers and the university, academic-type people who would be called monetary economists. Those are the types of people who have to lead an institution like that if you are to make something of it. For the most part, when you have Chief Executive Officers who know nothing about banking, if they are good, they would not be nuisances. If they are bad, they would be worse than nuisances. That is the measure of it. In either case, they would not understand what is going down, they would not know.

As I said, therefore, we must recognize that the situation here is not as we would like it, but it does not mean that the situation is irretrievable. What is required and what was done during the ten months that I was there is that the Board had developed the capacity to look at what was going on in the institution, identify its weaknesses and take the necessary action, without

concern about loyalty of friends or anything like that, and put things in order. It is now a matter of record that the Minister of Finance was led to believe that there was this kind of deep division, and therefore the Board, in his view, or based on the information before him, seemed to lack the capacity to make the decisions that were necessary to protect the capital of the bank, so he felt constrained to "free-up" the Board, to let it revert to a coherent body, as he thought it was not, so that it could function and do what it ought to do.

I presume that is a good construction on those actions. I do not believe that his actions had any more sinister intent than that. Unfortunately, seeking to do that, he did not follow what some people regard as an appropriate convention — dismiss the whole Board and get a new set of people. He sought to try to be rather more careful than that and to distinguish between the baby and the bath water. He made one mistake. He separated them very carefully, but he threw out the baby and kept the bath water, so this is one of the things which the Minister of Finance will have to address in the very near future.

It is also a bit unfortunate that our Minister of Finance had to be misled into the feeling that the Board was deeply divided. Let me say that at first I could not quite make up my mind whether I agreed or disagreed whether the Board was deeply divided or not. Indeed, my first response to the Minister of Finance then was that I conceded the point that the Board was deeply divided, and then it was taken in a specific connotation as expressive of the degree of bigotry displayed by a minority. But then I discovered that that was an inappropriate way to describe the division of the Board. If you have 12 people, 6-6 is a deep division. If you have 9-3, 7-3 or 7-2, that is not a deep division. Subsequently, I have revised my view and said there was no deep division. You cannot confuse a deep division with the emotions of a minority.

It amazed me, because not only was there no deep division, but I would have thought that there would have been enough information out there in the public domain for someone to determine in the last ten months, or even eight months, whether the Board was doing anything at all which could be construed as an effort to come to grips with the problem. Remember it is a Board, and the Board members have the information. Commercial banking is essentially a confidential activity and there is no way that a Minister of Finance should be properly privy to everything that a Board member knows that is going on in a bank. There is no way that could happen and, therefore, he would have to repose confidence in the Board. He must look at a people and he knows the person to have certain skills or certain attitudes and put some value on them and leave them as a Board to come up with decisions which could be presumed to be right.

If, on the basis of the record, it is quite clear they are wrong, get rid of them and try again, get a new set of people, but it does not lie within the reasonable discretion of a Minister to determine whether the actions specifically among themselves were right or wrong.

One must wait for the evidence, wait to see if the changes bear fruit. If the Minister of Finance had done that, he would have seen things that would have happened to the National Bank, at least during the last half of last year, that are in the public domain, that anybody knew about. You did not have to be Minister of Finance to know about them. He would have known about the amalgamation of the two branches. He would have known that three of the people who managed the big branches that existed in 1983 are not currently managing any branches. He would have known that the person who was managing an enlarged Broad Street branch is also carrying out other duties as the General Manager of the Commercial Division, and there are other things which he would know, and that they were enough to give an indication of the considerable activity.

I must quite clearly indicate to the public that if anyone is persuaded that the Board during the last ten months was not doing anything and they were just bickering among themselves, that that is very far from the truth. And I say it again, the new Minister of Finance, whoever he is or whoever he may be, must place the Barbados National Bank high on his list of priorities in terms of competition for his time and attention. It is a matter of considerable urgency. I had written the late Minister of Finance to make quite clear to him, within reasonable bounds, my views on this matter in slightly more detail, and I have also written to the Prime Minister. I do not know if the Prime Minister is also Minister of Finance, but I have written to the present Prime Minister asking that he, too, should give his attention to this matter.

Before leaving the BNB, I have one lingering matter of concern. Whenever I am associated with anything, I always like to have information about the record of that meeting, because, invariably, it is going to have things to say about me. I do not go to meetings and remain silent. Any meeting I go to, you see that I am there, and if they are minuting things, they always have to minute something about me. I have asked to see the minutes of the last meeting of the Board which I attended, and the information which I got back from the Secretary is that the Chairman of the Board has indicated to him that I should not see those minutes. I have told him that I am going to write him and ask for the matter to be directed to the Board for its decision, because the Chairman does not have that kind of authority except in between Board meetings. So my next step is to ask the Board that I be permitted to see the minutes of the last meeting of the Barbados National Bank that I attended. Normally those

minutes should have been circulated to me even before I was off the Board. I was off the Board on the 15th February and normally those minutes should be circulated in time for the meeting before that date. I have not seen them, I do not know why, and it is suggested that I should not see them. I intend to persevere. I want to see them.

5.00 p.m.

Getting on, Mr. Deputy President, I would now want to make reference to page 3 of the Memorandum.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: On a point of elucidation: I just want to deal with the matter raised on page 11 of the Memorandum, about which Senator McClean raised a question on the financing of the deficit. It has been pointed out that there is a typographical error. This error has been brought to the attention of this Chamber by Senator McClean. The fact is that the \$62 227 378 represents a sub-total of the receipts from agencies, and indeed the European Development Bank's contribution is \$2.3 million. The sub-total plus the funds to be raised through loans would give us the total gap to be financed. I hope that meets your query.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Thank you.

That accords with my interpretation of what was most likely the case. That financing gap of \$135 million is large, and at this stage of the game, if you are aiming at that type of deficit, you should have rather more in place. I know there are others in place not mentioned here; for instance, there will be plans for financing some out of the National Insurance and the Transport Levy and things like that to the extent that funds are available in those quarters, and that the Ministry of Finance would have some type of estimate of these things, but it would have helped if we could have had an indication as to what they are projecting along those lines. I also know of the loan which we approved in Japan of Bds \$40 million or US \$20 million. It is Yens which is approximately Bds \$40 million in terms of recent exchange rates.

That still leaves us with a fairly substantial deficit, and as Senator Griffith quite rightly pointed out, Government ought not to be leaning in any large measure on the Central Bank for financing the deficit, because if they do that it will undermine our foreign reserves situation which, as I pointed out a while ago, although it looks quite good on paper, when you take off that \$120 million is not so good again, so you have to really behave in a rather circumspect manner as far as that is concerned. It means that we cannot lean on the Central Bank, so you must have the finance in place, and you must not only have it in place in terms of agreements but you must have your draw-down schedules carefully co-ordinated so that you do not have to go back to the

Central Bank as lender of last resort. Over and above that, if you find that the co-ordination is off and you go to the Central Bank and you wake up one morning and you see a memo on your desk from the Governor of the Central Bank telling you that your reserves have plunged to a perilous low, do not panic — try to understand that why they plunged is because of that and if you have the funds in there, reverse it. Do not then come with mini budgets and hit the country across the head and tell us why it happened. Just keep your cool, recognise what has happened and it will reverse itself.

I give you this warning because four years ago I gave similar warning, and despite that, exactly what I said happened. We still got the country being clobbered on the head in terms of alarm about balance of payments problems and having to go to the IMF and all that kind of stuff. So, first of all, try to avoid it, and, secondly, if you cannot avoid it completely and you need to raise it as a temporary recourse, recognise the immediate consequences and do not panic, because if you panic you are going to put the country into desperate straits.

Moving on, I think that the deficit is a bit ambitious. It can be financed if you have a sufficient amount of foreign borrowing, but you should not see it as a one-shot situation. You should think of what you can do next year, the year after and the year after. It is not a good thing to have your capital expenditures up and down, up and down; it is better to maintain a fairly even keel in terms of expenditures.

I recognise the point about stimulating employment, and I even recognise the point about elections, but at the same time you have, as far as stimulating employment is concerned, to try to recognise that to try to alleviate the situation too suddenly might put you very soon in a situation where you might go back to square one, and the last state might be no better, or may be worse, than your first. As far as the elections are concerned, we have reached a stage where you can become rather more skilful and you do not have to abuse the finances and run big deficits to put you in a favourable position. Indeed, I know of one occasion in 1976 when Government did this and it backfired on them, because the people recognised it for what it was and said, 'You are fixing the roads now, you could have fixed them before, and we are ignoring that.' So maintain an even keel and people will appreciate you for it after a while.

If you look at page 3, Head 84, that is the Ministry of Transport and Works, Capital Expenditure, at the top of the Table notice what is being indicated — that you want to spend \$43,839,085. This capital expenditure, falling within the Ministry of Transport and Works in fiscal year 1985–86 when compared with under \$10 million Revised Estimates for 1984–85, is almost a four and a half fold increase. That is a very big jump, and I

think that that should be looked at again and that is an area that should be prioritised in some way. I know that some of this might involve you in contracts, and if you get into these contracts you will have to honour them, but I was looking at the details of Head 84 and there are quite a number of things there, and I suspect that the Ministry itself might be performing a lot of the work. So whether it be largely contract work or work by the Ministry, you still have to go about it with a degree of caution and in a way which affords you some level of flexibility and the capacity to draw back.

I now want to direct attention to Head 84 and the details of it on pages 131 to 138, especially pages 133 to 137. I wanted to direct attention to the Approved Estimates column 1984–85 and the Revised Estimates column 1984–85 and look at the bottom total Subhead 5, and you will notice under the Approved that there was an amount of \$9 470 000 for roads and drainage, and the actual Revised Expenditure, which is not quite actual yet but is heading that way, is \$807 297, not even 10 per cent of what was approved. When you look at the first entry there, Other Personal Emoluments, and make the comparison, the Approved Estimates had \$247 100 and revised \$208 316. Those are the salaries paid to the people, and that item would have corresponding items, National Insurance and Transport Levy.

5.10 p.m.

What is happening here is that you have identified a level of expenditure to do a certain amount of work, you have done 10 per cent of the work, but you still used the same amount of labour. I do not know if this is a kind of idiosyncratic kind of accounting in these Estimates or what, or whether it is that you employ the people and put them to stand up under a tree. Something seems a bit strange. Look at 23, structures. You are projecting \$6 372 619 in structures and we actually have \$556 in structures. But the people who the Administration would have been employing to put these structures in place, apparently, were still employed or something. I do not know this would bear some type of scrutiny.

This also serves to highlight the point about maintaining a smooth course, because when you gear up to invest \$43 million or whatever amount you are going to invest, through this Ministry, you have to put certain things in place. Some of these jobs might have some degree of permanency about them, and then suddenly to come the next year and gear down and then the other year and gear back up that type of disjointedness asks for inefficiency. You should maintain, for that reason, an even keel. I should like some kind of explanation as to how these Estimates turned out the way they turned out.

On page 137, there is a similar story there. Under Subhead 15, Highway Improvement, you were planning on \$10 million in structures and you put in \$230 000 in

structures, but the wages, the Other Emoluments are \$890 600. This is a bit of a strange story to me and, at the very least, it points to something which should occupy the attention.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, it is not \$10 million.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Where is that?

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You are saying that it is \$10 million in structures.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I am sorry about that. Thank you, Mr. Deputy President.

One million and you have \$230 000, which is less than a quarter. The wages are not going down anywhere nearly in proportion. This is not quite as bad as the one which I indicated before, but there is this apparent thing that when you make your projections and the projections are not realized, you do not get the structures, but you get the labour.

Laughter.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: At a certain level, you are likely to have work, but the country should be interested in structures.

In relation to Head 78, page 94, this is an opposite kind of point which relates to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Aside.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: Head 78, page 94. I indicated that the capital expenditure was a bit ambitious and I pointed to the works programme, but here is an indication of something which is not sufficiently ambitious. Looking at 25, Plant, Equipment and Furniture for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, approved for 1984-85 was \$1 million and you spent \$197 000. You had to hold strain, and the strain fell to a large extent on the hospital. Now, you are only projecting half million dollars.

Recently, you had an outcry from the medical fraternity that the hospital is not as well equipped as they would like to see it. Recent events point to the fact that you should be more readily disposed to entertaining that point of view. I believe that we should try and maintain a first rate hospital here. It is one thing to talk about you have difficult cases and you send them overseas and the Government will look after it. During the number of difficult cases, you look around the country and get people to donate, but you still have to pay it. And it does not cover emergencies, as far as serious brain damage or

a serious accident, time is of the essence and you might need to take him from the road to the QEH and do what you can for him there, so we need a well-equipped facility.

I have heard it mentioned by someone trained in the area that we could even, by developing our hospital in certain areas, enhance Barbados as a tourist destination, and that there are certain people with chronic conditions who need . . .

Senator the Hon. O'B. TROTMAN rose.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are you on a point of elucidation?

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Yes, Sir, just to help the Senator, there is a small amount in the Estimates this year for the QEH. It is deliberate, because of the proposal to draw down some of the IADB loan this year. We are going to be having a lot of funds out of the \$15 million which we are getting from the IADB for the QEH, so we only have to provide this money out of our Current Estimates. In fact, we are going to be getting money from the IADB which is not shown here.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: That sounds like some kind of explanation. I hope that it is a fullsome explanation, meaning that you are getting a lot of money out of the IADB, because I want to see a good hospital up there.

Aside.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: I can be sometimes. I am usually more concerned about people than myself. I always make sacrifices.

Laughter.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: The next one is page 28, Head 73, under Subhead 3, Purchase of equity by Government in commercial Ventures. The Explanatory Note says, "This Head provides for contributions to the Cement Plant, as well as a Broiler Breeder Project, the West Indies Shipping Corporation, Caribbean Airways, Caribbean Air Cargo, Barbados National Oil Company, Barbados External Telecommunications Limited and Caribbean Food Corporation." I believe that there is an amendment circulated making reference to CBC and maybe something else, but making provision for a lot of things. There is no indication of the details here and I would be interested in those details, especially those pertaining to Caribbean Airways.

In the introduction of the Bill, Senator Griffith made reference to Caribbean Airways. He mentioned a

figure as a subsidy. I am not sure if he were giving it as a definitive figure or a ball park figure, and he, against that, mentioned that Caribbean Airways generated \$19 million in revenue for the Government. I should really like some explanation as to how that estimate of \$19 million was arrived at. I do not believe it myself. My basic view is that if you really evaluate Caribbean Airways' contribution, in terms of the number of people who come to Barbados because of the existence of Caribbean Airways as opposed to the number of people who come to Barbados on Caribbean Airways, you would probably find that they do not make any contribution to speak of.

I do not want to evaluate Caribbean Airways at the moment because I understand that that might be part of negotiations involving Trinidad, and I do not want, in any way, to prejudice the position of the Barbados Government. What I would say is that in relation to those negotiations, you should take a good look at Caribbean Airways — get good advice!

5.20 p.m.

I believe that the time has seriously come when Government Ministers have to develop ways of getting advice from non-traditional sources, and directly from particular Chairmen of Boards and that kind of thing. Some of the information that you might probably get from Caribbean Airways where they give you their projections, you might have to look at them again. I really think that this is an area where, in the interest of efficiency, Government must evaluate Caribbean Airways carefully. That is all I want to say on that point at the moment, having regard to what I said about negotiations.

The next point I want to address relates to the Memorandum again, on page 2. I first want to look at the Estimated Current Revenue, Functional Classification, for 1985–86. Sometime ago I made a plea for an expanded Memorandum which would give us some insight into the way these projections are obtained. The Ministries should have such information, and it would help Parliamentarians and Senators to make valid contributions in these debates if they had some insight into the basis of these Estimates. Going beyond the projections when you have the outturn, the Ministries should engage in some analysis intended to explain the variance between the projections and the outturn, find out what you had assumed that did not come true and what is the difference than what you had assumed. On the basis of this, I feel that "Other Taxes", which is largely the Stamp Duty, which has been doubled in recent times, from five to ten per cent, it seems to me as though, looking at the outturn for last year, which I think was \$39 million and remembering that the increase came later in the year — I cannot remember if it was six months into the financial year or less than that, but call it six months — they have not built in any factor for growth in imports. I think that if you attempt to carry out your public works programme

at all this year, you are going to have growth in imports if tourism remains as buoyant as it is, you are going to have growth in imports, and, therefore, this item would seem to be underestimated. Also the \$39 million, despite the circumstances of the economy last year, should be analyzed very carefully in the Ministry to see whether the coverage is as it ought to be, whether the tax is reaching everybody that it should reach. I thought that we would have got more than \$39 million.

Shifting from that to the Expenditure, we noticed the percentage growth in Personal Emoluments of 22.6, and we understand that this conceals part of the thing because there are emoluments which are in the provisions for statutory boards and the like which are not shown as such. I do not want to make reference to a reported statement in the Press regarding the observations of a member of Government in the Other Place, which suggested that the Government should take seriously the business of wage restraints or something along those lines, directing attention to the need of wage restraint. I have commented on wage restraint before, but in the new circumstances many things in the economic sphere will bear some type of repetition or elucidation, if for no other reason because of the change in circumstances in terms of the Ministry of Finance.

I want once again to say quite clearly that as far as wages in the private sector are concerned, Government need not bother themselves too much about that. We have fairly well developed institutions which engender a certain level of restraint; the employers will take care of the restraint, and they are not going to give-in to anything without a fight, strike action or whatever. That is preposterous. The unions in Barbados are highly responsible, not necessarily because of themselves but because of how Barbadians are. Barbadians are not inclined to be unreasonable and, therefore, the wage settlements are usually arrived at without strike. The strikes that we have are usually not about wages but about principle, where people feel that they have got to chase someone away and the people think otherwise. As far as wages, that is settled in a responsible atmosphere and they come out reasonably right. In the Government sector, Government has always used their own judgment in this regard. Sometimes they come to an agreement; most of the time and they tell them, "Sorry, we are not negotiating anymore. This is what we are going to give you. Matter is fixed." So there is no need to go around shouting about wage restraint.

Apart from that, when you elevate wage restraint as an objective, something you have to try to achieve — you have to achieve the suppression of wages — you are being suddenly diverted from the proper focus of Government policy. Government policy should be about trying to generate more employment and generate higher wages. You should think of trying to get the wages to increase,

not too rapidly but as rapidly as they can, and "as rapidly as they can" means that you are going to increase them with restraint. Do not turn the focus around and say, 'Our thing is to stop the wages from coming up, we must restrain and suppress these wages.' After a while this can be converted into an activity which has merit in itself. The need to restrain wages is nothing more than an acknowledgement that you cannot fulfill your basic goals, to improve the living conditions of the people as rapidly as you would like. So we must see wage employment and wage increases and improvement in real wages as primary objectives of Government, and keep them there. Do not see wage restraint as something to be applied whenever something goes wrong in the economy or the wage bill is looking too high.

Having said that, I want to say that I agree that there are indications that the personal emoluments components are beginning not to become proportionately larger, and if the trend continues, it can become disproportionate largely in the totality of the Government's expenditure. But the way to deal with that is not to talk about wage restraint but to increase productivity, and the right place for improved productivity will have to be in the Civil Service where we are moving from an institution geared up to wasting time. The traditional colonial civil servant, when he becomes an expert, he becomes an expert at wasting time — so much so that he does not know that he is wasting time. That is what civil servants are supposed to be experts at!

Laughter.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: The traditional civil servants are the typical colonial-type civil servants, the ones that are retired now and the ones that are about to retire. The young people have to be trained in a different way. We have to modernize our Civil Service, make it more efficient and make full use of modern technology and get more mileage out of the workers. We should not now see the Civil Service in the next decade as a place to absorb the unemployed and the school-leavers. It will take its fair share of these, but more and more you are going to have to render more services with the same people or the same services with fewer people. I would presume that for the most part, it would be more and better services for the same people so that the people will begin to be worth their hire. We have to develop a system in which somebody is not going to spend eight hours a day writing 20 receipts. We are going to move to the stage where we do not have to write receipts anymore. You should have a computer system on which you press a button and you get your piece of paper, and authenticate it in the way it should. You have people writing up a license when you carry it, and after 15 minutes they are still writing — to collect \$100 from you! We have to get away from these things.
5.30 p.m.

Senator Greaves said things about the Public Service Commission. Maybe they should have a role to play in the modernising of the Civil Service, maybe not, but I say one thing. The Ministers have to be strategic in being the catalysts for change, and I still perceive that "Yes, Minister"

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator McClean, you have reached the end of your tether.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN.....is very much the condition in Barbados.

I thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: I must thank Senator McClean for a rather analytical presentation of the Estimates. Of course, he approached the Estimates this year in his usual style, a very clear and incisive analysis of the document.

During Senator Greaves' presentation, up until the last fifteen minutes I would have said that the Estimates this year would not have been contentious at all, but I gather that when he realised he only had fifteen minutes it was a case of trying to bat his hand for the last fifteen minutes.

Before I go into my own presentation, I should probably deal with a few points raised by Senator Greaves, a few that I think merit some kind of response. He began in his usual style, suggesting that the money that is being allocated now for highway construction probably would not be the very best way of dealing with unemployment. My contention has always been that in those instances where there is a contraction in the economy as far as the private sector is concerned, there must be an effort and an initiative on the part of Government to deal with unemployment. Unemployment figures to the tune of 18.3 per cent are totally unacceptable to this present Government, and something will obviously have to be done about it. Government is therefore coming up with the strategy that at least we will be able to deal with the unemployment situation in the short term, and inasmuch as our economy has shown a propensity to grow and improve — and while I am not in a position to say that we have reached a point of full recovery, there are indeed indicators which do suggest that the economy is on the improve — we have channelled our focus in these Estimates in terms of further financial assistance to the tourist sector and also assistance to the industrial sector.

I think the three good indicators that we are on the improve are the strong recovery in the area of tourism, a partial improvement in the industrial sector, and the fact that Government has been able to maintain a fairly low level of inflation; indeed, it has been particularly

stable over the last two years. The rate during 1983 was some 5.3 per cent and for 1984 to the tune of 4.6 per cent. That has played a significant part in the partial recovery that we have observed over the last year. Any future Government policy would have, of course, to ensure that any renewed strength blossoms into full recovery and hopefully will result in concomitant improvement in the level of employment, or, to put it another way, a reduction in the high level of unemployment which exists at present.

Our Current Account deficit and associated increases in the Current Account expenditure have come about as a result of the increased level of personal emoluments. Senator McClean alluded to a comment by another person in another place who suggested that we ought to think in terms of wage restraint. I am not on the side of one or the other, but any time expenditure is rising at a greater rate than the growth in revenue, then difficulties loom down the road. Clearly increases in personal emoluments of over \$53 million between one year and another certainly cause us to have some kind of alarm, and we cannot but fail to recognise the impact this will have on Government's financing in the future. I believe that it is true to say that negotiations are conducted in a friendly atmosphere and one where restraint more times than not exist, but nevertheless there are times when Government is forced to accede to requests which indeed might be a bit burdensome for Government to carry over, because after that they all become recurrent expenditures and they have to be financed somehow. Therefore, I really believe that as far as future negotiations are concerned, while I might not want to suggest that it has to be wage restraint *per se*, I think we ought to look at the level of the growth of our recurrent expenditure in relation to our growth in revenue.

Senator Greaves made a passing reference about the strategy as far as he was concerned to deal with unemployment, but he never backs up this with any concrete suggestions. He normally says these things in passing.

Aside.

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: I have been asked to look at Head 13, which is Services Commissions. I think it is really fair to say that Senator McClean did not raise any matters under Head 13, but just to suggest in his own style that there is interference, as he would put it, by Ministers within Services Commissions itself

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Senator Williams, you said that Senator McClean

SENATOR J. E. D. WILLIAMS: Senator Greaves. No, you do not get those kinds of comments coming

from Senator McClean. That is the normal style and tradition of Senator Greaves.

Senator Greaves further made reference to a Minister seeing an ambulance parked in Bridgetown and making a call or suggesting to people that disciplinary action ought to be taken. I really believe it is to the credit of the Minister if he can see an ambulance parked in town and knowing full well that the individual might be on his own business, finds it necessary to draw it to the attention of those persons concerned, suggesting that if any disciplinary action ought to have been taken, it could be done. I am a bit distressed to think that a representative of a union could want to suggest to us that the Minister ought to have done anything else.
5.40 p.m.

I believe that that is part and parcel of the problem now with people who are associated with trade unions. I speak from a point of view of authority, because I have been associated with the union for many years. Too often an impression is given to workers that they can do what they like and they cannot be disciplined because they can run to the union. I believe that while the union has an obligation to represent workers, they also have an obligation to quietly caution workers that they have to have some propriety and responsibility in their jobs, and I am becoming progressively concerned about this.

There are a number of things that I could say to highlight what I am talking about, but at this stage I would just like to caution the union that the union itself must begin to caution its membership in terms of its total attitude towards work. I am very distressed, to say the least, having got the impression that Senator Greaves was saying that it is all right for an ambulance driver to park a van in town, go on his business and do whatever he likes and return whenever he saw it fit. I think we are giving the wrong signals to people and to workers. I think that is enough.

The only thing I believe that Senator Greaves raised which I will have to reply to, in the interest of the public being more aware as to what really did take place, has to do with the disposal of a van by the Child Care Board and the purchase of another vehicle. Senator Greaves made reference to the report of the Auditor General. The facts of the matter are that the disposal of the van came about as a result of the management of the Child Care Board getting permission from the Board itself to dispose of the van. Apparently, a price was placed on the vehicle and the Board accepted the price and it was subsequently sold. It is also true to say that the Board did not follow the rules that are laid down which deals with the disposal of Government property and Government vehicles. I believe it is also true to say that the necessary procedure has been drawn to the attention of the Board and they

are fully aware as to how any particular vehicle or any bit of property should be disposed of in the future.

In terms of the acquisition of the subsequent vehicle, Boards normally have their own Budget at the beginning of any year and whatever money or monies are voted by the particular Board, they, of course, have their own priority and there is basically nothing wrong with that and, in this instance, the Board apparently saw the necessity to purchase a van which, of course, I can say is being used by one of the members of staff and they had the authority to do so and there was basically nothing wrong with their actions.

I think the only other point that was raised by the Auditor General had to do with the Child Care Board using monies they received from the day nurseries. Under the old Act, they really ought not to have used those funds. However, under the new Act, they are perfectly entitled to do so. I suppose that while at one stage they were doing it through the old Act, now their actions are quite legitimate in terms of their using the funds at the moment, because the new Act gives them authority to do that.

I believe that I can probably look now at Heads 43 and 85 respectively, which would be Tourism, both Recurrent and Capital. Our performance during 1984 in tourism has been particularly a very healthy one. Our highest number of tourist arrivals was recorded in 1979 when some 370 916 tourists came to Barbados. Ever since 1979, we have seen a decline. In 1980, there was a decline of .3 per cent; 1981 a decline of 4.7 per cent and 13 per cent in 1982. The 367 552 visitors that we received in 1984, as you would realize, have been particularly close to our 1979 figure, and I think it is to the credit of the Board of Tourism. I know there were occasions in this Honourable Chamber when the Board of Tourism came in for a lot of criticism. On this occasion I feel it somewhat incumbent on me to give some praise to the Board of Tourism, although I dare say that it only goes to show that there are times when it is necessary to be critical, and objectively so, because in the final analysis it only redounds to the credit of that particular organization or institution.

We were able to get that figure of over 367 000 against the background of a continuous decline in the European market, and if you compare the figures in 1980 with the present, you will find that the arrivals from Europe during 1980 were over 38 000 visitors. We have seen a progressive decline over the years and at present we only receive some 16 820 visitors, and although last year we had that sort of a drop from European destinations, yet we were able to get what was a particularly good response from the US market. We received some 40 200 arrivals from the United States, and this in itself represents some 38 per cent of the total arrivals, so we

were able to cushion our shortfall from the European destinations by increased emphasis on the US market. 5.50 p.m.

You will find that the Tourist Board has asked for more funds. I think the Tourist Board has asked for some \$20 million this year, of which it is anticipated that some \$13.6 million will go into advertising and promotion alone, and this is some 66.6 per cent over last year's figure of \$12 million. I should stress the point that at present the Tourist industry employs some 15 per cent of our total labour force, and Government, very mindful of the fact that tourism is our number one foreign exchange earner, and also as a result of the lobbying from the various people within the hotel industry, is ensuring that this year enough funds are put into tourism promotion.

The other statistic I believe that might be relevant at this stage is that our estimated revenue from tourism this year would be some \$550 million. In the past tourism research has placed emphasis on monitoring the indicators of tourism performance. During 1985, attention is also going to be placed on the social and cultural impact of tourism in our society. It is often said that tourism has both its negative and positive effects on our society, and we believe that it is about time that studies are carried out to be able to gauge and we have an idea of the impact of tourism on the society itself. In this respect, assistance has been requested from CTRC, and we also will be getting assistance with the project through the Ryerson Polytechnic Institute of Canada.

Further, because of the improvement in the area of the arrivals in the tourist industry, you will find that in future further demands might be made on Government for further hotel accommodation in the industry, and at this stage we are going to make sure that priority is given to an analysis of supply and demand of accommodation in the industry so that we can arrive at a policy which will either encourage or discourage new hotel construction in the island. I believe that at one stage those individuals who were in the hotel industry within the last two or three years and were facing great difficulty were suggesting that Government ought to ensure that no new construction is allowed. I believe that you cannot come to that conclusion in an arbitrary manner. It was also suggested that the figure that Barbados was aiming at over the years was a figure where we would try to attract up to a maximum of 600 000 tourists, and again I am not even sure if a small society such as ours is in a position to be able to accept these large numbers and volume of people impacting on a society within a period of one year. We are looking at this in a rather systematic way, and in terms of the actual construction of new hotels, we are making sure that a feasibility study is carried out.

In the area of product development, we will continue with our plans for an improvement of the physical

plant the creation of our national park on the East Coast, and development of the Graeme Hall Swamp. When I sat on the Board of the National Conservation Commission, money was allocated for a feasibility study to see how we could best develop the Graeme Hall area, and I know it is the desire of Government to develop that area to its maximum, and money is going to be allocated for that.

As I mentioned before, the Tourist Board has asked for a figure of \$20 million and over \$13.6 million will be going into tourist promotion. Our emphasis will be on the use of television, because, of course, television is perhaps the most important tool of communication. I believe that we might have delayed a bit too long in making use of this particular medium, and it has become expedient and probably cost effective to use television in order to ensure that we obtain a fair share of the large US visitor market.

We plan to continue our emphasis within the Canadian market as well, and Barbados' participation in Expo 1986, which is going to be held in Vancouver from May 2 to October 13, is an effort to continue to make serious inroads into the Canadian market.

We will continue our public awareness programme as far as Barbadians are concerned and as far as the way we treat our visitors. Of course, we must at all times ensure a high degree of professionalism, and that is coming from those persons who work within the industry. Within the Hospitality Division of the Community College you are going to find that greater emphasis is going to be placed in that area. There will be a series of training programmes for workers in the hotel industry, and we will also continue to use television to educate Barbadians about their role as far as the industry is concerned.

I think, generally speaking, that the tourist sector has been one that has been particularly satisfactory over the last year or so, and we are hoping that the present situation will continue throughout 1985, and that the high occupancy levels which are enjoyed now do continue at last during the peak seasons.

6.00 p.m.

The only other thing in the area of tourism that I should mention is the fact that the Hotel Aids Act is being restructured in order to amend the regime for incentives under the Act. The revised Bill, of course, would bring incentives offered for construction of hotels in line with those for the construction of the industrial buildings. In this regard, for example, there are instances where 40 per cent of the capital cost of the initial year can be written off and the remaining 60 per cent over, in some instances, as long as fifteen years.

All in all, I think the picture of tourism at present is a particularly healthy one. Through the efforts of the Barbados Board of Tourism and the anticipated injections

of the Government during 1985, hopefully we would be able to continue to show an improvement in this area.

Under the heading of Tourism and the Environment, we have the National Conservation Commission. You will see that in the Capital Estimates provision has been made for the landscaping of the open areas around Bridgetown and its environs. This will also include the Spring Garden Highway and the maintenance of the various roundabouts. At Harrison Cave, it was recognized some years ago that the scenic walk at the Harrison Cave ought to be developed so that visitors going to the Cave could also have an added attraction to be able to tour the environs of the Cave and the scenic walk in particular. Again, this year provision is being made in the Estimates to do this. At Codrington, we are hoping to upgrade the nursery. Plants are grown there and sold, and there is a great potential in this area. It is hoped that during this year, the nursery would be upgraded, as well as the facilities there to accommodate the adequate sale of plants.

Another thing of significance as far as the Capital Estimates dealing with National Conservation is concerned has to do with the facility at Rockley and that at Bathsheba. More and more, a lot of Barbadians use the beach facility at Bathsheba, and that at Rockley, and it is considered necessary to have facilities in these areas for the increased uses of persons. Bathsheba has become particularly popular in the area of wind surfing.

A snackette will be built this year at the Farley Hill National Park. Money has also been placed in the Estimates for the renovation of the old Coach House. The preliminary study on the renovations of the Great House includes tests by engineers. We have to make sure that it is able to withstand further construction, but the National Conservation Commission would very much like to restore the old Great House at Farley Hill, and this year provision has also been made for this.

We have the perennial problem of the so-called beach harassment, and Government, in an effort to reduce this, is ensuring that adequate facilities through kiosks are erected on the popular beaches. It is proposed that the construction of these prefab structures will go a long way to solve the perennial problem with the beach vendors and harassment to visitors.

Last but not least is the development of Foster's Funland and the provision in the Estimates is for the construction of pathways and picnic areas with seats and beach tables and also to provide landscaping in some of the shaded areas.

Defence and Security is Head 17 for Recurrent and Head 72 for Capital. I will look quickly at Capital, because provisions have been made within the Capital

Estimates for the purchase of a computer for the Immigration Department. It has been felt for a long time that a computer based data processing system in the Immigration Department is particularly necessary. It is expected to have a number of benefits both in reducing time wasting and increasing convenience to arriving and departing tourists. We also feel that in terms of providing more detailed information as far as tourism statistics is concerned, this can be enhanced if you computerize the department. All in all, it is expected to increase the efficiency of the immigration officers in carrying out their work.

When, in 1979, it was established in its present form, it was recognized then that it would be necessary to introduce new techniques which would increase the effectiveness of the immigration officers so that the department would be able to fulfil its role. I am hoping that this year that would become a reality. It is something which I thought we would have been able to do during 1984. Unfortunately, funds were not available. I believe it is something which is long overdue. I think there are a number of day-to-day functions which are performed by staff which can be more efficiently done with the use of a computer. More and more demands are made on the department for statistical information and this necessitates a number of persons sitting down and trying to come up with that kind of information. I believe that in a day of high technology when you can get the assistance of a computer, you must move in that particular direction.

The other thing which has been put in the Estimates has to do with two roll card index cabinets. The department has been requesting this for a long time, and we have found it possible to put those in the Estimates. 6.10 p.m.

I was hoping really that we would have been able to look at improving the physical plant itself. I am particularly unhappy with the department. When you go there, you will find a very hot place, the seating is not the best, and I must admit that staff work really under not the best of conditions. I was hoping that this year we would have been able to address ourselves to that. I am still hopeful that maybe through MTW we might be able to start something in that respect, because there is a point beyond which you cannot allow things just to lag on.

Under Defence and Security, I should say that Government this year hopefully will introduce the National Youth Training Project. Cabinet has already given the go ahead for this and the Defence Force will be responsible for the National Youth Training Project. We believe that there must be collaboration between the Ministry of Labour and this particular Ministry to ensure that the respective training programmes for both Ministries complement each other, because the Labour

Department is already involved in skills training programmes of one kind or another. A large component of the National Youth Training Project has to do with skills training as well, so both Ministries will be working in close collaboration with each other to ensure that their efforts complement each other.

During last year the Immigration Act was amended to provide for a Review Committee. I must say that this has been working particularly well, and we have ensured in those amendments that immigrant status could be lost by persons who voluntarily reside outside of Barbados without the permission of the Minister. As a matter of fact, there was a case where if a permanent resident lived outside of Barbados for a period longer than a year, he could have lost his status in the country, but at the same time a person with immigrant status enjoyed that privilege; albeit at a lesser status in the country. Authority was also given to the Chief Immigration Officer to detain persons overspending the making and execution of the Deportation Order.

I am glad to say, in conclusion, that something tangible is being done by Government to put Barbadians back to work. An unemployment figure of 18.3 per cent is a particularly high one, and I am hoping that during 1985 we will be able to see a lot more people employed and at the same time that the efforts of Government would probably give the private sector a breathing space in which they can improve and again assist Government with the problem of unemployment.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Jordan, before you speak, let me draw your attention to the fact that we are under some constraint to stop at 7.00 p.m., so if you are proposing to use your full hour, you may have to be suspended in mid-speech, so to speak.

SENATOR J. E. JORDAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy President.

I rise to support the Appropriation Bill before us and I wish to first look briefly and specifically at Education. At page 64, where the Education Estimates are tabulated, I wish to draw this Chamber's attention to the system currently in place by Government in which textbooks are offered at some small nominal charge to students attending secondary institutions in our island.

The first observation I wish to make is that it has been the experience of many of us who are in the teaching profession that the students do find some difficulty in terms of continuity of their education as currently is structured under this new textbook system. The point is that it is one thing when you have a book to use during a particular year, but often you do not get the time to cover all of the areas contained in that particular text, and often at a higher level within the

school system there is some need for you to refer constantly to material that could have been used previously, and this is where the system has a particular weakness. Because once you have rented your book for a year, at the end of that year you are supposed to return that particular text and you presumably get a more advanced text. But there are certain gaps, and often students have had difficulties in being able to bridge those gaps. I think that what would be desirable is that students who are desirous of purchasing the books be allowed to buy the books at nominal charges.

Relating to the free textbook system as well is the storage and use of these textbooks after they have been withdrawn from the circulation within the secondary school system. I have had occasion within the past two months to visit the storeroom of the Ministry of Education located at Government Hill, I think in what is called St. Michael Studios. These books are kept in the basement of that particular building. The conditions there are not at all suitable for the storage of these materials and many of the books are in a terrible state of decay. I hasten to mention that some of the textbooks appear to me not to have been used by some students, and it raises the question as to the way textbooks were ordered to run that particular system. I have heard that from time to time some teachers put a textbook on the suggested reading list and hardly ever use it. It seems to me to be a colossal waste of money, and my suggestion is that some of these text books can be auctioned. I am sure that there are some students who can afford to buy the books and who may wish to have the books, if only to put in their library and refer to occasionally. Maybe the Ministry of Education could consider devising a system for better storage of the textbooks and for the proper disposal of those texts.

6.20 p.m.

While I am on free textbooks, I feel constrained to make a plea for students at my own institution, the Barbados Community College. The view has been expressed from time to time that the students who attend that particular institution are being penalised, in that other sixth form institutions are given free texts but they have to pay for their own. I do not know whether the Ministry of Education may be pursuing to extend that particular free textbook loan system to students who presently attend the Barbados Community College.

We did hear Senator Greaves in his address mention the new Education Act and that in some respects it was not working to the betterment of our educational institutions. For some time when some of the secondary institutions had complete autonomy we have had cases where certain Heads of those institutions have been tardy in introducing and implementing policy that was taken at the governmental level. I well remember that one of the older secondary schools here in Barbados was the last to have offered CXC to their students even though it was generally agreed at the governmental level that we would

support our own local examining body. So I think we have had a rather awkward situation where funding is supplied from the Central Government but yet Central Government did not have enough influence to decide or dictate to the particular institutions which examining body they were supposed to allow their students to write the examinations from.

To switch slightly to another area related to Education, earlier in this session today we acquired some land at Indian Ground for the provision of a playing field, among other things. I think that the time has come when we must recognise that every single district cannot have a playing field in its own right, but that members in the community ought to be encouraged to use the facilities that exist at the several schools around the country. I am not only talking about that particular location, I am talking generally.

Often, some personnel connected with the schools sometimes think that the school is the exclusive property of the school population, and at times some pressure, some force, some coercion, has to be exerted on those particular individuals to allow non-school groups to use the facilities. I think we have to move away from that particular concept and we have to recognise that if the facility is there, as long as persons using the facility respect the premises, then we ought to allow them some freedom to enjoy any facilities that may be provided at the educational institutions. I am not suggesting that any non-school groups should be allowed to come into your school plant during school hours, but after three or four o'clock, and certainly on weekends, I think more groups can be encouraged to participate in activities at the on-school facilities.

The other area I wish to mention briefly in my discourse is on page 98 of the Current Estimates, the National Housing Corporation. I have noticed for a very long time that in our modern developments there has been some difficulty with the way that some of those developments have been laid out. Quite often you are invited to visit somebody's house and you have tremendous difficulty in being able to identify the house primarily because of poor instructions, I imagine, and due to the fact that the roads are badly laid out. I have for a long time admired the old developments that currently exist at Belleville where we have two sets of parallels mutually at right angles to each other, but in the constituency where I reside, even in one of the newer developments at West Terrace you will notice, if you have been there, that you have some difficulty in being able to identify the people's houses because of, in my view, the poor way that the development has been laid out.

I do recognise that there must be some constraints in terms of preserving some characteristics of the terrain, but I was of the view that many of our draughtsmen, many of our architects must have been trained in England, because I think that this is one of the places where you follow a road and beyond the bend there is a

cul-de-sac. I really think that the Ministry of Housing ought to pay some attention to the format, the way in which our housing developments are laid out, and make it easy in terms of finding directions, and I believe that, in some instances, you can have better utilisation of your land resources. Often, you go through a development and you meet that unexpected corner. I think that a restructuring of our planning in the National Housing Estates would also reduce incidents of accidents and the like.

Connected with National Housing is the concept of the provision of recreational parks. I think that it is generally agreed that in any sizeable development it is desirable to have an area designated where the residents of the particular area may retire and enjoy some recreational activities. I do think that occasionally the resources are not well within the Ministry, but I do think that residents in developments should be encouraged to get together and develop their own play park area. Indeed, the residents, again of the constituency in which I live, at West Terrace have undertaken to develop a recreational park in that particular development. Their only request is that the Ministry of Housing offer some assistance by way of depositing the top soil, but they are quite prepared to expend some sweat and develop an area where these residents and their children can retire on evenings and have some recreation.

I wish to make the suggestion that maybe a market that can be tapped in terms of housing development would be to inform some of our nationals who currently live overseas about the developments that are presently taking place in Barbados. I had the experience some two years ago of visiting certain parts of the United Kingdom and I was appalled at the level of misinformation that was prevailing in that particular country. There are some Barbadians who lived here in the 1960s and have not returned and who still think that Barbados is the same way it was during the 1960s. I think that if we send some video tapes to our High Commissions, to our Embassies, to our Consulate Offices in the bigger cities and instruct those Missions to lend the video tapes to groups of nationals that the nationals would be in a better position to follow the sort of development that has taken place in Barbados and that is taking place in Barbados. Indeed, some of them may be tempted to invest some of their earnings in a house and land here in Barbados, and that, I believe, would help to boost the housing stock of the country.

6.30 p.m.

It is generally recognized that the Ministry of Housing, through its statutory agency, the National Housing Corporation, cannot build all of the houses that are necessary to house the people of our country, and some small developers have taken it upon themselves, not only for humane reasons, but obviously for financial reasons as well, to do some smaller developments. In some instances, some of those small developers, or, indeed, some of the

land purchasers have been having much difficulty in securing proper conveyances to their plots of land.

Again, relating to the constituency in which I live, there is a small development that was completed some five years ago. There are persons who, through their savings, have erected structures. Some of these structures are not completed, and some of these house owners would wish to use the non-completed structures as collateral in borrowing small sums of money to complete their homes, but they have been having difficulty in getting some of the lawyers in Bridgetown to complete the conveyances. There are some individuals who, for a very long time, have been behind certain young lawyers in Bridgetown, and these young lawyers just keep giving these young house owners the continual run around. I think it is something that we ought to address.

Finally, I wish to comment rather briefly on the Ministry of Transport and Works on page 126 of the Current Estimates. I think Senator Greaves did say in his presentation that on Monday mornings several buses, and new buses, are laid up at the Weymouth compound of the Transport Board. I know that certain instructions were given for the cessation of overtime in the workshop of the Transport Board, particularly on weekends. I am a member of the Transport Board, and from time to time queries have been asked with respect to the functioning of the system in terms of the delivery of buses at the start of a week. The reports that we have had are that there is some slight delay, but it is not of the order to seriously hamper the effective running of the Corporation early during the week.

I think that for a very long time the Transport Board has been in the political arena, and it is my view that one of the problems that currently exists at Transport is as a result of the immunity that some employees of the Board think they have as far as job security is concerned. I think this is basically the problem at the Transport Board. I am talking about the employees who think that they are protected by one side or the other side. The operation at the Transport Board has never really been seen in its true economic and commercial context, and I think that that leads to certain problems that currently exist at the Board.

I wish to support the Bill before this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If there is no other proposal to speak which can be accommodated before 7 o'clock, I will suspend this sitting.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I was suggesting that, since it appears as if no other person wants to speak, we could wind up. We would not have to come back here

tomorrow, because I have a busy day tomorrow. I am sure Senator Barrow would have no objection to that.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is one objection to your suggestion which is that the wind-up speech would have to be suspended in mid-speech because it would last an hour. In fairness to other people, I think I will suspend now and come back tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, with your permission, I could use up the half hour that we have now.

Laughter

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This sitting is suspended until 10 o'clock Wednesday, March 27, 1985. 6.40 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

Senator Reader.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: On a point of order, Sir. Yesterday evening I drew to your attention, as Presiding Officer, the fact that no other honourable member wanted to speak. The opportunity was there for other honourable members to speak. No other honourable member expressed an interest in speaking. I then asked you, Sir, to call on the Minister responsible to wind up the debate. You intimated to me at that time that you had information to the effect that the Minister who would be winding up the debate on behalf of the Government would have taken longer than half an hour, which we had then at our disposal, and you did not want to interrupt the Minister in the course of his address, and you therefore would suspend the sitting until this morning.

I, therefore, am raising an objection now, Sir, to your opening the debate to other members to speak, I really want to find out what is really going on. I believe that we have to play by rules. We are playing by rules in here, and I believe that you, as Presiding Officer, ought to insist that the rules be obeyed. When I am speaking the rules are applied strictly to me, strictly to the members of the Opposition.

I am not asking any quarter, neither am I giving any. I feel that if we have a situation where members refused to speak yesterday evening, they cannot now come to speak this morning. I am therefore calling on you, Sir, to call on the Minister responsible to reply.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Sir, if I may follow that point of order with a point of order of my own: The fact, as I recall it, is that whatever

communication there was at that point, no Minister was called upon at that point to reply. Consequently, the floor must still be open for debate.

I had in fact intimated, Sir — I did not intimate it on my feet — that much earlier, and I think you had agreed, as long as we had passed half past six we were likely then to suspend and not just go until 7 o'clock, so it is not just simply a matter of a Minister. The point of the reply was a rejoinder by you to Senator Greaves, but we had in fact agreed that we would go to no later than 7 o'clock, because we thought it would be a long session from 2.00 to 7.00 and to go beyond that would be a little hard on the staff. If last night I had wished to take advantage of the situation, I could have replied and we would not need to come back here today, because there is so little in the debate so far to reply to that I could certainly have replied within 15 or 20 minutes, but I did not think that was fair to Senators, and I am very grateful that you had not asked me to reply at that point.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I am not going to be thrown off by anything that Senator Barrow says. The point is that we are dealing with a procedural matter here. I would like at this stage to request a copy of that exchange between you, Sir, as Deputy President, and myself.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir: Is Senator Greaves saying that you did in fact call for the reply?

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: Sir, I am humbly requesting that you call for a copy of the proceedings of the exchange between yourself as Presiding Officer and myself so that we can see what took place.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will ask the Clerk to get a copy of those proceedings for you. Your possession of that copy will not prevent me from ruling here now. I am in the Chair and I have to exercise my judgement as to what is fair in the debate. Last night I did not think it would have been fair to Senators who had not had a chance to speak to rule them out of the debate simply because we did not have a full hour to go, and I now hereby rule that the sitting be resumed and I call on Senator Reader to speak.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES: I expected that ruling. I expected you to rule that way. I did not expect anything different.

SENATOR E. E. GREAVES gathered his papers together and left the Chamber.

SENATOR Mrs. G. G. READER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy President. I have put what Heads I am going to speak on on this paper, but, Sir, I am not really

speaking under any definite Head, I am just making some general comments on various Departments.

The first thing I would like to speak on is Head 42, which is Transport. We in Barbados are paying a high tax on new vehicles, we are paying a Transport Levy, tax on gasoline, higher licensing fees, higher parking fees, and I think the general public feels that they need a little more done for them in the way of road improvement.

The tenantry roads in some areas are in appalling condition. This did not happen today or yesterday. I remember at one time my husband going on leave and trying to get a locum to do his work while he was away and none of the doctors would come and work for him in St. George because the tenantry roads in St. George broke up their cars. There are places where he had to park to walk over a mile to get to patients. Some of it has improved, but not enough. There is a lot of room for road improvement in St. George.

We badly need lights on the St. Barnabas Highway. Anybody who uses that highway regularly at night, would know that as you come over the rise from the stop lights on Wildey you are faced with lights from the Polytechnic, lights from houses, and as you come over the road there is a brilliant light from CBC that shines straight into a driver's eyes. It is very difficult. If we had proper lighting on that highway it would be much easier for people to see.

I wonder how many members of this Honourable House have tried to get up Rendezvous Hill and turn off there by the Drive-in, one way or the other, in the evenings. Sometimes you wait ten to fifteen minutes to turn on to that highway, and I think this is an area that needs improvement.

There is a road on the border of St. George/St. Joseph/St. Thomas where Market Hill bends around to go towards the Bathsheba highway. There is a road leading out to Applewhaites and another one leading from that corner to Jericho. The stop studs for the Applewhaites Road cross the Jericho Road. Recently an accident on that road was caused by someone driving up Market Hill going into Jericho and a car came from Applewhaites, a very bad collision. The person who was coming out from Applewhaites turning on to the main road is in the road because the stop studs are past the turning into the Jericho Road, and this person is going from Market Hill into Jericho. That is an area that needs looking at.

The entrance to Workmans from Taitt's Hill is one of the most dangerous places that anybody could want to drive in Barbados. There is no way that you can turn from Taitt's Hill into Workmans and be able to see any on-coming traffic coming round the bend in Gun Hill. It is horrific!

There is a bifurcation of Highway 4 at Salters where one road leads up towards Constant and Valley, and the other one leads on towards St. George's Church through Salters. In the mornings going to work, again you wait there sometimes for 15 to 20 minutes, and the cars are backed up all the way down to Salters Road to try and get out there. It is very difficult.

10.15 a.m.

There is the Turnpike in St. George. We have had many fatal accidents at the Turnpike. If part of the V-shaped piece that sticks out into Turnpike were removed, it would widen that corner and give you a much better view of what was coming down Old Works Hill. It is a nasty spot, because just below the Turnpike itself there is a road leading to Boarded Hall and another one going back to St. George Church. It is really a very difficult place.

There is a road running through Manning Village in St. George, which runs through a tenantry and over a bridge. The gutters on each side are plugged to the extent that there are big dunk trees growing out of them on the left of the bridge. When the rain falls, the water pours down that incline and settles under people's houses, so people have two feet of water to walk through before they can get to the road. That is not fair. If that was cleared up and water could run down into the gully, that would not happen.

There is another corner at Brighton that is very dangerous. There is a sign post in the middle of a kind of — it could be a roundabout there. But there is no way, when you are turning from the main road towards Brighton and Windsor that you can see anything coming around the corner by Brighton. You have to stop, blow and pray! That is the only way you can get across there. I am sure most of the time that I have driven there it is the prayers that got me through.

There is another very dangerous place where we have frequent accidents and that is the junction between the Charles Rowe Road and the Lower Estate Belle Road. That is a very blind corner. The road is in an appalling condition, and it is a very difficult place to get into or out of.

I wonder if the yard at the back of the Child Care Board, the new Child Care Board offices at Savoy in Bay Street. If that were paved, officers could park in there much more easily. At the moment most of the cars have to be parked on the open window to Bay Street and, of course, that is mostly covered in broken glass. It is not very easy for the officers, because it means a lot of car tyres have to be bought, and when we have Board meetings, there is no room there, because there is only one tiny spot of paved yard. There is enough room there that it could be made much more convenient for parking.

I want to speak on Head 38, page 105 about the Ministry of Information and Culture, and ask the Minister if he has ever considered the blind people of Barbados. There are no tapes or books available at the Public Library for blind people to borrow. These people are still Barbadians, they still vote. Surely, it would not be very expensive to have taped books that these poor people could borrow or have played to them, to use on tape recorders.

During the daytime hours, there is very little for people of my vintage to listen to on radio. The noise that comes over, we are told is music. I should like to dispute that, but this is what they have going for them all day long.

Taped books do not have to be imported. Surely, there are people in Barbados who read well enough who could make tapes of books for distribution and onlending to the blind and to those who are incapacitated to the state that they cannot hold a book to read it – and there are a lot of those. Can you imagine what it would mean for people in some of the geriatric hospitals if they could have this kind of thing to listen to during the day. It is like a soap opera, but it goes a little further. It gives them something to do, something to listen to, something for their minds to work on. I am sure that it would be of great benefit to them, without costing the Government a great deal of money.

Under the Head of Education, Head 34, what is worrying me most in our schools today is the lack of parenting of these children. No one teaches us to be a parent but our own parents. If your parents were not good parents, what are you going to be like when you grow up? These children need guidance and counselling. I have been saying this for the last twelve years and I will continue to say it. More horrors can be told to welfare workers by the children in our secondary schools and even our primary schools than would bear repetition. I have spoken about that in here already. We must realize that children who are unsettled, upset and ill-treated do not learn. Therefore, we cannot expect them to do as well with the expensive education that we are providing for them unless they have guidance and counselling – and it is desperately needed.

We need to train our teachers more in the symptoms of drug abuse and child abuse. And let us not kid ourselves that in Barbados we do not have these problems. They are becoming more and more evident as the days go by.

There is another area. I do not know under what Head I would bring this up, but I have got to say it. Our children are being abysmally treated in the law courts of this island. They are being harassed when they are being cross-examined. I know of a case in which a child was raped, a girl of eleven. The child gave evidence in court

and when she came out a policeman walked up to her and made some very nasty remarks about how her mother had put her up to it, that she had been doing this for a long time now and why had she started with all these complaints now. It is something that we should try to avoid. The traumatic experience for these children going through the law courts is enough to maim them for life anyway, and when it comes to instances in which boys have been abused, it is even worse. I am told by competent authority that this is one of the worse kinds of child abuse, because it leaves a permanent scar on the child.....

I have been talking about children and child welfare since 1950. I have worked, in the field since then. I feel that something really must be done. I have heard the Minister of Information say that Barbados is at present looking at this area and I am hoping that they would take a good, hard look at it.

We would also like them to take a good, hard look at some of the Acts. Do you know that a child was being raped by her own father, the case was reported to the Board and the Board had to take that child into care? And yet, the father, on getting out on bail, could go to the children's home and demand his daughter and take her away? The law says he has that right and there was nothing we could do to stop him. That is unfair. That is wrong. This should not ever, ever be allowed to happen. 10.25 a.m.

Things were said yesterday. I am sorry that Senator Greaves is no longer here, because aspersions were cast on the Child Care Board yesterday, and I must declare my interest as Chairman of the Child Care Board. Due to the passing of the Child Care Board Act 1981, the Adoption (Amendment) 1981, and the amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act 1981, the Board had to undertake the fields of adoption and foster care in addition to their other duties, and it became necessary, suddenly, to increase their professional staff and to undertake these extra responsibilities. These officers were, of course, not eligible for car loans, and it was decided, with ministerial approval, to use the money under the Head, "Loans to Individuals" to purchase a Suzuki car for the convenience of these officers so that they could perform their duties more efficiently. It was completely legal, because with the new Act, the Child Care Board is being run under a grant and, therefore, they are not tied to the Auditor General rules, and the Auditor General made the mistake in reviewing the Child Care Board audit as a department, instead of a statutory body.

There was another point that Senator Greaves made about something to do with work that was done on one of the children homes. The Auditor General's Department did not understand this very well, because the work was done free, and Government departments do not ever have

work done free. The International Youth for Christ came to Barbados and decided that they would undertake to repair part of the Nightengale Home. The Child Care Board had a contract to supply the materials and the work was done voluntarily by these children. All the papers concerning the buying of those materials are in the possession of the Child Care Board and was always in the possession of the Child Care Board. Why the Auditor General did not want to look at them, because he could not see the work labour cost, I do not understand. That was what that was all about.

Every single item that is on that Auditor General's Report has been answered by the Child Care Board, has been accepted by the Minister and Cabinet, and that is what the Child Care Board is worried about, that they have done the right thing. I think it is disgusting of Senator Greaves to stand up in this Chamber and hold the Child Care Board and its staff to ridicule when the Barbados Workers Union represents most of the staff. They are the ones that are being hurt, not the members of the Board, who know they have done no wrong. They are the ones whose faith in the Board is being undermined, and I would like to state here categorically that while we understood the need to curtail expenditure over the last few years, because the Child Care Board is a non-profit generating agency, we are very grateful for the very time-consuming work that they have to do.

When you have an adoption case to do, it is not just a matter of your seeing somebody, you pick a child and give to them and let them go off. There are at least 27 visits that have to be made to each couple. It is the same thing with fostering. If somebody wants to foster a child they cannot come into the Child Care Board and tell you, and you say, "Go and pick the child and take it home." You have got to assess the people, you have got to assess their homes and you have got to assess every member of the family individually; all these things have to be done. And I have been told by members of the judiciary that now that the Child Care Board is looking after adoptions, they have much more faith in the reports that are being given them and they feel happier about them.

I want to say here that the Child Care Board is one of the caring Boards of this island, but people talk. There are even rumors around that I, as Chairman, am embezzling funds from the Child Care Board; several people have phoned me about this. Anybody who wants to examine my bank account can come and do so. But I am not standing to hear my staff, who have given their utmost loyalty, who have worked harder than their day's pay, abused. Do you know what it is like to mother children in a children's home, when they are not your children? You have got to listen to them. You have got to love them. You have got to try and mend the traumatic experiences they have had. You have got to be with them 24 hours a day, not just in school and just for

a few hours. When we had large children's homes, before we became enlightened, these children were held for the time being until they could be admitted to Dodds or Glendairy. Today that is not so, because each small children's home has a mother and caring people there. The children get a feeling of self-worth, a feeling of belonging, and a feeling of community. When they are old enough to go out on their own, they can come into the community and live like normal human beings.

You cannot turn a child out of an institution, put them in a flat and tell them to live. I asked a child once who came from one of these institutions where eggs came from. He told me from the storeroom. Do you know that I drove a ten year old child around Barbados who had never seen a sugar cane? I had to stop and get one of the labourers in the field to bring a cane and cut it for him so that he could taste sugar cane for the first time in his life — and he was ten years old! Do you know that that child was once sent to a Christmas Party without any clothes on because he could not walk?

These things have stopped since the Child Care Board has taken over. Barbados is now considered by the international community as one of the leading proponents of good child care. When the International Congress of Child Abuse was held in Montreal last year, Mrs. Phyllis Roett, the Director of Child Care, was so highly thought of by them that although the Barbados Government could not see their way to pay her passage to Canada, it was paid by the International Congress so that her input would not be missed from that Congress. We in Barbados are lucky. We have the standards, and we are told by overseas agencies that we are considered the best advocates of proper child care, not only in the Caribbean but in South America as well. And now I have travelled many places in the world. I have gone into children's homes and day nurseries, and there are very few people and very few places that have the warm and caring atmosphere that you have in the homes and day care centres as in Barbados.

10.35 a.m.

I have stated here before, and I will do so again, that the Child Care Board's staff in all categories have worked faithfully and beyond the call of duty, and have always put the children of this country first. They do not deserve to have their efforts spoken of here in anything but glowing terms. I am surprised that Senator Greaves would raise such a matter in here and undermine their faith in their work, in themselves and in their Board. They have worked manfully over a very difficult period of recession to maintain the child care services and keep them abreast of modern thinking.

I know I wax a bit emotional about this, but once you have worked in this field and you have seen what can be done to children, you have to do something to help. I

know that it is difficult for a developing country to spend as much as we would like to spend. We understand. We will try and cut our coat according to our cloth, but never will I, as Chairman, accept anything but the best from the workers of the Child Care Board. I have never had such co-operation, such help, as I have had from them, and I would like to tell everybody in here and let them know that the Board has the highest confidence in their ability and in their professional integrity.

SENATOR L. A. WARD: Senator Griffith in his introduction of this Bill spoke of the marked improvement in tourism, with which I am in full agreement. But if we turn to Page IX of the Memorandum under Property Income, Hilton Hotel, in the 1984-85 Estimates it was estimated that the income would be \$400 000, and the revised Estimates was \$100, and in spite of the turn around in tourism we see that the estimate for 1985-86 is \$100. The only conclusion I can draw from that is that this \$100 must be a nominal fee to let the operators of the Hilton Hotel know that the Hilton Hotel belongs to the Barbados Government and to keep that on the record. If the Hilton Hotel, a luxury hotel and managed by a recognised international chain, projects \$100 revenue or in my opinion.....

Asides.

I have been told that the Hilton Hotel is a statutory corporation now.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: I believe that the plant is owned by the Tourism Investment Corporation, but it is managed by Hilton Hotel, so the operations would be separated from the building.

SENATOR A. W. A. McCLEAN: On a point of elucidation: It is quite possible that since the activity now is more or less vested in the Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, the income therefrom would be reflected in the revenues of that corporation rather than coming directly to Government as in previous years. That might be the reason for the reduction in the figure and its maintenance at that token level.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Ward, does that help you?

SENATOR L. A. WARD: If this is so, I understand that the Heywoods Holiday Village is operated under that operation and in these Estimates I cannot find any revenue, even \$100, for the Heywoods Complex, so I am left to believe that this \$100 is only a token figure to keep the Head there, and the Hilton Hotel is operating at a loss, assuming that I am correct. I do not know if I am, but I would listen for the Minister's reply. But if this is so and the Hilton Hotel is in this financial mess, I wonder what the other small hotels' financial position

would be. I have reason to believe that some of them will be closing this year and adding to the unemployment situation.

If we turn to page Viii of the same Memorandum under Agriculture, there is an item for revenue from the tree-spraying programme. There are trees dying about this country in abnormal numbers. These trees are not any particular kind that are susceptible to a particular disease. There are white wood trees, mahogany, evergreen, sandbox, silk cotton, name them, but they are dying in abnormal numbers, and we do not know why. We have contacted the Ministry of Agriculture about it and they have not been able to give us any cause for this.

On page 44, under Crop Research and Development, we have developed peanuts and they have been grown successfully this last year. We had considerable assistance from the department of Agriculture, which supplied seed and assisted in the planting and harvesting, but now the farmers are finding it very difficult to sell these peanuts, although we are spending considerable sums of money on the importation of peanuts into the island. I feel that if some control on the importation of peanuts was exercised this could become a big saving in foreign exchange, because I believe peanuts is a crop that would be successful.

10.45 a.m.

Fisheries and Research Department, on Page 46, I would like to compliment the Government on what is being done in this sector. I think that Fisheries has the greatest potential for development in anything that comes under the Ministry of Agriculture, but we must be careful to see that the marketing and the storage facilities are adequate to meet the efforts of the fishermen. I believe the fishermen are doing a very good job to develop fishing in this country, and it could reduce our import bills considerably if we catch more fish and store them for the lean periods.

I do not have much to say about sugar but Senator Greaves did mention that we need to do something about getting an international agreement. I can assure him that nobody would be more pleased than us to see an international agreement. The thought behind an international agreement is to get people to control the planting of sugar, especially beet, but anybody trying to control a French farmer has a difficult job; he is not an easy fellow to control.

Some of the items that I was hoping to deal with have been dealt with by other speakers and I will not go over those again.

SENATOR J. CLARKE: Mr. Deputy President, once more we find ourselves debating the Estimates against a

background of a world economy which is still in the process of recovery from the recession in recent years. Full credit must go to the Ministry of Finance in general, and to our late Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in particular, for the care with which our financial resources have been nurtured and controlled over these trying years. We are not completely out of the woods, and we must therefore continue to be strict guardians of our faith. While bearing the remaining pangs of the world economic crisis, we have to be thankful for the fact that we have been sustained thus far, while others with greater resources have not fared so well. It is essential, therefore, that we support the new Minister of Finance in the continuing efforts to preserve and strengthen our economic condition. The ship of state belongs to all of us and we must not simply see ourselves as passive passengers drifting with the tide. Indeed, we must all be actively involved, whether as able-bodied seamen or as officers, each doing our part to keep the ship on an even keel.

The fact that we have so far been successful in maintaining an even keel should not be taken lightly. In fact, if we have any doubts about this, we only have to take a look at our CARICOM neighbours to see how fortunate we have been in withstanding the tide of economic disaster. We are therefore duty bound to do our utmost to ensure that good sense and reason continue to prevail and do not allow red herrings to be drawn across the trail to becloud the issues. As I see it, we have to curb our inclination of wanting everything under the sun as distinct from wanting those things which we really need to make life bearable. Obviously, we all look forward to the day when our economy and that of the wide world may be described as booming. Then, we can be assured that there will be icing on the cake. However, until that time comes, we have to appreciate that plain cake is better than no cake.

Despite the difficulties which our economy has encountered in recent years, we have been able to maintain a reasonable standard of living, and this must be brought home to the man and woman on the street, lest they be led into thinking otherwise. If we pause for a minute to reflect on the basic needs of people, food, clothing, land and shelter, it will be readily seen that we have been able to maintain supply to a satisfactory level. Needless to say, we will try to press on towards perfection, but we must always be conscious that the attainment of such a role depends on our capacity to produce the wherewithal. This capacity, being dependent on internal as well as external factors, requires the application of patience and commitment on the part of all citizens, be they workers on the shop floor, rank and file civil servants or management in the executive offices of private or Government businesses.

Management and unions alike have to strive to improve the work ethics in this country, and we have to

work to improve the level of productivity, because particularly in times of hardship — I think Senator McClean made the point yesterday — when our aspirations may not be easily achieved, we have to be able to strengthen the base, that is to say, we must be able to maximize all our resources.

Barbados is reputed for having a people that is highly trainable, and we boast of this. We will not deal with the matter of our high rate of literacy, because there are those of us who would question the validity of some of the arguments, but we are highly trainable people and I think that we must do all in our power to ensure that those qualities are utilised to the full.

In the absence of strong natural resources, we must improve the skills of the people and we must work to ensure that such skills are properly applied to ensure high levels of productivity. To this end I believe that there must be serious partnership between business and labour unions. For too long, I believe that we have allowed standards to fall and we have taken a complacent attitude in this very important area. We need, therefore, to remind people that it is necessary that they provide a honest day's work for an honest day's pay. We must also remind people that there is honour and dignity in labour, whatever form it may take. We have to urge our young people as well as our older people to realise that we are not just working for the sake of the dollar, but we are working for much more than this. We are working for our families, but we are also working for our country.

10.55 a.m.

Whenever we prepare and consider budgets, there will always be some dissatisfaction. There will be those who are dissatisfied because they do not think that the targets being set are high enough, or that the performance generated in the preceding period was as good as it should have been. There will, of course, also be those who will argue that the expectation is too great, having regard to the resources available. So too there will be those who argue that the economic circumstances of the day together with competing forces in the market place, whatever form the market may take, will hinder the achievement of certain levels of performance or certain goals which may be set.

Needless to say, despite the negative views which are expressed from time to time where budgets are concerned, inevitably the setting of higher targets year after year do have the effect of putting people on their mettle and in fact they often achieve much better than they expected. I think that the economy of Barbados lives up to this tradition, and I think that if we are honest and reflect on the recent developments in this country, we will admit that, despite economic hard times, we have grown. Maybe not to the extent that we would have liked, maybe not at the same pace that was present in the late Seventies, but nevertheless we have grown. We must

therefore continue to set ourselves targets which while creating more pressure and perhaps some hardship in some areas will force us to give of our best as people and as a nation.

As pointed out by our Prime Minister when he introduced the Estimates in the Other Place last week, and as reinforced by Senator Griffith yesterday when he introduced debate in this Chamber, our national priorities must relate to the preservation of foreign reserves and the productive capacity of the economy. The fact that we have achieved a modest growth of 2.5 per cent last year after a relative decline over the preceding three years is most heartening, and we must now do our utmost to ensure that this area will record an even higher rate of growth.

In so far as the preservation of our foreign reserves are concerned, we have as a people to try to tailor or control or curb our consumption patterns. If we do not do this we run the risk of creating problems within the balance of payments and foreign reserve situations. At the same time, we have to strive at all times to generate the means by which we can expand the economy and further the cause of development.

I do not intend to pull any figures from the various Heads because I believe that the figures which have been put together for us have been so ordered after much consideration, and I think that we must place confidence in the various accounting officers of Government who have made a contribution. Indeed, I think that we must once again congratulate them on being able to put together a package which shows the maintenance of relativities as to percentage allocations between various competing interests, and if we were to refer to the ten-year figures contained in the Memorandum, we would see that, generally speaking, the percentage allocation under various Heads has kept fairly close over the past ten years or so with minor variations in some cases. My approach, therefore, will be to speak in general terms and to hope that my small contribution will be of some worth.

As I review the Estimates and consider last year's performance, I fully appreciate the curbs which were instituted to contain expenditure. I recognise, too, that firm control will have to be maintained again this year, but I am hopeful that the performance of the economy this year will permit greater flexibility. Judging from the overall performance over the past decade, even after allowing for the decline in recent years, I am reasonably confident that problems will be handled to our general satisfaction.

I would like to look for a short while at the productive sector, because I think that our success, economically, has to rest very heavily on the capacity of

the productive sector to perform adequately. I feel very strongly that we need to take a serious look at the productive capacity with a view to reorganising and restructuring that sector, and here I am particularly thinking of the manufacturing sector. I think we can be reasonably proud of the performance of manufacturing, all things considered, but I think that it is evident that we cannot continue to operate out of the same mold. I think that manufacturers of the present and the future will have to apply themselves more seriously to business and be able to recognise trends from afar off so that they can hopefully plan or counterplan in such a way as to enable them to deal satisfactorily with such crises as may arise from time to time. In fact, it may be argued that a new breed of manufacturer/exporter will need to evolve in order to ensure that we are able to continue our forward thrust in development. This will not be easy, but it is the only way that I can see that we can expect significant progress in the years ahead.

I say this because I think that we have got to put ourselves in a position to participate in the area of international trade. I think that for too long our manufacturers have continued to put all of their eggs in the CARICOM basket. I think that the history of the Guyana crisis, the history of the Jamaica crisis, and more recently the advent of what we would have to call the Trinidad crisis make it very evident to us that we cannot continue to put our eggs in the CARICOM basket. When it is recognised that the CARICOM market is, relatively speaking, a small market, and that every country in CARICOM has been pushing industrial development, it was inevitable that a point of saturation would be reached sooner or later, having regard to the manner in which the Caribbean industrial sector evolved. Even if the crises in Guyana and Jamaica had not materialized when they did, it was inevitable that a point would have been reached where serious consideration would have to be given to non-CARICOM exports.

11.05 a.m.

I fully recognize that it is not easy for small countries such as Barbados to break into the international market. Nevertheless, I think that we have got to get past the negativism which prevails. It is not good enough to simply say that non-regional markets are difficult to penetrate. We have to try, and we have to try seriously, because this is the only way that we are going to be able to ensure that we can continue to trade and not suffer the vicissitudes of CARICOM weaknesses.

While I am a supporter of the integration movement and I commend the Government for its policy over the years of maintaining strong support for CARICOM, I feel that it is time that our CARICOM partners show similar faith. We have fully recognized the fact that weaknesses within individual countries merit special

attention, and we fully agree that the Treaty permits certain actions by way of preservation of national economies. But I think that with Barbados operating in the same economic world as other CARICOM partners has been able over the years to show faith with CARICOM, it is only fair that our partners do likewise. I think that the members of CARICOM, owe it to the people of Barbados to demonstrate, in meaningful terms, the fact that our faith was not misplaced.

In so far as the penetration of international markets are concerned, I recognize that there is no overnight cure. This is why I say that there may be a need for a restructuring of the organization of our productive sectors. I think, though, that organizations such as the Industrial Development Corporation, the Barbados Development Bank and the Export Promotion Corporation will have to play increasingly active roles in this area, as organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturers Association will have to do. To this end, I believe that the Government must continue to strive to impress upon the participants in the productive sector that they have a duty not only to themselves as entrepreneurs but to the country as a whole to ensure that their businesses grow, as far as is humanly possible. They must take a new look at the way in which they organize their affairs so they can seriously attempt to equip themselves for effecting successful trade ventures with non-CARICOM countries.

I think that it is heartening that the tourist industry has seen some recovery in recent times, and I sincerely hope that this will be maintained throughout this year, into next year and beyond.

We all readily admit that tourism plays a very significant role in the generation of employment and foreign exchange. All things considered, I think we must recognize that the tourist industry has performed reasonably creditably. Even though there have been a number of negative features plaguing the industry in recent times, it is true to say that the industry has continued to grow. It is true that there was steady growth in visitor arrivals up to 1979, which allowed us to record an increase of 149 340 between the years 1975-1979. Regrettably, we suffered a loss of a little over 67 000 between 1980 and 1982. But I am happy to see that between 1983 - 1984, we have regained approximately 64 000 of that loss. So as of 1984, we are a little over 3 000 down on visitor arrivals, insofar as the 1979 high is concerned.

I believe that we are on an upward trend, and I believe that the increased activity by the Board of Tourism in North America has paid off. I am not sure if it is generally recognized that despite the limitations in recent years, and despite the weaknesses and the loss of visitors, our tourism receipts have risen year after year. And when you consider that we moved from an esti-

mated total of \$156 000 000 in 1975 to \$503 000 000 in 1983, full credit must be given to the Barbados Board of Tourism and to the tourism sector, generally, for this achievement.

It must be appreciated that the annual grant to the Board of Tourism has risen significantly, having moved from \$3.1 million to \$13 million in just about ten years. There is no doubt in my mind that the enhanced grant has had a significant effect in terms of restoring the visitor levels to the point which have now been realized.

However, all the work done by the Barbados Board of Tourism and by the hotel industry, as a whole, would be lost if we, as a people, do not fully appreciate the value of that industry to us and do all in our power to create the atmosphere which would be conducive to continued and repeat visits on the part of tourists. We have to move to improve the quality of our service and we have to move to eliminate those elements of harassment, which are a serious cause of concern.

The next sector I should like to touch on is Agriculture. I think that the continued efforts being made to support this vital sector will bear more and more fruit as time goes on.

I must say I was pleased to hear Senator Greaves admit yesterday that sugar is of value to the economic life of the country as well as to the protection of the soil. Unfortunately, I believe that sugar will continue to be a whipping boy in certain quarters for some time to come, but we have to recognize that, despite the weaknesses and the limitations, sugar continues to be a significant generator of employment and foreign exchange. We must therefore continue to support sugar. I very much hope that present efforts which are underway will demonstrate, in very real terms, the capacity of sugar to bounce back, and indeed the capacity of agriculture to provide an even greater contribution to the economic cake. Hopefully, efforts at diversification will continue and we will see increased results in this area.

11.15 a.m.

I would like to look briefly at what I call "support services," and here I would like to touch on Education, Housing, and Transport.

With regard to education, I recognize that this is a vital area of concern, and that this fact is positively recognized with a 22 per cent of the national budget of Current Expenditure being allocated to that Head. As I have said in this Chamber on previous occasions, I feel that we are not receiving adequate returns on that investment. I recognize that there are problems which create the situation, but I think we should continue to strive on excellence. We must continue to place emphasis on primary education so as to strengthen the foundation of our educational system.

I feel that parents and students must be called upon to play their part more effectively. Students must understand that facilities are being provided at great national expense and that they have a duty to themselves and to their country to make proper use of such facilities. Parents, on the other hand must understand that they have a very serious responsibility to the country, and that they must ensure that they must play their part, as parents, in determining or controlling, or contributing to their children's chances of success. It is not good enough for parents to abdicate their responsibilities, and it is not fair that teachers should be expected to perform the role as parents as well as teacher. I hope that parents will become increasingly concerned to the point where they not only become actively involved in the Parent Teachers Associations, but where they take a real and personal interest in their children's education.

In the areas of Housing and Transport, we must continue to work towards improvement, but at the same time we have to recognize that there are competing demands on limited resources which make it difficult for any country, developed or developing, to maintain steady flows to these two important areas. Where roads are concerned, we can easily see the fruits of the Transport Levy as more and more roads are being constructed or restored. We can also see within these Estimates a very serious effort on the part of Government to expand our road system in order to bring it up to acceptable standards for the time in which we are living, and we have also to recognize that, despite the provision for the cost of such, it will take time before we can assess the desired results, which I am sure we would all like to see. I take Senator Reader's point this morning, but I am sure that the reasonable person that she is, she will recognize that the demands are great and the wherewithal limited. Maybe those persons who criticize the Government performance in housing or housing finances would like to recommend the imposition of a Housing Levy in order to guarantee a continuous flow of funds for mortgage financing.

In winding up my contribution to this debate, I must touch on the perennial problem of unemployment, which plagues large and small countries, north and south, east and west. No Government or business community is ever happy to have the bugbear of unemployment at their door steps and, therefore, conscious effort is always made to retain employment and to generate new employment. But again the success in this area depends on the means. In times of economic hardship, it is inevitable that unemployment will rise. I think we are fortunate that we have been able to succeed as well as we have done. This is not to say that we must rest on our laurels or that we must not continue to strive for improvement in this area, but simply to say that we have to recognize that there are limitations and that the problem has to be attacked on two fronts, namely job retention and job creation. Naturally, our success in these approaches will

depend to a large extent on our ability to maintain activity in as many sectors and sub-sectors as possible while striving after new ventures.

I think that in this regard, as in regard to the strengthening of the productive sector, it may be necessary for Government to plan an escalation of the subvention to such organizations as the I.D.C., and E.P.C. Indeed, it may even be worthwhile to consider making some subventions available to private sector organizations which are seen to be making a positive contribution to efforts to improve the productive sector and, ultimately, to improve our employment levels.

As we go through a period of recession, it is inevitable that some companies and some businesses will feel the pangs to a greater extent than others. It may be argued by some that this is a testing time when the weak will go out of business and the strong will be able to weather the storm. The point is that I think that we must be able to use even the limitations or the hardships created by recession in order to strengthen our economic base. I believe that some of the bankruptcies that have occurred in recent times would have taught us a lesson which should augur well for the future. I believe that, to a large extent, those bankruptcies have resulted from undercapitalization and also to some extent from inadequate management. So, despite the trials which have gone already and which still lie ahead, I think we must apply ourselves to the task of strengthening our business sector, and I think that we must apply ourselves to this task with all haste. This is not to say that Government alone must look at this; far from it. I think that the business sector owes it to itself to take a serious look at the implications of the bankruptcies which have occurred so that every effort can be made to ensure that such will not be a big bone of contention or a big problem in the future.

11.25 a.m.

I wish to support this Bill which is before us and to say that we all have to be prepared as citizens to feel the pinch for some time to come, while being conscious of our individual responsibility to continue to strive to overcome the hardships.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: I think one must begin by observing the general features of the Estimates and against the economic background that was painted by the Honourable Minister responsible for Energy, who introduced the Bill yesterday. It is heartening to note that at least we are showing signs of some small economic growth, at the moment forecast in the vicinity of 2.5 per cent. If we can continue this over the next few years and enhance the rate of growth, then I think we will be on our way, provided we can maintain it, to raising the level of the quality of life once again for all Barbadians.

It does appear that there is some cautious optimism that can be expressed in the productive sectors of the economy. There seems to be a slight resurgence in tourism, evidenced particularly from about November last year and continuing. Of course we have to continue to attract tourists who will spend. The trend in the last few years has been to attract what they popularly call the "hamburger tourists," those who do not have a lot of money beyond the barest minimum of living expenses to spend in the society.

I am glad to see that at long last the Government is putting some quite substantial injections of finance in the Tourist Board to assist in their overseas promotions, and I recall last year, perhaps during the Estimates, making a plea for the amalgamation of offices in London. We had a situation where the Tourist Board was in a little room in Upper Belgrave Street, the Caribbean Airways had its offices in Bruton Street, but I believe I read last week that a decision has been made to concentrate all of the overseas offices in one building in Tottenham Court Road. I think that will be an advantage, and what I trust will happen is that there will be continuous video in the showcases of the Board so that passersby could stop and look. I have seen it in Bruton Street in other offices, but not in the Tourist Board's offices so that you can pass and have a look at some of the features of Barbados — a continuous video all day long. I think that will automatically be a pull to pedestrians to stop and look at what Barbados has to offer, but no doubt the Tourist Board and its planners will have those matters firmly fixed in their consciousness.

The manufacturing sector has shown some growth also, but perhaps I can link the growth in manufacturing with the present situation of unemployment. I am not sure if the point has been made yet in this debate, but we have had closures of factories in the last two years, and even though we were told that there is a strategy for the reduction of the level of unemployment by increased activity in housing and road construction, I think we must be careful that the greatest unemployment has always been in the area of female unemployment. Housing construction and road construction, I think we can safely assume, will go some way towards the reduction of unemployment among men, but Barbadian women want sheltered employment, such as employment in factories.

Even though there is development of the furniture industry in a very meaningful way, I think an all-out assault has to be made by the Industrial Development Corporation and the planners in the Ministry of Finance and Planning to attract industries to Barbados that will assist in the provision of jobs and employment for women. It is critical. I think that to that extent, without hearing any strategy enunciated by the Minister for tackling the specific problem of female

unemployment, the Government's thrust may be a little short of what is desired. That is why I said I would link the question of unemployment with manufacturing.

Unemployment is a problem which is affecting and has affected, ever since the oil crisis did international damage to the world economy, underdeveloped as well as developed countries. In Britain, I believe there are four million unemployed. We have 18 per cent and there are other Caribbean territories with over 30 per cent. None of us in any part of the world can be complacent but — I may be wrong on this, I am not an economist, but I am using my own common sense — the question of job creation in my view is not only a matter for Government but also in a mixed economy requires the co-operation of the private sector. That co-operation of the private sector can only be achieved if the Government creates the conditions for development.

I have a limited experience as a self-employed person running a law practice. I employ or contribute to the employment of five persons. I can do with another person now in the secretarial field, but I believe I speak for all the legal profession when I say that the cost of running a practice in today's situation is extremely high. The expenses are in excess of 50 per cent of gross earnings. I checked this morning with three other lawyers here, Clerks at the Table, and it is their experience too. We know that we have to contribute to all of the various levies. I sent and got a copy of some of my National Insurance contributions. We contribute to National Insurance, Unemployment Levy, employment injury, the Severance Fund, the Training Fund, Health Service Levy, Transport Levy, and I have to pay \$400 when the months come.

We have had a National Insurance system in place since 1967, and with these additional levies which we understand have become necessary to enhance the health services, to provide money for the repair and maintenance of roads. I do not believe, however, that any look has been taken at the National Insurance system since its introduction with a view to seeing if we can exempt some persons from National Insurance and perhaps change some of the rates for the self-employed. We hear every year that we must pull up the fellow at the bottom, true, but many sectors in the community have got it over the years. I do not think the self-employed and the middle class have got very much. We carry the brunt of it.

11.35 a.m.

I should like to see some study made of the National Insurance contributions. Just as, I believe it must have been 1979, the late Prime Minister exempted a number of persons from the payment of tax, I believe that if a similar stance was adopted in relation to National Insurance contributions, there might be some

slight incentive in there for the creation of additional work. It is an idea that I have, I have not tested it and I have not had it studied. All I am asking Government to do is to examine it to see whether the National Insurance Scheme is barely oppressive against any particular sector and whether any amelioration of it could possibly assist in the creation of employment by a reduction of the burden that attend the present system.

Government has done well in the area of inflation. There have been able to hold inflation down for the last two years to very accepted levels. I have no doubt that the third sector which has shown some growth, that of agriculture, has contributed, because I accept the statement of the Honourable Minister responsible for Agriculture in the Other Place to the effect that we are almost self-sufficient in the production of vegetables. I know from my own experience as one who is not a Rasta — no way, but I love vegetables — and I see my wife bringing in the packaged broccoli and mixed vegetables, which I think are being done by Mr. David Kinch at Wakefield. Mr. Kinch needs to be congratulated on his enterprise and foresight. He has made a significant contribution to non-sugar agriculture development in Barbados. If only we could get CARICOM to function well and allow some of these vegetables to be exported into Trinidad and other places, it would help.

Asides

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Mr. Kinch lives in St. John. I have not got on to St. Thomas yet, Sir. St. Thomas will come in due course.

I am glad that an attempt is going to be made to inject massive capital into housing. It fulfills a number of needs. The problem in Barbados, as I was told when I was Chairman of the Housing Corporation between 1976 and 1979, is not homelessness. The number of persons who sleep on pavements about Barbados at night because they do not have a home is very, very small; I believe less than 10. Barbadians are people who search for excellence and make demands for improved conditions and a better quality of living, and as a family expands, they want somewhere for the excess to go. You might find eight people living in a house. They probably all sleep in that house at night but there is a demand there for some of them to move out and have their own habitats, so we have to cater to that demand, not homelessness but a desire for improved housing and independence, and at the same time as we try to house our people, the construction provides employment and, of course, it has a ripple effect throughout the economy in many other areas. So I compliment the Government for getting housing going again.

As to road development, which is the second area of strategy to counter unemployment as announced

yesterday, I say this all well and good, Sir, but I have had this — what I am going to say now — argument since 1978 with the late Prime Minister, and he recognized the point but his answer was that what I was proposing was not productive. I really sincerely feel that perhaps there has been a misplaced emphasis on road construction. I know we need better roads, let me concede that, but the question is whether in the scheme of priorities we need massive highways while tenantry roads, the minor roads, the side roads need upgrading. As one who has had the experience of elective politics, I know that it means a lot to a person living in Hopewell Tenantry — you hear it now? St. Thomas! — to have a road done so that in the event

Asides.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Where is Hopewell? Up by Miss Medford! That will silence them! I am familiarizing myself with St. Thomas!

On a serious note, people, especially country people, as I have experienced in St. Philip, want to know that when they put on their Sunday best and their shoes to go to church on Sunday morning they do not have to walk through mud; that if the Reverend is coming to minister to them, he does not have to walk through mud. Similarly, if a doctor has to come to see them, they want to make sure that the place is properly lit. They ask for street lights, roads and water. These are basic needs which all folk in Barbados have a right to, and I wonder if we have not put the cart before the horse. We should attend to these needs before we start with the big expansive highways.

11.45 a.m.

The economists might be able to tell me otherwise, but I am looking at the social side of it and what the people want. I will put it this way. If we are asking the community to hold strain, do not expect too much, I know that if you go into an area and do a tenantry road, put in the water, fix the road and give the people some light, you could explain to them that we have to hold down, but at least we are looking after your immediate needs, and they would appreciate it. That goes for St. Thomas, St. Philip and all over the place.

When the tenancies legislation was passed, there was a second bit of legislation, the Tenancies Control Development Order, I think it was called, and under that bit of legislation, with overseas financing, I believe from the World Bank, Barbados was told that the tenantry roads would be repaired. I do not think that the pace of repair has been sufficiently quick, and if the money has not been drawn down, we must move to draw it down. If it has been drawn down, then we must give out contracts. MTW cannot do all, and they take too long. Give out contracts to the private sector and

let the construction firms go in on a systematic basis and do it two parcels at a time or whatever, and publish your scheme for road repairs. Let the country know.

Roads, water and light are not matters that should be seen in a partisan way. As I say, these are basic things to which the whole community is entitled, and they deserve to know. We talk of open Government; they deserve to know. If MTW is going to do the tenantry at Chapel and at Dunscombe, let the people know. Publish it so that people can know. They will see that there is a plan, and the plan should be programmed and timed so that everybody would know the people will get to them in October, but at least there is a plan. That is a suggestion I hope Government will take seriously, because I think we have to take matters like roads, water and light out of contentious politics.

I want to make some specific references now, and I will start first with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. I am only asking some questions, because I suspect that the Minister responsible for Information will have the answers and can respond. I have always been concerned with the over-emphasis in the media, but particularly television, on America. I do not look at it on mornings. I have a TV in my bedroom but I refuse to look at the CNN news on mornings, but the whole country wakes up to America on mornings. They have basketball all the time, American basketball. Basketball is the fastest growing sport in Barbados, true, but I think we have to be careful of this cultural dependence on America.

Let us make no mistake about it. I have said it publicly and I am going to repeat it in here, America does not really care about us. America cares about us for America's own self-interest, as perhaps some kind of buffer against the spread of communism. They care so much about us that the late Prime Minister's death was not even news for them. If we do not learn a lesson, it is our own fault.

At the level of sports, I have evidence. This country was called upon in 1980 to show solidarity with America and boycott the Moscow Olympics. Our athletes had prepared and were disappointed. For that show of solidarity what have we in sport got from America as thanks? Not one thing! South Korea have given us 300 pairs of football boots, and 360 footballs, and more sporting gear, a larger inventory is coming on April 2, free. West Germany gave \$50 000 for hockey, basketball and boxing. Nothing from America! China, the People's Republic, give us tennis gear every year, endless balls and rackets. I am not pandering to America, I never have. Indeed, we got more from Britain than from them. Britain is more interested, I believe, than they, and I say that we need to watch the development of our links with America.

We are close, I know, but, so what? They have had the CBI. Are we getting anything yet? They have been negotiating and negotiating and talking for years.

Asides.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: A big basin with a hole in it!

I wonder if it is impossible for CBC to show some English sport. I know that in Trinidad, TTT in the summer will be showing the ITV sports programme on Saturdays. I believe that the dish at CBC has been erected in such a position that perhaps they cannot pick up the satellite. The people at Cable and Wireless can see British television, and I believe it can be done. I am not saying throw away all American sport or all American programming, but I would like to see a balance. We have Garner, Greenidge, Marshall and all these fellows playing cricket in England on Saturdays and Sundays in the one-days and I am sure that all of us would prefer to sit down on Sunday afternoon and watch our own people playing for Hampshire or Somerset on a weekend.

I am only asking for a balance. I have never been an extremist, so I am not saying throw away America, but I am asking, and if the Minister has an answer I would be grateful, that we investigate how we can have more balanced programming from overseas. I know that we cannot afford to do our own local productions to the level that we have a 70 per cent emphasis on local production and a 30 per cent of foreign. We just do not have the wherewithal. Senator Lynch and I know that only too well from our days at CBC. I feel that we have to import programming, but let us have, as I say, a balanced diet.

I gather that TTT in Trinidad is planning an exchange of live programming with Barbados, and I think Jamaica in the very near future — in fact, probably next month — and I will urge the Minister to use his influence to let us get as much out of that as possible. If we can start some CARICOM exchanges, that is a step in the right direction.

11.55 a.m.

I have now to deal with Senator Greaves. I missed his performance this morning, regrettably, but I heard him yesterday. He was more restrained yesterday and attempted to be more balanced than at any other time in an Estimates Debate that I can remember. I wish to compliment him for his obvious growth in stature. I cannot talk about this morning, so let me talk about what I know. Yesterday, he seemed to be more controlled, reasonable and objective, but, of course for political reasons, he had to make his wild assertions, starting with the Public Service Commission. He said it was a rubber stamp, that there was interference by the political

directorate with the civil servants which was destroying the morale. He accused the Minister of Health of driving up Broad Street and demanding disciplinary action against the driver of an ambulance, and he said that all of this creates an atmosphere of insecurity.

Senator Greaves behaved as though this was a novel experience, even assuming it to be true. But Senator Greaves, of all people, should remember his own party's performance. It was not Senator Trotman who, as a Minister, beat a worker. It was Senator Boxill. It was Senator Boxill.....

(Aside: From St. Thomas.)

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Formerly of St. Thomas. They will have me now!

Laughter.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Up there, not far, he beat a worker!

It was Mr. Reynold Weekes.....

(SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Do you mean in the Treasury building?)

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Yes. The Treasury building.

It was Mr. Reynold Weekes who went to MTW, as Parliamentary Secretary, and saw a driver at MTW who parades under the Chinese sobriquet of 'Ding Lu' — I know him as that. When Reynold Weekes saw Ding Lu, a supporter of the Labour Party, working there, he said, "You, you do not have any right working here." He gave instructions and the man was fired forthwith. That is how his party behaved!

It was not Senator Trotman who emasculated Gladstone Holder. Have they forgotten? It was the last Prime Minister of the Democratic Labour Party who emasculated Gladstone Holder. In fact, Mr. Barrow went so far as to say that he does not speak to him at all — anything he puts in writing through the Permanent Secretary. You will see it in the Debates for 1975. I had them in here yesterday. Senator Trotman, I gather, was counsel for the defence in the case of Barrow persecuting Holder.

I think we can carry this thing too far. I believe that it is entirely proper, if a Minister sees one of his workers doing less than an honest day's work, to have it investigated and dealt with.

(Aside: True!)

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: What are we trying to create in Barbados? Further indiscipline in the society? At the educational level, there is no discipline in the secondary schools, apart from two or three. It is Old Mass! Everybody wants to stop at 3.00 o'clock and that is it. You are doing a day's work for a wage. The age of materialism has taken over. We cannot have indiscipline, and a Minister has to run his department as properly as possible to see that the taxpayers' money is being well spent.

We know that there have been problems at MTW all over the years. When I was first in the House, it was even shown on film — a number of MTW workers, with the hoes and the shovels propped up, in a place called Golden Grove, a beautifully shaded, cool area; out of the sun altogether! The hoes, the forks, the shovels and the humans working them all cosy, under the shade of Golden Grove, 1.00 o'clock in the day! Work done!

Aside.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Lemon? Is he down at Lemon Grove? He has never been given to hard work.

Laughter.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: Is that the gentleman who lives down by Westbury in the house called Lemon Grove? He has never been given to hard work.

(Aside: He said since they built it next door to him it has devalued his property.)

Laughter.

(SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: He lives in Stanmore.)

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am sure that the Ministers would know — if not, they must be cautioned that there is a procedure for dealing with delinquent civil servants. I am sure that Senator Trotman, as an old hand in the industrial relations field, would know how to deal with it. But I cannot support the claims that you should turn a blind eye to it, that you ought not to interfere. If the man has belly hurt or whatever, let him come and say that; but the fact that he was where he should not be is a matter that was worthy of investigation.

Aside.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: I am sure we would get the facts at some stage from Senator Trotman.

I want to make a plea, that we support all those in this society who are striving to restore standards of discipline and to inculcate notions of efficiency among our people. I think that they are worthy ideals to be aimed at. In this regard, I compliment Senator McClean for his outspokenness yesterday. I think the Government should now realize that there was merit in a Resolution sponsored by Dr. Cheltenham and I in the Lower House many years ago calling for a commission of enquiry into the running of the Civil Service. It was the one time the Government was defeated between 1976 and 1981 on a vote. We have not got the commission, but we need to look at the modernization of our Civil Service. After all, it is costing us now 48 per cent, I believe, or some such figure, of the national expenditure just to operate the Civil Service, pay the salaries and run and equip the offices. It is a substantial amount. Indeed, that statistic comes very close to what I gave as the experience certainly in the legal profession in terms of operating costs.

I know the Opposition has tended to pooh-pooh the Government's efforts at the establishment of offshore services. Perhaps, the case may have been overstated with too much enthusiasm. But at least, up to a few weeks ago, when I checked at the Corporate Affairs Registry, we had over 130 FSCs under the new accommodation between Barbados and the American Government. So some positive steps are being taken in that area.

12.05 p.m.

I have my doubts about whether we will get massive employment from that sector. What you are finding is that predominantly the accounting firms, which are well-staffed and equipped, are getting into the area of company formation in respect to the FSCs and the lawyers are not getting any substantial work. There are one or two law firms involved, but it is not spreading through the legal profession. I do not know to what extent, but I suspect to a very minimal degree there has been an increase in employment in the area of FSCs.

Before I close, I want to remind the Minister responsible — he is not in this House — that we need the road in Hopewell Tenantry attended to, early. We need the road from Arch Hall to Bennetts in St. Thomas attended to. We need some street lights in Bennetts and in Welches Terrace. This is a good occasion for parish pumping, and I am not going to let it slip like Senator Greaves. I am speaking of St. Thomas and I am articulating the needs of the people from St. Thomas, particularly these areas. There is a bridge at Canefield that is unfinished, and perhaps M.T.W. could oblige me by giving their attention to the repair of that bridge. From time to time, they will be getting more claims from me.

I can let the House know and remind the people of St. Thomas, if they do not know, that the National

Sports Council, for which I have responsibility as Chairman, is giving them a lovely playing field at Content and the pavilion will be erected in fiscal year 1985–86. We chose the site for the pavilion last week, on Wednesday, and there will be a road leading to the pavilion that takes you down to the police station. They will have a lovely pavilion there, even better than Welchman Hall.

At Welchman Hall, we are building a pavilion, and because of the depth of the soil, they are getting two for the price of one. When we got to 18 feet we still had not hit rock.

Asides.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: The rock in St. Thomas is very soft. I have no desire to turn any rocks into pebbles, but because of the depth of soil we have now got a basement, as it were, to the pavilion, which I am going to enclose and ventilate, and include two toilets, two baths, and put in a number of tables and chairs so that the youth in that area can play their dominoes in a sheltered facility. I can announce that a decision has been taken to flood-light the hard courts at Welchman Hall. A wicket is being prepared at Bridgefield. That playing field was levelled last year and we are building the wicket now.

Most of these facilities should be completed within another month. So the youth of St. Thomas will have something to look forward to. Thank heavens, these were all projects started prior to the untimely death of the late Prime Minister and I would not expect the Opposition to treat them as any electioneering projects.

I am grateful to the Government for the increase in the Capital Vote for the National Sports Council and we can assure the whole of Barbados that the programme for 1985–86 — I did not bring the actual details — means that virtually every parish will be touched by the hands of the National Sports Council this year.

Asides.

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: St. John too, we will fix up Gall Hill with some equipment. We have started in St. James North and South. We dealt with Eden Lodge last year and Gazettes will be done. There is also St. Christopher, Parish Land and Gibbons. Work has been started and will be completed in fiscal year, 1985–86.

I want to finish by complimenting the Government for again managing our affairs over the years in such a way that we have avoided the disasters that have been attending some of our Caribbean neighbours. I think that the people need to be complimented also for the show of support and understanding which they have exhibited

in the last few years of restraint. We have had no social unrest. We always have political arguments and that is to be understood — the Opposition must make their case — but, by and large, when it came to the nitty-gritty, Barbadians rallied around the Government in a very positive way. We would not have achieved whatever we have, even though it is modest, without the support and co-operation of the people and especially the trade unions, and we must not forget that. Whatever we may say, I think that the history of trade unionism in Barbados has shown that the unions, in particular the Barbados Workers Union, has been very responsible in its attitudes to industrial relations, negotiations and politics generally. They have never come with claims like they have in Trinidad of 140 per cent or 300 per cent, like T & TEC in Trinidad. I want to finish by complimenting all for the sacrifices which have been made in the last few years, and we trust that we will step gradually into more rosy and prosperous times from here on.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: For the last four years or so, we have had to suffer, previously for four or five hours; in more recent times, thank God, for only two hours, while Senator Greaves took advantage of his parliamentary privilege to rant, rave, and carry on in the same way he carried on in St. Lucy. Even though the people in St. Lucy have penalized him for his foolishness, he does not understand that people in Barbados are fed up with his foolishness, and that he is not going to get back in the Other Place until he stops it.

12.15 p.m.

I am going to deliberately look at the things the Press picked up from his excitement. He came in here yesterday and asked about the Health Levy and the Transport Levy. The reports in today's dailies would suggest that somehow the Government is ripping off people, collecting the Health Levy and not doing anything with the money; collecting Transport Levy and not accounting for it, and that nobody can say what is happening to the people's money.

The Health Levy is run by the Health Levy Board, on which his assistant, Mr. Robert Morris, is the representative of the Workers Union. If they cannot account for the money, let us ask Robert Morris to begin with. Robert Morris is the one who is to run against Mr. Bernard St. John in Christ Church East Central. Let us get it clear who we are talking about.

What I did was to find out what the Ministry of Transport and Works is doing with the Transport Levy. Not only is the money properly accounted for — and I am going to go through details of the accounts of the Transport Levy — but like all Boards their accounts are properly audited, and the company of Coopers and

Lybrand are the official auditors of that Board and have certified that the accounts are properly kept. In accordance with the law of Barbados, the Board lays its financial statement in this place as well as in the other Chamber, so the accounts of the Transport Levy Board are public knowledge. People who want to know can get the information from here or from the library, because it is public information. But we have got to tolerate this — I cannot say what I can say on a platform in here — not exactly the truth from Senator Greaves in his suggestion about the Transport Levy. Senator Greaves has a way of doing things in the Senate. He never tells untruths, but he makes funny innuendoes when he gets in here, and people draw the wrong conclusions. He leads people into drawing the conclusion he wants them to draw, knowing quite well that is is not the truth.

Since the Government has been collecting the Transport Levy — we started collecting on October 5, 1981 — between October 5, 1981, and March 31, 1983, they collected \$12 528 177; for the year 1983–84, they collected \$10 515 643; from April 1984 until the end of last month they collected \$9 904 994; the total collected being \$32 948 814. Interest in the meantime — because they do have to invest some of the money — is \$687 721.

What have we been doing with the \$32 million? They spent \$19 014 521 on MTW road works. They spent another \$400 000 on the roads in Bridgetown. They spent \$709 024 on vehicles, and the administrative expense for all that is only \$84 911. Senator McClean likes to keep the ratio between expenditure and the cost of administering funds. The administrative cost is fairly low in this case.

In terms of the Transport Board, they spent money on purchasing chasses for the Transport Board to the tune of \$5 596 067. They bought spare parts for the buses to make sure the buses run on Monday mornings to the tune of \$8 402

Tools and equipment	\$105 841
Training and equipment costs	15 709
Maintenance of petrol cars	101 826
Bus destination signs	92 500
Storeroom for parts	76 050
Furniture	72 713
Computer training expenses	2 400
Refurbishing old buses	100 000
Medical unit	16 151
Fire extinguishers	20 000
Administration of vehicles	115 004
Tools	162 032
Fare boxes and maintenance of them	883 996
Incidentals	43 859

All of this brings the expenditure out of the \$32 million to \$28 441 006. That is how we spent the Transport Levy, which it is suggested in one of today's journals that we cannot account for.

The Health Levy, he suggested, was also collected and we could not account for. That is also highlighted in one of today's newspapers, Yesterday when it suited him, he fell back on the Report of the Auditor General to try to embarrass the Child Care Board for taking care of the children. The Health Levy was collected and all of us know that the General Practitioner Service, which is the main component of the Health Service, has not started. All of us also know that the Drug Service has started and is working absolutely efficiently. Over 30 pharmacies in Barbados are taking part in the Drug Service.

Those of us who want to, know that there is a special benefit scheme for old people and people who have peculiar ailments under which they get drugs at reduced prices and some free. Those expenses are met from the Consolidated Fund, but, in truth, if we had not collected the Health Levy we would not have been able to spend half million dollars on the Drug Service. If you want to know what the Auditor General's Report is on that — because he likes to quote the Auditor General's Report and for 1982 he says we cannot account for the people's money — the Auditor General's Report, on page 70, for the year ending 31st March, 1982, on one line, says: "National health and drug services, Head 81 — (14) — Appropriation Account, no errors were observed in the audit to affect the correctness of amounts shown in the Account." Full stop! So the Health Levy is collected, the people who are to benefit under the Drug Service get a service and the Auditor General is happy about how the accounts are kept.

12.25 p.m.

So what is his problem? His problem is the same kind of problem as the personal problem which he had with the Child Care Board, because if he was doing the kind of homework that would have got him into the Other Place, he would have known that the Child Care Board now operates under a new Act, that the Child Care Board is given a grant from the Government, that they have their own accountants and that the only interest the Accountant General has in the accounts of the Child Care Board is at the invitation of the Minister.

This matter, that there was something wrong in the Child Care Board, was ventilated as a big thing a few months ago. The Minister responsible for the subject took time off to explain that the accounts are audited privately and that any command from the Auditor General is clearly for the Minister's guidance and, in accordance with the law, he can request the Auditor General to give his views on the accounts of the Board but he is not the accredited auditor of the Child Care Board. Senator Reader, I thought, dealt with the issue quite well.

One of the two major things he raised was the question of accounting for labour, and his problem was that there were no bills for the free labour. Somebody

did free work for the Child Care Board and Senator Greaves is going to get in here and waste parliamentary time quarrelling because there were no bills for the free labour which they got!

He also tried to suggest that there should be an investigation because there were malpractices involving the purchase of a vehicle. The Child Care Board has its own money, approved by Parliament, and provided they use their money for the purposes set out under the Act, it is none of our business, provided they provide a proper service. If they provide a good service for the children, how they do it is their business.

When Ministers give close guidance to a Board, Senator Greaves says we are interfering in the day-to-day operations. When the Board do their own thing and provide a good service, he says the Board is corrupt and they are mis-spending the money — because they started off at the beginning of the year saying that they were going to give loans to members of staff and instead they bought a vehicle to transport the members of staff. That must be cheaper, but instead of saying that they have made effective use of the grant they have been given, he comes in here and suggests that the people running the Board are corrupt and that they should be investigated — and that is why we are going to keep him out of public business in this country!

He had one other sideswipe at the Ministry of Health which Senator Simmons raised just now, the question of an ambulance being seen — not in Broad Street, for the Record — on Prince William Henry Street, over by Woolworth, parked at 9:30 a.m., when, according to the records, it should have been in Swan, St. Andrew, taking somebody who was in an accident to the hospital.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Swan, St. Andrew, taking an accident victim to the QEH. But it was parked outside Woolworth, and the ambulance service took so long to get to the poor accident victim in Swan, St. Andrew, that somebody had to get a car and take the person to the hospital and all of us who have the slightest thing to do with moving people know it is very dangerous to move people in cars. The worst you can do is to put somebody who was in an accident in a car — and the ambulance was outside Woolworth when it should have been in Swan, St. Andrew!

I give you my promise that if I see it again, I will do everything I can to get the person fired. I know the rules. I am not going to listen to Frederick Gladstone Smith, because when he was Minister of Communications and Works he fired three watchmen off a site one week-end because somebody stole something when they should have been on duty. They got back their jobs because the

union pointed out that he did not know the rules and he had no power to dismiss them, but I tell you that if I see an ambulance outside anywhere when it should be in Swan, St. Andrew, transporting a sick person, that person is going to get fired — and he is going to get fired proper! I promise you that and there is no apology about it, and the only reason why he was not fired was because the Hospital Director persuaded me that he was one of the better workers. He had a long record, he had never got into anything, and everybody deserves a second innings, so he is batting his second innings. But this is the last chance anyone has for that kind of foolishness.

Interfering with the Public Service Commission! Frederick Gladstone Smith, Minister of Education, personally took on 92 people from St. Michael South Central in August to work in the School Meals Service. Schools start in September and he took on people in August to work in schools. He is the only man who keeps school in August in Barbados, but Senator Greaves has the courage to come in here and talk about people interfering with the Public Service Commission! Ninety-two people, all from St. Michael South Central — I would not call that electioneering! He was the representative and he was making sure that 92 of his representatives got jobs in August.

Senator Greaves also would lead us to believe that when his party left office in 1976, they left a good institutional system intact and that that good institutional system has fallen apart since 1976. That is true! They left a good system of almshouses intact, but what we have done is to dismantle the almshouses, and we intend to continue to dismantle the almshouses. Instead of putting old people in almshouses, we are providing Home Help Services for them, and they are retaining their dignity and living longer. They tell me in the Ministry of Health that ten people die in the almshouses every month. Old people cannot take living in almshouses, but they left a proper institutional system intact for old people to die in almshouses! We intend to dismantle, and the next to go is the one in St. Lucy. It shall be closed down. I believe that the population of St. Michael District Hospital has fallen from almost 700 to about 400, and the people who we have to keep there live in far better conditions than they used to in the days when they had a good institutional system intact, according to Senator Greaves. In the Estimates this year you will notice that we are making provision to improve facilities at District Hospitals.

12.35 p.m.

Senator Greaves is an authority on everything. Senator Greaves said that there is a shortage of medicine and medical supplies at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, there is a great danger facing this country. Well, I am not a doctor, I am not the Hospital Director and I am not a nurse, so I checked with the Hospital Director, who

would know these kinds of things, and his advice was quite simple. There is no shortage of medicine. Drugs are supplied by pharmacies which are registered under the Barbados Drug Service, and the system works quite well. Very infrequently there may be a shortage due to some management problem, and that will happen in any system. If you have 1 000 people working in any system, something is going to go wrong because somebody is not going to be where he should be at a particular time. Senator Greaves says that medical supplies are short, the Hospital Director says there is no shortage. Orders generally come from overseas, and if there is any delay in shipping, corrective measures are taken by buying from local agents.

Before I continue with Health, I want to do something for my dear friend, the Minister of Communications and Works, because there is a fallacy that because the Government is doing a lot of major highways, somehow they have forgotten the byways, and out of the Transport Levy alone, during last year, I will tell you some things that they have been doing in terms of road repairs. The access road to Eden Lodge School was improved at a cost of \$169 000; The Hastings-St. Matthias junction widened and made safe at a cost of \$157 000; the Pine East-West road totally reconstructed at a cost of just over \$1 million; Turners Hall Road at \$145 000; Carmichael-Welches at \$303 000; Eastlyn, St. George, \$77 000; Clinketts, \$116 000; the Enterprise-Searocks Road resurfaced at \$170 000; St. Sylvans Village at \$100 000; Springvale, St. Andrew repaired at \$350 000; Clevedale at \$200 000; Boscobelle, \$161 000; the Lears-Canewood-Jackmans stretch at \$100 000; \$288 000 spent in Bayville; \$89 000 in St. Barnabas; \$62 000 in Gall Hill, Christ Church. I will get back to St. John later on. In Belair, they spent \$405 000 repairing the road; Dodson Road at \$82 000; Bank Hall, \$61 000 in resurfacing; Ellerton, St. George, \$36 000; Odle Road, \$160 000; Woodbourne, Christ Church, \$247 000 for resurfacing; Bibby's Lane, \$79 000; Oxnards-Wanstead \$123 000; \$42 000 in Redman Village; \$94 000 in Grazettes; Rock Hall, Senator Simmons would wish to know, \$240 000. In Bridgetown they spent \$1 million resurfacing the roads and in Grazettes New Road, \$202 000.

In residential parks, Elizabeth Park was resurfaced at a cost of \$90 000, Regency Park at \$80 000; Newton Terrace at \$200 000; Scotts Terrace at \$350 000; Maynards at \$45 000; Wavell at \$87 000 and Sheraton Park at \$139 000.

In terms of subsidiary and tenantry roads, Tom Bend Gap got works to the tune of \$390 000, Farnum Land, Chapman Street at \$230 000 and First Avenue, Jackson at \$226 000. And now the big one — because they tell you in other places that this Government is selective in where we repair roads, that only areas which are represented by Members of Parliament who are from

this side get work done and that there is discrimination against other people but we had hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent in areas — in Henley, St. John, MTW spent \$1.2 million of the Transport Levy fixing the road. We got 13 votes, I think it was.

When we talk about institutions which were left intact by the Democratic Labour Party, I only hope that Senator Greaves gets his positions right, because the Democratic Labour Party has yet to build anything in terms of health clinics, or anything in terms of hospitals in this country. The old health centres were all built before 1961 and the new polyclinics were all built since 1976, and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, though commissioned in 1964, was finished because they could not stop the work that was started in 1958.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Leave out Warrens! Somebody wants me to talk about Warrens! Warrens is a crematorium. He has it wrong. Warrens is not a health clinic as they understand it, Warrens is a crematorium. They spent \$500 000 doing the foundations for the crematorium. They do not understand what is a health clinic. It is we who built the health clinic. They built a crematorium at Warrens and we built a health clinic. You have got it wrong, Senator McClean. Not even the dead people would go to Warrens when they finished with it, so we had to turn it into a health clinic for living people. We have had the Black Rock polyclinic since then and we have had some seven or eight health clinics fixed up. We are going to repair Six Roads Health Clinic and make it into a good place. We are going to fix Six Roads for the honourable member.

It is clear to me that a lot of progress is not going to be made on the present basis with doctors for the National Health Service, and I shall be reporting to Cabinet on that very soon. I hope to entirely change gears in terms of the National Health Service by the next time we are here in order to meet our June deadline, because there is no way, in my opinion, that we are ever going to have the doctors in Barbados agreeing to a salaries increase. According to the Income Tax people, there are not many people in Barbados who earn more than \$100 000, and, therefore, if there are only about six people earning more than \$100 000, the 149 doctors cannot be among the six. We are offering to pay them \$180 000 or thereabouts, and they all say that it is not enough.
12.45 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: The whole thing, when you add them, would be about \$180 000.

I do not think that I am going to inflict any further burden on the taxpayers of Barbados by suggesting that

we pay them more. We will have to make other arrangements to take care of our sick. Because whereas I should like to say that especially at the QEH we have got a very good corps of doctors — they are as good as any, they are obviously very devoted people, they have done a lot for the development of medicine at the QEH and they give a lot of their spare time to the development of the hospital — the truth about them is that they like too much money. They were quite happy with their salaries at the QEH until they heard that we are going to get a windfall for the ones doing the GP service. Now, they want more than the ones that are paid in the GP service. The next thing you are going to hear is that they are going to want about \$200 000 or thereabouts, because they want to keep their status above the general practitioners. I do not believe that this country can afford to to pay its consultants more than the consultants are paid in British hospitals and, therefore, I am going to have to seriously review the whole question of the Health Service very quickly and save us from the doctors. They like too much money.

The one other question I want to reply to is the one raised every year by Senator Greaves. The Statistical Department is staffed by people who I believe, are highly trained professionals. Whenever they bring out statistics, if the news is good, we hear that there is room for leeway, we have got to pad it. If it is bad, they say — the Opposition, that is — that it is true.

The Opposition admitted that the statistics people say that there is 18 per cent unemployment in Barbados, but Senator Greaves got up and said, 'you know, we have to give some leeway because they are not too accurate, and it is way above 20 per cent. On what basis can a Senator, without any facility for checking unemployment in Barbados, decide, 'Do not mind statistics. Those fellows walk around and check numbers but they do not know what they are doing. I say unto you, without any background, it is well over 20 per cent.' Because I have a microphone and I can say so? And it is reported! If the same department says that the cost of living is not on the increase, they say, 'Do not mind those fellows, man.'

We have to decide whether or not we are going to accept information provided by professional people. We cannot just accept it when we want to accept it and when we do not want to, throw it in the garbage can. Senator Greaves is now becoming stuck on this foolishness about do not mind statistics, he has better information. The Director of Statistics probably has a staff of fifty people whose job is to collect the information. Senator Greaves has no staff, because he is teaching all day at the Workers' College. But he knows what the information is! I really do not want to waste any more time on Senator Greaves.

I want to, for Senator McClean's benefit, explain one small matter about MTW. Yesterday, in another debate, Senator McClean queried the reason for the change of course in the new highway. Most people would have wanted to go straight from St. Barnabas to the airport. They say who pays the piper calls the tune a little bit, and in order to keep the bank happy, we had to close the road towards Top Rock to give some possible link-up with Highway 7 so that people who would normally use Highway 7 and crowd that highway could also use the new highway. It also takes it a little nearer to the industrial estates at Newton, Vauxhall, and Intel. They also looked at avoiding the purchase of expensive properties, maybe going through Sheraton, if the direct course is taken between St. Barnabas and the airport. Those are the reasons why we had to swerve the road around and make it a bit longer than it should have been, we had to accommodate the bank on those points.

Senator Ward raised one point about the Hilton Hotel, which we were struggling with. It seems to us that the \$100 never should have been in the Estimates at all, because the rent is paid to the Corporation and not the Central Government. The Estimates which you have in your hands will not reflect the profit or loss of the Hilton nor Heywoods. So it is not quite fair to use those as any basis to judge the performance of the hotels.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: Senator Barrow is insisting that he got a full answer.

The slight difference is that the Hilton is on lease, so there will be something coming in from Hilton to the Corporation. Heywoods was a management contract.

Asides.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The luncheon hour approaches and, therefore, I propose to suspend.

Before I do so, I believe that Senator Lynch wants to speak to us.

OBITUARY SPEECHES

SENATOR Mrs. E. M. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy President, it was with much sadness that I heard yesterday of the death of a distinguished Barbadian, Mr. Hilton Augustus Vaughan, who passed away yesterday morning.

Mr. Vaughan was a Member for the City of Bridgetown in 1936. He had been educated at Wesley Hall Boys School, Harrison College and, later, at Middle Temple, where he graduated in 1923.

He had an interesting career as historian, poet, judge and diplomat. He was judge of the Petty Debt

Court. He had been a Magistrate from 1937. He acted as Puisne Judge and, subsequently, as Registrar of the Supreme Court. He was the first Attorney-General after Barbados became independent and was Leader of the Senate. He was later Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and he was very closely associated with the early work of the crusaders in the Democratic League.

His work as poet and historian was greatly respected. He was especially noted for very thorough research and was widely used as a lecturer in the various clubs and literary associations which abounded in Barbados in the late 1930s and 1940s. He was especially known for his work on Sir Conrad Reeves and Samuel Jackman Prescod. He was regarded as the authority on these figures.

12.55 p.m.

I met him through a mutual friend, Mr. Chamberlain Hope, and I have always been grateful for the influence he exercised over my thinking. He tried to make me objective; he was very critical of any work which I presented to him and I benefitted very much from those criticisms. He was closely associated with persons such as the eminent journalists Clement Inniss and Yarrel Ward and Clennel Wickham.

I met him when he was trying to revive the Forum Magazine, which he edited. It was a magazine which had existed much earlier, in the 1930s but which had ceased to be published after the death of the Forum Club. I worked with him in producing that magazine. I remember receiving some of the work of our Deputy President, Mr. John Wickham, some of his earlier short stories.

He was a very valuable member of the society because he reminded the community of their early history. He was one of the great pioneers in the study of Barbadian history and Barbadian folklore.

He was married three times. His second wife, the former Thelma Hackett, was a close friend and colleague of mine and, therefore, I met him very often through that association. She incidentally, had a distinguished career of her own, because she became the first female Chief Welfare Officer. In her work, Mr. Hilton Vaughan supported her well and aroused her interest in and assisted her in the collection of local folk songs.

His first collection of poems that I remember, "Sandy Lane and Others," appeared at the same time as Mr. Frank Collymore's "Beneath the Casuarinas." I consider that Mr. Vaughan's work, especially in his mastery of the sonnet form, was outstanding. I remember feeling that he had made a special contribution to the development of the sonnet form, because he seemed to break through the rigidity of the form as we knew it. I do not know whether my judgment was sound or whether

I was encouraged to have that idea because I was so very much impressed with his work, but I am glad to know that there is a reprint of his poems, which I hope will reach the school children of Barbados. But more than anything else, he was an example as a sound researcher, a good lecturer, and a balanced thinker.

His daughter, Mrs. Joy Brown, now lives in the U.S.A., and the third wife, Mrs. Pearl Vaughan, survives him. I am sure that this Chamber would wish to join me in extending our condolences to these members of his family.

SENATOR THE HON. O'B. TROTMAN: I cannot claim, like Senator Lynch, to be so well acquainted with the late Mr. Vaughan. I only had contact with him once, I believe when he was presiding as a Chairman of a Severance Payment Tribunal, and I was quite impressed with the thoroughness in which he was prepared for his case.

I would want to join the Government in the tribute being paid to Mr. Vaughan by Senator Lynch and I associate this side with these comments delivered by her.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Honourable members, in associating myself with the tribute to H. A. Vaughan, whom I knew well, I shall like to say that I regard him as a very important Barbadian. He has never, in my view, received the respect for his work as a poet which that work deserves. In many ways, he was very classical, and his adaptation of the sonnet, as Senator Lynch has pointed out, preserved the essential elements of the sonnet but treated subjects, which we had not been accustomed to regard as poetic material, in our own English-oriented style.

Significant among these was probably the finest poem written, in my view, by a Barbadian before perhaps Edward Brathwaite; "Revelation," in which he predated to "black is beautiful" syndrome, with most memorable words, "Turn sideways now and let them see what loveliness escapes the schools." I have always been reminded of how art can precede politics by that poem.

Just about two weeks before he died, I went to see him, taking with me a volume of the reprint of his first and, as far as I know, only book of poems "Sandy Lane And Other Poems," but he was in a deep coma and could not even recognize that something that he long wanted done had been done.

I now ask you to rise for a moment of silence in honour of H. A. Vaughan.

The Senate stood in silence for a moment.

SUSPENSION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Senate will be suspended until 2.30 p.m.

We have to go to lunch at the place where we lunched yesterday, in view of the repair work which is going on in our own luncheon room.
1.05 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The sitting is resumed.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Last year we in this Chamber were moved by a very stirring contribution from a Senator who we thought would rise to great heights, not only because of his contribution at the time in this Chamber but also because of certain speeches and pronouncements which had been made outside of this Chamber. We were not disappointed. That person is none other than the former Senator Owen Arthur, who now sits of course as a member of the Other Place.

When he made that speech last year, I carried quite a lot of it in my head. I remember regurgitating quite a bit of it at talks to constituency groups. I remember echoing much of what he said, to use the phrase of Senator Jordan, in the constituency where I live, and in various fora as well, I remember repeating quite a lot of what Senator Arthur had said. It may very well be very instructive if we reflect for a moment on some of what he said at the time and examine the results of what he had to say.

If I remember correctly, Senator Arthur last year listed the fiscal and economic policies which Government was then pursuing as follows, and I am summarising them. He said that Government was pursuing a fiscal and economic policy on three fronts. He referred, firstly, to restraint in Government expenditure. He said, secondly, that Government was implementing a broad set of measures which were designed to manage total expenditure in the economic system in the belief that there is a relationship between the growth of domestic expenditures and changes in our foreign exchange position. He said thirdly that Government was implementing a defensive interest rate policy in order to pre-empt the temptations from capital outflow from this country and also to sustain capital inflows.

Senator Arthur went on to say, and I quote from what he said in Hansard:

"Economists will for a long time, believe me, Sir, debate the technicalities of these policies, but the weight of evidence at this point in time would seem to suggest that the trade-off that we have to

effect between maintaining a sound external position and making that necessary adjustment in our standard of living has been finally and sensibly balanced. The evidence is, at this point in time, that we are battling out of recession with additional reserve strength, with our infrastructure and productive systems geared to take advantage of any resurgence in economic activity internationally."

Honourable Senators are wondering if those high economic terms are coming from me. I will just remind Honourable Senators that I am quoting from what Senator Arthur said in this Honourable Chamber last year, and I am going to enlarge upon them from my own knowledge of the economic system.

Senator Arthur went on to quote our late party leader who had said, and I quote:

"... weeping has endured for a night, but joy has come in the morning, that Government is now in a position to begin to pump up the economy again in the same way that it did in the 1970s."

If we observe what Senator Arthur had to say then, we could do no less but come to the conclusion that it was a brilliant forecast about the effect all the fiscal and economic measures which Government had put in place, because I think, without exception, that every person in the other House who spoke on the Estimates this year agreed, or at least did not dispute the fact, that there has been a growth in the economy of the magnitude of at least two and a half per cent. Similarly, almost without exception every person who has spoken in this Chamber has at least not disputed that there has in fact been a growth in the economy of that magnitude.

The other limb of Senator Arthur's projection was that our infrastructure and productive systems were geared to take advantage of any resurgence in economic activity internationally. As if to gird that forecast, as if to underpin it, just a few months ago, or weeks perhaps, Government took the opportunity to pass the Foreign Sales Corporation Act which has enabled Barbados to attract a fair number of foreign sales corporations to these shores.

We have witnessed the demise, of certain industries in Barbados as a result of the policies which are being pursued by certain CARICOM countries, with particular reference to the garment industry and the furniture industry. Senator Simmons remarked this morning that the bottom had fallen out of the basin with regard to the Caribbean Basin Initiative. If I may say so, he was really speaking from a distance, as it were, because I do not think that as a Queen's Counsel he has ever had to advise some of those small struggling companies

that cannot really afford to pay their lawyers. He is more fortunate in that he is retained by big companies that are able to pay in advance, but when you are not a Queen's Counsel and you are called upon to advise some of these small companies that very often are not able to pay their lawyers at all, far less in advance, you tend to understand more of what is happening in those companies. They are more outside of the legal structure of the company than a person who is as fortunate as Senator Simmons is.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Senator suggesting that small companies cannot afford to pay for good advice?

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: What I am saying is that there are some of us who are not Q.Cs who have the time to give small companies very good advice. It is just that they cannot pay us. I do not want to advertise myself, but Senator Barrow has asked me.

The point is that I have been very involved with two of the industries which have faltered, but particularly with the furniture industry, and I happen to agree that it was fortunate *vis-a-vis* the furniture industry that this country was able to keep its infrastructure and productive systems attaching to the furniture industry in tune so that now certain avenues are opening themselves in the United States of America, the furniture industry has been able to make some inroad, albeit as yet a not too significant inroad, into the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Only recently a fairly substantial shipment of furniture has been sent to the United States of America, and that was through and by the aegis of the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

At the moment there are several other furniture manufacturers who are producing furniture, and the furniture that is being specifically requested is 18th century imitation furniture. These companies are producing this furniture for export to the United States of America. There is a slight problem in that because of the competitive nature of the business, and because of the technology required – and this is a new area for Barbados, that is, the production of imitation 18th century furniture – the profit margin is not as great as it ought to be. Indeed, it is very far removed from the profit margin which we obtained by selling traditional furniture to other Caribbean countries and, in particular, to the Trinidad market. However, the manufacturers, at least those whom I advise in a legal capacity, have assured me that as soon as they have mastered the technology and as soon as they have acquired the equipment, the material and the resources which are necessary for producing furniture of this quality and standard, they expect that the profit margin will increase, if not dramatically then by a substantial amount.

2.50 p.m.

I said all that to say this that it was brilliant foresight on the part of Mr. Owen Arthur when he talked about keeping our infrastructure and productive system geared to take advantage of any resurgence in economic activity, because that, in fact, is what has been happening.

In so far as the garment industry is concerned, I do advise a few people in the garment industry as well, and it is necessary for me to understand a bit more about the company beyond the legal requirements if I am to advise them properly. By and large, those which have been failing have not been failing because of any smuggling. Even though they have been complaining about the illegal importation of garments and have been attributing the failure of the garment industry to the illegal importation of garments, I do not subscribe to the view, from my knowledge of the industry, that the illegal importation of garments, *per se*, has led to the difficulties in which the industry has found itself. A lot of it — as someone has said in the Other Place, and I believe it was said in here — has to do with either the total lack of management, or poor management or reckless management, that is, managers who could not care whether or not they were doing the right thing or not, or pursuing the right policies. It does not have all to do with illegal importation.

One only has to go into a garment factory and I have had to go in for one reason or another, more often than not on a legal basis and very often to stop the writ servers picking up the machines and selling them. I have had to beseech them not to do it but give the person a little time. One only has to talk to these so-called managers, like the one that is in receivership now, Cavaliers Ltd., to see that they fail because of bad management. In this case, I would not say it was a total lack of management. I think the man who was at the top had some idea of management, but it failed because of bad management. It failed because the manager spent more time in politics, more time running around behind the Democratic Labour Party, more time criticizing the Barbados Labour Party, more time peeping around the members of the Barbados Labour Party to see what they were doing than he spent in his factory, more time giving away food at by-elections, I believe with the company's money. I could not say that outside, and I regret having to say it here, but it is my firm belief that he spent more time giving away food at by-elections than on the company's business. That is why the company has failed like that.

There is another one that is going to fail too, the hot sauce place in Wildey. That is not a garment factory, but I am going to make the point, and do not holler 'Hutson', because I am going to speak as I feel; I have always done so. Again, they have exhibited such a high degree of bad management as to amount to a total lack of management in that establishment. The managers run

around canvassing in the City, keeping dances, running all about and doing everything except running the company properly. Nobody wants to say it. People will look for a whipping boy, they will say that the company is not doing this and it is not doing that.

I happened to be at a function with some of the management of that factory a few weeks ago — I believe Senator Clarke was there too, I cannot remember seeing her — but the fact is that they took me to task. I was the only member of the Barbados Labour Party there, all the rest were Dems. If Senator Clarke was there, there would have been two of us from the Barbados Labour Party. I do not think the Honourable Minister of Education was there. They were having a talk on Government — 'Government should do this. Government should restrict that.' In essence, what they were asking for was a monopoly on the trade which they were carrying on simply to save the firm which they were operating, and the difficulties within their firms rose through bad management which could, in fact, be described as a total lack of management.

That was a little detour, I am still on the garment industry. I do not think that the problems within the garment industry emanated at all totally from the actual illegal importation of garments or from the perceived illegal importation of garments. They have to try to manage their firms properly and they have to try to understand that when they have companies they just cannot take up the money willy-nilly and give it away or spend it without remembering that they have to account to the shareholder and, most importantly, they have to account to their employees. If they had exhibited a greater sense of responsibility with regard to the management of the resources within the company, I do not think the industry would have hit on the hard times that it has hit upon today.

I admire the furniture industry. I admire it because although almost every manager in the furniture industry was faced with the difficulties being experienced in Trinidad, the respective managements of those companies have been seeking to find markets elsewhere and have been trying their utmost to exploit to the full the local market for furniture. It surprises me that about a year and a half ago, if a person wanted a particular set of furniture here in Barbados, he or she had to put in an order for two or three months. But, I went to Trinidad, I went to the Bahamas and I went to Miami, and I saw Barbadian furniture produced by the same company here which was available immediately. I am not saying this in a critical manner. I am saying this to compliment the manufacturers of furniture for seeking alternative markets now that the CARICOM markets have frozen up, seeking to exploit the local market and indeed to tailor their product, both in terms of quality and price, to the local market now that the CARICOM market has contracted.

Last year when I spoke on the Estimates I referred to the 1983-88 Development Plan in which our late Prime Minister had identified the triple objectives which, as he stated, had been the bedrock of this Government's development strategy since 1976. These triple objectives will remain the bedrock of Government's development strategy now that the Prime Minister has departed and we have in his place a new Prime Minister. He identified these triple objectives as (1) a sustained economic growth; (2) the eradication of poverty; and (3) a broad-based social development. I may add that those triple objectives also tend to underpin the accuracy of Senator Arthur's forecast of those economic developments which he made during his contribution in this Honourable Chamber last year.

3.00 p.m.

As has been noted in the Other Place as well as here in this debate, in order for us to enjoy a sustained economic growth and in order for us to achieve broad social development, it will be necessary, as Senator Arthur said, for us to enjoy additional strength in our reserves, and our infrastructural and productive systems must be geared to meet the challenge ahead. So Senator Arthur's contribution, in my view a brilliant economic forecast, coupled with what the late Prime Minister has set out as the bedrock of Government developmental strategy, would serve to explain the rationale behind the Estimates which we are considering today.

That is all well and good, but when I leave here this evening and I go to the constituency where I live and the constituency next door — I rather like that phrase which Senator Jordan introduced, "the constituency in which I live"; in my case it is the constituency next door to which I live, because the constituency in which I live is the one that Senator Simmons used to represent at one time, and it is the one next door in which I have a greater interest — when I go there this evening and I am having a drink with my people, they are not going to ask me about any reserves. They are not concerned about any reserves, they would not understand what are four months' reserves. They are people that if you tell them about more than \$300 at a time, they ask you to calculate it. They are accustomed to small money. They are ordinary folk who enjoy the ordinary things of life. They do not understand when you are talking in millions. They are not going to understand reserves. If I use big words to them like "infrastructure" and "productive systems," they will think I am showing off. They are going to ask me this evening: "What are we going to get out of these Estimates? What is in them for us?" That is what I am going to be asked, if not today then on Saturday, when I am having a drink with them. They do not want to hear about any infrastructural systems, they do not want to hear any big economic terminology, they do not want to hear about any re-

serves; they want to know what it means for them, what are we going to get and how they are going to benefit.

I think that is important because, in the final analysis, no matter how hifalutin the terms we use, no matter how intellectual we become, no matter how we pander to the whims and fancies of the Press so that we get reported — and the *Advocate* only reports for you if you are sensational or if you are Senator Greaves.....

Asides.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: The same reporter is not there today, but the fact is that no matter how much like that you become, it is of no importance if we cannot go where we live, as the late Prime Minister was very good at doing, and explain to the ordinary folk what these Estimates will mean to him. There is no point showing him this book either. You have to go through it and tell him what he is getting and, therefore, we have to begin here. We have to begin by taking a critical look at these Estimates.

Apart from being in this Chamber — I have been on the Board of the National Conservation Commission since 1976, serving the same time there as I have served in here, therefore I have been connected directly with submissions at least to the Estimates Committee and the preparation of Estimates so far as they relate to the National Conservation Commission, and I know that very often things get put in here which are hobby horses of the Ministers concerned. I am not going to fool myself or fool anybody. If you see a house being built somewhere, it is probably because a Minister feels that it should be built either for national reasons or for security reasons, and very, very often for constituency reasons. That is a very sensible thing. If you are the Minister of Housing and you discern that your constituency would like a housing area, then you would be a foolish Minister not to seek to persuade the Estimates Committee and Cabinet and everybody who approves these Estimates to put enough money in these Estimates in order to give you a housing area in your constituency.

It so happens that there are some persons who aspire to become representatives of constituencies who do not themselves hold constituencies, but nonetheless are subject to the same pressures, indeed sometimes to greater pressures than those who hold constituencies. I could call quite a few constituencies now where the potential representatives carry more weight in terms of representing the constituencies than the actual representatives do. I do not want to be invidious and I am not going to call the names. Suffice to say that when people who aspire to become representatives or indeed representatives go to their constituencies and they are asked questions, they have to be able to answer them, and consequently, I am going to

take this opportunity to raise a few points and to ask a few questions, so that the answers which I get, I will be able to pass on to the persons who ask me.

Let me first start with Head 15 – Cabinet Office on white page 8, the Electoral and Boundaries Commission. I have read elsewhere that in a matter of days the Electoral and Boundaries Commission will be brought into being, and I notice here under Subhead 5 that the amount provided for travelling is \$14 400. I think these figures are written in thousands. They are computer figures and I think it is \$14 400. I know from my experience in St. Philip South and elsewhere that the members of this Electoral and Boundaries Commission are going to have a lot of travelling to do, at least in their first year. If I take St. Philip as an example, up there is in a mess in terms of finding places where people can vote and the actual places where people vote.

In 1981, we were relatively successful in finding almost 75 per cent of the names on the Electoral List and, ultimately, in finding where they could vote, but I would like to see the system rationalised. I do not want to see two or three or four people perhaps living at a house and two have to vote at one primary school and the other two having to vote at another primary school. I think that kind of administrative difficulty can be avoided if the Boundaries Commission can sit down quickly and put their heads together, but they have to do a lot of travelling, because in order to obviate these difficulties, the members of the Boundaries Commission themselves cannot rely on the existing Returning Officers. They will have to get up and go around to every parish and see for themselves the difficulties that exist.

This does not only touch the Democratic Labour Party. Do not mind them. So far as this particular problem is concerned, they are humbugs. They get on as if during the elections the only persons affected by the fact that two people, if there are four people in a house, have to go to one polling station and the other two go to another polling station, are they. It happens to both sides. I believe Glenroy Straughan will tell you it happened to him in St. Peter, too. So far as this problem is concerned, I regard the DLP as pure humbugs, because it does not bother them alone. It bothered me in 1981, it bothered almost every person who ran for Parliament, so it was in fact a national problem and none of us want it. Each of us had a ding-dong battle over it. It is something that can be and I have no doubt will be ironed out.

That is not the thrust of the point I am making now. The point I am making now is that if they are to do this lot of travelling and they are to really take the bull by the horns and seek to eradicate this problem, they are going to need more than \$14 400. That is chicken feed because they are going to exhaust that within a week, and I hope they do not have anybody telling them like they

told the Head of Mission overseas, that they cannot travel because we do not have any money for them to travel when we really want this thing done. I trust that the Minister will look at that and as soon as the Boundaries Commission has been put in place and is functioning, talk to them and see what their views are, and immediately make an application to Parliament for a supplementary, because I believe that a supplementary will be necessary to cover that aspect. I should like to go into the 1985 or 1986 election with a proper Electoral List and with people knowing well in advance where they are going to vote, and with members of the same family living in the same household voting at the same place.
3.10 p.m.

Please, if the newspapers are not going to report me properly, I prefer them not to report me on this. Let them just forget that I have said it. It is a problem that affects the Barbados Labour Party as well as the Democratic Labour Party, and I prefer not to be reported by them than to be reported inaccurately or to have half of my speech reported and the other half not reported at all. I am not vex with the present reporters but I am fed up with having them play games with whom they report here and how much of what the reporters report. I know it is editorial policy. Did you notice how they walked out yesterday behind Senator Hall, as if nobody else was speaking after him?

I turn now to Head 19 on page 17, Energy and Natural Resources. I notice that my friend and colleague, the Minister of Energy, Senator Griffith, is not here. I know that the Barbados National Oil Company has recently gone through a trying period, and I note also that a new Board has been appointed. I note also that yesterday, in his introduction of the Bill and after some timely prompting from me and, as Senator Barrow said, perhaps as an afterthought, Senator Griffith remarked that natural gas will be piped to St. Philip South too. The papers quite kindly reported it, as that it would be pumped to southern St. Philip, without committing themselves, without wanting to say St. Philip South; they said southern St. Philip.

I want to make the point most forcefully – it is a serious point – that it is most unfair, grossly unfair for the people of, to use the phraseology of the newspapers, southern St. Philip, that the oil is found there, the gas is found there, the resources are there, and yet there are two very unfair disadvantages to which the people of St. Philip are subjected and which I hope the new Board will remedy fairly promptly.

The first disadvantage is that the people in St. Philip do not enjoy piped natural gas at all. They have to walk from Woodbourne. Sometimes the natural gas field is on your land and you have to pick up a twenty pound cylinder, put it on your head and walk from next door to the oil well which is on your land, which they

are giving you royalties for when they like, you have to trudge from there with it to Six Cross Roads in St. Philip in order to buy a 20 lb. cylinder of gas. This cannot be right.

The excuse was that the cost of laying new pipes is prohibitive. If it is not unparliamentary to say so, Mr. Deputy President, I say, 'prohibitive, my foot!' The people in St. Philip South, or the southern part of St. Philip, which embodies a part of St. Philip North too, are entitled to have natural gas piped to their homes. It is extracted from their land, and it is no excuse for them to be told that the cost of laying the pipes is prohibitive. Take the profits, which the most recent Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts would show to be in excess of \$5 million, and lay some pipes for the people of St. Philip South, so that they do not have to leave next to the gas well, which quite often is on their land, put a gas bottle on their heads and walk to Six Roads in order to buy gas. That is their first disadvantage.

The second thing is that I am extremely happy that the problems surrounding Mr. Flemming arose as they did. I am sorry for Mr. Flemming — I know him well, I think he is a nice and competent man — but I am glad that everything came into the open, because that Board staunchly and stoutly refused, with a persistence and I dare say a ferocity, to employ people of St. Philip South in that oil field. They came from all about and got work, particularly when the Dems sent them, in the oilfield — and I have names. Yet, they persistently and stubbornly refused to employ people from St. Philip South, especially if they went there with a letter from me. If they went there with letters from other MPs, particularly those in the Democratic Labour Party, they got work. All those who got fired, I weep not one tear for them, whether they work at the Central Bank or elsewhere, and I will tell them so in front of their faces.

Not one member of that Board, except, of course, the two who have been re-appointed, could I approach and say, 'I have a poor, destitute person in St. Philip South who is looking for employment.' Not one could you approach. And they are walking about talking about, 'You fired so and so off the Board for Mr. Flemming'. Mr. Flemming should have his job. I know that I could send the people in St. Philip to Mr. Flemming and they would get work. Send the people in St. Philip to those people who were on the Board and they could not get any work at all, at all, at all. They should have been fired every since!

Laughter.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I have no compunction about that. I shed not one tear, and I make no apology for saying that. It is time that this party appoints to Boards people who will understand the difficulties of

people in the constituencies. They want coming to my home on Saturday mornings and see thirty-five, forty or fifty people there at one time waiting, asking for jobs, asking for letters to take to the oilfield. Then, they will begin to understand what it is to be on the Board!

We appointed people to Boards who do not have time to listen to the ordinary man in the street, who do not want to listen to the ordinary man in the street, who tell you that their policies are nothing to do with employing people necessarily because they are out of work. They have no humanitarian feelings left. They can see one thing, 'if this Board succeeds I am going to get some accolade, I am going to get some promotion. If this Board fails, I am not going to get anything.' That is why I empathize with Senator McClean in his difficulties with the Barbados National Bank. He can also empathize with the ordinary man in the street, and will listen to the ordinary man in the street. But some of those people who have been fired from the National Oil Company, I think they should have been fired ever since. I would not go into that any more.

I want to see on Boards people who will not pander, but who will understand and who will try to assist with the wishes and the requirements of the people with whom I have to come into contact. I wish to congratulate the Minister of Energy in his recent appointments. I can identify at least four of them that I can approach directly. I can give people letters and tell them go to them, and I want to do it. I know that the Minister of Health is a man you can approach, too, and that when he has Boards to fill, he will keep doing the good work that he has been doing. I want to congratulate him, because I have been able to send people directly to him, too.

I am not going to stand up here and mince words, because in order to get in here or in the Other Place, you first have to win the confidence of the people in the constituencies. You have to win first, and Bajans do not like you to lose. If I lose next time, I am going into oblivion, I make no compunction about that. If I lose next time there is no more Senate, no more NCC. There is nothing. I would be in my profession out there. I would have gone into oblivion. Bajans hate a loser. They will go along with you once or twice, even, perhaps, three times. I believe one of the Ministers out there went along three times. I am not going back so often. If I lose next time, 'I done'.

Done or done not, I am going into oblivion, and you cannot win except first you get the support of the people in the constituency. So what is the point coming in here with big, hifalutin ideas and ideals and they do not reach or work to the benefit of the man in the street, and then you get thrown out. They laugh at you. I am not in that. I want to see people who are going to first

remember where they came from, before they can chart a course regarding where they are going.

I am going to move on to page 28. I am not going to be too long now. I am not speaking on so many Heads this year.

Aside.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Has my time run out? Ten minutes? I can do it in ten minutes, Mr. Deputy President.

Page 28, Head 73. I think it is the green pages. It is to do with the provision of the subvention to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company.

This has been said several places already, but I feel constrained to repeat it. I am not satisfied with the level of assistance that persons who want to build or buy and repair chattel houses are getting, either from the commercial banks or from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, whether out of commercial funds or out of the sums provided by, I think it was USAID. I am totally dissatisfied. Here again, I am relating to the ordinary man in the street, the man who wants to borrow \$7000 to repair his house or the man who wants to purchase a chattel house from somebody who is now building a wall house for \$7 000 or \$8 000. These people are facing intolerable difficulties.
3.20 p.m.

I have read the White Paper on Housing, and I know they have moves afoot to alleviate the difficulties. But it is coming too dangerously close to the next elections for us to keep telling them that we are going to do this and we are going to do that. Let us do something. Let us create a pool of money to which a person who only wants to borrow up to \$10 000, whether to buy a chattel house, to repair it, or to renovate it can have easy access to that money. And do not ask him to go and get affidavits from the owner of the land on which it stands, knowing fully well that the owner is dead, and the owner before him is dead too, and that he only put a chattel house there for the last ten years because it did not have any owner and they have been there for ten years without any problems. As you go to the owner for a letter, the owner says, 'Oh yes - this is my land in truth. I never knew.' Then all sorts of trouble brew. This is no joke. It is happening. As these people decide they have got to legalize this thing now and have got to go to the owner, the owner gets wise. Very often the man they go to is not really the owner, but he is clever. He knows the owner is long since dead, so he decides that he is the owner now and he starts to do what we call a title suit to put the title through the court, and then he chases off the person and says that he is not giving him any two years.

I think what we ought to do is to provide a pool of money which will make it much easier for people who want to borrow a sum of money up to \$10 000, and not only to buy a new chattel house, because the finance company now, Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, is not providing funds where people want to buy a chattel house that has already been built, even though the person who will sell it will have only have had it for less than a year. They are not lending money to repair either.

We have a situation here where people are building as they go, as we used to do in Barbados years ago and still do to a certain extent, and as they build they sell that part of the house. So they build on the front house in wall and they sell the wooden front house. If somebody wants to buy it for \$2 000 or \$3 000, is butting his head all about trying to find \$2 000 of \$3 000 and goes to the Mortgage Finance Company, they tell him to go for the affidavit - the people do not even know what is an affidavit - to say who the land belongs to and that they have permission. We do not want this humbug, this headache. We want to create a proper pool so that they can get easy access to money and take a chattel mortgage, insist that they insure it and assign the insurance policy to the lender. That is adequate security, and that has been raised by the present Prime Minister, by the late Prime Minister, and sundry other persons in the Other House as well as in here. But nothing has been done, and I fear we are going to the polls in 1985 or 1986 with empty hands, because we are going to say that nothing has been done.

A rural parish like St. Philip is very much affected by a matter such as this. I have no doubt.....

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation: The chattel mortgage system is working. I just did one up to the day before yesterday. They are coming through, so my friend need not have any fear.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I have no doubt they will come through. Senator Simmons is speaking "in futuro!" I want them to come through!

SENATOR D. A. C. SIMMONS: The day before yesterday is "in pastoro".

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: I want some evidence that is "in pastoro". In St. Philip we are still getting trouble. I am still butting about for affidavits and all sorts of things, but he may be right. The chattel mortgages may be coming through, but we want to do away with this idea that they need affidavits and all sorts of foolishness. As a matter of fact, you want two conveyancers either on the Board of BMFC, or advising it, to let them know that the chattel mortgage and the assignment of the insurance would work well. You have insurance com-

panies now insuring chattel houses. I think the Insurance Corporation of Barbados is under a social duty to insure chattel houses and there is no harm in having an insurance policy assigned to the bank. As a matter of fact, persons who do not now insure chattel houses would be only too happy to insure them for the purpose of getting the loan, especially if they are told that they have protection too if the house is burnt down, or if the contents are insured under the policy, if there is burglary they will have protection as well. So we need to ease up this area.

I am not here arguing for the middle class at this point. I think enough money will and can be made available to them through other sources. I feel a concern for them too, people who want mortgages of \$80 000 and \$100 000, but the main thrust of my argument is in respect of persons who want to borrow \$10 000 or under without all those formalities. A lot of those formalities are not necessary. I do not think that the non-repayment rate with the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company is any lower because of the existence of that security than it would have been had the security not been in place. A lot of these banks, including the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, call for a lot of security that is superfluous. There is no reason for it, they do it because it is traditional, they are conservative. It is an old colonial attitude; we used to do it before so we have got to do it again. Even where the companies do not stipulate it, some lawyers still insist on it. Senator Jordan was talking about lawyers yesterday, but he did not talk about anything that was too right. This is something that is right, some lawyers insisting for security which, in my view, is superfluous.

You see that these are poor people with \$4 000. You examine their credit rating. You see that for the last 20 years they have been running an account at Plantations Trading Company and they have been paying. You see that for the last 35 years they have been paying for the Rediffusion set. You see that for the last 10 years they have been paying Courts Barbados Limited. You see that they have been taking bottled milk from the man next door for the last 45 years, from the time the children were going to school, and they have been paying. So you have examined their credit ratings and you know that these are people who will pay. Why then do you ask for so much security in this little Barbados?

I think you need people on these Boards who understand ordinary people and who will stop asking them to satisfy difficult legal formalities, and costly and expensive. This is the reason, very often, why lawyers cannot have conveyances completed, because you look at it as one lawyer and you think that this is adequate security and we have enough documents and the lender is not going to insist on anything else. The lender's lawyer very often advises them that this is adequate, but they say no, and you are stuck. The layman does not under-

stand this, and when the layman is a lecturer at the Community College, it makes things even more worse. They must try and understand these things. They must try and distinguish between lawyers who are dilatory, lawyers who are not working properly, and lawyers who are definitely lazy and who are just taking money and not doing the work, or dishonest. A distinction must be made. We cannot lump all lawyers under one umbrella because somebody has not got a conveyance for five years. Very often the fault does not reside with the particular lawyer, and we must make a distinction.

I am not making any special plea. I understand that some lawyers sit down and do not do the work. If those people whom Senator Jordan referred to has money, he knows now where to send them, and they will get good service. Very often they have not got any money, and that is another distinction we have to make. But if they have money, he knows where to send them, and they will get service.

Let us go on to Agriculture. I do not know, and I am not too sure, if the levy is working. I have not seen any statistics. It may be working or it may not be working, but I would like to suggest that we set up a committee to have a serious look at it. I still see vast expanses of open land in the country, and my guess is that the owners are happier to pay the levy than to go out and say they are working it. I am not speaking with the benefit of any statistics, but I am not too sure that it is working.

I was trying to think up a legal mechanism whereby it would be extremely easy for the owners of those lands laying fallow to lease them to people who really want to work them, without the legal difficulties that a lease normally involves. I have not given any long thought to it, but I am mulling over it in my mind with a view to writing to the Minister of Agriculture. Indeed, I have been looking at it for a little while, because I have to pay the levy, too. But if I give a long lease on my land, I am creating a difficulty. I think it may be wise for us to look at that.

3.30 p.m.

Another aspect of marketing which I would like to see is the creation of some small outlets throughout the island where small farmers can take their produce. I asked for this last year, and the year before, and the year before, and the year before — stretching back to 1976, and I have not got it yet. I do not know when somebody is going to wake up. I understand that ATCO was working and is still working, and it is doing a wonderful job. A series of markets such as those scattered throughout the island would work wonders.

If a small farmer has a hundred pounds of yams to sell, he should not have to trudge down to Bridgetown

with them. He should be able to take them to an out-let point in the parish in which he resides. There should be a collecting and distribution point for his produce. I do not understand why this can not be done. I do not know if there are any strictures or any difficulties, but I am going to write to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him why it cannot be done. I hope he answers it himself and not send it through his Civil Service line, because then I will not see the answer until the next election.

In talking about small markets — and here again I am going to write to the Minister of Agriculture — I have been concerned for some time about the market at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip. It has never been upgraded. Sometime ago I asked that it be converted. I am still of the view that the Ministry of Culture ought to write to the Ministry of Agriculture and have it transferred to them and convert it into a cultural centre, because it does not play a useful role.

I am concerned about the people presently employed with it. I do not want them fired, I am not here asking for any redundancies or any severance, but I do not think the market at Six Cross Roads has been functioning for some time. It has not functioned since it was built. It was probably the only thing that has not functioned at Six Cross Road, St. Philip, because it is the only thing that was built there by the Democratic Labour Party. The health centre was built by us, it functions; the school was built by us, it functions. Everything there that was built by the Barbados Labour Party functions, but the market has never functioned.

I am probably getting my years of development wrong, but here again if the papers say that I called for the upgrading of the market at Six Cross Roads, St. Philip, I do not want them to give the impression that I want to get rid of the staff. The papers will deliberately go out of their way to suggest that I want to get rid of the staff. If the papers are not here, they normally pick up news second hand. They telephone one another and ask what he said and then print what they hear. I am annoyed with the papers for the way they printed yesterday's news; not so much the *Nation*, but the *Advocate* is despicable.

The National Fruit Orchard. Here again I am going to write the Minister of Agriculture, because this is a good idea. I have some fruit trees on my land in St. Philip. They are citrus and doing fairly well, and I would like to enjoin the Ministry of Agriculture to seek to extend the scope of this idea relating to the National Fruit Orchard.

I notice that under Capital, Head 75, page 63, the Supreme Court complex, there is an amount of \$150 000 for professional fees. I just want to ask the Minister if he

has any idea whether or not there are plans to start the Supreme Court. The reasons for wishing to start very soon are well known, and we would like to know if there are plans to start it very soon. I will be interested.

Going back to Head 28, page 54, Community Legal Services Commission, I see there provided for legal aid in criminal cases \$30 000, but for civil cases I see the sum of \$10 000. From my understanding of the Community Legal Aid Act, legal aid will soon be available to persons who have matrimonial problems and probably landlord and tenant matters. Even if the lawyers charge the minimum fees they can possibly charge in the circumstances, I do not in all honesty think that \$10 000 is adequate provision for legal aid in civil cases. Thirty thousand is barely adequate for criminal cases. That can be improved upon too, but \$10 000 is totally inadequate, and I dare say that most persons who have a civil problem, if they do not have fees, and if they cannot find a charitable lawyer who is willing to work gratuitously, will have to go without legal remedy, because I do not think \$10 000 can even scratch the surface. I do not understand why they did not make a similar provision for civil cases as they have made for criminal cases. I am going to write the Minister of Legal Affairs about that at a private level and see what he can do about it.

So far as Education is concerned, I want to make a special plea here. If we look at the green page, 108, and I see the Deputy Chief Education Officer over there.....

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Linton, you have two minutes.

SENATOR H. R. LINTON: Two minutes?

I have written to the Ministry of Education on several occasions asking for repairs to be done to the Holy Trinity School, St. Philip. Not only that, it was part of the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party in 1981 that Holy Trinity School would be merged with Shrewsbury School. Both schools are in a total state of disrepair. They are dilapidated, they are unfit for children to inhabit. When the ceilings are not falling in, the doors cannot shut. The rain comes in. Rats, monkeys and frogs invade the schools.

I see that under the World Bank Project provision has been made for schools in every conceivable part of this island, obviously where you have people to lobby for those schools. If you look at page 108, you will see wherever you have a sitting Minister or Member who can lobby, they are getting a school or getting a school repaired. We have a Member in there for St. Philip South, but apparently he cannot lobby, because we are not getting a thing up there in St. Philip South. The former St. Philip North Member, who can lobby well, is going to St. Thomas now. The whole point is that I want the Holy Trinity School repaired.

While I am at it, St. Martin's Mangrove Junior School, the one below the church, is one of the worst schools you can come across. When you have to move from one building to the next in the rain, it is something out of this world.

I have two minutes left, but the Minister of Culture has gone. I wanted to speak to him. Perhaps I have to write him a letter, because there are no cultural facilities at St. Martin's St. Philip or Six Roads, St. Philip. Whereas we have a facility at King George V Memorial Park, that falls under the aegis of the National Conservation Commission. It is not really a cultural centre and, therefore, we lack a cultural centre in St. Philip and we need to have one.

You will note that this year I have not been my usual self and I have not commented on the vast achievements of the National Conservation Commission. The reasons are many and varied, not least of all that we have just been taken over by a new Ministry and a new Minister and I feel that the new Minister will wish to take this grace period, this moratorium, this opportunity to make his own input and to give any ideas which he may have with regard to the formulation and direction of policy vis-a-vis the National Conservation Commission. It would therefore be improper of me to disclose the policy objectives which we had in mind in the National Conservation Commission for this year until such time as the Minister has had an opportunity to make his input. That is the only reason I am refraining from speaking on that Head, except to say that Harrison's Cave continues to earn about forty to fifty thousand dollars a month and is probably one of the most successful ventures this country has seen in the last 20 to 25 years.

3.40 p.m.

SENATOR THE REV. CAN. I. McK. JONES: So many have spoken on so many Heads I really do not intend to speak for any length of time. I would just like to make a few general comments.

First of all, I would like to say how proud all of us Barbadians ought to be to realize that these Estimates could have been successfully gone through in the Lower House and almost finished here in the Upper House less than 48 hours after the burial of our late Prime Minister. I think that speaks volumes for this country.

I think it is true to say that our main base of foreign exchange comes from three sources, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. I think we have to compliment the Board of Tourism for the wonderful recovery they have made in the very short time. I hope that they will be able to sustain this kind of growth.

In agriculture, I think that we should be prepared to spend even more money because, in my view, unless

we are able to reduce our imports substantially, we are going to be in some very serious trouble. I think that if we can promote agro-industries and the planting of food crops, vegetables and the rearing of animals, to the extent that we become entirely self-sufficient and be able to export to other CARICOM countries, we will be doing ourselves a great service.

I believe I was told some time ago that the agricultural scheme that they started in St. Lucy, I think it was at Spring Hall, had started to go well. But I understand that it was not going too well recently and I also have been told that one of the reasons was that the irrigation system was not working as well as it ought to be working. I am wondering if the powers that be have done all they can do with the irrigation system, because I understand they are still using the Government system of supplying water and I understand that there are some wells in St. Lucy.

I know, for example, that there is a tremendously good well in a place called Mount Poyer, I used to work in St. Lucy over 40 years ago and I know that they had some wells down there. At that time. They were very, very good. There is also a well or two in a place called Friendship. I am wondering if, perhaps, they try to utilise those natural resources if they would not find that it is more economical to irrigate that section of Spring Hall than it now is. I was wondering if the Government would look into some things like that.

I am pleased to see that quite a large proportion of our overall budget is being spent on Education, 22.6 per cent I am told, but I would like to tell Government that spending a lot of money does not necessarily mean you are going to have a good education. You may have a good educational plan but you might not have the success that you expected out of that plan as far as education itself is concerned.

First of all, I do not like the change in our secondary schools. When I was at school, you used to hear of the Headmaster of Harrison College, the Headmaster of Lodge, the Headmistress of Queen's College. Now, everybody is a headteacher. To me, that is a demotion. I still like the words "headmaster" and "headmistress". I think they have much more dignity in them than just headteacher. I do not know what is the reason for coming down. Why not raise the other ones up to headmasters and headmistresses instead of bringing everybody down to headteachers.

I find that under the new Education Act, the headteachers in these schools have little or no power. They cannot use their own initiatives. Everything they do has to be vetted by the Ministry of Education or by the Minister. Let me just give a case in point. There was a

time when headmasters of secondary schools had the right and authority to grant half days to the schools. They could grant at least three half days at least a year, I am sure of this, and some used to grant even more than that. I understand that now no headteacher of any school can grant even a half day for any reason at all to his school without the permission of the Ministry of Education. I think it is a step in the wrong direction because if any head of any school feels that he has no authority at all, he loses interest.

Even when it comes to the appointment of members of staff, there was a time when the heads of staff could appoint their staff, without being dictated to or having to be overseen by the Minister of Education. Nowadays, they have to send up a short list, do not mind how many people apply for a post, of three has to go to the Minister of Education, and then the Minister of Education decides who will go where. It may happen that sometimes the headteacher may get the person he or she really wants, but there are several times when he or she may not get this, and I personally feel that they are the best able to select the teachers that they have to work with. Remember, the Minister of Education does not have to work with any teacher, the headmaster or the Headmistress of any school has to work with them, and they ought to know better than any person outside their field who would be the best person to work with from their curriculum vitae when they go to interview them. I would like to feel that when the shortlist goes up to the Minister of Education, the Minister of Education will try to take a very tolerant view of the suggestions of the head of the school and of the head of the department of that school for the persons that they recommend. I am hoping that this will happen, because if it does not, what you will find is that with all the money you are spending in education, the standards of the schools will be going down.

In my humble opinion, Sir.....

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: On a point of order. I thought not to interrupt because I did not want to break Senator Jones' stride, but he is factually wrong.

The new Education Act specifically provides for the appointment of civil servants and the Constitution specifically provides how civil servants are to be appointed. The teachers are now all civil servants; therefore, it is not a ministerial power. It has nothing to do with the Ministry really. The Public Service Commission makes the appointments, and it is a matter of what their procedures are.

SENATOR THE REV. CAN. I. McK. JONES: I must thank the Leader for that correction. The Public Service Commission, but my point still holds. I still feel whatever goes up from the heads of the school should be very carefully considered before they change any of that.

I think that everybody is very happy with what the Government has done for old aged pensioners, and I think the pensioners themselves are very grateful for what has been happening over the years. I do not think that anybody on either side or from any party could say other than that.

3.50 p.m.

For pensions that you have to work for where you put in $33\frac{1}{3}$ years to get two thirds of your pension, I understand that in the United States these pensions are not taxed. I have been told that pensions in St. Lucia are not taxed either, and somebody told me last week that pensions in Antigua are not taxed. I just heard that a week ago, I do not know if that is true, but that is what I was told, so I am wondering if this Government could not think about this in relation to those people who have had to work for the greater part of their lives and at the end receive a pension after they have put in 30-odd years of service. I am not thinking of people who have a pension and can do something else to have an income other than the pension, I am thinking of those who have to live entirely off their pension. I wonder if the Government would think of looking into that area and seeing if it is possible to relieve these people who live entirely on their pensions from having to pay tax on their pension.

The other area that I would like to touch on relates to roads. People have been complaining that the roads are not well kept, that sometimes they are even very dirty. I would say that what helps to contribute to the dirtiness of these roads is the fact that we have people who clean roads and they leave the stuff on the side of the road. If you drive around this island you will find that some of that stuff is there for over a week and is not being taken away. If it should happen that we have a shower of rain in between that time, then some of that stuff goes on to the road. I believe that the problem is really the length of time that they take to remove the dirt from the side of the road, and I think that could easily be remedied.

I would like to congratulate the Transport Board on what they have been doing over the past couple of years. People are always vilifying the Transport Board, but there is no other West Indian island that I have been into, and some even further afield than the West Indies, and seen as good a bus service as we have here in Barbados. And when you see the quality of buses that they have in those other islands, I think Barbadians ought to be very proud of what they have to drive about in, and I am hoping that they will cease their denigration of everything that the Transport Board is trying to do.

With those few remarks, all I have to say is that I am thoroughly happy and willing to endorse this Bill that had now come before the House.

SENATOR Mrs. M. O. REECE: I rise to support the measure before this Chamber, I am just going to look at three specific areas and be extremely brief: The Prisons, Women's Affairs and Sanitation. I am going to start with sanitation first, because, as you know, I am Chairman of that Board, and it is near and dear to my heart. Senator Jones said something just now about people cleaning the streets. I want to correct that slightly. The weeds left at the side of the street come under the Ministry of Transport and Works, not Sanitation.

I want to commend Sanitation for the job they did in cleaning the route for the state funeral two Saturdays ago. I believe that I noticed in the Press the Defence Force was mentioned, the Cabinet Office and the Dean of the St. Michael's Cathedral, but nothing was said about Sanitation. They did their duty far beyond what was expected of them and cleaned the entire route. As a matter of fact, somebody in Roebuck Street said at one time you would think they wanted to eat off the street, as the route was particularly clean.

In mentioning that, I have to say this: there is a road right opposite Spry Street on St. Michael's Row. I do not remember the name of that street, but between that street there and the traffic lights, shortly after Sanitation had cleaned that area, it is surprising to know that some of these business houses brought out enormous cartoons and placed on that site. When the business community can do something like that after people have cleaned an entire route, one has to wonder if it was meaningfully done or if it was an oversight on their part. I believe that we have to look at ourselves carefully and examine how we treat our premises.

Sanitation has been doing a massive clean up. The route from the airport to Heywoods has been our target to do an entire clean up. I believe they have got as far as Rendezvous, and from what they have been doing, I am satisfied that the route is extremely clean.

There are nine baths left in Sanitation now and these baths are to be tiled and updated so that people using them can feel happy. I believe that there are one or two that leave much to be desired, but I sincerely hope that within the next two weeks I can proudly say that they are places that anyone of us can feel happy to enter.

I want at this time to pay a special 'thank you' to Ronnie Carrington. I believe those of us who have been seeing the CNN news — I know Senator Simmons does not watch the CNN news — see three little promos that come on on mornings. It is time for them to come off, I am aware, but shortly we will have seven more coming on. Ronnie Carrington did those free of cost and it is this type of commitment that people make in our community that should be highlighted. Too often we find people

doing little things and you see the Press publicising it and things like that, but when you get somebody in the community making that kind of contribution, then we have to recognise it.

Sanitation is also cleaning up Bridgetown. For those of you who do not frequent the areas of Bridgetown that some of us know, like Watkins Alley and so on, there is a bath in Watkins Alley which is being updated. It is a very peaceful place in the heart of Bridgetown. It has one of the largest tamarind trees I have seen around, and we are trying to put benches around there and some cribs for the people who live in that area. I wish that some of you could pass out there and see where some people live.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Reece, for the benefit of those honourable members who do not know their Bridgetown, where is Watkins Alley?

SENATOR Mrs. M. O. REECE: If you go up Suttle Street from St. Mary's side and turn left on the second little alleyway, you will follow it on to the bath. It is just off Suttle Street. Suttle Street is clean now, so you can feel happy to pass there.

The Bridgetown Committee of Sanitation, which I believe the present Minister of Health, who no longer has the portfolio of Sanitation, set up — to him I am grateful although we are no longer with him; we have now gone to the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment — I know that the Minister of Health like to throw some lashes at Sanitation, but I believe they are well meant — the Bridgetown Committee is now functioning reasonably well and is looking at areas in Bridgetown to clean up and decorate, and there are quite a number of historical buildings in Bridgetown that we are going to ask some of the merchants to clean up. During that period, too, we also carried out a guaranteed service in Fernihurst, Deacons Farm and Rosemont, areas where we supplied garbage bags free of cost to the householders and give them a guaranteed service. That project has worked very, very well.

4.00 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR M. O. REECE: As somebody is saying, the bags have finished. The freeness has gone. But I believe that Barbadians, although they appreciate something that is free, like to pay for their own goods and would be happy to purchase such bags as they become available.

We have also given out quite a number of litter bags around Bridgetown to people who have cars to place in their cars. I am saying this because the Sanitation Service Authority, in the Estimates had a subvention of \$11 740 404 for this year. We could do with some more.

Although it is small, we are still making an effort to maintain cleanliness in our country.

I want to look at Women's Affairs. Last year we did not have a Director for Women's Affairs. The Minister of Information and Culture understands what it means to do away with Acting Appointments and not have these Hollywood affairs, and has appointed a Director to Women's Affairs.

I have looked in the Estimates and I cannot find where the allocation is listed. I believe they must be funded, but I have checked the Estimates and I cannot find it anywhere in the Estimates. It must be somewhere hidden. I do not think that is the way they intend to treat the women.

Women's Affairs is functioning as a department should function. The Director is dynamic, young and has been speaking out on numerous occasions. The department, for the first time in its history, has published a number of handouts which I can happily make documents of the Chamber. They are, "Aspects of Select Family Laws for Barbadians", and there are a whole set of brochures telling you about child support, "How Can I Inherit From a Father", "Question of Divorce", "How Can I Get Married", "Facts About Women" and "What Are My Property Rights?" This is the kind of information that we expect that Bureau to put out from time to time.

I want to congratulate the Minister on appointing the Director, and the department for publishing and making these leaflets available to the general public. Keep the good work up!

The Prisons. I said this last year, and I will say it again, that I believe that when the wardens are recruited they should be trained. We look at the Police Force, and if we are going to recruit policemen, they go to the Regional Training School and they take a period of training. I believe that guards at the prison should be trained. It is particularly unfair to the policemen, after they have done all the donkey work around this country to apprehend criminals, to see them put on the loose once again. I believe that it is not a matter of just putting on handcuffs and locking a cell door that makes a guard a good guard. I believe that they need to be properly trained on security and security measures.

Those are the three areas that I wanted to touch on, and the last point has to do with the Child Care Board. I believe that Senator Reader handled the issue quite capably but there is one thing I want to say about statutory corporations. I believe that they were created to be run independently of Government. Much as I appreciate the Audit Department, I believe that statutory corporations should have independent auditors. They are run by a Board and the Board is there to carry out the

policy of Government, and if that is being done, then we need not have the Audit Department carrying out the audit of these departments. I believe the Child Care Board, as Senator Reader said, has done a fantastic job in this country, and I want to congratulate them on the work that they have done so far.

I end by saying that I am particularly satisfied with the way in which this country has been run over the past year and that I am satisfied with the Estimates that have been laid before us in this Chamber.

Applause.

SENATOR Mrs. E. M. LYNCH: I feel that these Estimates do represent the best that could be done under prevailing conditions. I am particularly happy with the amount that has been voted towards education. It is a considerable sum, if we take into account the resources available to Government at this time. Figures in the Estimates represent a philosophy, they tell us what the Government feels is important, and it is obvious that Government still feels that people are our most important resource. We still feel that, regardless of what international bodies may think about our expenditure in education, we are right in developing our children and doing what we can for them, and it seems to me that when we look around Barbados, children are what we have.

We have heard a lot of adverse comments from time to time, and I think that it would be right for me to state briefly what has been achieved in education in recent times. Before we begin to find fault, before we begin to think of what has not been done or what is not going well, let us look at what has been done.

First of all, there has been considerable improvement in the physical conditions of primary and secondary schools. The primary schools are my favourite. I am particularly happy that we have stopped giving lip service to the primary schools and saying that they are the foundation of everything and, while we are saying that, we give them the crumbs that are left over. For the first time, for a long time, we have given the primary schools considerable priority. Since I am a frequent visitor at their prize givings, I know how pleased these children and their teachers are, how heartened they feel to see their buildings and classrooms looking good like everybody else's. And it is a delight to see the children all dressed up, even the boys in their nice little black bow ties. They are responding to the fact that they have got a better environment, and not only have they got a better physical environment but at least 90 per cent of teachers in the primary schools are now trained.

I therefore think that we have the opportunity to give our children a good start, and at least nobody can fault what we are trying to do at the primary level. I

should add here that this work is reinforced by the special project for primary education, under the auspices of the UWI and USAID, directed by Dr. Leonard Shorey. As you know, his name implies concern, thoroughness and high standards of achievement. I feel that if he is in to that primary programme of providing and designing teaching materials and things of this sort, we are really coming to grips with primary education. I know that there is some concern about reading levels, but that, too, is receiving attention. We will have defects but the important thing is if we are taking hold of the problems and dealing with them. I do think that this is happening in the primary schools.

At secondary level, we have also had many extensions and most secondary schools have been upgraded — at least, they have more places — and, for the first time, those schools that used to be called “newer secondary schools” are getting a real chance to show what they can do. They are much better equipped, and I have had the pleasure of interviewing some prospective teachers for appointment, and I have been surprised at the resources that we have in those schools that we are not really using. There are some people who are really versatile and very promising, and I hope that everything will be done to hold them in the teaching profession, to encourage them and that everything will be done to advance their development.

4.10 p.m.

I am not too happy about the fact that study leave is not now so readily available, but this is due to financial difficulties, not because anybody feels that teachers should not have study leave. They are bound to restore study leave in some areas, because we are short, usually in the practical subjects, and it is not possible for us to train those people to graduate level locally. So I believe that some study leave will have to reappear in order that teachers can be trained in the subjects in which we are scarce.

There was a dramatic move right at the beginning of this Government's entry into office by returning to schools slow learners who formerly left at the age of 14. There is no such thing now. There is special provision for those children who perform badly in the Common Entrance Exam and could not be placed in a secondary school. There are now senior schools for them, they have their own special programme, they have teachers who are concerned and interested in them, and they are no longer just thrown on rubbish heap — they are receiving special attention.

There is compulsory education, and, of course, while it is beneficial, it raises certain problems for certain types of schools, because formerly, in certain kinds of secondary schools children could be asked to leave when they failed to profit. Very often failing to profit meant

that they were unlikely to pass the GCE Examinations and spoil the average performance of the school, and so children, who because they were slow, should have been kept in school longer — I feel if you are slow, you want to be in school longer, not a shorter time — could be asked to leave on the grounds that they failed to profit. I never used that clause in the 17 years that I was a head, because my theory was that I would be ashamed that a child came to school for all that time and had not gained anything. I thought it was my business to see that she did profit from something or other which we had to offer, so I never used that clause.

Now, it is very difficult for schools to use that clause. They have to retain the children until the age of 16 years, and I think that this is one of the stresses of the new Education Act that may upset people somewhat, because they have to retain those children to the age of 16, under normal circumstances. But they do have at least two examinations that children can try it. There is the exam they usually take at Form 3, Secondary School Leaving Certificate, and then there is the Basic level of the CXC. So there is more that can be offered to the child who really cannot pass the General Certificate of Education.

There are new programmes in tertiary education at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and Community College, and new approaches and courses at the Teachers Training College at Erdiston. There has been a lot of work in curriculum development. Those syllabuses and guides have been distributed to schools for sometime now. There have been clear statements, two books, on the philosophy guiding the primary and the philosophy guiding the secondary schools of the island, so teachers have clearly set out aims for their educational goals.

There is the continuing work of the National Advisory Committee on Education. You may not see a lot of publicity about that, but there is very steady work going on all the time on many aspects of education. We have already taken a look at Sixth Form education. We have looked at teacher training. We are looking now at the length of the school day. We are taking one by one various aspects of education, looking at them and making recommendations to the Minister.

We come to the new Education Act. I am afraid this has become something of a whipping boy. Everytime something goes wrong in a school, you hear the explanation that this is due to the Education Act. I think we ought to try to understand what the Education Act sets out to do. I would say that the first thing it sets out to do, which is upsetting people, is to unify the system — that is that you would be going to a secondary school. Full stop. The primary school did not need unifying, but at the secondary level, there were schools which came under their governing bodies and schools directly

controlled by the Ministry of Education and the teachers in it were civil servants. The older secondary schools each had its own Act, so you can just imagine the amount of confusion. Lodge School had a different Act from Foundation, Foundation had a different Act from Harrison College, and so it went on. Each of those schools were highly individualized. Common sense would say that we could not continue with that.

That worked because those schools were government aided schools, and their governing bodies at one time had such absolute power that we had to appeal to the then Director of Education in a matter which we felt was unjust, and the Chairman of the Board could look at us and say, 'Nobody can tell us what to do, not even the Director of Education.' That is how an arrangement was made that the Governor — because he was not independent yet — had to govern the dismissal of any secondary teacher. So those people who think that this freedom and independence was all peaches and cream feel that because they did not live through it, but I lived through it. A decision then had to be made whether the teachers would be completely under their governing bodies as they were before or whether they would become civil servants. Most of the teachers were already civil servants, there were only about 300 or so who were not civil servants, so we did not see any anxiety on the part of people who were civil servants to become anything else.

4.20 p.m.

As far as the teachers in the older secondary schools were concerned, they moved very happily into Civil Service jobs if they saw better promotional opportunities and more money. If you look at the Public Library you will find that at least three successive Chief Librarians, beginning from Mr. Wiles, then Sir Carlisle Burton and Mr. St. Hill, were all transfers from secondary schools into those posts. They became Education Officers, they became all kinds of civil servants transferring out of the older secondary schools. Some went to teach at the Community College, and they were civil servants, so whether a teacher in a secondary school was a civil servant or not depended not on how much freedom he got, but on how much money he got. If there was opportunity, he moved out into the Civil Service.

If something went very wrong between himself and the governing body, he probably got in touch with the Education Department to find out from the Chief Education Officer what he thought about it. If, on the other hand, the Education Department sent a circular round to the schools that they did not particularly like, they would say 'We are not civil servants, we have a special Act that was passed in 1782 or eighteen something. That is the Act we are working under.' The moment school fees were abolished, those schools were no longer Government-aided. No matter what they thought about themselves, they were Government-maintained schools. They could not open those doors unless there was a

Government grant, because the parents were not paying anything.

I have always felt that it was at that point that a new Education Act should have been passed, because people would have understood that the schools then had a different status. That caused a little confusion, because the people in the older secondary schools felt that they had lost some freedoms. Some of the freedoms that the male teachers talked about the girl school teachers never had, because we had to get to school at a certain time. If we had a free period in the morning we had to get to school just the same. We had to have supervision duties during lunch and break, we had after-school activities and so forth. Some of the freedoms that they are talking about we did not have.

There are certain things which we are saying. One is that assessment of the teacher as he or she moves through the system is essential. I feel that you do not want anything more often than a yearly assessment, but some assessment is necessary. The reason is that it is possible for a teacher to remain in a school, contribute very little to the development of that school, remain there because it is cosy and safe, he is accustomed to that, and float upwards by sheer longevity to the ranks of Deputy Head; and if he or she is very lucky, might even reach the headship. Such a person may work for the whole 30 or so years of their teaching life and would have simply repeated one year of experience 30 times.

With the size of schools which we are having, a very high standard of management skills is required; intelligence, imagination, firmness, plus the level of scholastic ability to which we have now become accustomed. You want, therefore, an exceptional person, you want a teacher of very high quality to be able to manage those schools, and it seems to me that in implementing policies the Ministry has to be careful. It has to be careful about timing. You may be doing the right thing but at the wrong time. I do not want to develop that any further.

Then, there is the preparedness of the teacher for it. Teachers have to understand what is happening and be committed to it. If the teacher is not committed to that philosophy, the result is not going to be successful, because there is no way in which you can compel a teacher to teach, or drive a teacher. That teacher has to be committed, so it is better to wait a little and try to win the teacher over to what you want to do, since it will be for the good of the children, so that they will go into it with a sense of commitment.

Thirdly, we have to see that we have the personnel for doing a job, and I think that when we went in for these big co-educational schools we really did not make sure that we had a sufficient pool. I do not mean that you cannot find a teacher at all, but I mean we do not

have a sufficient pool of persons to manage that size of institution. What is happening is that somebody appears for selection as a Head. Firstly, people are so afraid of the task that you are getting very few applicants. Those few applicants are very seldom from the top layer of the Teaching Service, because in the top layer you get a lot of women. The women are often married and have families and therefore they hesitate to take on this heavy responsibility while they are rearing a family, so you miss a certain number of very good female teachers who do not apply for the headships. What we are getting are co-educational schools with all men in the administration. I know of one school where there is a male Head, a male Deputy, four or so Heads of Departments out of five, men, and there is only one woman who has a post as Head of Department in that school.

One of the things we are told about co-education is that it is uniformly, widely accepted that it is very good for boys, but if something happens to go wrong in a co-educational school, it is the girls who suffer. That is why it is necessary that there should be a sufficient number of females in the administration and that we should be continually looking at the system to ensure that both sexes are fairly treated.

4.30 p.m.

I think that the Bureau of Women's Affairs should be addressing itself to looking carefully to see what is the fate of girls in many of the schools. Perhaps, I should say the fate of both sexes, but we want to see what is happening with the girls because we have been accustomed to a very high level of care and concern in girls schools. I do not think anybody will deny that. What it was hoped was that when you put the two together some of the fear and concern that used to be given to the girls, which the boys seldom had, would be shared and the boys would get some of what the girls used to get. It seems, however, that very often the opposite is happening, that instead of the boys getting the care and concern which the girls used to get, the girls are now getting the level of care and concern which the boys used to get. We have to remember that this may have very serious consequences for our society, because we have always known that it was the West Indian woman that was the vital factor in the development of the society in certain directions.

I am not thinking so much of the physical development as of the emotional development in the training of children as if we are going to produce generations of girls who have been neglected in secondary schools. It is going to affect the quality of our society. We are going to see things changing and we are not going to know why, so I would like to appeal to the Minister to appeal to the Minister of Education to ensure that there is a balance. There are some schools that have begun the transition period, there are boys schools to which girls have been

added, and they are moving through so that situation will right itself eventually and it is the same thing in girls schools to which boys have been added, but you have to watch and see that they are getting a square deal.

If it is a boys' school and there are two females at the top of it, there should be a post of responsibility for boys, and if it is a school where you have added girls to boys and the people at the top are male, then there should be a post of special responsibility for a woman. That has not got to be permanent, because if it happens that the Head leaves and you get a woman Head, then, you would not need to have that. You might need a post of responsibility for a man in that particular instance, but if it is a girls' school, you would not need that post of special responsibility for a woman. If it is not, you are going to have a lot of trouble, because men do not usually look after the kind of details that women look after. Let us face that. It is a waste of time spending all this money and then wringing your hands, because what you are finding is that you select a Head who has adequate qualifications, more than adequate qualifications, lots of degrees, diplomas and various adornments of this sort and find, to your dismay, that the person proceeds to preside over a disaster area. A bad secondary school today is a dangerous place — it is a disaster area.

I would like to point out that the Education Act provides for inspection and we should not wait until there is some kind of catastrophe in order to inspect the schools. I feel that there should be regular routine inspection of secondary schools, at least once in every four or five years. I do not mean every morning or every year, but at stated intervals, and this is important, because nobody should be able to complain that they had an inspection as a punishment. It should be at stated intervals that a team of persons, experienced and knowledgeable in education, take a look at the schools and give the heads and staff the benefit of their advice and assistance in straightening out any matters that might need attention. In short, the school should be monitored.

It is no use saying you leave people to do the job and there is this saying about interfering with people in their professional this and that. All over the world schools have been inspected and there should be no such thing in the system as somebody who is not accountable for what he or she is doing. Every single person in the service, whether they are Head, Deputy or whatever should be accountable to somebody, and I think that should be made clear. This idea that because you are a professional nobody should ask you anything, that is a joke, because if you work as a professional, you will be able to function without somebody as a teacher coming to look at you, but we know that is an ideal situation not often found.

The training which a teacher is given at the beginning of his course is a first step. As I see the situation, we need to have a collection of case studies from a variety of schools. Of course, in a case study you do not use anybody's real name, and these case studies should be available wherever teachers are being trained so that they will have an idea before they enter the schools what kinds of problems, the kinds of situations, that they are going to meet, because I find that teachers are being confronted with situations which they feel they cannot handle. They were not prepared for that, and the purpose of a school really in a society is that the society ensures that there will be early intervention on behalf of the child if anything is going wrong.

Governments cannot control the homes in which the children come up. They are the parents' children, and all kinds of things happen, but what we are finding is that in the two most important areas of the child, the home and the school, the child is most at risk, and this is something we have to face. We have a duty to ensure that a child is safe at school, and we have a duty to ensure that, as far as possible, there can be an early intervention, and that is why we get them into the school earlier than before, on behalf of the child.

The Education Act tried to unify the system. I want to make it clear that the draft of that Act was in the hands of teacher organizations well ahead of its passing in the House. They had ample time to question whatever they had to question, object to whatever they had to object to. If they did not, I do not see how you can blame the Government about taking people to court and all of this sort of nonsense. I think we have to be fair. As a matter of fact, there was an Act in 1975, and I took part in looking at the 1975 Act in the 1970s, so from 1970 onward, we have been looking at an Education Act.

The other thing the Act tried to do was to free Heads from certain routine tasks so that they would have time to devote their attention to these large institutions which we are now having to run. This is being interpreted as taking away from Heads powers that they had. The only powers I saw that they had which the Act took from them was the power to direct their ancillary staff, and ancillary staff have given a great deal of trouble at these schools. Some disappear off the premises and nobody knows where they have gone to.

4.40 p.m.

Now that Heads no longer live on the premises, nobody knows whether they work during the holidays or not. Now that the Secretary Treasurer or Executive Officer is supposed to be there all the time, that person, because he is on the site all the time, does not get the kind of holidays that Heads get; he has, so to speak, a general oversight of the ancillary staff. Nevertheless, it

is obvious that the Head must be the person who knows really what is wanted in the school. The Head knows, or rather the Games Teacher usually, whether the pitch has to be prepared for cricket this afternoon, whether the netball pitch is to be lined and so forth; so there has to be close co-operation, close contact between the Secretary Treasurer and the Head. That is where I feel that there may be a little falling down, that it may be felt this is my area of work and that is your area, so you do not have to interfere. It cannot work unless the Head and the Secretary Treasurer have a very close understanding and the Head indicates to the Secretary Treasurer what, in general terms, she wants.

I believe that just as a teacher is trained, people who are going to be on the ancillary staff of schools should have training too. They should understand that they are an important part of the schools' general set-up. The schools are so large that the Head cannot see usually what is going on in all the buildings. The schools have usually started out with one or two sets of buildings, and then you add on one here and add on another piece here and add on another piece there, and it is not conveniently designed for proper supervision. Therefore, some of your most valuable allies are the ancillary staff, especially the maids moving about the buildings doing their jobs of maintaining the cloak rooms throughout. Some people just clean the cloak rooms in the evenings and then idle the rest of the day and next day until evening again. They should be maintaining the buildings and cloak rooms constantly. This means that there is always an adult about, no matter who the adult is, who can observe what is taking place.

One of the best disciplinarians in my school was the senior maid. She knew all the school rules and she would call to a child and say "you know that is not what you should be doing". The chief porter was on duty and got a little extra pay between 4 o'clock, when he ought to have gone home, and 6 o'clock, when the watchman came. There was always somebody on the school premises. You cannot leave school premises now without anybody to look after them. These are things we have to look into because children are deposited by their parents very early in the morning and picked up by them sometimes quite late in the evening, and they may find themselves on that school compound without protection. So these are matters which I feel I would like to see the Heads Association address.

It is now 21 people, not like when there were just five or six people each doing as they liked. It is an association of 21 persons, and I feel that they should be coming together and looking at their problems, discussing them with the successful ones telling the others what they did and how they worked them out, and then bringing to the Ministry their combined wisdom. I do not think that the Minister of Education would despise the com-

bined wisdom of 21 persons, especially if a substantial number of them were women. I do not think that she would not take what they had to say into account. They have a solemn responsibility. There were issues that occurred and one would have expected a statement or some action on the part of the Heads Association, and nothing came from them, even though one or two of their number happen to have been in some difficulty. But this loss of whatever it is they think they have lost is really an attempt to leave them freer for the actual task of looking after the children.

The other thing is that the Secretary-Treasurers are nearly all new to the task, and therefore they are feeling their way and tend to refer to the Ministry continually for clarification of what powers they have or do not have. I think that the Heads who have been in their position longer should be able to assist the Secretary-Treasurers as to what is a reasonable interpretation of the Act, because sometimes when they go to ask the person at the Ministry, the person at the Ministry does not seem to know either, so the only thing for you to do is to use your commonsense and imagination and do what works in your school, so long as you are not breaking any particular rule. I find, however, that every little thing that happens is sort of exaggerated and made into a big thing, because this new Education Act has done some wonderful and terrible things.

Lastly, I think a mistake was made to change the name of the Boards. They used to be called governing bodies, and if they had remained governing bodies, nobody would have been upset, but they are now called Boards of Management, and the word "management" seems to add new sinews to the Board and new tremors to the hearts of the Heads and people who have to deal with them. If they had just been called governing bodies, nobody would have worried with them, but they called them Boards of Management, so some Boards continue to demonstrate management, and the Heads or the staff feel that these people are now coming to manage the school, so the word "management" I feel was a mistake. They should just have left "governing bodies" and everybody would have thought they were the same.

It is a principle that when you go to a place and you are going to change, never interfere with the externals. Leave the externals just as they are; change the spirit. You are changing all the time you say you are not touching anything, because the externals are the same, but to human beings, once the externals are the same you can change a lot. Never interfere with names. Never go into a school and interfere with the children's school ties or uniform. Leave all that and you can do anything. But you can give yourself a sea of trouble when you interfere with that school tie. That is what I think. I think they got too much of an idea that there was some violent upheaval, so that you will get a Head, for example,

who moved over from a school or place where he was a civil servant into a school now and finds that he is very restricted by being a civil servant; but he came from being a civil servant to this new post. It is in the mind. You cannot change the name back now. Managers they are.

I am on one of these Boards of Management and I think that we can afford more help in matters of discipline than a governing body ever gave me. I just did not take matters of discipline particularly to a governing body unless a suspension or something like that was involved. But there is now a disciplinary committee of the Board which interview the children, interview their parents and help the Head. They are a body now beyond the Head. When the Head is finished, there is still a body of persons to back her up a little further, and the children sometimes talk to us a bit more freely and we try to help. So the new Boards of Management, if properly run, support and help the Head to a very great extent, and it is a matter of people just making up their minds that this is a system within which we are going to work. But there is all this feeling that the new Education Act has deprived people of something or other which they thought they had, and which, when they had, they readily discarded, if they benefitted financially by discarding it. This is the plain truth.

4.50 p.m.

Special provision is now being made for the handicapped children. We have adopted the modern system of normalization, that is, placing in the ordinary school children who although handicapped are able to function reasonably well, and there are special units in a number of primary schools for such children. Of course, there is a school for the deaf and the dumb, and the Challenor School gets a special subvention.

We have embarked on the Ladymeade Development Centre. The purpose of that is to provide much earlier diagnosis, assessment and determining what type of treatment or institution a child should have. If he needs an institution, you keep him in an institution. Whatever, you decide on the best treatment for that child.

I rejoice to see that there is not an unreasonable sum estimated here for the Children's Development Centre. At the present moment, the people who are interested in that area are working very hard to raise a considerable sum of money. We continue to try hard to get that money, and it is only fair to say that public response has been reasonably good, if you take into account how difficult the time was and how short a time it was in which we had to try to raise that money.

It is only fair to say that, from what we see of attitudes to it in the society, there is a better understanding of what it is all about. We have not just got

money, we have done a good job of education, and people are understanding that when you take care of a handicapped child, you do what Government says it is supposed to do, that is, to provide suitable education to develop the potential of every child. So Government is as responsible for those handicapped children as they are for other children.

If, like me, you had a handicapped child, you paid your taxes just the same. I did not get anything taken off my tax bill because I had a handicapped child. I had to pay taxes to educate other people's children. So unless you are fortunate enough to have an array of relatives, the parent of a handicapped child is usually tied to that child, and often cannot work. It means that the community is deprived of the services of a person who might be a highly skilled and useful person in the society but cannot make her contribution to the society because she has got to stay close to that child. So when you do something for the education and development of the handicapped child, you are only fulfilling your obligation, which, according to the philosophy of education which you Minister has accepted, you are in duty bound to do for all children. They are children, too. The other thing is that you free the parent somewhat, so that that parent is able to do more, to function to some extent in the society and to fulfill her own potential.

It is an experience that is very traumatic for the parent, and the mere fact that the community makes provision, the mere fact that the community is busy collecting money to help, supports that parent in the situation. It makes that parent say, 'This is not merely an individual problem. It is not I alone. Two out of every 100 children are likely to be defective. I just happen to be the one who has got a defective child, and some people are so complimentary as to tell you that you got it because the Lord knew that you would look after it.'

I want to make a special plea to the Minister that when we are finished collecting as much money as we can collect, if we cannot collect all, that we can rely on you to do what is necessary for these children. Because of the figure that I see here, I feel hopeful, Mr. Minister. I feel very hopeful. And when you have made this provision, the taxpayers of Barbados are going to approve. They are telling you by their response that they approve of it. So when you do something for the Children's Development Centre, you are doing what the taxpayers want. And if you doubt me, you go around the corner by the super-market and ask them.

I will go now to the problems of the school. Have I gone nearly an hour yet?

MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have got seven minutes.

SENATOR E. M. LYNCH: The problems of the schools relate very largely to the size of the school, to the fact that there are some Heads who do not have the necessary skills and some schools are out of control, and dangerously so. Some staffs are not functioning well because staffs like to see Heads that lead from in front, and if the Head does not lead from in front, the staff back-peddles as well.

We have to realize that apart from the training which a teacher receives, all through your life as a teacher you are in a workshop situation in school, learning to develop as a teacher. It is continuous training, it is a continuous process, it is not finished when you have a Diploma of Education in your hand. I know people who have a Diploma of Education and they cannot make a timetable. They hand it to somebody or other with no instruction as to what is to happen.

There is the operation of the Book Scheme. A lot of money can be wasted in that, because the person who has to look after it might not be a teacher, might not understand the whole process. The promotion examination takes place, say, in June. But you send on the book order in February or March, so you have had to make an intelligent forecast as to what has happened. When the end of the year comes now and the children start to fail, you say, 'I cannot send up these people. I have to keep these down, which means that I have to create another form at this level. So the books I ordered for that level above, I do not need all of those. And down here, I do not have all the books I need either.' So all kinds of things go wrong with the book order if the Head or somebody else has not got a clear picture of what is happening to each child, and the school becomes just like a mass of children and nobody is really accountable. The Head should be accountable. As soon as you call the name of a child, the documentation and the records should be such that that teacher should be able, in five minutes, to tell you, 'so and so, she is in form so and so. She has a sister in that form. She lives such and such a place. She goes home on such and such a bus route. She takes French, not Spanish. And she has been in detention a few times.' There has to be some system by which the Head is accountable for every child. No matter how the system is done, that should be the result.

5.00 p.m.

The book scheme goes wrong because there is not a clear picture from the Head or the various Heads of Departments in preparing the list, and things happen that cause changes. When I checked my book list every year, invariably something was wrong with it. When books are left back you get a lot of dead stock, and it is possible to have a fair amount of wastage. What Senator Jordan said yesterday about what happens is that the child does not own these books, or cannot revise or reuse them. I still have school books and we said this. All of this was

said when the Book Scheme was being introduced, that the child would not accumulate books, and that the child's first library is often his school books, his literature books. It is realized that this is the weakness of the scheme, but I do not see how you can get around it, except that you advise the parents that since they do not have to buy so many school books that they can buy some books and give the children at Christmas and such other times to help them to have a book supply.

I want to point out that with all these children and all the changes in society, special services are required. It is not enough to have teachers to teach. There are other services required. Children often require welfare services, they need counselling and their homes are sometimes to bits. The school has to act as some kind of haven, to intervene on their behalf. That is why countries have schools, to pay people who can intervene to assist the children when things go wrong. So please do not send us the computers unless they are accompanied by a counsellor. The counsellors will not be using the computers, but we need the counsellors now. We may not need the computer now but we need the counsellors now, and we need to have every teacher so trained that she can give first aid and deal with the early signs that things are wrong, and the counsellor to deal only with the most difficult children. We already have an Educational Psychologist, but she is only one person. That is still a beginning; we need to have early intervention to help the child so that it can benefit. If you do not do this, the children often do not learn. Anxious children do not learn, children who are worrying about the fact that their parents are facing the Divorce Court will not be learning anything.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR E. M. LYNCH: Please, we need to have those services, Mr. Minister. They are not unnecessary frills. They are essential if the school is to do its work.

I know that Senator David Simmons is doing a very good job with the Sports Council, but we would like to see children who are so much involved in sport that it has the effect of helping them to develop self-discipline. I hope that now that we are restoring the Inter-School Sports, each school will send only a small collection of boys or girls in care of somebody, and that they will be trained. This does not mean that they are to be silent, that they cannot shout and yell. It means that when somebody comes to the microphone, those children will be silent. That is what I am calling self-discipline. They can shout as much as they like but, there should not be somebody yelling and shouting so that you cannot hear, and there should be adults to look after them.

Briefly on adult education, a report was forwarded to the Minister in March, 1984. I mentioned this because Senator Greaves yesterday talked about how all the classes had been abolished and all of that. They have not been abolished. They are being looked at and they are being restored, and there is a definite plan made by a committee, which was set up, of what formal education will be given to adults. We would expect the Minister of Culture to be looking after community development, the community development workers will be seeing to informal education in the groups, and we hope that we will be having a good system of continuing education, which will serve the purpose of keeping the generations together in a period when a lot of change is going, which will enable the older people to be in touch with the younger ones.

I have to go and learn what a computer does, I do not know. We have to learn all of these things, then we will understand how our lives are changing, why these changes are taking place, and we will be building confidence in young people and people like myself who are getting somewhat older, to meet all these changes. This is an important service, and I hope that the radio and television, the electronic and print media, will join in this work of continuing education.

SENATOR C. E. JEMMOTT: In joining this debate on this Appropriation Bill for the Estimates 1985-86, I would like to offer my compliments to Senator Griffith, who, in my opinion, gave a very good presentation of them. I am also very pleased to see that there have been a 2 per cent growth in the economy of the country, and this speaks well for us, considering the economic situation of the entire world and knowing the things that we depend on mostly are tourism and sugar. Sugar, we know, is having some blows, but we are happy to see that tourism has made an upgrade, and so is manufacturing, even though it may be small.

There are about three Heads that I would like to speak, and I will be brief. I would like to speak on Co-operatives, page 41, Head 26. I would like to compliment the Government for having shown a great interest in the Co-operatives during the last three years, to the extent that there are very many credit unions which are part of co-operatives in this country. I am happy because during the 1960s and early 1970s, I was very much involved in the credit union movement. I was President of the League, and I remembered our trying to get the civil servants and the teachers involved. They felt then that it was not for them, but I am happy to say that they have seen the light, and there are some very viable credit unions.

I am also glad because I remembered that when the BLP was in the Opposition, there were some of us who made all efforts to get the movement going, but we found that there were a lot of obstacles put into the way because the management of the union happened to be people who did not think in the way the Democratic Labour Party wanted us to think. We never introduced politics into it, because those of you who know about the co-operative movement and know what it stands for know that it is not to be in any way involved in religion or politics. It is there for provident and productive purposes to help the individual member as such.
5.10 p.m.

I would like to see better staffing of the Co-operative Division. Seeing that it is extending and developing, I do not think that one Registrar, who has been acting for a very long time — I think that we should have a Registrar and a Deputy Registrar appointed — plus three Co-operative Officers cannot serve the country as well as it should be served with the amount of activities that are going on in relation to credit unions and other co-operatives.

I would like to see that, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education, it be put into the curriculum of the schools so that the children in their early days will be able to know what it is to be thrifty and to be saving and things like that, so that when they become adults they will find it easy to join adult credit unions.

I want to speak a little about page 98, Head 37, National Housing Corporation. I congratulate the Government for having returned to the National Housing Corporation the General Workers' Fund. That fund was very helpful to what were known in those days as general workers, and general workers meant people who worked for very small incomes — labourers, messengers, maids, for the repairs and purchasing of chattel homes. For some reason or the other, it was stopped; I think the then Minister of Finance was a little worried about the administration of the funds. What was wrong was that they did not have the competent staff, in my opinion, to administer it, and as such a few things went wrong.

I had always been an advocate for its return. I spoke to the late Prime Minister and I always asked him to investigate and rethink on it, because there are thousands of people who are in need. Senator David Simmons will tell you that. He would know, as a former chairman, the amount of people who have been helped and the amount that are on the books needing help. These are people who cannot go to a bank and easily obtain a loan for repairs to their homes, even now with the purchasing of the tenantry lands. I am glad that it has come back. I hope that it will be administered in such a way that these people will benefit immediately.

They had a system in which you had to have your property inspected before a loan was made, which is quite right, but I think there was a lot of delay in the inspections and the reports took so long that, very often, by the time some people got, say \$5 000, to do what they wanted, they found that they needed two or three thousand dollars more, because the place had deteriorated within that period of time. I feel that with the proper machinery the money will be repaid and these people will be much happier. Once again I want to thank the Government, as an individual and one who knows what it is to need some help, for the return of the General Workers Fund. I hope it will be successful.

There is one criticism I will make about the National Housing Corporation in relation to the sale of estate houses and lands. About eight years ago, a Cabinet decision was made whereby any of the tenants who lived in the Corporation's houses or on its land — and the houses were single units in particular — for ten years or more were entitled to purchase these houses, and they set a price. But for some reason or the other, some attorney, who was the attorney for the Corporation then, and certain members of the then Board, took it upon themselves to change the whole pattern of what the Cabinet did. As such, they changed the price of the land and the houses, and there were certain conditions they set up for the people so that they could not purchase these houses.

In Senator Simmons' time houses were sold, but the only regret is that when he left there was difficulty then in getting the conveyances, because one of the conditions was that the Corporation would provide you with a conveyance without any cost, and we found that certain attorneys got into the act and were charging people for the conveyances when they should not have. Also, with the chattel mortgages, which did not need searches, they were also charging them for making searches. That is the sort of thing that happened, and as such there are hundreds of people out there who cannot purchase the land or the house. Only about a month ago I saw one person who was able to get a purchase through, but I was very sad when that person showed me a bill from an attorney who was charging for making a conveyance. People should not take such advantage of these people because it is the Corporation who should give the conveyance.

I hope that now we have gone back to the General Workers' Loan Fund, and seeing that we want to help that type of person that we will continue and try to make an effort to help the tenants who are using the lands of the Corporation and the single units.

The next thing I would like to speak on is the National Sports Council. I want to thank Government, as a member of the National Sports Council, for the generous amount of \$750 000 for us to refurbish the

track. We can say that out of that we were able to refurbish the netball stadium also, so out of it we have a very lovely athletic track and a fine netball court. I will invite those of you who are interested in that aspect of sport to visit the stadium to see what is happening.

There is very little more I can say on these Estimates. Everybody else has more or less covered all that needs to be said, but these are the three areas I would like the Ministers here to pass on to the relevant Ministers for them to look into – that is, the staffing of the Co-operative Division which is very under-staffed in my opinion, that the Housing Corporation try to expedite the sale of the estate houses and lands, and see that the General Workers Fund, which is going to be re-introduced, is fully implemented and administered quickly.

I compliment the Government as a whole for what, in my opinion, are very realistic Estimates, taking everything into consideration. All I can ask for is the co-operation of all concerned to see that these projections more or less are achieved. All of us, whether we are civil servants or just ordinary people working, should try in every way to do our best to see that these things go through. Both management and workers will have to realise that the success or failure of any country depends on each and every one.

5.20 p.m.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Mr. President, during this year's debate on the Appropriation Bill, I must confess that I heard a speech from Senator Greaves which was far better than anything I had ever heard from him before, a speech in which he generally tried to be constructive, and even though he could not resist the inherent nastiness on certain things, there was nothing generally to object to. But then this morning all that had to be undone by an exposition of bad manners, the likes of which we have seldom seen in this Chamber, and I wish to have it on the Record that we must all deplore any attempt by any member of this Honourable Chamber to bully the Chair and falsely to represent that the Chair has ruled in circumstances, when the Chair quite clearly had not ruled.

I took the liberty to ensure, by discussion with one or two other Senators, that my memory of the episode of yesterday afternoon was not at fault. I well recall that, in a jocular mood, Senator Greaves got up and suggested that he could use the remaining time. Obviously it was a jocular mood, because he knew that having spoken once in the debate he could not speak again, and in the same mood he seemed to be suggesting that perhaps if no one else wished to speak, then you should call on the Minister to reply. The fact is that whether he was serious or whether he was jocular, you never called on anyone to

reply, and therefore, could never be accurately represented as having closed the debate yesterday afternoon.

I believe, and it will take a lot to change my belief on this matter, that Senator Greaves decided he did not intend to spend the day in the Senate and was looking for an excuse. He wanted to appear to be leaving on an issue so that he could take off for the rest of the day. I consider that if he wanted to do that, as a man he should have done it, but there was no need to behave in that childish and churlish manner, which only tends to pull down the general level of this Chamber. That is conduct that I strongly deplore, and I was not going to be able this afternoon to allow this debate to be closed without making reference to it.

The first point I wish to make deals with the attention which Senator Greaves paid to the Auditor General's Report on the Child Care Board. The Child Care Board Act, Cap. 381 at Section 5 used to say –

- “(1) The Board shall keep proper accounts and adequate financial and other records in relation thereto and shall prepare a statement of accounts in respect of each financial year.
- (2) The Board shall, within three months after the end of each financial year, submit its accounts to the Auditor-General for audit and at the same time send a copy thereof to the Minister.”

That is crucial.

Subsection 3 is crucial:

- “(3) The Auditor-General shall, as soon as may be after the receipt of the accounts of the Board, audit the accounts and submit a report thereon to the Minister and to the Board.”

In other words, those two subsections will quite clearly indicate that the Auditor General had the power to audit the accounts of the Child Care Board. But, in 1981, by the Act 1981-34, the Child Care Board Act was repealed and a new Act put in its place, and that is what Senator Reader referred to this morning. Section 18 says:

- “(2) The accounts of the Board must be audited annually by an Auditor appointed annually by the Board with the approval of the Minister.
- (3) The Auditor General may, at all reasonable times, and shall, on the direction of the Minister carry out at any time an investigation into the accounts of the Board.”

Quite clearly, he may inspect, because public funds were involved, and he shall inspect, if the Minister so

requires. But he is no longer the Auditor for the Child Care Board; they have a reputable accounting firm. That does not mean the Auditor General's Department is not reputable, but I am saying that it is not as though the Child Care Board was allowed to have some fly-by-night operation doing their books. The Auditors are Cooper and Lybrand; I believe, the biggest auditing firm in Barbados, certainly one of the biggest in the world and certainly very reputable. That is the first point.

The second point is that the old Act, at Section 6 said:

"The expenses of the Board and of the carrying out of this Act shall be defrayed out of monies voted for the purpose by Parliament."

Bear that in mind, because what the Act now says at Section 16 is — I hope that CBC is not leaving the debate. I hope not. The Press has a habit of doing that, deciding that all of the debate is not to be covered —

"The expenses of the Board are to be defrayed out of

- (a) monies voted by Parliament for the purpose;
- (b) monies becoming payable to or vested in the Board; and
- (c) gifts to the Board from any person, organization or body."

I am mentioning that because that section is materially different from the section which existed under the old Act, and it is because that section is different that I want to draw the Senate's attention to the audit on which Senator Greaves placed so much emphasis, because the Auditor General in this audit is saying things like the records indicate that payments totalling so much were made to a claimant in settlement of the cost of maintenance and repairs carried out at children's homes and day nurseries. However, no relevant contracts were made available for audit examination. Not that he did not find that the work was done and the money was paid, but he was looking for contracts done:

"Information seen on a certain bank memo would seem to suggest that there was at least one other current account operated by the Board which was not reflected in any of the Statements presented for audit examination.

"Certain payments could not be verified because it is considered that 'Internal Memorandum' presented to substantiate payment does not satisfy the requirement of Section 17 of the First Schedule to the Act."

This is the old Act he is talking about all the time.
5.30 p.m.

"The Board approved the sale of one vehicle. Disposal thereof however was not found to be in accordance with Rule 117(4) of the Financial Rules, 1971, that is, by public auction or as directed by the Ministry of Finance."

Actually he also at one point says:

"With regard to the matter of excess expenditure, it will be noted from among the Minutes of a Board meeting held on 1981-07-08 that there was an implication that virement is practised by the Board. However the origin of any evidence of such a policy in earlier Minutes of the Board could not be traced."

The fact of the matter is that, unfortunately, the Auditor General carried out the audit not within the framework of the Act 1981-34, which is the only Act that could apply to them, but on the Act that had been repealed. Therefore, the Board being able to attract funds from the sources now that it can, and being subject to the same kinds of controls as other statutory bodies, would be able to allocate what its expenditure shall be and to review that from time to time, and by resolutions of the Board dispose of a vehicle, for example, and all of this would be perfectly legal and in accordance with the Act under which they operate. The Auditor General was looking at the Act that had been repealed and was, therefore, holding that there were infelicities in what they were doing. The mistake was not the Child Care Board's mistake, with all due respect.

I thought it necessary to set the Record straight because there has been much publicity given to Senator Greaves' comments, and the publicity which resulted could well give the impression that the officers at the Child Care Board and/or the Board itself was so conducting themselves as to merit censure by the auditors. There is nothing in that audit report, and I have looked at it, to suggest that had the Auditor General been auditing in accordance not with the old Act at Cap. 381, which has been repealed — because he specifically says he is auditing in accordance with Section 5 subsection (3) "The Auditor General shall as soon as may be after the receipt of the accounts of the Board audit the accounts and submit a report," whereas the auditing powers now in the new Act are to be found at Section 18 — he would have made any suggestion of wrong doing on the part of the Board. In the audit itself — and this is the point I am making — the Auditor General is saying that he is relying on Section 5(3). Section 5(3) of the old Act, the repealed Act, was the authority for the audit, but Section 5(3) of the new Act says:

"In making a determination under this section the judge must have regard to the interest of the child and in other matters the judge considers appropriate".

I would like to see the Auditor General operating under that. As we have seen in a recent publication, it was unconstitutional, it was null and void and of no legal or political effect.

It has also been drawn to my attention that the Minister of Labour, who is the Minister to whom the Child Care Board is responsible, has already been on the air and made that point. I am not suggesting that Senator Greaves knew that when he spoke, although I believe if he knew it he would have said the same thing, but I would like to suggest that some people in the Press should be a little more vigilant. I believe the reporter in here when Senator Greaves spoke would not necessarily have been more vigilant; she functions more in the order of his public relations officer, just like her husband is the Public Relations Officer of the Barbados Workers' Union, but we get that. Every time she covers and he speaks, the most important thing in here is that he has spoken and nobody else can get a look in, but that is all right. We have been living with it for a long time, we will continue to live with it. I just wanted to clear the air in relation to that particular matter.

I shall spend a few brief minutes dealing with a few things under the Ministry of Information and Culture. Senator Reece wanted to know something about women's affairs. I am proud to be Minister of Women's Affairs. We have integrated women into our Ministry. We do not like looking at them as though they do not belong. It is part of the whole developmental process. It is not a department — this is a popular misconception — it never was a department. There is a small bureau of Women's Affairs and the operating expenses are to be found within the operating expenses for the Ministry of Information and Culture. That is really the answer to the question raised by Senator Reece,

I was thinking of something that Senator Greaves said, but since he has been sufficiently courteous to us to do what he did today, I do not think I should waste time with anything else he said.

If we look in our Capital Estimates, page 107 and page 108, mainly those two pages, you will find a number of provisions within the Ministry of Information and Culture, and before I refer to them, just let me say that you will find for the first time in the Estimates reference to a National Library Service. In order to take advantage of modern technology, we have established a Barbados Library, Archives and Information Network, and part of what that body is to do is to involve the organisation and management of departmental libraries within the Government Service, for example, but also it allowed us to use the technology of access data bases in the United States, and therefore to make the business of searches much easier, much less complex. That part of our operation has now matured and has been integrated with

the Public Library into the National Library Service. That explains why for the first time in the Estimates you see reference to a National Library Service.

I am sorry; reference to the National Library Service will be found in the Current but what I was saying before I talked about Capital, I would just make reference to that in the Capital.

We would normally have had reference to the extension of the existing Public Library headquarters building, but what we are going to do this year is to get the planning done for them so that we can then go to our Estimates meeting next year with all of the information ready to get the inclusion of that in for the next year's Estimates.

You will find that there is provision for a technical wing for the Government Information Service. The Government Information Service radio studio has collapsed. We have had engineers look at it, and it has been condemned. The result is that we have to make provision for a broadcast facility. In the meantime, we have had to be renting studio space and time from CANA. We are hoping to get this work done very fast so that they can have a technical wing.

5.40 p.m.

We do not think that we can do anything lavish with a quarter of a million dollars, but that is the order of expenditure which we anticipate at this point in order to make provision for some small television interviewing facility, because there is really no television facility there at all. There are things they should be able to do right there without having to go to CBC to get done. In this way, the department, which I must say continues to please and encourage me, will get the facility of a quality which they should have had for a long time.

I believe that it is true to say that when one looks at the quality of public relations work done by the Government Information Service, it has not only improved tremendously over the past few years but it continues to improve. I think that has to do with the fact that there is a dedicated corps of young, very bright people working in that department these days.

I want to deal with community centres. It is our policy that a certain level of community facilities should exist all over this country. This is following the lead of the first Barbados Labour Party Government. If you look at any of the centres, whether at Gall Hill, St. John, at Sargeants Village, Christ Church, at Trents in St. James or at Grazettes in St. Michael — and I have not called all — you will see that they were built at about the same time. I cannot tell you when that time was, but I know it was not between 1961 and 1976, because not a single centre was built in this country between 1961 and

1976. It is like what Senator Trotman was talking about with the health centres this morning. There stopped being any need for them in 1961, and the need for them only arose again after 1976, because what other centres were not built round about 1956 were built since 1976, whether it is the Ivy, Sion Hill, Rock Hall in St. Andrew, Weston in St. James, Boscobel in St. Peter.....

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: I know there are more. I cannot run out, so somebody help me.

(Aside: What about Rock Hall, St. Thomas?)

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: The one at Rock Hall in St. Thomas was built about 1956 too.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Montgomery. Yes, that is a small one.

Bathsheba, in St. Joseph, is the one I was thinking of in particular, because in Bathsheba, the old centre had deteriorated, become dilapidated and ultimately collapsed. And it took a long time. It took a change of Government before a centre could take the place of the old one.

These are important facilities. It is true that they are built for the whole community, but the fact is that the heaviest use of the centres is as recreational facilities – and as meeting places for the young people; they are important facilities in terms of the social development.

This year, the provision for centres is some \$1 million. There is going to be some impact on that vote perhaps when the bills for the work that is being done at Ellerton, where there have had to be expensive renovations, and at Trents where there have had to be extensive renovations, come in. By the same token, at Bush Hall, which is in this year's Estimates, we have actually had work started and, therefore, some of the cost of that will be borne in this financial year.

At Bush Hall, we are already in the process of putting down a large steel-framed building of, I believe, about 4 800 square feet – I speak subject to correction – and it is going to have a polyurethane cover so that it can function as hard courts and in the evenings, it can function as an auditorium. The old house, which is a mixture of rubble, wood and termites, is going to be demolished – actually, in proper order it is termites, rubble and wood – and we have already got a quotation for that. There is a shell attached to the mill wall which we will convert into bathrooms. So immediately the thing is finished, the auditorium *cum* hard court, or what you want to call it, there will be bathroom facilities available. Later on, we will then come and put a green heart building down so that there will also be a meeting room in the compound.

It is a large area, very heavily populated. For a long time they have been crying out for facilities and have had none. We are keeping the mahogany trees on the property and we are hoping that the community will see perhaps, with the assistance of the Conservation Commission, if they can get together and develop that into a pleasant recreational facility for the entire neighbourhood.

In relation to Checker Hall, St. Lucy, which we had also hoped to have underway by now, I am very happy to announce that the cement plant has agreed to assist us, by way of doing much of the site clearance and masonry that will be involved in this exercise.

We are moving to the use of green heart buildings. We have done two pilots, at Weston, St. James and Rock Hall, St. Andrew, and we are satisfied that if we want to provide facilities of good quality in sufficient quantity for the entire country, the way to go is to use the green heart buildings. People like Senator Griffith will argue that you ought to do it anyway because it helps to draw on some of the foreign exchange that is there locked up in the CMCF, which is true too. But the fact is that we can produce a centre of perhaps 2 200 or 2 300 usable square feet at a much better price than if we continued the old traditional building of concrete blocks, so we are going that way. That is why out of \$1 million in this year's Estimates, I am hoping to be able to squeeze out at least six, if not seven, centres. I have already looked at Elks pasture in the City, and whereas our practice is to go up on stone foundations so that you could use both the top and bottom, in a place like Elks pasture in the city where there are serious foundation problems, we will deal with one level. I suspect that at Bush Hall we will deal with one level.
5.50 p.m.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: It is just off Chapman Lane near to the Sewerage Plant.

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Eden Lodge also. I have had other representations made. I have had representation to do something at Newbury in St. George, which is something I am extremely partial to. It is, after all, my neck of the woods, and it is a place that has needed a facility for many, many years. Traditionally, that community used to use Gun Hill. But that building was given over to the School Meals and ever since then the place on Gun Hill, where as a boy I used to go to dances.....

Asides.

SENATOR THE HON. N. A. BARROW: Do you want me to say something about Eden Lodge or not?

That has been put beyond the reach of the community at Newbury and, really, they need a facility very badly.

There is a representation that we should look at the Powder House on Powder Road, if you go up Station Hill and turn across Powder Road, and there are a number of other representations. We will process them and do whatever is financially possible. But it is our view that there is no point in talking about one centre per parish. Sometimes you have a very heavy population using a centre, and within the same parish you may have two others.

The museum is doing some interesting work. We were going to give them some money for a new building, but we have had to pull back on that. This year their emphasis is going to be on upgrading galleries and the installation of a security system, so it is more renovations than new buildings at the museum this year. The Honourable Senate is probably aware that we have changed the formula for funding the museum, and we have gone from about \$50 000 three or four years ago to some \$300 000 this year. The reason for that is if the museum is to develop into a truly national institution, then we must recognize that we, as a Government, will be getting good service at a cheap price. Our way of funding is not only to fund capital works, which we do, but we also fund against the background of what salaries the museum needs. So we are really funding salaries; there is a little extra but, basically, we will be funding salaries.

If we look under Current "Grant to Institutions," we will also find that that provides not only for funding the museum, but it also provides some funding for the YMCA and for funding the National Cultural Foundation. We have increased our grant to the YMCA, I believe to some \$40 000. Last year, we gave them a fair amount of money. Their grant used to be \$10 000 and, with the approval of Cabinet, I was able to give them enough money last year, in addition to their \$10 000 grant, to pay off their overdraft, which I believe was some \$30 000. In all we gave them about an additional \$50 000, that was to pay off the overdraft and allow them to put their kitchens in order, because my colleague on my right had a Ministry that was getting after the kitchen, because he did not find that it measured up to health standards. I do not think that he can close them down now. This year, again we will show an increased level in expenditure in relation to the YMCA.

The largest item in terms of that grant is the National Cultural Foundation. I want to explain for the benefit of the Senate just what is involved in the matter that is so much in the air at present. To put the issue quite bluntly, this country has to decide at what point the line is going to be drawn. Is it desirable to have one person holding down two jobs and one other person with

all the instability and insecurity that merely acting without any insurance of being able permanently to embark on a career implies? That, put pure and simple, is what seems to be the issue. We cannot afford to take that view, seeing what acting appointments are doing in the Public Service, because there has been a weakening. I believe anybody who is honest and who wants to be direct to the point will tell you that the quality of work out of an Administrative Officer is not now the quality that you used to be able to expect and get. In fact, some people would say that it is not the quality of work you used to be able to get from a Senior Clerk. I have heard this said by civil servants over and over, so do not get me wrong; I am repeating a view which seems to be fairly firmly held by people of experience. It cannot be the fault of the officers if that is as widespread as I understand it to be, it has to be the fault of the system. It is not as though you are recruiting fools. You are recruiting a good calibre person. We are recruiting people who have done well in the universities; people with superior training.

Senator Lynch was talking about study leave a few moments ago. The whole point of study leave is really we ought to move away from a concept of study leave to a concept of training leave. Because if you can leave school and go straight to university, there cannot be then the same justification for the policy of study leave that used to obtain before, when, if you were lucky, you might get a chance to go to the university. What Senator Lynch said is that there should be some measure of study leave in order to train people in areas where there is a scarcity. We endorse that 100 per cent, and that is, in fact, what is happening. When you did not have the opportunities, then you had to have a very liberal policy, because you were, in fact, using the mechanism of study leave to do a general education job within really the society as a whole. Now, you are talking about training people in order to meet specific needs.

6.00 p.m.

The position with the Foundation is that the Foundation had a duty to assess those people who were on secondment for one year before the end of that year's secondment, and once they had assessed them, to indicate whether they still wished to employ them. The people themselves would have had during that year the opportunity to make up their minds whether they wanted to work with the Foundation or go back in the Public Service, so everybody's interest would be protected by one year's secondment. Indeed, at one point today my Permanent Secretary came to see me, and there are two officers among those who have not asked to be recalled on whom the assessments have been done, but one of them would fall in the area for approval by me, because the salary goes above \$30 000 a year, and as a matter of course he brought the thing in and I gave my approval, but the point is the assessment was done. They said they

want to employ the people, so they can now go and offer those two people jobs, and that is exactly what should have been done in respect of every one of those who had been seconded from Government; no more and no less.

If other people want to make life difficult, it is a matter for them, but I am not losing any sleep over it. I cannot understand how the Chief Personnel Officer can extend an officer's secondment by six months and that officer maliciously and falsely informs the Press that he or she has been given an ultimatum. What foolishness are we getting into? If that officer has been given an ultimatum, that officer always had an ultimatum, because they always knew that within a year they would have to opt. So what nonsense are we talking? Are we going to continue in this country to have situations where people like Jean Holder of CTRC had been on secondment for well near ten years and the person acting in his post in the Government Service can draw the pay but cannot acquire pensionability at the level of pay he is drawing because he is holding down a job for a man who is also acquiring pensionability while he works elsewhere? What foolishness are we into? Are we serious people? Are we responsible people? What nonsense is this?

I have seen such a ridiculous situation that for at least 12 years in this country, and probably more, we have had at all times two Chief Education Officers. Why? Because the Chief Education Officer, Mr. Goodridge who is a Pro Vice Chancellor of the University, has been on secondment all that time and they used a provision which allowed them to make an appointment even though the man was on secondment. So that Mr. Rawlins became Chief Education Officer, served for many years and left, retired, Mr. Boyce is now Chief Education Officer. It may be that the educational problems of this country are so complex that at all times we do need two Chief Education Officers, and there are countless cases.

In the meantime the morale of the Public Service is under attack because while some people have two jobs, a lot of people cannot get appointments. That is what we are dealing with. If anybody thinks that the line which I hold on this is the wrong one, so be it, but I believe that to argue otherwise, to argue other than what I argue, is to fly in the face of common sense and reason.

Let me make it absolutely clear. The business of the NCF came to my attention because my advice was asked and I gave it. The decision lies elsewhere, and if the officers wish to know, the decision of the CPO was more liberal than the decision I would have taken, because I would not have extended anybody for six months when in fact the assessment should already have been done. The assessment would have had to be done immediately, as in fact I had directed, and the assessments have now been done, and the officer, if he needed two months to consider it, would have had two months to consider it, so

in some cases it would not have been necessary at all to have extensions, because in some cases the secondment began in April. But the CPO looked at those whose secondments had already lapsed — because that is a fact which nobody tells the public, that there were three officers whose secondment came to an end in January — and said let them have extensions to the end of March, but in the meantime try and straighten out the business. For the others, he gave six month extensions, but it is a matter for him. I am not vex if he gives six month extensions, that is his decision making power, but the fact is that as a matter of policy we as a Government cannot avoid the responsibility. We must look at these issues fairly and we must confront them, and we must decide, as a matter of policy, if we are going to continue policies on secondment which make no sense in management terms and which weaken the effectiveness of the efficiency of the Public Service. It is to me a serious matter for that reason.

We have in place a policy on secondment for periods of not less than six months, and therefore there were special circumstances which gave those people a year, so those who argue that they were always to get two years are indeed not telling the truth. That is another point. There is, in fact, a policy line against these extended secondments.

In terms of telecommunications, I think we ought to be reminded that there is a revenue sharing formula in relation to the revenues from overseas telephone calls, shared between the Barbados External Communications Company, in which the Government is a shareholder to the extent of 25 per cent, and the Barbados Telephone Company. Government also owns some shares in that, but they are both private sector companies.

There is a great deal of talk in terms of rates, and we are shortly going to have to sit down and grapple with another thorny one. The way in which these things happen, they always do get published before you are ready to sit down and read about them. Therefore, I think I had better put the cards on the table at this stage.

There is some likelihood of a reduction of overseas telephone charges. The extent of this reduction, I am not at liberty to state at this point. Before I take the matter to Cabinet and have a definitive position there are certain other factors that have to be taken into consideration. For example, in our economic thrust based so much on promoting Barbados as a service centre, the standard and cost of our telecommunications are an extremely important factor. The IDC, for example, to my knowledge, has already sought to open dialogue with the BET on the question of rates, because if you want to deal with data transfer companies, then the rates become vital.

6.10 p.m.

The other aspect of it is that since the Barbados Telephone Company looks to that for a substantial amount of its revenues, if the rates are reduced and volume of business does not make good that reduction, then they will have to look at how they are going to make good that lost revenue. I just thought I would mention it because, as I said, for all you know, the word might already be out. I prefer the true word to be out than for some garbled version to hit the streets and then find myself getting blamed for keeping up the rates or something.

My final point has to do with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. In the Other Place, the guarantee of the loan for the redevelopment of the CBC has just gone through, and shortly both Chambers will have an opportunity to debate the CBC, because there are going to have to be some changes in the CBC Act, but let me just outline the programmes. There are things like management efficiency, programmes like computerization. There is the building of the new radio station. There is the refurbishing and expansion of the existing buildings and there is the introduction of the multi-channel television service which will give to viewers greater choice. All of this is part of a development programme which has already been embarked on, and was embarked on when a great deal of upgrading of the equipment and replacing, for example, of the radio transmitter at Black Rock, took place. The television transmitters at Sturges are also to be replaced. The fact of CBC is that when it was equipped by Thompson, some of this equipment, like transmitters, you did not expect to get more than 15 years life out of at the most. They have now got better than 15 years out of the equipment, but the equipment was not even new when it was put in, because Thompson had a great habit of off-loading second-hand equipment wherever he went. Really it is a massive programme of rebuilding, that is why we refer to it as the redevelopment programme.

Senator Simmons wanted to know the emphasis about things American, and clearly he is referring mainly to the heavy dose coming out of CNN. The telecasts of these programmes is mainly affected, in the main, by the availability on the satellite. To access data on a satellite carrying cricket, you would need to have a Standard A on your station, which is millions of dollars. The Standard B, which CBC has, would not be able to do this, and for them to show live cricket would mean, if they can get it, getting it out of BET at great cost, so that really shapes the thing. The fact is that we are in this particular sphere where what is available on the satellite is American originated.

The ratio on Channel 3 at present is 25 per cent local programming, 5 per cent Canadian, 5 per cent Australian, 10 per cent British, 50 per cent American and 5 per cent other. I should add, however, that when the subscriber channels are in operation, my instruction to CBC is that Channel 3

must then develop as primarily a local programming station. I really cannot see that you can have four subscriber channels taking stuff off a satellite, and then the one other channel you have also dedicated to showing foreign material. I must say there would be some foreign material on it, but, in the main, it would have to be locally originated programming.

Mr. Deputy President, there is a great deal else one might wish to say. I certainly believe that you will bear with me and forgive my estimate of 30 minutes. It was not as though I went to school in August when Sleepy Smith took on the School Meal Workers, it is that I made a little mistake with my time.

Talking about that, I forgot to mention to the Senate that Senator Greaves had no right coming in here and talking about Ministers and civil servants, because I remember a man getting into an accident with a MTW truck. There was no establishment of liability whatever, and what they did was to put their hand down in the man's coppers, so much a week. I remember seeing Sleepy Smith and asking, "How can you fellows do that?" He said to me "I am the Attorney General. I tell them to do it. If he does not like it, let him put me in court and let me chase him away". That is the attitude of the people that Senator Greaves is defending! I think he should go and find out who is the only Minister that ever fired a civil servant and told her to leave — and she left — because I believe he belongs to the Branford Taitt faction of the Democratic Labour Party. He can ask Branford because he has all the facts about that.

I have said all that I would wish at this stage to say. At any point I am prepared to give members further information on CBC or any other matters within my portfolio but, for now, that is my contribution to this debate.

SENATOR THE HON. C. A. GRIFFITH: I will just be about five minutes, because, as it stands, I know members have been sitting for two days and I have to empathize with you.

Although the contributions have been, by and large, very worthwhile contributions to this debate, I could not help winding up and observing the absence from this Chamber today of the Opposition. I agree with the view of the Leader of the Senate in the condemnation of the leading Opposition spokesman for the behaviour that we saw in this Chamber this morning. I am satisfied that it was deliberately done in order to find something else to do today, and it must not go unnoticed that the people's business in so far as the Opposition was concerned has not been attended to.

Only yesterday, there was a massive effort to get the other member of the Opposition to participate in the debate because he had something else to do today. Instead of having two hours of nonsense, if Senator Hall had

participated we would have had three hours of nonsense in this debate, because essentially there was nothing that was said by Senator Greaves that needed any serious consideration on this side.

6.20 p.m.

The most salient point that has to be made in my response has to do with some statement made about a rosy picture that has been painted of the economy. I do not remember in my introduction to this Bill having painted a rosy picture, because it has been emphasised in the Lower House and emphasised by me in here that the Government has been bent on stabilisation of the economy; and as far as we are concerned, we have had a reasonable amount of success in our efforts to keep the economy on even keel. The kind of wage restraint that we have been talking about essentially is one in reaction to the call for large increases in wages and salaries which did not take into consideration productivity.

We have heard time and time again calls for massive wage increases without looking at the need to increase our productive efforts in this country. Indeed, the calls have been made against a background of reduced output occasioned by shorter working hours, and it will be a sad day in this country if we accept a thesis that the more money you pay and the less hours you work, the country will be better off. It cannot happen in a developing country, and it would be unwise for any Government of Barbados to encourage that kind of practice. Essentially, we can trace the stability of Barbados to the fact that while we have not taken action that is considered popular, we have taken action that is considered in large measure to be the kind of action to keep us afloat until the world's economy improves so that we can have systems in place to benefit from the turn around in the international situation.

When we hear, for instance, of a call for cheaper energy prices because of falling oil prices throughout the world, I consider that as a call just made either maliciously or out of sheer ignorance, because the people who make these calls do not appreciate the fact that we do not buy oil at any cheap prices from anywhere; we do not produce it at any cheap prices, and they keep looking at the American system of distribution and pricing and trying to bring it into Barbados — and it will not happen. The day that we forego the programme that we have, particularly with conservation and the pricing system we have, we again will be upsetting the delicate balance in the economy, because we would be putting a great deal of pressure on our foreign ex-

change resources. It cannot be ignored that a decrease in price of products will indeed occasion an increase in the purchase of those products, thus putting a great deal of pressure on our foreign exchange situation, something which we have fought so valiantly in the last four years to control, and so we cannot start that kind of thesis, and we cannot support the argument made by the Opposition that we can have energy conservation and cheap energy prices. I do not see how it can work. I think we have to opt for energy efficiency, and this is why our conservation programme is so important.

I make these point because the emphasis must be and has always been on a policy of stabilisation, and we are seeing the results of that policy of stabilisation. It is a policy that was carved out by a delicate balancing act that could only be accomplished by the steady and dextrous hands of the Barbados Labour Party Government under the late Prime Minister and now under an able and tested leader in the present Prime Minister, Bernard St. John, and I believe that as long as we keep this policy in the forefront of the people of Barbados, we will get the necessary support.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Standing Order No. 59 refers to money Bills. I therefore put the question immediately that the Bill be read a third time and that the question be decided without amendment or debate.

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

On motion of Senator the Hon. C. A. Griffith, the Bill was passed.

THE ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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