

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1986-91

THE SENATE

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings on Wednesday, July 27, 1988, at 11.15 a.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Frank L. Walcott, K.A., O.B.E., LL.D., (President)

His Honour Senator M. deL. Jordan, (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, (Minister of State for the Civil Service)

Senator A. Morrison

Senator N. W. Boxill

Senator D. A. Comissiong

Senator Mrs. V. C. Fraser, B.S.S., J.P.,

Senator Mrs. G. L. Eastmond

Senator A. J. N. Phillips

Senator T. A. Prescod

Senator Miss B. A. Miller

Senator L. R. Tull, Q.C.

Senator J. C. W. Wickham, M.B.E.

Senator the Rev. Canon I. McK. Jones

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

Senator C. A. Blackman, Q.C.

Senator Mrs. P. Y. Forde

Senator J. S. Goddard

Senator Dr. L. L. Shorey

and Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. Clarke (Minister of State for Finance).

Prayers were led by Dr. the Reverend L. Crawford.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay the following documents:

1. Report of the Welfare Department for the period April 1984 - March, 1986.
2. The Land Registration Regulations, 1988.
3. The Land (Adjudication of Rights and Interests) Regulations, 1988.
4. The Customs (Amendment) Regulations, 1988.
5. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No.7) Order, 1988.
6. The Airport (Fuel Charges) Order, 1988.
7. Annual Reports of the Registration Office and Supreme Court Registry for the years 1985 and 1986.
8. The Auditor's Report and Financial Statement of Accounts of the National Training Fund for the year ended 31st March, 1987.
9. Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 12 months ended 31st March, 1988.
10. The Consumption Tax Order, 1988.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Stamp Duty Act, Cap. 91 and move that it be read a first time.

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

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: I also beg to give notice of two Resolutions:

Resolution to approve the borrowing of the sum of 90 000 ECUs (approximately Bds. \$221 000) from the European Investment Bank for the purpose of conducting a study on the feasibility of establishing a new abattoir.

Resolution to approve the borrowing of the sums of US\$3 000 000, £900 000 and 6 000 000 Deutschmarks from Crown Agents Services Ltd. for the purpose of assisting in the purchase and supply of capital goods and semi-capital goods during the fiscal year 1988-89.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 45(2) be suspended in order to facilitate dealing with the Bill relating to the Consolidated Fund. I do not propose to deal with the other matters given notice of today.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to.

THE FINAL APPROPRIATION (1987-88) ACT, 1988

Order No. 1 was called – to move the second reading of a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of this Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1988.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Cap. 5 section 6, requires that the Final Appropriation Bill containing under appropriate heads all supplementary provisions voted during a given financial year, but not included in any Appropriation Bill be introduced into Parliament. The original Appropriation Bill for the year ended 31st March, 1988, was approved in the House of Assembly on 25th March, 1987, in the sum of \$533 767 467 to provide goods and services for the service of the Island.

During the financial year 1987-88 it was necessary to supplement the original grant by the sum of \$118 922 865 to provide for further goods and services which were unforeseen at the preparation of the original Appropriation Bill 1987-88. A break-down of these amounts which constitute the overall of \$118 922 865 is as follows:

Part 1 – Current:	
Head 10 – Governor-General	\$47 127
Head 11 – Judiciary	\$549
Head 12 – Parliament	\$124 310
Head 13 – Prime Minister's Office	\$1 315 766
Head 14 – International Transport Division	\$1 827 948
Head 15 – Cabinet Office	\$2 568 544
Head 16 – Ministry of the Public Service	\$1 112 637
Head 18 – Audit	\$23 365
Head 19 – Ministry of Finance	\$132 815
Head 20 – Revenue Collection	\$756 669
Head 23 – Loans and Advances	\$7 500 000
Head 25 – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	\$2 867 034
Head 27 – Meteorology	\$7 150
Head 28 – Ministry of Legal Affairs	\$426 503
Head 29 – Public Prosecutions	\$2 129
Head 30 – Police	\$1 123 842
Head 31 – Prisons	\$228 827
Head 32 – Fire Service	\$204 341
Head 33 – Probation	\$8 860
Head 34 – Ministry of Education and Culture	\$5 690 883
Head 35 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	\$715 490
Head 36 – Ministry of Health	\$11 756 659
11.25 a.m.	
Head 35 Ministry of Foreign Affairs	\$715 490
Head 36 Ministry of Health	\$11 756 659
Head 37 Ministry of Housing and Lands	\$14 029 875
Head 39 Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development	\$3 269 107
Head 40 Ministry of Trade and Commerce	\$281 458
Head 42 Ministry of Transport and Works	\$18 358 899
Head 43 Ministry of Tourism and Industry	\$4 113 118
Head 50 Post Office	\$889 527
This is a total on current Account of	\$79 383 432

Under Part II Capital:

Head 69, Prime Minister's Office	\$775 000
Head 73 Ministry of Finance	\$14 324 749
Head 74 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	\$1 229 105
Head 75 Ministry of Legal Affairs	\$969 920
Head 76 Ministry of Education and Culture	\$1 267 618
Head 77 Ministry of Foreign Affairs	\$143 800
Head 78 Ministry of Health	\$407 547
Head 79 Ministry of Housing and Lands	\$11 097 626
Head 81 Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development	\$51 592
Head 84 Ministry of Transport and Works	\$9 272 476
Total Capital	\$39 539 433
for an overall total of	of \$118 922 865

Mr. President, I now move that the Appropriation Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Mr. President, Sir, today is now the 27th July, 1988 and at this date the Final Appropriation Bill comes before us, and the Honourable Minister who introduces the Bill stands before this Senate and yourself, Sir, and reads out like a shopping list all of the Heads of Expenditure that we have now grown accustomed to, that we find in the Estimates every year and which form part and parcel of the matters which or the items and the commodities which have to be appropriated. And without any comment. The Honourable Minister has this thing about not speaking for a very long time when you would expect that he would have something to say. We had that experience in May of this year.

Is it that the reading out of the entire Schedule to make it seem as though something was being said was done simply because there was in fact nothing to be said? The Government at this juncture has no comment to make on these matters?

Well I would certainly like to say, Mr. President, that Members of the Barbadian public have a lot to say on these matters. We are reading their comments in the newspapers every day. We are hearing their comments on the call in programmes every day. And I do not think that the Government is in any doubt that the Opposition Barbados Labour Party has a great deal to say on these matters, both in here when we are given the chance to do it and outside on the public platform, and in any other forum which is available to us. Matters are indeed at a very sorry pass. It

has come to a sorry pass. This Government is continuing to bring its pigs to a fine market.

Now I could start, Mr. President, Sir, at the item, Head 10.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would be glad if you start.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, Sir. I am not alone in that. You and I are travelling in that same boat now as the Reverend Jesse Jackson would say.

I could start at Head 10 under Governor-General and I could speak for the balance of the day going on right through the Heads enumerating them one by one and the greater part of tomorrow and the rest of this week. But I do not know that any real benefit is to be gained. Sir, from going through again the exercise which we pursued at the time of the laying of the Estimates on this Table in March of this year and again in the Other Place at the time of the Budget at the end of April of this year, because nothing much has changed since then, except of course that the Government continues to borrow huge sums of money in order to prop up its financial situation.

The Economic Review of the Central Bank of Barbados has published June, 1988 a green document – there must be a copy, because I have been served with my copy. I must have a copy. The Central Bank of Barbados has just published – I see Senator Blackman has a copy. I wonder if he would lend it to me. I forgot mine at home. The Central Bank of Barbados has just published its Economic Review dated June 1988. In other words, this is the Economic Review of financial affairs in Barbados over the second quarter traditionally an impressive quarter. This is the quarter where the tourist season is coming to its highest peak and the same with the sugar crop. This is the quarter where employment should be running high. And when we look at the Economic Report – Oh no, I beg your pardon, Sir, did I say second quarter? First quarter. – to the end of March 1988 as I say where the Tourist season is at its peak and where the sugar crop is at its peak as well.

And when we read the overview on the first pages of this Economic Review dated June 1988, it is not easy to guess that this is really an overview of what is supposed to be the best quarter. It starts off by saying and I quote – I am willing to make this a document of the House, Mr. President, Sir, the very first sentence:

"Economic activity in the first quarter of 1988 was slightly higher than for the first quarter of 1987."

Now that is the best possible statement in this entire document. Everything from there on is downhill. And

naturally they make their best statement first, "slightly higher than" last year. And then it goes on.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, the tourism sector continued to improve. Yes. Only slightly higher. Everything is slightly higher. You would want us to believe. But everything including the negatives are slightly higher as well. So is unemployment and so is inflation. So do not get too excited by line 3. Look at the second paragraph:

"First quarter merchandise exports declined relative to the first three months of 1987, while total imports increased."

The everlasting story in Barbados.
11.35 a.m.

And then we hear that tourism receipts were higher than in the first quarter of last year and so on and so on. The current account balance while at the end of March 31st, 1988 had a surplus, was slightly below the first quarter level for last year. Then we go on to read that indirect taxes were higher. I do not have to read out this entire report, Mr. President, but it is a cause for concern. Non-sugar agriculture – average prices rising for most domestic agriculture. Vegetable planting down including beans, melons, and sweet peppers. Manufacturing is a sad, sad tale. Construction discloses that for the private sector construction there will be a serious decline in economic activity in the construction as well. It points out that highway construction programme is contracted. Energy prices and Employment – prices rose on the average of 4.6% over the 12 month period ending March 1988. This compares with a 0.7% increase for a similar period one year earlier and a 3.4% rate of inflation for the calendar year 1987. That is a rate that is rising very steadily and systematically in this country – slowly but steadily.

Now we hear very little comment. We do not know what the Government's position is on this slowly rising rate of interest. I mean commentators of every stripe made the point earlier this year and some last year that the Government's Budget of 1988 and the Government's Budget of 1987, because 1988 was merely a continuation of 1987, were inflationary Budgets.

We are a crisis intervention community and this is true of some of the matters in which Government affairs are handled. Are we going to have to wait until inflation gets into double figures again before a hue and cry is raised, before some sort of corrective action is taken? The Government needs to tell us about this.

Unemployment – the rate of unemployment for the first quarter of 1988 was 16.3% compared to the rate of 15.5% for the first quarter of 1987. Then we come to the private sector. We read first of all the shocking first sentence that during the fiscal year 1987-88 the Government deficit was 71% over its level of one year ago. That all the major categories of current expenditure grew rapidly. The last sentence in the first paragraph states that the current account showed a deficit for the first time since fiscal year 1976/77. I repeat. The current account showed a deficit for the first time since the fiscal year 1976/77.

Then there is information about tax receipts over the past year of that first quarter and the very significant sentence at the end of the second paragraph under the Public Sector – "Non-tax revenue also rose substantially owing to higher contributions to the training and health levies. They yielded an additional \$40 million or 52% increase".

I am reading now from page 5, Mr. President. "A current account deficit of \$10.8 million was recorded for the fiscal year 1987/88."

When we turn over to pages 6 and 7, we read what the Central Bank has to say in the Review of the financial sector of the balance of payments and then it takes a look at regional economic developments which are very interesting and so are the international economic developments very interesting. This is required reading I am assuming, Mr. President, for all Members of this honourable Chamber. Just as I spent time in reading this with great detail and great care, I assume that all Members have done that. Then the Budget Proposals are set out. Then there is an interesting article by Dr. Colin Hudson. It is really excerpts from a paper delivered by Dr. Hudson at an earlier time. But it sets out very clearly – I am sure that Senator Ward was impressed to see that the Central Bank saw fit to include this in the June Review – the sad story of diversification in agriculture in Barbados. It is a sad story and I would like to think that all Members will read it with great care. There is a lot of comment, including comment in, I think, the Editorials of one of this morning's newspapers, on the agricultural situation in which Barbados finds itself today. In the face of all of this, Sir, all we get this morning from the honourable Senator who introduced this Bill is a recitation and even that without any music or recitation on the Schedule. It is not enough. It is not enough, Mr. President, and the Members on this side of the Barbados Labour Party Opposition and I am sure all the Independent Members, and all Barbadians are wishful of some further and larger statement on the state of the economy.

We are asking for these grants to be made out of the Consolidated Fund in the appropriation of this money for services and purposes specified in this Schedule. The specification is not large. I mean these are just general Headings, and with a lot like other things we really want to know in at least some cases, some of these Heads what the money is going to be used for. Because there is a growing concern, Mr. President, Sir, in Barbados that while certain levies and large quantities of money have been voted into the Consolidated Fund that we are not sure exactly how monies are being appropriated out of that Consolidated Fund for the funding of goods and services for the welfare of this island.

11.45 a.m.

Earlier this year the Government sought Parliament's approval for the borrowing of a very large sum of money, yet another large sum of money, to be raised on the Japanese market. Half of that money has been raised. The Government has not had the courtesy or otherwise to inform this Chamber – and I believe the same is true of the Other Place, not to mention the people of Barbados – what the \$80 million raised represented. Did it represent in fact the first tranche of the \$160 million voted? Did it represent the fact that they cannot raise any more than \$80 million? Perhaps we need to know why. This is expensive Japanese money being raised. We have not been shown the courtesy by the Government. More and more monies are being raised and we are not sure. We are just given, like this morning, just broad brush strokes, broad headings. We are not sure.

The Minister of Finance has said that some of that Japanese money was to go toward road building, road repair. We are not even sure what it is going to go toward. At the time of the Budget we heard from the Other Place, although the Transport Levy was in fact going into the Consolidated Fund, that undertakings were being asked of the Minister of Finance by the Minister of Transport and Works that the money raised by the Transport Levy, which went into the Consolidated Fund, would somehow have to be separated out of the Consolidated Fund and made available to the Ministry of Transport and Works for the repair and the building of certain roads which the Minister went to great care to read out in a long list to the Minister of Finance.

But even now we really do not know what the position is. We do not know if some of the Japanese money is going toward the building of tenantry and subsidiary roads which taxpayers' money in the form of the Transport Levy used to do. We are now borrowing expensive Japanese money to do what money raised on the domestic market used to do.

These questions we have to ask, because nobody is showing honourable members of this Honourable Chamber the courtesy of any explanation for anything. This

Government has taken the attitude that with a majority of 24 – 3 it can do as it likes, but, Mr. President, it must remember at all times that the people who made the 24 – 3 can unmake the 24 – 3. The people who appointed such a position in this country can disappoint.

(*Aside:* SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: You didn't know that before?)

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: No, the people did not know it either, Senator Boxill, but now they know.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I should like the honourable member to address the Chair and not Senator Boxill, please. I do not wish to hear these side remarks any more. I hope that is the first and last.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: As I was saying, Mr. President, the people now know the difference and that difference is the subject of daily comment from all sectors in our community from people of all walks of life, people of all political colour. Perhaps colour is an unfortunate word to use in this context, but people of all political persuasions, people of all colours – and I use colour now in its proper context – and the people now know the difference, but in here we are entitled to, I think, far more than is being made available to us.

More and more money goes on being borrowed, and to tell you the honest truth, Mr. President, I am not sure of the use to which it is said some of these monies are going to be put, and these uses are articulated in here, because it is coming to the point where members of the Opposition find it very difficult to believe what is coming from the Government benches; very difficult indeed. It is taxing our credibility, and I do not think that only the members of the Opposition find themselves in that position, but I can only speak with any certainty for the members of the Opposition.

Other members are going to have a chance to speak, and it really is very difficult for me to say much more than I have already said in response to this, because all we have had is literally a recitation of the Schedule. It is not enough. The Government is at least a quarter way through this financial year which began on 1st April and more and more loans. I expect before the financial year is done that the Government will be coming back for supplementaries. Certainly the Minister of Finance has made it clear to us all already that there is one massive supplementary for which he is going to have to come, and that has to do with Civil Service salaries. He has made it clear that with the \$110 million in taxes, with all the monies borrowed to prop up the foreign exchange position in this country, to prop up the balance of payments in this country, he has made it clear

that he has nothing, as we would say in ordinary parlance, put aside, nothing earmarked for Civil Service salary increases which are currently being negotiated, and it is known those negotiations have to be concluded during the course of this financial year.

You know, in the practice of law when two sides are arguing over a money settlement in civil matters and they cannot seem to come to an agreement, and they feel that they in fact have to go to the court, oftentimes a party is expected to pay into court as a show of its good faith and a show of its earnest belief in the correctness of whatever the figure would be; in other words, one side is willing to show that it is going to put its money literally where its mouth is, it is going to stand by the figure which it is negotiating and pays that money in, and often when these matters are settled and it turns out that the money paid in approximates to what is settled, the court's attitude is reflected in costs, and the court will often penalise where you settle for as much or less. In other words, the court is saying this matter could have been settled outside at lesser cost to both parties involved, saving time and money.

So it is known that the Civil Service salaries are being negotiated and the Government, as far as we have been told by the Minister of Finance, no less a person, has not seen it fit to include in this year's Estimates any earnest, any sum of money to show that in good faith it is disposed to negotiate at a certain level, or that it does not mean to negotiate at less than X or Y percent. But no appropriation has been suggested and the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has told us that whenever the Civil Service salaries negotiation comes to an end he has to go back to Parliament, or it is his intention to go back to Parliament to raise the money to pay them. So that is more that will come to the taxpayers to face.

It is a very unhappy situation. I find it a matter of deep concern, Mr. President, and I think that it is virtually bordering on the point of rudeness, of disrespect I should say, to this Chamber that the Honourable Minister could not find it fit to make some comment apart from the recitation of the Heads to be found in the Schedule of this Act.
11.55 a.m.

I do not think I can do much more than to demand that the Government provide some information for us, because it is not much more than we can demand at this time. In due course, to use a phrase made popular by the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, in due course, in the fullness of time, the Opposition will have a lot more to say about these matters. I thank you.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I have a feeling that the only words that can express the way I feel

about the situation existing in Barbados is most appropriately in the words of a book written many years ago by Father Trevor Huddleston, now Bishop Trevor Huddleston "Nought for your Comfort".

Mr. President, the Honourable Minister who presented Government's position spent his time, as the speaker before me indicated, by indicating that he could read which we knew, and by reading a list of things without comment, explanation, support. I want to go on record as supporting Senator Miller's view that I consider this at the very least a matter of discourtesy to this Honourable Chamber.

I want to support her further because what she has described is in fact a litany of woes. It is a record of which I think the Government has every reason to be ashamed. I propose in the time allotted to me to focus particular attention on two matters, and I start first with one in my own professional field, education.

Mr. President, there are a number of things that go on in Barbados that really amuse me. In this Chamber and elsewhere I have argued and I am arguing now and I will say that I will continue to argue that in my view the time has long past when persons who receive University education from the public purse should be required on completion of their course of study to repay into that same public purse a part of the cost of their expensive education which is never less than \$8 000 a year and goes up to much more than that.

I have been criticised for this in public which is outside this Chamber and even within this Chamber by a member of the Government.

Mr. President, I have before me some information and I am offering to make this a document of the House. It is an analysis of what has happened with tertiary education. Please note that I have argued for a repayment into the public purse which would thereby increase the funds available. The 1984-85 allocation to the University - \$16 389 000; 1985-86 allocation - these are all estimates taken directly from the Estimates - \$25 231 000. In 1986-87 it drops by \$7 million to something like \$18 582 633 which is the accurate figure. In 1987-88 it goes up slightly to \$19 749 000 and in 1988-89, Mr. President, would you believe it, the figure is \$16 021 153, so that in 1984-85 the allocation to the University was 12.9 per cent of the total budget in education, it rose to 17.5 per cent in 1985-86, it dropped to 13.4 per cent in 1986-87, it dropped further to 12.7 per cent in 1987-88, and the figure for 1988-89 is 9.5 per cent.

Mr. President, I hold no brief for the University of which I was once an employee. I have been as critical of it, and I think justifiably so, as anybody else in the country,

but that does not mean that I do not recognise the contribution it is making. It has got shortcomings and I think these shortcomings must be pointed out, and who better than somebody who knows about the institution. So I do not apologise for that at all.

I am amazed however that a Government whose members are critical of a suggestion that people should put back into the Treasury which would help to increase the allocation should reduce that allocation both absolutely and in relative terms – the relative terms are from 17.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent and the absolute are from \$25 1/4 million to \$16 million, and may I repeat, Sir, that these are the figures taken from the Estimates for the respective years. I am amazed that a Government can do this, and without a single word of explanation or comment. Like Senator Miller I would hope that at some stage this Honourable Chamber and the Public which we represent will be treated to the courtesy of an explanation for this drastic and as far as I can see inexplicable reduction in the allocation to University education.

I turn next, Sir, to a matter that is even more perturbing and which offers even less comfort, I refer to matters relating directly to the Ministry of Transport and Works. Sir, I was out of the Island when certain incidents occurred, and when I returned to Barbados I could not believe what I had heard, nor could I believe what was reported. Sir, absolutely unbelievable. The available information is that in the Other Place a Minister of Government stated that a tender had been accepted and granted on the basis of what is widely interpreted in this country as the basis of colour and race.
12.05 p.m.

On the basis of colour and race. If you ask me, Mr. President, why I am amazed, I want to read with your permission, Sir, the last sentence of the Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals made by the Hon. L. Erskine Sandiford on Thursday April 28, 1988. This I believe, Sir, is already a document of the House. His last statement is as follows:

"In the end a strong economy and a just society remain as the fundamental objectives of my Government. We have not and will not change from the pursuit of these objectives."

Sir, I do not know whether to laugh or cry. Mr. President, I do not know, whether as a citizen of Barbados and as a Member of this Honourable Chamber I should laugh at those words or cry. The reason why I say that Sir, is that when I look in the Constitution I find in Section 23 the following words:

"No person shall be treated in a discriminatory manner by any person acting by virtue of any written law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority."

And fortunately, Sir, we do not have to guess what was meant by the framers of this Act because the next paragraph goes on to explain this, and I crave your indulgence, Mr. President, to read it because it is very pertinent. The Prime Minister says that :

"a just society"

and I will requote, will:

"remain a fundamental objective of"

his:

"Government."

And that his Government has not changed:

"and will not change from the pursuit of those objectives."

Very laudable. Indeed it is very consonant because the Constitution under which we all live says:

"In this Section"

and I quote, Sir:

"the expression "discriminatory" means affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by race, place of origin, political opinions, colour or creed whereby persons of one such description are subjected to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of another such description are not made subject or are accorded privileges or advantages which are not afforded to persons of another such description."

Mr. President, perhaps, Sir, you can understand why I do not know whether I should laugh in amusement or shed tears for my country. I do not think that since we became independent on the 30th November in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six – I do not think that in those intervening twenty-one years and some plus months, the moral level of a Government of this country has ever sunk so low.

Mr. PRESIDENT: May I ask the Senator – I gave you a long time, I gave you a specific matter in this

Chamber – what does that long comment have to do with this matter on the Order Paper?

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I was under the

Mr. PRESIDENT: Because you were out of the island, I do not want to make up for that. I want to know what it has to do with this specific item you are debating.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I was under the

Mr. PRESIDENT: I would ask you to get back, since you cannot answer me, kindly get back.....

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: to the matter on the Order Paper, please, so that we save some time.

Aside.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, Mr. President,.....

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Miller if you want to behave like that, I will have to take other action. But I am speaking to Senator Shorey. You cannot sit in your seat and want to address me like that .

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I am speaking in connection with expenditures under the Ministry of Transport and Works and of actions relating thereto.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, the matter before you was what you had started to speak on. Then you went into a letter, something that you read in the Other Place. But that is not before us. What is before us is this Order here.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, are you indicating that I cannot speak on a matter relating to the Ministry of Transport and Works and the allocation of a contract from Government funds?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can speak on any Ministry when we are dealing with that. Any at all.

All I was drawing to your attention is that we have a specific matter you were dealing with and you were drifting. I do not want to draw your attention to the Standing Orders that we have. You cannot stand and speak

on all matters and drift from one thing to the other. You are drifting away from the matter that is before us.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I am speaking in connection with the matter relating to the Ministry of Transport and Works and an allocation of a tender made by that Ministry.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: But that is not before us, Senator Shorey. You can do a thing like that in passing, but you cannot make that the subject of a debate when we are discussing this matter.

Aside.

(SENATOR B. A. MILLER: You can speak on anything. Nobody can muzzle you.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Miller, I am going to deal with you in accordance with the Rules if you continue that behaviour. There is no point of telling him he can deal with anything, and show disrespect to the Chair.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: On a point of order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is no point of order because you are very disrespectful to the Chair. And if you continue that, I will have to take other steps for that.

SENATOR MILLER: Mr. President, you are not willing to hear me on a point of order?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot be sitting in your Chair and telling me that you can speak....

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I would not dream of addressing you from my chair, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You were in a voice loud enough that I could hear.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I am not addressing you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But I can hear you.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I am entitled to make asides.

But I would know better than to address you from my Chair.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You should know better.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I am rising on a point of order, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: And I expect a person who should know better to behave that way.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I am rising on a point of order, Mr. President, Sir. The matter before this Honourable Chamber is a Bill, the Final Appropriation Bill in respect of the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1988.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. Continue Senator....

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: That is not a point of order?

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. That is a point of interruption. Continue.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: As Your Honour pleases.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, the Head under which I am speaking says, Sir, with your permission, Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications. It includes Project Planning and Execution Staff, Purchase of General Purpose Equipment, Renovation of Government Buildings, Bridges, Drainage Works, Access Road to Cement Plant, Highway Rehabilitation, Highway Improvement.

I am submitting, Your Honour Mr. President, with great respect that I am speaking in direct relationship to a relevant matter dealing with highway rehabilitation and highway improvement for which the Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications is responsible.
12.15 p.m.

I was saying, Sir, that in the execution of its responsibilities the decision made by the honourable Minister and the support for that decision given by the Cabinet of this Government leaves citizens of this country like myself, Sir, and others with a feeling of the greatest possible unease. I see naught for comfort in any of this. I see what appears to be an action which lends itself to the arousal of the worst possible feelings among citizens of our country and which may well be construed – I cannot say it was intended – as being intended to disrupt our community.

Mr. President, within recent times we have heard.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator, be careful with the words that you use. Are you seriously stating here that someone holding public office did something with a view to disrupting public order in this country?

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, with due respect Sir, I was very careful

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not want to have the words read back. But I want you to be careful of what it is you are saying. You are speaking these things in the Senate not in a drawing room.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, my words were that the actions of the Minister could be construed. That was the phrase that I used. I was very careful to say that one cannot state that those were the reasons why the action was taken, but that the action could be so construed. I can go on, Mr. President.

Within the more recent past, we have heard about hidden agendas. I find the word interesting because, Mr. President, when I look at what is happening in connection within the Ministry of Transport, Works and Telecommunications – well the actions of the Minister himself and the support given to those actions by the Cabinet, I have to ask myself – is there a hidden agenda? I cannot answer the question because I do not know. But it is certainly a question which comes to my mind and must surely, Mr. President, have come to the minds of many citizens in Barbados.

Mr. President, I say again that I am grievously concerned for our country. I am deeply perturbed about the roads which we appear to be taking. I find it inconceivable that a Government which says that we have not and will not change from the pursuit of a just society should take an action which is manifestly in the views of large numbers of our citizens contrary to the very Constitution under which we live.

I trust, Mr. President, that the Government will give due consideration to these matters. I have just one or two more things, Mr. President, to say. That is that I find it extraordinarily interesting that statements and assertions made by the honourable Minister were refuted in detail by the aggrieved party and I find it, as I said Mr. President, that they have not even been a peep by the Minister to the best of my knowledge. Is it that the Minister cannot reply? Because presumably if he did not know before, which one can conceive, he must now I am sure have access to the relevant files. And if the reputation given was incorrect, then I think the honourable Minister owes it to this country to give chapter and verse justifying the statements which he made in Parliament because I am contending that he gave at least a half truth. When he spoke of overruns, he did not give the full picture and I am suggesting the Minister himself owes the Parliament of this country, and the citizens that the Parliament represents an apology or an explanation and justification, refuting each and every one of the contentions made by the C.O. Williams Group. I am saying also, Mr. President, that within this same Chamber allegations were made which were also refuted and it is

notable and noteworthy that the Senator from this honourable Chamber who made those remarks have not – I was going to say have the courage – but let us say has not today sought to refute them. I find these things very interesting, Mr. President.

Let me say again that I am very, very perturbed about the path which I think it seems our country has taken under the guidance of the present Government. I think it is a mistaken path. I think it is one that heads us for trouble. I would ask Government before it is too late to reconsider its position because we cannot, Mr. President, right the wrongs of the past by doing wrong now. Injustices of the past cannot, Mr. President, be righted by injustices in the present. I repeat that, Mr. President. Injustices of the past however grievous cannot in any way to any degree be remedied by injustices in the present. I ask through you, Sir, that the Government which you represent will take note of the concerns of its many citizens who feel sincerely, and I think with great justification, that the actions do not lead and will not lead to a just society.

(Applause.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Blackman.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, the occasion of the Final Appropriation Bill is really the only occasion in which this honourable Chamber has an opportunity of being given the background information on the Supplementaries which are debated in the Other Place and which by reasons of matters which are the subject of a Resolution are not brought here.

12.25 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, I think it is really an affront that when that opportunity is available to give a background information as to the several matters on which monies that have been voted on by way of supplementaries in the past year, the opportunity is not taken to give more information, and all that Senator Clarke demonstrated apart from his reading skill, that he is numeric, and he told us what each Ministry's lump sum allocation was. It is an exercise that we could all have done for ourselves on our own calculators, and it represented to me really that it was too much padding to fill up time.

If I may turn to some of the Heads that were enumerated in terms of the provisions made for them during the past year, and I first turn, Sir, to Head 11, the Judiciary. I wish to advert to a concern I raised in this Chamber 18 months ago when a Bill came before this Chamber to deal with the conditions of service, when we were fixing judicial pensions at a fairly extraordinary level, and I took the occasion to point out that you were paying a man more

money in retirement than you were paying him when he was working.

Sir, since that statement was made we have had a situation where in short order two Judges have either retired or are about to seek retirement, and the fear in the profession is that there are at least a couple others who qualify to take advantage of these generous pension provisions, and that in a very quick order we will have a brand new Bench, perhaps by the beginning of 1989.

I would like to urge that some consideration be given, before a successor is appointed to Mr. Justice Rocheford, to go back to the law as to whether it is desirable that any man should go home on full salary tax free as a pension, because you are going to make mock stick of the whole system of the Judiciary when you have a revolving door operating in this way. I think really the country cannot afford the luxury of giving people tax free pensions anyway, not when you go off with a salary of \$60 000 a year or \$40 000 a year tax free, young enough to go out and supplement it with earnings, and those people in the community who are working hard have to support them to justify a fat salary.

The other matter in relation to the Judiciary is this. In October 1983 there was a fire in the Supreme Court area. It damaged the Law Library and it damaged the Magistrate's Court in that area. The court has been rebuilt, but because of one of those bureaucratic bumbblings, five years after the event the Library still has not been repaired. There is some dispute as to who is to look after getting the electric power down there, and I have sat in meetings and it is a matter of a circular argument, who is to do it, who is not to do it, and the buck never stops anywhere.

Sir, it is a situation that if it were in the private sector it would have been cured ever since and I would like to know when, five years after the fire, something can be done to rectify that.

I look next, Sir, at Head 28, Ministry of Legal Affairs. In the Throne Speech there was a statement made two years ago at the Opening of Parliament as to Government's relentless efforts to be made to remove the scourge of illegal drug trafficking from our shores. Just over a year ago a draft Bill was sent to the profession to deal with drugs, forfeiture of proceeds, and a report was submitted by the Bar Association. We have had no acknowledgment of what we submitted, and as far as I know it is still a talking point. The drug scourge is as serious a matter in 1988 as it ever was, and probably worse, because there are now no-go areas in certain parts of this island.

The point, Sir, is this. What is happening with the legislation that has been promised? Over the weekend when

I was preparing for this debate I examined the Throne Speech and I examined the legislation that has been brought to this Chamber over the past two years, I have examined the statute Books and I have not seen in any of the statutes put before Parliament over the past two years one major piece of enabling legislation of any kind. Every Bill passed by this Parliament has the word "amendment" in it, unless it happened to have been the Appropriation Act. I invite Senators who have just received these copies to look at them. There is not one word in there other than "amendment" or occasionally you have the word "validation", not one novel piece of legislation.

The same thing is true if you look under the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development, Head 39. There was a proposal in the Throne Speech that provision would be made, "that the needs of children are of special concern to my Government." We have had debate in this Chamber, a question put down by Senator Forde on child abuse, Child Care. Legislation has been promised. We have not seen it yet, Sir.

We have seen, again in the Throne Speech, in relation to the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, Head 40, "the modernisation of commercial law will continue, legislation related to bankruptcy will be revised." None of this has been put here in the past two years under these Heads.

Head 35, Sir, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I am advised that the diplomatic representatives for Barbados for some of the European countries have not had their accreditations completed, which has caused some difficulty for persons having to do business with them; that persons who recently were engaged in the double taxation treaty exercise found that they could not be facilitated in the way they ought to have been because the credentials of the High Commissioner to London, Mr. Smith, as Ambassador to those particular countries, had not been completed, two years after his appointment. The Ambassador for Brussels, who ought to be assigned to West Germany has not had his matter completed, so he too could not facilitate the work of the team in the way that they were expecting.

It has been said in this Chamber, Mr. President, that one of the principal objectives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the current year is to secure the Presidency of the General Assembly for Dame Nita Barrow. I have the utmost regard for Dame Nita Barrow and I will congratulate her wholeheartedly when she achieves that objective, but with great respect, that could not be or should not be the objective of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs. You have a country to run, you have business to undertake, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been impeded by a lack of direction. There is the absence of a Commercial Attache at the Washington Office for sometime since the return of a

Mr. King. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is inadequately funded to do the work that it is supposed to undertake in promoting Barbados, and there is still a continuing jurisdictional difficulty between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and Industrial Development in terms of officers facilitating each other in doing things, and if newspaper rumour has any credence to it and we say farewell to one of our number for another overseas appointment, I hope he will be able to use the charm of his good nature to overcome some of these problems.
12.35 p.m.

The point is that the need for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Industry to harmonise what it is doing is important. There is even the matter of modern technology has not caught up with the Ministry. The people up there, Sir, can get hold of the most recent equipment, they can have access to FAX machine, but there is none at headquarters. I understand the Board of Tourism in London has one and you have the business that tourism would send down something and send it to Central Bank, then who have to send it up the road by car to the Ministry, and the smallest private office in Barbados runs its affairs on a more efficient business-like basis than that. If you check the new Telephone Directory it shows all the private offices that carry this equipment, and Government which should be setting the example is lagging badly.

Sir, the matter of bringing the Final Appropriation Act is required by law. I hope, Sir, that before we have to deal with a Bill of this kind next year that arrangements be put in place to make this sort of debate academic, because we would have had an opportunity of dealing with the matters as they arose without doing it a year after when no one even knows probably the reasons why the money was raised in the first place. But I go back to an observation I made at the time of the Annual Estimates. This Bill amounts to a 22 per cent increase over the amount voted for when we did the Appropriation Bill, 1987. The day is going to come when there is going to be nothing to stop an administration if it so wishes to put in token votes and pass the whole thing in a lump sum with a nominal figure and do all the rest in supplementaries, and close us out from any debate or participation in it except a year after the money has been spent.

You know, Sir, I am sorry Sir James Tudor is not in his place and perhaps I will hold it until next time he is here – I hope he will be here next time; but I have a concern in Parliament. I will not go into all the details as when Sir James is here, but I have a concern that of what I may regard as private members in this Chamber are not as safeguarded and protected as I think is desirable. It took, and the Order Paper indicates it, Sir, 13 months for Canon Jones' Resolution on this matter of the debate of money

Resolutions to be debated between notice of the Resolution and the debate being initiated. The debate started on the 9th March and we are now on 27th July, four months have elapsed and in all probability we will go into recess and come back or you might have a prorogation or what-have-you and the thing will die and you have to start all over again.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would you explain that? Do not leave it blank like that. I heard *sotto voce* that Senator Comissiong has No. 1 on the Order Paper. That has not been debated yet. So can you explain what you mean?

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, if Senator Comissiong wishes

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not inviting him, I am inviting you to say what do you mean by that bland statement that things are put on the Order Paper and no attempt is made to debate them.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I can say that the matters to which I advert are matters which stand in my name and are matters that I have repeated lobbying of the Minister to ensure debate, and you get fobbed off. I cannot speak as to whether Senator Comissiong made any attempt....

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am not speaking about Senator Comissiong. I am, asking you what prevented you from debating your matter.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I can only debate a matter.....there are matters on the Order Paper today in my name. I am prepared to debate them today, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Blackman, I was just querying the point you made. You have matters on the Order Paper and you made a statement as if there was something preventing Members who have things on the Order Paper from debating them. So I want to know what prevented you who is one of those Members from debating what you have on the Order Paper.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Because, Mr. President, and perhaps with respect, on the occasions when the matter came up, Your Honour was not in Your Place perhaps to give me the protection of ensuring that they were debated, but the Minister in place would say, don't do it now, I have to discuss it and get back to you.

Mr. PRESIDENT: And you agreed? If you agreed then there is no problem.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: That is not the point, Mr. President, with great respect. It is not a matter of whether I agree. As I understand the conventions, Sir, you indicate to the Leader of Government Business what you are going to do. There was an occasion, Sir, now you choose to refer to it, that I have had cause to say to the Leader of Government Business that whereas there is a routine announcement of every business on the Order Paper, on conclusion of Public Business, the Minister for the day almost inevitably moves the motion for the adjournment. There is not a routine calling of Private Members' Business as you call Messages from the Governor-General and so on. If it is a matter of giving notice of a Resolution, it has to be dealt with by saying "Private Members' Business".

Sir, the point I am making is that I think there has been occasions when I have had a concern and I have communicated these concerns to the Leader of Government Business. I have had no reply to that letter yet, and I will not make that letter a document of the House today in the absence of Sir James Tudor, but the point is that as I go back to the point I was making ...

Asides.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I will not do it behind his back. The point I want to make is that we need when matters relating to the concerns of Members on this side whenever raised, however raised have as much validity as those raised by Government, and it is really a two-way street. In my own case I am willing at all times to give constructive support to any measure put forward by the Government that is worthy of support, and I think I can only think of probably three occasions in this Chamber in the past two years when I have felt constrained to vote "no" and I had given my reasons for it. I think that we have a difficulty that unless we assert ourselves and say some things in public that the business of Senators not necessarily appointed other than by Section 36(4) of the Constitution might well be eroded.

SENATOR J. C. W. WICKHAM: Mr. President, much has been said about the conduct of this debate and the difficulties facing debate because the Senate does not have, as a body, the opportunity of debating supplementaries as they are made. There is a Resolution on the Order Paper which is relevant to this point.
12.45 p.m.

The exercise we are going through now is really an exercise in futility. It has absolutely no meaning. The money has been spent, the appropriations made and the Senate is disregarded. One Member has said there is a lack

of courtesy, another one has said rudeness. But the Senate as part of the Parliament of Barbados has been disregarded.

Time and again successive Senates have drawn attention to this point. Nothing has been done. The Commission for the Review of the Constitution made the point as well and nothing has been done. What are the individual Senators to do? They have no opportunity to discuss the matters. What are they to do?

Mr. President, all I can say now at this stage is that I do not propose to vote for the Bill. I want my dissent recorded. I cannot in all good conscience continue to vote and support the passage of a Bill which has absolutely no meaning. I have been here long enough to be able to say that I have tried, but now I have reached the end. And I cannot in all conscience give my assent to a Bill which has absolutely no meaning to me or to Members of the Senate. And I would like my dissent recorded. I do not propose to ask for a division but I certainly want my dissent recorded.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR THE REV. CANON I. McK. JONES: Mr. President, I must endorse what Senator Wickham has just said. I brought a Resolution to this House years ago and you will see it on the Order Paper now. No. 2 on "PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS" "To move the passing of a Resolution requesting Government to take steps to give effect to the recommendation of the Constitution Review Commission that the Senate should be authorised to deal with Money Resolutions."

Now I have spoken on it twice, the person who seconded me has never, either on my right or recently, Senator Shorey, neither of them has had a chance to speak on it.

And I agree with Senator Wickham – it does not seem to be any point in asking us to vote on something, an Appropriation Bill when money has already been expended. We do not know what it has been expended on or what it is there for. We can say nothing about it. But still as supposedly intelligent people, people above the, should I call the sub-literacy line, we are still expected to concur in something that we can do nothing at all about. The money has already been expended and we have to say we concur in this. To me that is stupid and futile. And I really do not see why we should be asked to carry on this conundrum. It is worse than a circus.

As I said in my speech when I was introducing this Resolution, it was known that the Legislative Council of years gone by had the right to deal with money Resolutions. It is also equally well known that when the name was changed to the Legislative Council, the Senate also had that

right to deal with money Resolutions. And it was done right here in this very Honourable Chamber.

From around 1973 I think it was, I think it was 1973 when an Order came down from the then Attorney-General saying that the Senate would not have the right to deal with money Resolutions. That has gone on from then until now. We have never had a worthwhile debate on it. We have never had a chance to. But you come to us every year with an Appropriation Bill asking us to support it when, as I said, already, we do not know where the money is expended.

Then we had what was not an introduction today by the Minister of State, as has already been said. He just read out the thing but he did not give us any comment at all on why we were asked to deal with this \$118 million. At least – I agree with Senator Miller when she said that we on this side of the House, especially the independent Senators and the Opposition are being treated – with a certain amount of discourtesy – at least we ought to know something about why they want this additional money, how is it arrived at and things of that kind. We do not hear a word. All we are told is \$118 million are needed and you come and vote on it.

I cannot in conscience continue to support this.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Goddard.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. President, I do not think there is too much more that I can add to what has already been said. I must say that I am in sympathy with the views that have been already expressed by the other Senators on various points.

To be looking at this figure of \$118 million months after the event as has been pointed out, we are dealing here with history. It is a procedure. We are not really approving anything in the strictest sense of the word. Yet a figure of \$118 million in isolation is fairly meaningless until it is related to what was the approved expenditure for that year.

And as Senator Blackman I believe has already pointed out, this is some 22% approximately in excess of the amount approved by Parliament for the expenditure in that year.

Appendix C of the Estimates showed that in the last Financial Year, there were 42 Supplementary Estimates. We were not part of that debate. So we are just now looking at a global figure and being asked to rubber stamp it.

I cannot support it for the same reasons that Senator Wickham and Senator Jones have already expressed.

It is not acceptable in Government, but it should not be acceptable in Government that they can spend 22% in excess of approved expenditure and come to this Chamber without one word of explanation.

I would hate to think that a statutory board would find that acceptable. I certainly cannot think of any board in the private sector that would condone that.

Yet here it is, we come today, listen to a recitation with absolutely no explanation given.

What concerns me, Mr. President, is that following the Estimates, we had the Budgetary Proposals and all the emphasis was on adjusting the revenue side of the Budget. We had increase in Consumption Taxes, we had the introduction of the surcharges on personal income and corporate taxes. But that is only half of the equation, Sir. Unless we look at the expenditure side, we will never get our Budget into balance. There were a few platitudinous statements made but I never detected any serious attempt to look at Government expenditure. In fact, all the advice I now hear being given to Government is not to cut expenditure. Here it is, last year 22% in excess was spent.

I see now, Sir, that from what I read in the paper, certain Government Ministers and Parliamentarians have started to blame the private sector for the malaise or the lack of development in the economy. That is an old whipping point, Mr. President. That is nothing new. But the private sector consists, if we look at the economic Ministries in this Appropriation Bill, the three I picked are the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, all the fishing boats, all the fish sellers, all the farmers, big and small, the food processors.
12.55 p.m.

If we move on to Head 40, Ministry of Trade and Commerce, all the shopkeepers, big and small whether they are on Broad Street, High Street, Roebuck Street, Swan Street, Baxters Road – it does not matter.

The Ministry of Tourism and Industry – that only refer to big hotels, Mr. President. All the ancillary services, the vendors on the beach are affected. So when I see criticism of the private sector, the intention may be to target a small area. But the private sector encompasses a full range of economic activity in all of the productive sectors. I see the tendency now to start saying that the private sector is responsible for not responding to the 1986 Budget. I am referring to the Nation, Sir, of Monday, July 25. And therefore the corrective measures had to be taken.

This concerns me that if we are not really objective in our analysis. We have to get the tourism sector going better than it is. We have to get manufacturing going better than it is and right now we are so dependent on tourism and construction, probably the 2 main pillars of our economy at the present time.

I do not think there is anything else I would like to add at this stage, Sir, other than to say that the reasons given by the other Senators I find it difficult to support the appropriation dealing with money which already has been spent and which we have nothing to contribute or criticise or bring to the public's attention. I believe we have to raise the level of our accountability of Government. When a Minister of Finance goes abroad to borrow funds that have been approved by Parliament he has a duty and an obligation to account to the people if he gets those funds and if he did not why not. Until he raises the level of accountability at all levels of Government, Mr. President, we will have a difficult road ahead of us. Thank you very much, Sir.

Applause.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to move that this sitting be suspended for 1 hour and be resumed at 2 p.m.

The question was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT suspended the sitting accordingly.
1.00 p.m.

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. PRESIDENT: When the Senate was suspended, the honourable Member was addressing the Chamber.

SENATOR D. A. COMMISSIONG: Mr. President, initially I had not intended taking any part in this particular debate. However, after having listened to the contribution of Senator Shorey, I feel obliged to make some sort of response. I should, therefore, like to direct my comments particularly to that Department of Government, the Ministry of Transport and Works, and in particular to the issue raised by Senator Shorey the awarding of the contract for the Highway 2A project. Senator Shorey at one stage in his address said that he did not know whether to laugh or cry. As I listened to him, I did not know whether to laugh or cry, and what made it so pertinent is that we are today, rather yesterday celebrating our 51st Anniversary of the historic 1937 uprising and come next week Monday we will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Act of Parliament abolishing slavery in Barbados. Quite frankly it amazed me

that a Member of a Senate of modern Barbados, 51 years after the 1937 uprising could make that type of contribution.

Senator Shorey's contribution was premised on what he called a just society. But the question he failed to answer is – what is the just society? What is the just society in Barbados? Is it a just society when 5% of the people control 80% of the economy? Is it a just society when our social scientists can tell us that black businessmen have a 15% rate of getting loan applications accepted by commercial banks while white businessmen have a 75% acceptance rate? Is that a just society? He said he is interested in a just society. How does Senator Shorey go about bringing about the just society?

We hear that the Highway 2A matter has raised the question of whether there has been a breach of the Constitution. For the first time in years we hear this allegation of a breach of the Constitution. Where are all these people who are jumping up and speaking about breaches of the Constitution? Where were they all along when serious and fundamental issues have raised their head in Barbados? We suddenly hear that we are faced with a breach of the Constitution.

I find it amazing that when the interest of one powerful businessman, a wealthy man, a man who is able to hire the best lawyers, get the best legal assistance in this country.....

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: On a point of order, Sir. Is Senator Comissiong speaking to the Appropriation Bill, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I guess he is following the pattern that was set by those who spoke before him.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: No, he can only follow the direction set by you, Sir. You preside in here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well allow me to preside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Thank you.

SENATOR D. A. COMMISSIONG: I am saying, Sir, that Senator Shorey in his speech premised virtually all that he had to say in the part that dealt with the Highway 2A issue on the whole question of the just society. He was saying that what had happened in that issue said to him that we were moving away from the just society. He was saying also that he has an interest in helping to bring about the just society. I am saying that I find it amazing that these voices tend only to be raised when the person or interest involved is alleged to be injured is that of a powerful person in this society, a person who hardly needs the protection of people like Senator Shorey. When it is issues relating to the small

man in this society, the person who really needs the voice and the assistance of a person like Senator Shorey, when do we hear these voices? Senator Shorey has a way of coming in here time and time again and telling us that we have gone too far in putting in place legislation to help the workers of this country and that we need to address it. That is his favourite speech in this Chamber, that we need legislation to enhance the position of the employer now. We have gone too far now in enhancing the position of the worker.
2.05 p.m.

I want to hear these voices raised on behalf of the worker, of the small man, not the big, powerful, wealthy businessman who can hire the most powerful lawyers in this country to take a matter before the court if he felt that there was a breach of his constitutional rights. He can speak for himself if he feels there is a breach of his constitutional rights, because the court is there. Let him take the matter before the court. I understand he may be in the process of doing so. That is the correct procedure. If he feels there has been a breach, let him take the matter before the court. What I want to see in this Senate is people speaking on behalf of people who need their representation, people who cannot defend themselves.

Mr. President, this whole issue of Dr. Blackman and the awarding of the contract for the Highway 2A road project. I think that there has been serious misrepresentation, and deliberately so, of Dr. Blackman's actions and of his words. In the first place, Dr. Blackman never said that he was awarding any contract simply on the basis of race. He never said that, and it is a serious misrepresentation when people try to give that construction to Dr. Blackman's words. In fact, Mr. President, Dr. Blackman gave a number of reasons for awarding that contract to the Rayside Company.

Perhaps the major reason he outlined was the fact that he did not consider the bid of C. O. Williams to be responsive to the requirements of the job. He made that very clear, that there were important items of the job which had not been covered by C. O. Williams bid. In addition to that, he made it clear that because of the past history of C. O. Williams in bidding at one price and then eventually coming in at a much higher level of expenditure, because of that past history he felt a duty to look very carefully at the fact that C. O. Williams had come in at a low bid and it was primarily on the basis of these two factors – that the bid was not responsive, and that they had a long history of bidding at a particular price and then coming in at the end of the job at a much higher price – that in taking these things into consideration he awarded the contract to the Rayside Company.

Dr. Blackman did speak about redressing imbalances. There is no doubt about that, but what was Dr. Blackman saying? Dr. Blackman said that there are some people in this society who will tell you that the whole issue of justice for the black man is no longer relevant, and he went on to say that that type of thinking he holds with contempt. In other words, he was saying that the issue of justice for the black man in Barbados today is still a very relevant issue, it is still very much on the agenda. What Dr. Blackman was suggesting is that all Governments, certainly all Governments since the 1937 uprising, all black Governments in this country must have as one of their general and fundamental concerns the whole question of creating a more just and equal society.

This must be one of the basic premises upon which all of the actions and all the thinking and programmes of any Government, certainly since the 1930's, since 1937, must be based. This is a general principle and I cannot understand how anybody in 1988, 51 years after the 1937 uprising, can have any difficulty with that. I cannot understand it. All Governments since 1937 must have had as one of their fundamental responsibilities the creation of the equal and just society, the combating of racism, the opening up of opportunities for disadvantaged people in this country, the opening up of opportunities for black people in this country. I know people do not like to hear the word "black", but colour and class in Barbados coincide. This is part of our history, this is part of the legacy of our particular history. Colour and class coincide in Barbados, and all Governments since 1937 must have had and must continue to have that fundamental responsibility.

You must combat the whole system of social and economic privileges that white people in Barbados have benefited from historically and, to a certain extent, continue to benefit from today. Let us not behave as if these problems have all been solved, some of them still exist today, not as bad as they were 40 or 50 years ago, but they still exist today, and therefore that whole question of justice for the black man is still a relevant issue.

I am saying that these are general principles which must underpin all Government thinking, all Government actions, and I do not think that Dr. Blackman was saying any more or any less than that. He was simply saying that this was still a relevant issue and that this was a general principle that must guide and direct the actions and thinking of our Governments in Barbados. If that were not the case, Mr. President, I would submit that we would be doing a serious injustice to those 14 Barbadians who gave their lives 51 years ago. We would be doing a serious injustice to them and to their struggle. The people like Clement Payne, the people like yourself, Mr. President, who have played

leading roles in the whole Trade Union/Labour Movement struggle in this country.
2.15 p.m.

To my mind, Mr. President, it ill behoves the people who have benefitted historically and who continue to benefit from racism in this society, from elitism in this society, from the fact that this society has been historically, an unequal society, it ill behoves to hear these people who have consistently opposed every single democratic reform in this country, no matter how minor it has been, to be accusing people like Dr. Blackman of racism and of jeopardising democracy in this country and of breaching the constitution. It does not sound right coming from them because historically they have been one of the most undemocratic and oppressive classes in the history of the modern world. I have no qualms about that. Anybody who knows modern history must know that the planter class in the Caribbean must rank as one of the most undemocratic classes of people in modern history, make no bones about that, and I find it even more disgusting and reprehensible that they can find black propagandists to put their case for them.

Mr. President, I have nothing more to say.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. President, I am going to speak on two Heads, Head 34 and Head 42. While dealing with both Heads I might digress a bit.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Try not to digress.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: I will try, Sir. Under Head 34 – Ministry of Education, I have noticed repeatedly that however we come here with a matter of education, which the Barbados Labour Party has nothing to be proud about in this society, Mr. President, a certain Senator is always trying to insinuate that our educational system here is wrong. I say that to say this: I said that the Barbados Labour Party has nothing to be proud about in the educational standard of people in Barbados. I do not exactly remember the year, Mr. President, but I do remember there was a time when under the Barbados Labour Party legislation was passed that for people like you and me to send our children to secondary schools, Harrison College, Combermere, Queens College and what-have-you, you had to first deposit £5. A lot of people don't seem to remember these things, but I remember them, and when I raised the issue I was told that the reason for this was that too many foreign people were coming to Barbados and sending their children to these schools and as a result Barbadians were being kept out.

My argument to that was that they were talking nonsense because they were controlling the country and they could control who could come in and go to school

here, and the second thing was that any man or any person who had enough money to bring a child from overseas to send it to school here, had enough money to pay that £5. It was against the ordinary man in the street who had to put the little \$2 and \$3 when the week come in a meeting turn to collect the \$24 to pay for the child's education. Not only that, Sir; don't let the Barbados Labour Party or the Members on the other side kid themselves. Look at the fiasco we are having at the Lodge School today. This was created because of the Barbados Labour Party, and up to now it has not been settled. They have nothing to be proud about when it comes to education.

Asides.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: You went in there for ten and you did not settle it. How do you expect us to settle it in two?

Would you protect me against the Senator, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was waiting to see how long Senator Miller will continue with this behaviour.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: May I continue?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: The Senator, Senator Shorey I am dealing with now, every time he opens his mouth in my view he belongs to the school that said to me and said to a lot of us, my father had to pay for my education, therefore I don't see how your father should not have to pay for yours. If we are going to look at it that way, then we should not be giving people old age pensions because you could say that they got paid when they were working and therefore they are not entitled to it. You can't look at it that way. The society is going forward. Don't come back in here with this nonsense that people should pay for their education. The people who win Barbados Scholarships are compelled by law to come back here, because I heard Senator Blackman saying the last time we met - which I did not know - that they have to make a deposit. They sign a bond, which means that if they don't come back the money has gone through the eddoes. So you have to make a deposit. We can't just be going backwards all the time. We are going forward and the educational system of this country has moved forward tremendously. What are we going to do now; stop people from going to these schools because their parents live in a 16' x 9' when these same people have to contribute and have contributed to this society all over the years?

Mr. President, if free secondary education existed during my time, I would have been two scholars, not one, but I was one of the people who was instrumental in this

because I realised when I was going to school that I was above average, but as I said.....

Asides.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: That is not my opinion. That is a fact. I never failed an exam. When I was nine years going on ten I was in fifth standard and at that age you don't sit the 11+ yet. I want to get this thing in its true perspective. The Members on the opposite side apart from Senator Miller and Senator Tull are supposed to be independent Members. Listen to the English I am using, Sir; are supposed to be. I am not saying they are. And at all times, apart from Senator Wickham, who when we were dealing with an issue in the early stages who made it quite plain why he was going to vote with the Government, Members always seem to be looking for some way to see if they can bring this Government down. You can't bring this Government down because if you were to do this you will only lose the three blind mice that you have down below, so you are not helping yourself. They seem set on a programme. They are not looking after the people's interest, they are looking out for the interest of the Barbados Labour Party; so it is twelve over here against nine over there.

Mr. President, what hurts me most was when Senator Shorey, a man who is supposed to be an intelligent person, instead of dealing with the matter before the Senate, went off at a tangent that he was overseas when a contract was awarded and all this sort of talk. And talking about a just society, let me say this for his benefit. The just society here suits people like Senator Shorey; the just society here suits people like Senator Goddard, but the just society here does not suit people like me because we have to kow-tow to them, and it has been drawn to my attention and I will draw it to the Senate's attention that if you look around you will see clubs like Pickwick, Wanderers and Carlton where you get the blacks going into these clubs, but how many whites go into Empire or how many whites go into Spartans.

Now I am not a racist. I am older than nearly everybody in here, and if I am not older, I have more experience than most of them in here.
2.25 p.m.

I lived all over the world. I know what racism is. I dealt with racism. So do not come up to me with this fancy talk because a contract was not awarded to one man. The Government is not obliged or bound to award a contract to the highest or the lowest bidder. And I have said here on the floor of this Senate, Mr. President, I think in my last speech before now, in 1983-84 no tenders were asked for the construction of Parliament building. It was given to Ken

Gardner. I am calling names now, Sir. I am sorry I did not notify that I was going to call a name. It was given to an Architect who is a South African and all the rules were broken, all the financial rules were broken when that contract was awarded, Mr. President. Ken Gardner was given \$385 000. Let the members of the opposition, and when I say the opposition, I do not only mean Senator Tull or Senator Miller, let the members over that side get up and deny this and I would sit down. Three hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars was paid to Ken Gardner and he left us over six weeks. He went somewhere. He must have gone to carry out the money.

And before he drove a stroke, and as an Architect he charged 19 3/4 per cent. I hope the people are writing this now because you are going to see big headlines tomorrow. And I hear a lot of references made to the papers. Well I do not read the papers. I do not have that time because the papers here are scandalmongers. Nineteen and three quarter per cent. I am repeating it. And then he had the temerity to tell the then Prime Minister who was Mr. Adams, "I have to pay consultant fees because we need two engineers"; drew that money and up to now they do not have any consultant. I have not heard one peep. I have not heard anybody talking about the Constitution was abridged, was broken, split, the financial rules, not one peep did not come out of any of these members. And all of them on the opposite side are past twelve years, Mr. President, they are older than twelve years. You see, they could say they were twelve, they were going to school, they did not know about these things. All of them are men. Not one peep did not come out of them. They sat down and it was all well and good.

Now they are accusing Dr. Blackman of racism. I heard the speech. I saw no part of it with any racism. But if you talk about racism, I can give them incidents of racism. What about the club that we had there in Bay Street when the Labour Party was in power? What did they do? The Club was stopping people like me and you from coming into it. But any sort of white trash could come and go into Carlisle Club.

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Raised hell! But nobody listened to me. I was not in Parliament then. You did not do anything either.

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: He raised what?

Certain remarks made by SENATOR N. W. BOXILL were ordered by Mr. PRESIDENT to be expunged from the Record.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: But I hope – because as I said before I have a photographic memory – I only hope I do not hear what is happening in Cabinet now come up in here. I have a photographic memory. I remember quite well.

Asides.

Laughter.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: A member – it was not in Cabinet then, I am sorry – a member said.....

Laughter.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: A member said.....

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: "Mr. Prime Minister, people outside are very concerned with you awarding a contract without calling other architects to look into this matter." He was reading a paper. He just folded the paper after he finished talking. About three of them talked. And it was not in Cabinet. So I was not in Cabinet. Three of them spoke on the same issue. After he had finished reading the paper, he folded it and he put it down and he said: "Let me tell you something." He called on the then Minister, and said: "I want this work to start early next week." That was the end of that matter.

Where was the Constitution then? Where was the Constitution when \$385 000 of my hard earned money was taken up and given to a South African? What about the black Architects we had about here and still have? Not one peep. You did not hear any of these house niggers get up talking anything about redressing anything. But it is now you are going to hear this coming to light.

Laughter.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: And I say the 28th May, 1986 is a blessed day because it has been able to open the eyes and the mouths of a lot of people in this society because they were dumb. Not one peep you used to hear come out of these people. Not one word, whatever happened.

And when I talk to Senator Tull now about this, do you know what he tells me, "Because I did not like the field placing, you mean I was to drop the catches?" Well you did not like the field placing then, I guess you do not like it now. But I did not like it then, I like it now.

And the time has come when we have to stop this pussyfooting that we are going on with about here trying to

impress people or trying to give people the impression that this Party is a racist Party.

One contract, Mr. President, one contract was not awarded to a particular contractor. And let me say this further for the information of the Members on the opposite side. During the ten years of the Barbados Labour Party's reign, Mr. Williams – I have no brief for or against Mr. Williams. He is a Barbadian. And Senator Tull can vouch for this – whether you belong to the Democratic Labour Party or any party and I meet you when I am overseas, I treat you as a Barbadian – C.O. Williams Construction firm worked for over \$80 million. I am going to repeat it because there will be no mistake. I said C.O. Williams Construction firm under the Barbados Labour Party within ten years worked for over \$80 million. Now that is more than \$8 million a year. I forgot to work it out per day. Over \$80 million. I did not hear anybody talking about any breach of any Constitution, and that this is berating this and the next thing and all of this kind of thing. One firm – let them come out in the press tomorrow and deny what I am saying – over \$80 million. I am repeating it.

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: I am glad that you mentioned that. How can you be all this racist when you heard what Senator Miller just said? Because I do not know about moving anybody.

Mr. PRESIDENT: She is not speaking to the Chair.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: No, she is not. But you heard though.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, I have not heard.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Well I heard. Alright, good. I heard. Right. She said that we removed Philip Goddard and put Williams. This is not true. This is absolutely not true. The Senator knows better than this.

The Senator must remember, as I said before, I have been a Parliamentarian long before you and as long as I live I will continue to be a Parliamentarian longer than you. So you cannot come to me with that. Your father who was far more advanced than you could not handle me. I do not see how people like you could handle me. You would know that.

Aside.

Laughter.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: I dealt with people like the great Sir Grantley Adams. I ran them out of the House.

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: No. He could not deal with me. I beat him in St. Thomas.

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: No, no, no. You do not worry with that. I beat him in St. Thomas. He came in St. Thomas eighteen times and kept meetings and I won all the time. So the little pip-squeak that we hear below talking has to understand that as I said before, she is what we would call a *parvenu* or a *tiro*.

Laughter.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: She has not been into public life long enough. She thinks that ranting and raving and making – you have not been into public life yet. You do not know anything about running.

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: I do not know anything about any Pine Hill. You should know about the Pine Hill. You know that better than me. You all had cows. I never had any. But this would prove the point, we could not be racist. And not only that.

The next thing is, as far as I have been told, it is the shareholders who made the change, not the Government. I said as far as I have been told.

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: The Minister cannot make any change. Is the Minister a dictator?

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Well if the Minister is a dictator, as she is saying, he was not a bigger dictator, nor a longer dictator than the one you had for Prime Minister, because he openly said on more than one occasion.....

Aside.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: – Nor he was not a racist. – he has said repeatedly when I do it and you do not like it, lump it. And they all lumped it, you know. Not one of them got up and raised anything. And I am going back to this. The first time in the history of the Senate, the Barbados Labour Party Senate, they ever voted against a measure that the Barbados Labour Party brought here was after I had written an article in the Press saying that the

supposed independent Senators seem to be Members of the Barbados Labour Party because they do not vote against the Government. That was the first time and I do not remember the issue that came up when the President had to cast his vote, because it was tied to save the issue. But this is only to show you when people are telling you they are independent it is a big joke. Independent of what? There is no such thing as an independent over there because you would notice.....

2.35 p.m.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: On a point of order. The Standing Orders of this Chamber, Mr. President, do not permit any Member to cast aspersions or to make – can I have a copy of the Standing Orders?

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Derogatory remarks.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Well, you know it. You know that you cannot do it.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: I spoke the truth.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I say it is derogatory, Mr. President, I submit, just as the independent Senators are not independent either of you.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: Mr. President, do you want me to withdraw that. Look, you sit down! I am on my feet. Mr. President, I withdraw that statement. Well, it has gone down already. She wants me to withdraw. She is running the Senate. She gets the play now. She will not be here too long.

Laughter.

SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: But I want to say and make it quite clear to all and sundry that we on this side, as I said before, Mr. President, none of these people on the opposite side ever had to go through with the racism which I had to face. I lived in the South of the United States. I was in England. I was in Australia. I know what it is to have this kind of colour. We are trying, or at least we were long ago, to close the gap between white and black. There is no mistake about it.

As Senator Comissiong said earlier, if I am a racist or the Democratic Labour Party is a racist then so is Sir Linden Pindling a racist. If you read yesterday's paper or the day before, you will have seen where Sir Linden had to say a similar thing that happened here also happened there where 15% of most of the population owned the wealth and the other 85% owned the labour. You want to have this thing redressed. I have no intention as Sir Linden has said in taking away anybody's money. I have no intention. But remember these things you see because people get the

wrong impression and, when you get these supposed to be intelligent people making wild statements, it can do our country more harm than good. I remember some years ago what Stokeley Carmichael said about black power. It was taken completely out of context and twisted around to mean that the black people wanted to dominate the white man. He meant nothing of the sort. He was talking about black economic power. When we talk here about bringing the gap close, we do not have any intention of walking about taking from the rich and giving to the poor. But if the honourable Members would remember – they cannot remember because they are not old enough – there was a time when their great hero, Sir Grantley Adams, said he was going to soak the rich, and I reminded him that they do not drown the poor. So what was that? Was he trying at the time to even the imbalance that was going on? Is there something wrong with that? What hurts me if you study carefully, Mr. President, you know Mr. Williams did not come out and say one word about the thing. He accepted what has happened. Do you notice who are the people speaking? The awarding of the contract is a *fait accompli* – gone through the eddoes ever since. Almost everyday you could get an editorial in either the *Nation* or the *Advocate* talking about this thing. They have gone now talking about God. But they are still talking about the C. O. Williams issue.

The time has come when we have to call a spade a spade. The time has come when we have got to stop operating with our caps in our hands. The time has come when we have got to realise that this is our country and all of us got to get a piece of the cake whether you are white, blue, pink, or albino. So do not let us go on with this. This has no right to be in this thing at all because we were dealing with the Final Appropriation Bill. But what hurts me is to hear a supposed to be responsible person getting up talking about how hurt he was that he did not know whether to laugh or cry. Well, I am going to tell you that when he was talking I started laughing. There was nothing to cry about. I laughed to think in this day and age that we are still very backward in our thoughts. Apparently, the bodies have been emancipated but the minds have not been and I close by saying this. The ship has arrived but we blacks seem not to have come ashore yet. We are still out to sea.

Mr. President, I thank you.

Applause.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Final Appropriation Bill and I should like to crave your indulgence, Sir, to touch on a few headings instead of just confining myself to one or two. But I will promise you, Sir, that I will touch on them briefly.

I am a bit surprised, Sir, to hear that the very party who is now the Government again who in the 1970's passed

the Public Order Act in this country for the protection of all citizens, has now become the party of injustices and the party who does not want to see that just society any longer. It was foresight that brought about the Public Order Act. It was because we did not want destruction in this country, as we are hearing that we are going down the road to destruction, that we passed that Act and in that Act was enshrined Clauses for order among the public.

Furthermore, it controlled the meetings, which was just for all sides. Whether you were from one party; or another you had to obey the laws about the conduct of your public meetings.

So this is amusing to me. It is also amusing to hear the very person who went beyond our shores to collect letters to prove that another member of the cloth was not qualified should be the very person now to say that we are dividing the Constitution. I do not understand it and I think we as Barbadians need to realise that whenever we talk, and I am saying this over and over again, we cannot talk as Barbadians with one side of our mouth and with the other side of your mouth it is saying something else. Because if you are saying that we are going down the road to destruction – manufacturing is at a new low, tourism is at a new low, industrial relations are at a new low, everything in this country is at a new low – what country are you talking about? It is the country in which you were born. Perhaps if some of us had gone to other countries that passed laws that because a person was not born in that country – who is the same colour of skin – could not seek public office because they were not born in that country – right in the Caribbean this has happened – we would have justifiable reasons to talk about Barbados being a country not just and Barbados being a country going down the road to race hatred.
2.45 p.m.

People go back to their own countries and they hear you have three months in your country, you cannot stay any longer than three months in your country, and that is the country where you were born. No Barbadian experiences this in this country. Where are these injustices that we are talking about?

This Government has set about to create the just society and one of the very hallmarks of creating a just society is educating people. You cannot educate people and then think that they are ignorant and they will not rise up against you if you do foolishness. So the mere fact that the Democratic Labour Party has brought about free secondary education in this country for the benefit of all, they never said anywhere that free secondary education was for blacks and not for whites, or for any particular racial group, free secondary education for all the people who could achieve it. Whether you are black or white it does not

matter, because we are creating the just society, and education is one of the greatest things you could give to any human being on earth, because if you keep people ignorant you will probably end up like some of our Caribbean neighbours.

We have had some uprisings recently with Haiti and at one time in history Haiti produced some of the most brilliant black people. Professors who went to various universities in America were produced from Haiti. Today what is the situation? That is because people are kept ignorant. Here in this society people have the opportunity to obtain education.

More than ten years ago, when the last Government came into power, a number of the evening courses where we were talking about continuing education for all the people, they were just stopped, they were closed down, and people no longer had the benefit, and so we found a lot of little schools and colleges creeping up and making a lot of money out of people because they could not go to the school in Bawden or the school in Drax Hall or any part of the island to learn something about their country and to further their education if they wanted a few more certificates to become appointed in the Public Service, if they wanted to improve on their English or their Arithmetic, or if they wanted to have classes in general skills that could assist them. The people were able to do this because of the system of the just society which the Democratic Labour Party created for the benefit of the people.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: On a point of order. The Honourable Senator, I believe, is inadvertently misleading the Senate. There is no school in Drax Hall, first to begin with, and secondly, if the Senator, as she is able to do, would acquaint herself with the registration and the attendance figures she would see that these classes fell into abeyance because people failed to attend.

Aside.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Do not tell me it is a joke! It is also true that today in 1988 there are black and white parents paying school fees and that secondary education is still not free in Barbados.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Those are not really points of order.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to say that I have taught in the adult expansion classes and the adult expansion classes were closed down, and they were not closed down on the basis of numbers, because if they were closed down on the basis of numbers you could never find the amount of people who wanted to register coming to Bridgetown, to sleep in town

at other people, to go to some of these classes that were started up by private people. If you look around you will see, because we are now trying as a Government to get this thing back into shape and there are still these large numbers in the bus stand late at night waiting for buses from these different colleges and schools that they have to pay up to \$300 and all that kind of money for and some of them are walking about with their books for two or three years and they are not progressing as well as when they were able to go to these institutions in the first place. They did not have the strain and stress of coming from work, taking a bus to go to these other places, then trying to get something to eat, trying to get home and getting home all hours of the night and then coming back to town to work in the morning. So I want to make that very plain and very clear.

Do not talk about numbers and do not use numbers as an excuse, use the fact that you all were not interested in the development of the people, you were not interested in the development of continuing education for all. You did not think that certain people needed education.

Asides.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Miller, I cannot endure that.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Mr. President, with great respect, I find it just as unenduring. Just as we made the point that there is no school in Drax Hall, the Senator goes on to mislead the Senate.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You must understand that is not a matter. . . .

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I was in the Ministry of Education for five years and I tell you what I know. The record is there.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Miller, her saying that there is a school or no school in Drax Hall. . . .

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Nor Bawden.

Mr. PRESIDENT: . . . Nor Bawden, does not make any difference in substance.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: She is quoting names and figures. It must make a difference in substance if the thing is non-existent.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: I do not have to talk about Bawden, I could talk about Holy Innocents' and St. Matthias.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Continue the point that you are making without calling all of these names, because a recital of names is not going to make any difference in substance.

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: My substance is there. The fact is that there was no continuing education between a ten year process for the benefit of people who wanted to further their education in the evening, and who wanted to continue to develop themselves, who wanted to get appointed in the Civil Service and wanted to get more certificates. That is the important point I wanted to make, and there was no interest displayed in the working class people who were in that category. There are the important people who wanted to get these benefits and were getting these benefits when the Democratic Labour Party started them, and they suddenly stopped. Ten years is a long time. You could be suffering from black literacy all that time, and perhaps that is what could be happening at this stage.

Also, Mr. President, a lot has been said about this whole question of unemployment, and I would like to say that here again we are talking about going down the road and these figures for unemployment. I agree with you, Sir, that we do not need to be calling names and all this sort of thing, neither do we need to be calling figures, because it seems to me that some people just like to give figures, percentages and all these things that people, they think, do not understand.
2.55 p.m.

What we want are hard facts and hard truths, and the fact of the matter is that unemployment is nothing new. We came and we found a lot of unemployment in this country. What we have done is to try to reduce unemployment by looking at a number of systems that were closed down, try to resuscitate them, try to look at creativity in areas where small business people can develop. The Bank has opened a small business window to help small people to develop themselves as entrepreneurs, and these are the areas where the unemployment situation will change in the near future. It takes time to create jobs. One would believe that you create jobs overnight.

Mr. President, I am not saying that I as a Barbadian would not like to see every single Barbadian employed. Surely I would like to see total employment, but that could be one of your dreams, though I would like to see this dream come true if it is possible in any way. What we are doing now in the handicraft sector is looking at the utilisation of indigenous raw materials. They are training people in different areas and are producing tourist items. It would take some time to produce them in mass, but nevertheless it has started and some people are employed in these areas. These are new areas of employment that have been created.

We look at the skills training industry where a number of young people are also developing their own businesses as a result of the skills that they have benefited from through the skills training programme, and therefore in the area of unemployment where the task force was set up, they have looked at certain areas. You have also to look at what you have available, what raw materials you are going to use, how long it is going to take to set up the factory and things of that sort, Mr. President, and therefore that brings me to my other point which is very important, and that is the whole question of why do we keep, as Barbadians, running down ourselves, talking about the unemployment situation instead of trying to see what we can do to create jobs to help somebody who is unemployed so as to improve the unemployment situation in our country?

I think the problem is that we are very quick to criticise, we are very quick to run down and we are forgetting that we are running down our own country. Barbadians are spending a lot of money on the importation of food. This needs an attitudinal change. There are many people who are guilty of buying foods that are unnecessary in this country. They are guilty of importing foods that are unnecessary and this has to stop, because if you look at the question of \$42 million being spent in food in this country, this is a large amount of imported food, and that money, in fact some of that money could provide jobs for people.

We will never be self-sufficient in everything in this country. There are items that we will always have to import because we cannot produce them here because of climatic conditions and other special reasons, but the least we can do is to look seriously as consumers, because there is no point saying the Government, the Government, and we as consumers still continue to purchase these items. When we purchase these items it means that we are adding to the high import food bill of the country, because no businessman will bring in an item that nobody is going to buy; he brings in items that people will buy and if you continue buying these items whether you need them or not, it means that these items will continue to come into the country. This is an area that we have to look at as Barbadians and we have to change our lifestyles and our fashions when it comes to the question of food even with our cocktail parties. I am talking now about everybody in Barbados, whether you are a Member of the Senate or not. Serve local foods all the time. There are many local things that you can serve and save on that high import food bill which is a very serious situation not only in Barbados but in the Caribbean, because it is some \$2 billion E.C. in food that we import into the Caribbean region, and that \$2 billion is a lot of money going out of the Caribbean region.

Mr. President, I wanted to touch on those points because I felt education and unemployment were very necessary and what we are doing in agriculture is very

necessary to the development of the country. We have been seeking more markets for the export of our agricultural produce, and indeed quite recently more and more people have been asking Barbados to send trial shipments to the various countries. The farmers are paid up front for their produce. We know that agriculture is not something that springs up overnight; we know we have a problem with praedial larceny which every Barbadian has to do something about; it is a very serious problem and no farmer wants to grow something and then it is stolen because he has to depend on that for his hard-earned living.

Mr. President, we are self-sufficient in poultry, we are self-sufficient in most of the pork products, and the small farmers who take their poultry to the Barbados Marketing Corporation are paid up front for their poultry. This means that they have spending power, and their number is increasing. They are increasing both at the governmental level and at the private level. Organisations like the National Development Foundation have found that more people are applying for loans for building poultry pens and for building pig pens and things of this nature, and the Government is encouraging them by paying them up front, as I said, which is very important because a person wants to know that they have the money.

The Government is now in the process of looking at the beef industry and the same type of system will be worked where people will be paid up front for their beef, the local beef, that is, and the farmer will know that he has some money to spend rather than selling to somebody and having to wait for a long time. These are governmental projects, so for anybody to say that the Democratic Labour Party Government has done nothing and is going down the road to destruction and that this Government is racist and things of that sort is a person who has not clearly examined what is going on in Barbados. They have not been listening, they have not been reading, they have not been having discussions with people in this country, they have not been listening to what policy makers have been saying or the people from the various statutory boards. I commend to everybody to read, to listen and to try to discuss. If you don't do it..... Don't feel too proud if you don't understand something to ask a question, because there are a lot of people out there who feel that they are too proud to ask a question. It is better to ask a question and have it answered than to feed people with misinformation. I will never come here to feed anybody with misinformation. Many of these things that I have talked about I have been directly involved in and I know what goes on. I therefore recommend to every Member here and to every Barbadian that if you say that we are strict guardians of our heritage and we are craftsmen of our fate, then we will stop pulling down Barbados and we will hold the chariot high and try to find out what we can do to really keep Barbados as a shining star in the darkest night.

Thank you, Mr. President.
3.05 p.m.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Mr. President, I should just like to make a few observations on the debate so far as regards this Appropriation Bill. Well, Sir, this is an Appropriation Bill which affords Members of the Senate the opportunity to debate financial matters and which is stated in the Standing Orders of the Senate and I do not believe that Members should, be on the mere fact that they do not debate money Resolutions in this Senate state that they are not voting for this Bill. Because one observes, Sir, that even on this Order Paper there is a substantive motion dealing with the right or asking this House to agree to the right for the Senate to debate money Resolutions. So that is an argument in itself and that will come up in its own time for debate and if it is carried, then it would be a different ball game. But we could only proceed within the Rules as they stand now, Sir.

And for ten years this Senate met, in the last ten years under another Administration and that Review Committee decision was not implemented.

We would eventually sometime in the middle of this session debate the Honourable Member's Resolution on matters coming before this Senate. But it is not fair to use those arguments that because money Resolutions do not come to the Senate that we cannot support an Appropriation Bill.

The history of money supply, if one were to go back to the mother country, this was a big, long, fought out affair back in those days when the Commons had to fight the King. And the whole thing was that there was to be no money without representation. That was the text at the time, Sir. No money without representation. They had to pull the King's hand in order to give them the right to speak, if he wants money. And money Resolutions were always the domain of the Lower House. There must not be any money without representation given to the King to fight his wars in those days. And the Commons has always had the right and guarded their God-given right through having fought the King at the time in order to have the sole right in money Resolutions.

Be that as it may, Sir, I will have my own say when the time comes to debate the substantive Resolution, filed here by Canon Jones. I think those remarks are very unfair to our system. All of these Resolutions that come here in Supplementaries have been debated in the Lower House and when the Bills come here we get a chance to debate them too. But the monies have already been spent. We are only regularising what has taken place in the past Financial Year. There is no mystery about the funds that have been expended.

Departments come back to Government – you pass estimates ostensibly so in the month of March and as you go along the road – departments come back, this is a matter of housekeeping, to discover that the funds that have been voted for the use of that particular department become inadequate or there might be new things happening, or there might be new posts created or there might be other services that have to be done and you have to come back to Parliament to grant supplementary provision.

So all we are doing now is to complete what has already been done in the Lower House by way of passing this Bill in order to bring the final account to board, because it is done in that way, Sir. It is not a question of not being accountable. This is the very person of accountability in that all the several sums expended during the Financial Year whether by way of the direct vote at the time of Estimates or the vote which comes on by way of Supplementary Resolution must all be quantified and brought here to Parliament for ratification which we call the Final Appropriation Bill. And we decided to do it within three months of the financial year. In the Labour Party's Administration it used to be done within a year after the Estimates.

Sir, there have been other comments about colour and all the rest of it. I am not going into any debate about any contract or anything like that. But I have had to read it in this Senate last meeting and I am going to read it again. I am not going to let anybody malign the integrity of the Democratic Labour Party which has been founded on justice for all people. And even our last Manifesto, Sir, if I may read the first introductory remarks:

"The Democratic Labour Party, as its name implies, is a people-oriented Party, dedicated to the upliftment of all Barbadians, regardless of colour, class, creed or political affiliation."

That is the whole creed of the Democratic Labour Party, Sir. It was this same Democratic Labour Party who gave Barbados a Constitution and enshrined all of those rights of the individual in the Constitution.

(*Aside:* SENATOR N. W. BOXILL: They fought against it.)

SENATOR A. MORRISON: It was the Democratic Labour Party, Sir, who gave us a Constitution and who took great pain and labour to hear at that time all sides and come up with a Constitution which has ensured every man.

I am glad today that the Honourable Member, Senator Shorey could have read from our Constitution, and he even talked about the breach of a Constitution. But we made sure

that we enshrined in that Constitution, Sir, entrenched clauses which no Party can do anything to eradicate. That is our Constitution. And there is no bigger preserver of the Constitution in this country than the Democratic Labour Party. We have always conducted our business in this country by the rules. We have never yet broken one single rule.

Laughter.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: That is the history of this Party, Sir. This great Party. And I can quote innumerable instances where things have been done in this country which did not appear to be done in the straight and narrow way. Nonetheless we had to abide by the decisions of the Party in power at the time. And I never raised a finger, I never criticised the Barbados Labour Party when they have had to come to decisions, albeit sometimes not in the best interest of what we might feel but nonetheless they would have been activated by other motives and they have come to decisions. And every Party must be given the right to arrive at its own conclusions in its own way based on its own philosophy. Nobody could deny a Party the right to shape its own rules, its own regulations, and to fight its way out of struggle in such a way as to bring benefit to all Barbadians.

We do not operate in a vacuum. The Cabinet of this country is supreme. Whatever Party is in power, the Cabinet is supreme. The Cabinet is not a word by the wayside. The Cabinet is supreme.

(*Aside:* SENATOR L. R. TULL: Really? That is the mistake you all make. Cabinet supreme?)

SENATOR A. MORRISON: And, Sir, we do not believe in racial tensions. In 1961 when the Democratic Labour Party brought progress to this country when we changed up the whole system of this country, we were able to move the poor people from a position of abject poverty to a position that you could look into everybody's face and become like other people. We could not do anything so far, especially in those fifteen years

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Stop there. That is all you need to say. You did not do anything so far.)

SENATOR A. MORRISON: so far as to make anybody in this country feel that we were a racial oriented party. As a matter of fact, the plantocracy in this country and the business people in this country moved to a better position of safety which they never had in the whole history of this country. The Democratic Labour Party did not stop there trying to move the poor man. They knew that in order to move the poor man, they had to let other people get through. And the people in this country that were

business people got through better than in their whole life. We never denied people their rights or their profit. But all we were asking for was something more for the poor people, a little bigger slice of the cake. And we gave them free education at the time and we paid for it.

Nobody should tell me today that you should pay because you have a degree, pay back money. That was a universal policy, free education from secondary school to university.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Tell that to all the Senators who are paying school fees today, black and white.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Miller, what do you really want me to do?

SENATOR A. MORRISON: No Barbadian in Barbados who was born in Barbados pays any school fees.

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: What I would really like you to do is – No, no, no, I am asking you to speak.....

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your conduct is not in the best interest of this Senate.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Just ask me.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: When you go to the courts, you are not going to get on like that before the Chief Justice.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Definitely not, Sir.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: So when you come in here.....

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Definitely not, Sir.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: you are to treat in here with respect. If not, I will have to use the Rules. And this is the last time I am going to tell you so.
3.15 p.m.

Certain remarks made by SENATOR B. A. MILLER were asked to be expunged from the record by Mr. PRESIDENT.

Mr. PRESIDENT: This is not a playhouse, Senator Miller. This is not a playhouse and I am not a playboy. I will be very harsh with you and at least you should know

better. At least you are sitting beside a colleague that should know better. You have to respect this Chamber.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: Yes Mr. President, I was saying that I do not know of any Barbadian children who are going to secondary school who have to pay school fees. I do not know about that. Sir, just to give you one more example where I believe the rules have been broken. We had an instance here where we had the floods in St. Peter and I know the last Administration assigned a very large sum of money under the control of a Minister in this country. At the time of the St. Peter flood, Sir, the first time I ever heard that a Permanent Secretary in a particular Ministry was not responsible for the funds that were voted for the flood victims in St. Peter was when \$800 000 was assigned under the direction and care of a Government Minister. That was done in this country, Sir. I have no quarrel with it. But we do not break the rules. We can quote instances, Sir, in the last Administration where things were done in a particular way as to bring the kind of comments which we hear and are receiving today. But be that as it may, Sir, ...

Asides.

SENATOR A. MORRISON: No, I am saying that the Permanent Secretary in any Department is the head of the funds allotted in the Estimates. I have never heard yet where any funds have been allotted to a Minister. But concerning the flood victims in St. Peter the funds were assigned to the Minister at the time. It is in the document. That was the big argument at the time. It was debated. Well, that is what I am saying. It should never be done.

Sir, this Appropriation Bill just seeks to regularise the amount of money spent under this supplementary Resolution and, Sir, I would like to support this Bill because it is just a matter of reconciling and bringing the final account to bear on the expenditure for the year 1987/88.

Thank You, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Tull.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I am not going to be very long, Sir. The debate has taken a very interesting turn. Again, I cannot help noting how defensive the Government is. Their chests have fallen down now and they are not as pompous and arrogant as they used to be over the last couple of years. It is pretty obvious that the chickens are coming home to roost.

Something that Senator Morrison said in his contribution particularly struck me and I think this is the heart of the problems in Government today. Senator

Morrison said that the Cabinet is supreme and that is an extremely frightening statement, because that goes against everything that we believe in this country and it goes against the law and the Constitution of Barbados. It makes us almost feel that we are in the Republic of Guyana. I hope he did not mean what he said because Senator Morrison unlike many of the others usually talks with careful thought and keeps his balance. But that is a statement I think he had better withdraw.

I also was very interested in listening to what Senator Fraser was saying. I thought that perhaps instead of spending a lot of time today – not that I can tell any Senator what to do about the Highway 2A because as I said already the jury went out and the verdict is in, and people can ignore the verdict of the jury at their own peril. We can talk about it but everybody in Barbados has already had a chance to go into deliberations and think about it and made their own decisions. In the fullness of time those of us who keep our eyes on these things will see the result.

But what I thought that perhaps was striking about what I heard today is that nobody said anything about the children who were searched at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic school. This is the Government I am talking about. Nobody said anything about the drug wars that are raging around Bridgetown. Nobody has said a word about the women and children in New Orleans that are frightened to stay in their homes and frightened to go out of their homes. Nobody has said anything at all about the fact that the drug infiltration into Barbados is now making this place a very unsafe place in which to live. I have not heard a single word about that. I have not heard anybody on the Government side talk about the vegetable scandal at the Barbados Marketing Corporation. Senator Fraser I believe is a member of the board or until recently was on the board. I thought perhaps she could have talked about that. I thought perhaps Senator Fraser could have told us something about the subvention from Government to the National Organisation of Women and tell us why the women are up in arms because the accounts of the National Organisation of Women of which she is Chairman or Chairwoman, whatever the new term they use for these things, have not been audited for the last however long, and what is going on. I thought that perhaps when the theme was struck.....

SENATOR V. C. FRASER: On a point of order, Mr. President. I would like to understand what the Senator is saying about the National Organisation of Women and if that is involved in the debate here and about the accounts and the auditing. I would like to say that that has nothing to do with this and it is not correct what he is saying. I do not want to explain that here because it has nothing to do with the debate.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. President, Sir, I like to stick to the rules. I am debating the Ministry that gives the subvention to the National Organisation of Women – the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Affairs. I am not attacking Senator Fraser. I do not know anything about the National Organisation of Women's business. All I know is that organisations such as the Business and Professional Women's Club, as they call themselves I think, and other women organisations have been making public statements about the accounts of the National Organisation of Women. I am not too concerned about certain aspects of it. I know that there is a subvention made by Government to the National Organisation of Women and, therefore, I want to hear about some accountability.

You see, Mr. President, the whole business of money and how it is allocated, and who got contracts, and all of these things and how it is done strikes the core of something I believe very strongly in. I spent 10 years as a Member of Government and I have always learned and still now maintain that people in public life must be like Caesar's wife beyond reproach.
3.25 p.m.

They must not get involved in anything sleazy, and a lot more will come out, Sir, because corruption is rife at the moment in Government, and I will talk about them in the fullness of time, so I go back to where I started.

Vegetables have come into Barbados from Canada – cabbages to be exact – large amounts and there is a cloud of doubt hanging over this thing. We want to know, and I think that this country is entitled to know, who issued the import licence for the vegetables, who were they consigned to, and what are the Barbados Marketing Corporation and the Ministry of Agriculture doing about it. It is a fact, and Senator Fraser knows about it and instead of getting up and telling the country about these things that matter, we are talking all over our faces. That is the Ministry of Agriculture, Sir, and I will quote every Head on which I speak.

I am back now to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Legal Affairs jointly. This incident in the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School is a stain and a blot on this society and it is not an isolated incident in one sense. It may be isolated in the sense that a number of young girls have been defiled unlawfully, but it is part of a greater problem. You see, when people like myself get up and make public statements about certain aberrations in the Police Force, you are accused of being anti-police. I am not anti-police, I have to live in this society and have to be protected by them, but equally. . . .

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Do not tell me about anything being *sub judice*, there is nothing *sub judice*, nobody is before the court, there is nothing *sub judice* about it. Do not keep me quiet about it, because it is an outrageous and obscene act committed on innocent children in this country, and I do not hear a word about it from Senator Fraser, the Chairman of the National Organisation of Women, instead of telling us a lot of foolishness that we should not talk about unemployment. Do you expect to come in here and not talk about unemployment? Talk about those children and what is happening to them, if you are the representative of an organisation spending public funds.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do not expand on that, because that would not come right within what we are now dealing with. Do not start too much on what Senator Fraser should do.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: No, Sir. I want to be short, so I do not want to waste time. No more parliamentary debates in Barbados during this period are going to be nice, gentlemanly courtesies. This country is in a serious state of crisis and I would be failing in my duty if I get up in here and make a lot of nice, pleasant exchanges with members on the other side. This is the only country I have got, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But that is not before us now. We are not debating that, we are debating an Appropriation Bill.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Yes, that deals with the economy of Barbados. I am going to give you every section. Every sentence I utter I will give you the Head.

Mr. PRESIDENT: And I have rules for when you are dealing with the Appropriation Bill.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: If you rule that I am out of order, Sir, I am going to accept it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, when that time comes I will inform you.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I will go no further, Sir, but I will give you each Head as I speak on it and make it very easy for everybody.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce. I would like to hear something from the Government about their policy on import licences. I really want to hear something about that. There used to be a time when ministerial statements were made to give the people of Barbados an explanation of a number of matters of public concern. Just as I have heard no statement from the Ministry of Education on the St. Patrick's matter, and I

have heard no statement from the Minister of Agriculture on the import of the cabbages and the doubts surrounding it – there has been an investigation of it, I know that – no ministerial statement, there is no ministerial statement on the policy of import licences even though as I have had to say in here already and outside on the public platform that the policy of issuing of import licences is tainted. It is tainted, Sir.

People have been granted import licences to import goods into Barbados where they had no connection at all historically in that area, and it smacks of nepotism and favouritism that is doing a lot of harm to the traditional carrying on of business and commerce in Barbados. All I am asking, Sir, as I usually do when these matters come up, is not to take any emotional stand, but to say that the Government should spell out in clear and unequivocal terms exactly what its policy is, so that those of us who look and watch can tell that this is in accordance with the rules, but set out the broad rules so that we know what is going on. So I want to hear something about the import licensing business.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs, Sir. I am back on the drug wars and I am speaking from a position of knowledge. I am not now talking, shooting in the dark like people in the Government. There is a problem in this country with drugs. We have been talking about it for a long time because we are talking about the damage it was doing to the children particularly in this society. We talked about it; a few things have been done; none of us is happy, because all of us, on both sides, I hope, are concerned about the integrity of national life of Barbados.

But we are going beyond the children today and we are talking about the reign of terror that has recently been obtaining in some districts of Barbados, and particularly Bridgetown. I speak to people on a daily basis who are afraid to leave their homes and who hear gunshot noises, more of them than if they were in Vietnam. These are the things we want to hear the Government talking about, because this country is in a serious state of crisis.

I will make a few comments about the economy, Government's finances and so on, but that to me now is not the most important thing, the integrity of life in this community is threatened. Barbados as a society as we knew it is under siege, the Government sits back and comes in here and makes a lot of nubile and stupid statements on matters that fundamentally affect not only us but our children and our children's children, and we have to be concerned about that.

I heard someone mention the Carlisle Club and things like that. One of the things that legislators should get to understand is that Governments can only pass legislation,

they cannot act as a Police Force, and I always marvel at the ignorance of people who should know better. There is legislation on the Statute Books of Barbados, and has been for a very long time, to deal with discrimination in public places, and Your Honour knows that very well.

I remember back in the last part of 1981 when there was a big debate about gambling in Barbados, and whether casinos were creeping in the island and so on, and one of the columnists who writes in the Nation newspaper, and has been writing for many many years, and seeks to be the conscience of the right wing in this country, fairly scoured the ruling party at the time for doing nothing about these things. I met him one day at Kensington Oval and I asked him, "why are you carrying on like that? have you checked Chapter so and so of the laws of Barbados to see what the law is?" I said the Government passed legislation that you should not drive more than 40 miles an hour, but the Ministers must not go out on the road on speed bikes and so on and report people when they pass 40 miles an hour. You pass the legislation, other people must enforce it.

Similarly, this comment about the Carlisle Club and who was the Government, that is unworthy of Senator Boxill, because he knows very well that there is legislation, even before his time, to deal with discrimination in public places, but it is not for a Minister of Government to go out there, run about with a peaked cap or a cork hat, a long jacket and a spotlight at night, it is for the Police Force and the enforcing agencies to make sure that the law is being carried out. So do not lay that in the lap of the Government as if you do not understand how these things are done.

Your Honour, I want to make another quick comment about this business of declaring war on the independent Senators. I think it is in bad taste, but I guess I am not qualified to tell the members of the Government what is good and bad taste. It is a terrible state of affairs when people honestly express their views and are abused for expressing their honest views.

3.35 p.m.

I don't know that what I hear from the benches of the independent senatorship is always music to my ears. Some things they say I don't agree with, but I think they have a right to get up just like all of us on the other side who get up and talk a lot but say nothing. These on this side in my view, whether I agree or do not agree with them, the independent Senators, make points of substance. You can agree or disagree, they make points of substance, not at all like at least one and perhaps two Members on the other side who talk a lot and say nothing. They are like Ole Man River, Sir, "They must know something but they don't say nutten."

Senator Fraser said that people are educated in Barbados, it is not like in other countries and so on. The problem in Barbados however, Sir, is that there are a lot of people in Barbados who are educated but ignorant. There are a lot of them, and Your Honour knows that better than most of us. You would have met many of them in your time, educated but ignorant, and sometimes some of the things I hear emanating from the mouths of certain people make me wonder if the figures that we have heard for the expenditure of education is justified or not.

Now let me say just one thing. I went to school at a secondary school in Barbados for eight years and my parents have never paid one single penny of school fees during those eight years. I went to school at Harrison College and they did not pay any school fees for the eight years I was there. I just get a little bit annoyed when I keep hearing these people who swallow up all the propaganda they hear from certain area and spew it out in the faces of people who are far more intelligent than they are, because the truth of the matter is that long before – I didn't mention that my eight years were before the Democratic Labour Party became the Government of this country which is before 1961 – the truth of the matter is that there were stages in the development of non-fee paying schools in Barbados, and long before 1961 a number of children in Barbados, principally children of working class went to school free. I can rattle off many many names of my contemporaries of that category who went to school without paying fees.

The Barbados Labour Party introduced a wider system of non-fee paying with the introduction of the so-called comprehensive schools as they were called at the time. Nobody who went to St. Leonards schools paid school fees, and they are secondary schools. Suddenly and magically in 1961 all that is forgotten and the paying of school fees has been abolished for the first time.

Let me tell you, Sir, that there are a number of people, as Senator Miller said, in Barbados who still have to pay school fees in secondary schools. I think those arguments are so silly. It is silly at this stage for us big men and women to be sitting down arguing foolishness over who blew the first balloon and that kind of silly argument that I would be disgusted with my children if I heard them with it, who first and who second.

The Barbados Labour Party will never say the Democratic Labour Party made no contribution to the development of education in this country. We would never say that. But the way you hear them say, like Senator Boxill today, you would think that the Barbados Labour Party perpetrated the greatest reversal in education in the history of education in this country. I cannot get myself involved in that kind of foolish and inane debate.

But we ask the question what of unemployment? Senator Fraser thinks we should not talk about unemployment? Senator Fraser is one of these fortunate people who always holds a job. She is also one of these fortunate people who not only holds a job but has a number of perks attached to her job, so she can afford to talk with the kind of insensitivity of someone who is in a privileged position; but when she is talking, really don't push me or I will give you all the facts. When she is driving in her chauffeur-driven Government vehicle around Barbados every day, she should stop at the street corners and see the hundreds and thousands of young people who are frustrated and disillusioned and disappointed and don't know where to turn because they can't find a job. And don't say that unemployment was with us all the time. Ten, fifteen or a hundred, whether it was here or not, the Government has the responsibility to address the problem of unemployment in this country. You can't say it was here so we do not have to do anything about it. You have a responsibility to address it, particularly, Mr. President, since the Democratic Labour Party in its quest for a Government gave the people of this country a clear and unambiguous statement that high on their priorities was the elimination of unemployment in this country, and that they would do something about it.

Mr. President, unemployment in Barbados has got higher since the Democratic Labour Party came into Government, and I am hearing from a Government Senator that unemployment was always with us so what do you want us to do. Tell it to the people out there. Those of us who are in touch with them know that it is causing some problems in this society. They talk to us and they tell us that they feel a great sense of frustration, and as a result the anti-social conduct among young people in Barbados is growing, and the Senator gets on as if nothing is to be done about it. Senator Fraser is only giving expression to the total ineptitude of the Government. I do not like to use hyperboles, I don't like to over-state my case like some of them, but after careful thought I am of the view that this present Government is the most inept and inefficient Government in this country for over forty years and this is by any criterion that you can possibly find. It is in a state of drift.

The attack, for instance, on the independent Senators is merely an extension of the fratricidal war obtaining inside the Government. They so bloody each other that they are now looking around for other people to bloody. Fights after fights we are hearing in this country. Things good, things bad, same Government. They tell you one week things are good, the next week they tell you things are bad. They tell you one week the economy is booming, the next week they tell you that they are heading for the rocks.

We have Members of the Government who made loud, and as the old people say powerful speeches in defence of the financial measures up to six or eight months ago, not so long, up to about four or five months ago, in stout defence of a number of financial measures, now a few months later they are backing back, and they are now saying all that glitters was not gold. They are fighting among themselves. They are now taking a position that was taken by the Opposition all the time. They are making speeches much akin to speeches I have made is here and got heckled by the Government. That is the situation in which you find yourself and the reason why we are in a terrible state of crisis is because there is a total loss of confidence between the rulers and the ruled.

People like a little honesty, Sir. If you are dealing with people, you have to be honest with them. They have been fooled all along the line. Everything you said you would not do you do. The Ministry of Finance, they don't want to borrow. They are close to \$500 million borrowed in two years when we deal with the measures that have passed the House of Assembly. When we deal with the measures that have passed the House, the loan from the Consortium, the loan out of Venezuela, the Government would have borrowed close to \$1/2 billion in two years, and they had the nerve to go out and tell the country that the Barbados Labour Party Government had borrowed this country into a state of hock when you never know when the pawnbroker was going to hold what he had for us. That is what is going on in this country. And it is not the fact of borrowing; it is the fact that they misled the people. A number of people who told us on this side when we walk the streets of Barbados two years ago that you all mortgaged away our country and have borrowed all this money and got us in trouble, we don't want to hear from you, and backed the Democratic Labour Party Government, are now shell-shocked at all this business they are hearing about borrowing all this money left, right and centre.
3.45 p.m.

At least, Mr. President, when the Barbados Labour Party borrowed money at a much lower rate than this current Administration, one could see what they borrowed the money for. There was no doubt at all where the money was being spent. There were projects of every kind and magnitude that were happening in Barbados and the money was being spent on.

But now they borrowed this year up to half billion dollars and nobody has seen yet what this money is being spent on. We want to know these things. The people of Barbados want to know these things, Sir.

Now I heard Senator Goddard in here two or three months ago or whenever it was in a speech very thoughtful against us. I said I do not agree with some of what the

independent Senators say. I respect their intelligence and experience. They are all intelligent and experienced people. They are people who have made substantial contribution to this country in whatever field of endeavour they are in. And if I may say here parenthetically, it is not my job to defend anybody in here but I think Senator Comissiong you know, sometimes he should leave out the personalities, and develop whatever arguments he has and behave like a lawyer. Leave out the personalities. Because he is saying that he does not hear Senator Shorey get up in Barbados and defend the poor. One of the things that I most admire about Senator Shorey is his very commitment to defending this country and people against injustice, in whatever field.

When the Barbados Labour Party was in the Government he found it necessary to scour us for the Emergency Powers Bill.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Even somebody as thoughtless as Senator Boxill was against it. But the point I am making – I am not handing out bouquets, so if Senator Boxill wants one let somebody else give it to him – I am saying that Senator Shorey has a record in this country of speaking up against injustice for many, many years, whoever is the Government and in a wide range of issues. So I think they could cut out this kind of personality because, Your Honour, you are in the Chair, but they cannot rough it up like the two of us you know. I mean, we are willing to take on the whole gang and they could send for auxiliary troops. So if they want to rough it up, Sir, we will rough it up as far as you will allow us.

Now I was making the point, Sir, that Senator Goddard warned in a well thought out, well prepared statement a few months ago about the dangers this country faces if its public debt continues to escalate at the rate at which it is expanding.

I do not share all of Senator Goddard's views, I said so and I am going to say so again, because Senator Goddard is a businessman, experienced one and probably a very good one, but I do not equate running a Government with running a business. The Welfare vote does not bring in profits, the Education vote brings in some profit by having a trained cadre of people. But a lot of votes do not bring in profits and Government cannot run a country like you run a business.

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I hear it is a capitalist view. It is a view that has been adopted lock, stock and barrel by the Democratic Labour Party. Lock, stock and barrel.

I am hearing now, Sir, from Members of the Democratic Labour Party that the private sector did not play ball with the Government and when they got this money, they paid it out in dividends. Your Honour would have heard that argument coming from somewhere down in this corner at least two or three or four times in the last two years. And you would recall, Your Honour, that we got a generous amount of booing and so on when that kind of statement was made. When this corner sought to point out and I cannot remember the exact words, my own, when we said that they have tied monetary concessions to job creation and do not leave it at large, that they should have made sure that for all the money they gave, that a certain amount of jobs were created, we were laughed at. Now they are saying the exact same thing, that the private sector did not play ball with them, as if they think the private sector are a bunch of Sunday Christian altruists. They aim for a profit. That is what they are in business for. And you do not expect them to make these kinds of offers that the Government expects them to make. But the whole thing has become unstuck now. And a period of recrimination has set in. So they are lashing out at each other. They are lashing out at the private sector. They cannot take us on any more, Sir. They are not lashing out at us. They find when they rough it up with us they always get the black eye. So they are not dealing with us at the moment. They are lashing out at each other and they are lashing out at the private sector.

But when all this is going on, Sir, this country is going from bad to worse. Because there is no point getting up talking foolishness about do not say it. That if you make a criticism about the condition in which your country is you are pulling it down. It is almost like saying if you discipline and talk to your children for doing something wrong, you are pulling them down. Like Jesse Jackson, Sir, a lot of gimmicks and slogans. We want more than that. The only thing they did not have that Jesse Jackson has is an inspirational message. He can inspire people. Well they are good at the slogans and the gimmicks without being able to come along with the inspiration. And this country is in deep trouble because of it, Sir.

Now I want – I said I was not going to talk too long, Sir, and I have talked for about fifteen minutes longer than I intended. But I must deal with one or two other things, Sir, whatever I might feel. Mr. President, this whole question about youth and employment, the Ministry of Employment and Labour or whatever the rest of its appellation is seems to think that like in the days of the old Roman Empires bread and circuses were enough to distract people from their pressing and nagging problems. Carry them in the arena and throw out bread and give them some fun, and they would forget their problems.

This business about summer camps, take up all the children and young people and put them in summer camps

across the island is not something that I would attack. I am not criticizing that. It is good for the development of socialization of young people in Barbados. So I am not attacking that. But sometimes it comes through to me as if this is the answer to their problems. Drag them out of the homes with the despair, the despondency, the pain, the hurt, the hunger! The hunger! Pull them out, put them in a youth camp, give them the clowns and the music and the tinsel and so on and all is well.

What we need are some fairly aggressive initiatives to counter this problem, Sir. Like you, Mr. President, I have only one country, this one. If something is not done to alleviate youth unemployment in Barbados, this country is going to see a lot of fire. And I am talking about fire in the figurative sense. I am around, Sir, and I know what I am talking about. It is not so much a criticism of Government, although God knows that they need to be criticized now for almost everything under the sun. But it is a concern of a citizen of this country for some very ugly signs that I have seen developing. The prisons are full of them, Sir, 418 in a prison that was built for two hundred and something. Three men sleeping in a cell, six feet by four feet – work that one out, Sir – with no sanitation, and the mass of them are young people. And it is now touching not only the working class, a lot of people used to be complacent because they figure when you are looking for people who break in and who do these things, in the old days they used to go up in the district that I used to live in – because you figured the criminals lived up there and other places in Barbados. It is touching every single social class in Barbados. I go up to the prison, Sir, and I see them. Every single social class. The same thing is happening in the mental hospital. The mental hospital is getting overcrowded with young people who are in there principally because of drugs but secondly because of despair born out of society that is too much for them to carry. These are the things we have to be talking about if we are to be a serious legislature. I did not hear Senator Clarke introduce the Bill. But I understand that he did not deal with any issues at all. Well, we cannot expect much from Senator Lewis because he is out of touch by and large. But we want to hear something – no I have got to call your name. I want to call your name.

3.55 p.m.

I have been told that the Government of Ontario has made an offer for the employment of over 900 people from the Caribbean and I understand that in respect of recruiting young people to work in the hotels and industry in the Province of Ontario that this proposal has been put to the Government of Barbados for many, many months and they just are not capable enough to be able to take this initiative and translate it into effective action. That is getting a number of young people to work in good clean jobs which they can develop themselves in the Province of Ontario.

Now I have a good friend who is in the Provincial Government of Ontario. He likens the situation to one of the roads, I do not know how many years ago, when Barbados began to feel that the employment of young women as domestic workers in the homes of Canadians was demeaning and, therefore, the scheme fell into abeyance. He wondered whether it was this kind of thinking that made the Government of Barbados not pursue what is in fact in my view a very good initiative.

I want to hear things about this. I want the two subalterns to get up and tell this country, not Louis Tull, something about these things. These things are important in a very real way. When Barbados has had problems over the years with unemployment, emigration has been one of the major if not the major area of alleviating the unemployment situation in this country. Way back when they were going to build the Panama Canal and the West African Railway, and to work in Brazil, United States of America, and there was a big crowd that moved to the United Kingdom principally in the 1950's. Then in the 1960's the immigration scheme in the United States and Canada has gone a long way. I could even mention Guyana – Demerara as it was then called – where Barbadians could go and work and make a living to support their families.

We cannot in a small economy like ours believe that we are going to solve all of the problems in respect of immigration through growth in our domestic economy at a level to create the kind of jobs that are required in this country. They are fooling themselves if they think so. This is a small country and a small economy. Even if there is very substantial growth in the economy over a period of time, that in itself will only make a small impression on the unemployment situation in this country.

While I am still under the Ministry of Labour, I want to talk very quickly again about the civil servants and their pay. The Barbados Labour Party used to be treated with some great discourtesies by some of the leaders of the unions who dealt with the Government when we were the Government of this country, in respect to civil servants. Now they have learned a new sense of courtesy. I am glad they learned some courtesy and I applaud them for that. I am glad to see as they get older that they are beginning to learn some courtesy and they do not behave that way with the present Administration. I will not impute any other motive to them other than they are getting to know how to behave themselves.

But the question of the salary increases for Public Officers, I think Senator Miller made some allusion to this earlier today. This had a lot to do with the question of the finances of the Government of Barbados, the state of its current expenditure and the level of its deficit. We have seen the level of its deficit at this time that it is historically

out of balance. I did not say imbalance because I do not want to use the words of other people. But it is out of balance and I am watching this *contretemps* between the Government and the unions – I will not say the civil servants wage increases – because I am genuinely concerned about the effect it will have on the current expenditure levels in Barbados and how Government is going to deal with it. I will tell you why, Sir.

The Prime Minister for instance finds nothing wrong with going with 17 Barbadians paid by the public purse of Barbados to a conference in Vancouver – Tom, Dick, and Harry, and Mary too, Sir. The Prime Minister thinks nothing of going to a World Bank Meeting in Washington at a time where there is a conference at the United Nations in New York on disarmament and rather than passing through from Washington to New York and stopping overnight or even 2 days and addressing the United Nations, he brings his whole entourage back to Barbados and then leaves again and goes back to New York shortly thereafter to make a 5 minute speech at the U. N. on disarmament. Now I really do not think the Prime Minister of Barbados should be wasting time going to the U. N. to talk on disarmament anyway. I really do not think so. He has to set out his priorities. Not that we are not concerned about disarmament. But a small, tiny, microstate with limited resources cannot play that you are travelling the whole world like you are some colossus. But even if he went if he had passed through Washington and stopped over in New York and made his speech, I would have not made any criticism. But to come home and to go back up a few days later is putting wrong priorities in this country. When the Prime Minister can go off to CARICOM meetings with a posse – 16 this time – to these meetings and they cost a lot of money with hotel bills and all the other frills, I think he is overdoing it. I think he should go to meetings. I am not questioning that, but with 16 and 18 people?

Why I am also concerned about the negotiations and what it will do to the current account situation in Barbados is because of what is happening to a number of people at the bottom of this society. I mean bottom in terms of money. The Welfare Officers in Barbados are telling the poor people who go to them, quite often young women with 3 and 4 children and no man to help to support the children and she herself is not working and they go and ask for the traditional assistance – assistance now they have been getting for many, many years in Barbados, some money to buy a dress for the child to wear to school or a pair of tennis shoes to wear to school or whatever – they are being told all across the Welfare Offices in Barbados that they have no money for them. The Welfare Officers say that the Government has not given us any money to help you.

Now these are the people who get squeezed when they are saying cut expenditure – (a) cut current expenditure is

when you have your priorities right and (b) if you going to cut out a lot of the wastage in the Public Service that the Ministry of Public Affairs has been increasing. The wastage in the Public Service has gotten worse with the Ministry of the Public Service within the last 2 years. If you can save money for wastage and you can set your priorities right then I am willing to listen to this question about cutting your current expenditure.

4.05 p.m.

That is the situation. There are people in Barbados and children in Barbados who are going to sleep hungry at night. It is a shame that a country such as ours, with a per capita income of eleven or twelve thousand dollars, where everybody has two or three cars, and people are no longer building houses to live in, they are building mansions, and they do not have enough aircraft to take our people to the vacation haunts of Toronto, New York, London, Paris and Miami, Bon Air, Curacao and Aruba, Caracas, Rio and these places. A society that is that prosperous is a society that should not allow children to be going to sleep hungry at night, and that is happening already. Children are going to sleep hungry through no fault of their own. I want to know what the Government is doing about these things.

I really do not like their financial policies, but that is another matter. Whatever their policies are, I think that they have to consider as paramount the welfare of the few – because they are not many, in terms of 250 000 the numbers that are in that position are few – and I believe that our society should be doing something to make sure that those children do not have to go to sleep hungry at night.

I am always amused by the left wing of the Government party, because they are a mish mash of different beliefs and ideologies and philosophies and so on, a bunch of opportunists who jump on an issue if they can see something to wring a little mileage out of it. But I am often amazed at the left wingers, the ones who think that they alone understand the people in Barbados, their needs and their wants and so on, how they sit down and do not ever get up and talk about these things.

This business about the road, as I said, I am not interested in debating that, but I cannot help saying, for the third time in here, that I cannot understand how the same Government that took the position they took in respect of the contract for Highway 2A can be threatening every time they open their mouths to destroy the minibus industry in Barbados. All the owners of minibuses in Barbados are black Barbadians. That is what the left like to talk about all the time. All, without exception, are black. Probably 98% of them are people of very little means, who have one bus, drive it themselves and drive the stuffings out of that one bus to eke out a living for their families. These are the people that the Democratic Labour Party Government every

time they open their mouths they want to destroy them. They have lucrative routes. They would prefer the young black entrepreneurs – all are not young, Sir, in fact the majority are not young – they would like to destroy the black entrepreneurs from handling a lucrative route and put them in one that is not lucrative. In other words, put them out there in the hickies where you can destroy them quickly.

What kind of Government is this, Sir, that is talking out of two sides of its mouth at the same time. But the people are waiting for them.

I understand that in the Price Control Department of Government there is some conflict of interests. I want Senator Lewis, instead of always mumbling little pejorative comments about me, instead of doing something as unworthy as that, to help the people of Barbados by telling them about the conflict of interest in the Price Control Division and tell us what the Government is doing about it. You cannot hunt with the hound and run with the hare. The Democratic Labour Party Government had better understand that, because the rest of us do. I want to hear about that.

I also want to hear something in respect of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. I forget as I go along to call the Head I am speaking on. I know that something is coming before this Chamber later on dealing with Stamp Duty, a budgetary measure, but I cannot keep until then.

The Government of Barbados has taken a decision to abolish the Stamp Duty in relation to goods imported from Trinidad and Tobago. Now I want to sound a word of caution. I have dealt with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in respect of trade for a while as a Minister of Government. I did it directly at one point as Minister dealing directly with trade, and for a period before that not as Minister of Trade, but someone who is concerned in negotiations with them over a series of matters. I have seen that the figures for goods imported from Barbados into Trinidad and Tobago have shown no significant change. I have not seen it, and I want to know whether the Government of Barbados has given careful thought to the kind of gesture implicit in that particular decision. I want to know if the Government of Barbados is prepared to review this in a very short period of time, and if no change is forthcoming from Trinidad and Tobago, let the Government reverse its position, and we on this side would not hesitate to support them.

I heard the Minister of Trade on the radio and television last evening complaining about the situation in respect of the Oils and Fats Agreement. St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, these have for a long time been complaining that Barbados and other countries in

CARICOM have not been importing their coconut oil to the levels at which they agreed. Mr. President, the people in Barbados have changed their dietary habits and the old lard oil has no appeal to Barbadians any more. People are buying vegetable oil, because they are concerned now about their health, their diet and things like that, and therefore it is a little bit difficult to import large amounts of coconut oil into Barbados at a level at which we used to before, but the Government of Barbados in the spirit of CARICOM decided we have to help these countries that produce a lot of this copra and import a certain amount into Barbados, even if we use it in animal feed or for whatever alternate use you can find for it. But I am hearing now that the Government of St. Lucia, according to the Minister of Trade and Industry, is sending this oil to Barbados, and much of it is used at Roberts Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of margarine.

4.15 p.m.

Then the Government of St. Lucia does not buy margarine from Barbados even though they ship the oil to us, they import margarine from the United States. I mention these things, Sir, because I detect a certain amateurish behaviour on the part of the Government. They do not understand what they are dealing with. These problems are almost rooted in CARICOM antiquity. They are not new problems, and even when the principals change, the game remains the same. I suspect from the figures I have managed to get out of the publications of the Export Promotion Corporation that we are going nowhere fast in respect of CARICOM trade, and I do not want Barbadians at this difficult period to be used as the fall guys in what is going on.

I want finally, Sir, because I have a headache, and I believe it is symptomatic of the headache that the whole country is feeling over a lot of these policies of the Government, in relation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to which reference was made by Senator Blackman, that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is another part of the Government that does not have any direction. Unlike Senator Blackman, I don't have any compunction about saying what I want to say about Senator Tudor whether he is here or not here. I am not like him in that regard, but there is no sense of direction in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Repeated administrations have talked over and over again about using their Foreign Missions as agencies for the promotion of trade and tourism and for the attraction of foreign investment in Barbados. The point has been made repeatedly that small countries like Barbados cannot afford the luxury of a foreign service that is merely political, that could write back from Washington and tell you what is happening on Capitol Hill or write back from Ottawa and tell you how many games the Ottawa Rough Riders won

and that kind of thing, or how many parties the High Commissioner held, how many nationals he had meetings with and that kind of thing. That is all right; that has to be part of it, but we all agree on all sides, the Democratic Labour Party, the Barbados Labour Party and the much reviled independents that it is absolutely necessary and critical at this time that our Missions overseas be used as important agencies for attracting visitors to Barbados, for promoting our trade, for getting in touch with potential investors who would make investment in Barbados. None of this has happened, Sir.

I have been watching. We had a big foreign affairs debate in here; some said it was a good debate. It was an anti-climax when the Leader of the Senate in his usual way talked and talked around and used a lot of fancy phrases and so on and really said nothing of any consequence. None of us in here including Members of the Government can remember anything that he said in that debate, nothing. But it is imperative if we are to continue to pay the big lot of money we pay in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to make sure that it is time that we use our foreign departments and embassies overseas to do the kind of work that all of us would like to see done.

I remember in that contribution in the Senate debate, I think it was Senator Goddard who was particularly strong on that aspect of it, that if they are not doing that they are not justifying their existence. The trouble, however, Mr. President, is that the Government even though it feels of like mind with the rest of us have not got the energy to get up and get something happening. It has to do a restructuring in the Ministries because it has to involve other Ministries; the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Tourism, all these have to be involved. They first have to decide not at the whim of the Minister of Foreign Affairs who has the Prime Minister's ear, how you shuffle around foreign servants, move this one here and move this one there like you are playing draughts. That is not what is necessary. You need a new kind of foreign service officer, not only those who could write good position papers on Nicaragua without a secondary school, or those who can give you an excellent paper on the increase of the US militarism in the Caribbean. You have got some bright people in that department that are good at that sort of thing; but those are not the only ones you want. You want go-getters, the people with a background not only academically but by experience in these fields who are going to be working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their offices overseas with a relative degree of freedom, because again, Sir, if I may mention it parenthetically, one of the problems is that if you want to do something you have to write a minute that goes to A, then goes to B, then goes to C and then goes to D and by the time it reaches the Minister whatever it is that was to have been done has long since

finished. You need people who are working in the foreign service overseas who are given the latitude to take decisions. That is the kind of person you want to deal with because these things don't wait. There are a lot of high pressure business people overseas who can't take the time for you to consult back home and the telex machine not working. It is true they don't have a FAX machine.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Tull, I must inform you that your time is up.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: As Your Honour pleases.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, this debate has taken us in some turns and twists which have really surprised me. The Senate for quite some time has been stating its interest and desire to debate money Resolutions. I would have thought that when this matter came before us that the Senators who spoke earlier would have been fully cognisant of the Supplementary Resolutions that had gone on in the Other Place, since it appears that the work was not done, I am prepared to do it for them, so what I would like to do, Mr. President, is to supply.....

Aside.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Senator Miller, I don't want to speak to you again.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: He was rude; wrong and strong too. Learning a lot of bad habits from Senator Boxill.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, under the Capital Expenditure, we indicated earlier that \$39 539 433 had been allocated. This is made up as follows: Head 73 - Ministry of Finance, \$5 million was appropriated on behalf of the Caribbean Airways debt; \$250 000 went to the micro-business window at the Barbados Development Bank; \$4.564 million was a loan to BNOC to bring to book transactions made in the previous year; \$750 000 represented equity in CARICARGO; \$3.60 million was an investment in BET, and a book entry to regularise the accounts.
4.25 p.m.

Head 79, Housing, \$9 million to effect the purchase of the St. Joseph Hospital and the Savannah Club. Under Head 74 and this is the Capital Account Transport and Works the sum of \$5.686 million was allocated for the Northern Access Road. Thus these figures account for \$28.85 million of the 39. The others were miscellaneous over a number of Heads. On the current side, we had an omnibus Resolution where all Ministries and Departments were concerned for \$22.6 million for salaries' revision 1986-87, 1987-88. Head 36 Ministry of Health \$877 000 for medical attention and treatment overseas; \$3 961 000 supplies for the Drug

Service. Head 43 Ministry of Tourism \$2 858 000 promotion in the USA, Canada and Europe. Head 42 Ministry of Transport and Works \$13 million, subsidies to the Transport Board.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Thirteen - 13. Head 37 Ministry of Housing, \$10.5 million to the NCC for debushing, landscaping and the beautification programme. \$1.5 million to NHC to meet financial commitments. Head 23 Ministry of Finance \$1/2 million to meet loan commitments and \$7 million for Loans and Advances to the National Insurance Board and the Severance Payments Scheme. Head 28 Ministry of Legal Affairs \$1 million to meet commitments of the Central Purchasing Department. To the Ministry of Agriculture there was \$674 000, a subscription to CARDI. And to the Prime Minister's Office \$1 169 000 for the twenty-first anniversary of Independence celebrations. These figures explain \$65 639 000 of the total current of \$79 million. The other \$10 million, these sums were spread over a series of Heads.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Senator Miller in her reply mentioned the question of employment. And I am quoting from the Central Bank's Economic and Financial Statistics June 1988. For the first quarter of 1988 the unemployment rate, correctly stated was 16.3% compared with the first quarter of 1987 of 15.5%. For 1986 for the same quarter it was 15.6% and in 1985 for that same quarter it was 17.4%, the unemployment rate.

But of even more significance is the level of employment, I am using those same periods, the first quarter of 1985 the employment level, the number of people employed in Barbados stood at 95.5 thousand, in 1986 end of first quarter it rose to 98.5 thousand, in 1987, first quarter again 99.5 thousand, 1988 first quarter 100 000 people. This is the first time since the fourth quarter in 1981 that we have reached the 100 000 people employed in Barbados.

I think perhaps at this point some things should be brought together. Senator Tull made the statement of solving our unemployment problem through emigration. And he talked about Guyana and workers migrating to North America. It has been found that once the standard of living begins to rise in a country we no longer have emigration but immigration, people who are overseas begin to come back home. And the magic figure for that is about \$4 500 about BD\$9 000.

So what is really happening here from the figures I have read to you, and I read them out deliberately

in an attempt to explain the position that what is happening here, although we are creating more jobs with the advent of people returning home, there are more people coming into the work force.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: And there is loss of jobs. Speak the whole truth.)

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: The net position based on this figure is 100 000 jobs created for the first quarter. It is a matter of record.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: What about the number of jobs lost?)

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: The net increase.....

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Businesses closed?)

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE:.....There has been a net increase in jobs in Barbados of 100 000, the highest since the fourth quarter of 1981.

Aside.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On the question of creeping inflation, since the Budgetary Proposals were introduced, we have had just a couple of weeks ago, the Ministry of Trade announcing that flour had been reduced, and earlier there were ads appearing in the press from Harris Paints indicating that the price of paints had gone down.

The deficit mentioned by Senator Lewis.....

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: What about the number of items on price control?)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Senator Miller, we should like to hear Senator Clarke.

(*Aside:* SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, Sir.)

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please do not interrupt the speaker. Senator Clarke.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: On the question of the deficit quoted by Senator Miller, this referred to the last quarter of the fiscal year 1987-88 and not to the first quarter of the new Financial Year 1988-89. I think in all fairness what we need to do would be to have a look at the figures for the first quarter of the new Financial

Year to fully gauge the impact of the fiscal measures as introduced in the last Budget.

Senator Shorey made the statement that he was not here when the Debate, a certain Debate went on. And that is not too hard to discover that even now he has returned and his body is here, he is not quite with us yet. But by the next session he would catch up.

On the question of the Japanese market loan, at the time – now I want to deal with that – when I introduced the measure in this Chamber we said we were going to that market for up to \$160 000 000. And I stated then, Senator Shorey was pressing to ask specifically what we intended to do with the money. And I was at pains to explain then and I state again that what we were hoping to do was to obtain the foreign exchange in the hope of retiring higher rates of interest with shorter maturities. Lengthening the repayment period and lowering the rate of interest if possible. We came back with \$80 million because the rates of interest then were favourable. One could acquire money, you can borrow money at any price, if you are willing to pay it. So it is not a matter of not being able to get the full amount that you are looking for. It is, are you willing to pay the interest rate for it? And when you consider your own credit worthiness you would seek then to find the most favourable of rates. And that is the case in point.

Senator Goddard raised the question of controlling Government expenditures. The Minister of Finance in the Other Place made it quite clear that he was setting in motion a mechanism within the Ministry of Finance for controlling expenditures. This has been set in place and hopefully we should be able to monitor. We have moved from allocating funds to the various Ministries on a quarterly basis now to a monthly basis for closer control on their expenditures.

I think I have touched on most of the questions that have been raised and I now move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

On the separate motions of SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE the Bill was read a third time and was passed.
4.35 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SALE OF LAND TOGETHER WITH THE BUILDING THEREON AT VAULT ROAD

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the sale under Section 5 of the

Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act, Cap. 225, to Eurine Walcott of a parcel of land, together with the building thereon situate at Vault Road, Welchman Hall, Saint Thomas.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks approval under Section 5 of the Crown Lands (Vesting and Disposal) Act to dispose by way of sale a Government property comprising 255.3 square metres of land and the remains to be used as a public convenience at Vault Road, Welchman Hall, St. Thomas to Mrs. Eurine Walcott at a cost of Bds.\$7 000 which according to the Commissioner of Land Tax is the open market value of the land.

Mrs. Walcott owns a shop and a poolroom on Vault Road on the opposite side of the road to this convenience and she has been given notice to quit the land on which her business now stands. The acquisition of the property will allow her to carry on her business virtually at the same address from which she has operated for a number of years and it will insure that her customers will not be inconvenienced.

The Chief Town Planner has no objection to the site being used for the resiting of a shop. Now disposal of this particular remains of a public convenience is in keeping with Government's policy of disposing of these public conveniences. Some have been made available to the Community Development Division of the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development and public offers are also invited for some of the other conveniences and the offers are presently being examined and successful tenders will be notified accordingly. We will have to come back to Parliament when those other situations occur.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Mr. President, Sir, there is one bright spot in the day. I am so pleased to hear that a policy that began by myself when in Government is continuing to be pursued speaks part and parcel of the social revolution which has been taking place here over the last 50 years or so. It is a wonderful thing to recognise that public conveniences and public baths in particular are now redundant in our community and are a thing of the past, and that they are not left to fall to ruin and eye sores, and harbouring grounds for vermin of the four legged and two legged variety and are being put to some practical use. There was a lot of opposition when I first mooted it on both sides. A lot of people were afraid to deal with it because they thought that the man in the street would say that politicians are patronising them and looking down on them in some way and to think that people could want such a property. Land is land and it cannot rot. Even in countries

where they have had their revolution, when the revolution was finished the land was still there.

So I am pleased to see that this is a continuing policy. But I want to know if this lady Mrs. Walcott – I do not know what her political persuasion is and I do not care – but I want to know when is she going to be compensated for the acquisition of her lands.

When we look at today's Order Paper, we see under Questions, notice of which was given by Senator Blackman since March 2, of this year asking specifically to know the number of parcels of land compulsorily acquired by the Government since July 1, 1984 and July 1987. He clearly is not interested which political Administration these acquisitions took place and he wanted to know secondly the number of unsatisfactory claims for land compulsorily acquired during the particular period.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Senator, this is not an acquisition. This is a sale. It does not make any difference. If you are not getting your money, do you think that you care whether it is an acquisition or sale?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was just going to ask you Senator Miller what Senator Blackman asked has nothing to do with this. Would you deal with this matter please and let us proceed.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Yes, I want to know – oh, I am sorry. This is property selling to this woman. So the Government is going to get a berry out of this. I beg your pardon. Thank you for the correction. I am looking at another thing.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order!

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: I will make my point when we deal with subsequent matters of acquisitions. But I really am very pleased to see that these buildings are being acquired and I hope that the people who acquire them will put them to some use and will not let these buildings continue in a state of dilapidation and an insult to the environment in which we live. Thank you, Sir.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION BY THE CROWN OF THE PARCEL OF LAND AT VAUXHALL, CHRIST CHURCH

Order No. 3 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at

Vauxhall, Christ Church for the purpose of road improvement.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this Resolution relates to acquisition of 124 square metres of land at Vauxhall in Christ Church. In 1978 around the time that Vauxhall Mixed School was completed the Ministry of Transport and Works was carrying out a road widening programme near the school and they required certain lands from certain properties. In this instance the land was the property of Regina Ifill that was used. My understanding is that she is now deceased.

It was agreed between the Ministry of Housing and Lands, and the vendor that negotiations would take place for this parcel of land. But all efforts were made to proceed with the acquisition by private treaty and these were thwarted because a search was carried out in the Registration Department which failed to produce the conveyance in respect of this land and as a result provision of the Land Acquisition Act had to be resorted to. The negotiations are now at a stage where the vendor, attorneys, and the Ministry of the Attorney General are satisfied that they should proceed. This Resolution seeks approval for the compulsory acquisition of land because there was no other means of getting title. The lands have been used for road widening and road improvement since 1978.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

4.45 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT PINE HILL, ST. MICHAEL FOR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

Order No. 4 was called – Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Pine Hill, St. Michael for Highway improvement.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: This is another acquisition of land, Mr. President, from the estate of Maurice Jones situated at Pine Hill in the parish of St. Michael, about 2,818.4 square metres of land, abutting and bounding on lands of Evangel Temple, on the public road leading to Collymore Rock and on other lands.

The roadworks were carried out in the Bishop's Court Hill/Erdiston/Pine Gardens area in 1979 but the legal formalities for transferring the land, some of which was donated by Mr. Jones to the Crown, were never finalised and the balance of the lands being transferred relate to part of a larger property that was sold to the Canadian Government. The title deeds were no longer in the possession of the estate of Mr. Jones and therefore surveys had to be undertaken to determine what was the total area

of land that was actually utilised for the roadworks over and above the amount which Mr. Jones had agreed to donate.

In December 1984 Cabinet concluded that steps should be taken to effect the transfer to Government of the 982 square metres of land previously offered by Mr. Jones, notwithstanding the fact that the property had already been sold and that an additional area of approximately 1,174.4 square metres of Mr. Jones' land, which had been used for the road project, it was necessary to acquire this and for the estate to be compensated.

In March 1985 the Ministry of Housing and Lands again tried to pursue this matter by private treaty, but this could not be achieved, and as a consequence, in order to finalise the matter, the Land Acquisition Act is being used.

The road was widened, it has been in use ever since 1979 and this is one of the attempts being made to finalise several long outstanding transactions relating to the land.

Let me also say that the question which was asked some time ago by Senator Blackman was drawn to the attention of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, and in order to expedite matters on this, additional staff is being recruited in an effort to make good the compensation which is due to those several persons whose lands have been acquired over a period of the last 15 years or so and many of the persons have not yet been paid. This is not a matter about which any Government should feel proud, and therefore some action is proceeding to try and solve the problem.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I have two matters of Private Members' Business on the Order Paper. Is it your wish that I proceed with them today?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do you wish to proceed with them now?

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: I could proceed with Items 3 and 4 today and I also wish to give notice of another matter of which I gave you earlier intimation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, you may proceed.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Senator Blackman, Mr. President, wrote the Leader of Government Business in connection with what he considered to be efforts to delay dealing with these matters and I have a copy of a reply by the Leader of Government Business to Senator

Blackman. What I know is that it seems to me that we should, along with Senator Blackman, make an arrangement to proceed with these matters on a specific day. If you start them now I doubt we will be able to finish them this evening, because in consultation with Senator Sir James Tudor I pointed out that we should in fact get a remit from Cabinet in both instances in order to respond.

In one case the matter is not one that I consider should cause us any problems. It is a question as to whether one year or three years is likely to be acceptable to those of us on this side, but I can only promise that we will between now and next sitting communicate with Senator Blackman in terms of completion or otherwise in pursuing these matters.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, in light of the assurance given by Senator Lewis, I will defer consideration of Item 2 standing in my name. I will however ask leave to give notice of another Resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: No objection. Leave is granted.

SENATOR C. A. BLACKMAN: Mr. President, I give notice of a Resolution that the Land (Adjudication of Rights and Interests) Regulations 1988 and the Land Registration Regulations which were laid in this Chamber today be not approved.

Mr. President, if I may say by way of explanation, these are Resolutions which are subject to negative resolution, and unless a Resolution is laid that they be not approved, they come into effect after 40 days. I can negative them by giving notice of a Resolution. I have been so advised by the Clerks that that is the procedure that I need to follow.

SENATOR Dr. L. L. SHOREY: Mr. President, I should like to second the Resolution and reserve my right to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I beg to move that this Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, August 3, 1988.

SENATOR B. A. MILLER: Mr. President, speaking on the adjournment, there are two matters I would like to raise. The first has to do with the fact that we are adjourned until next week. I am dissatisfied, and I believe that I am not the only one in the Senate who is, with the way in which our business is conducted. We are all very busy people, including yourself, Mr. President, and the Senate does not meet on a regular basis, or on a consistent basis, and I think that it is grossly unfair, and in some cases really

quite discourteous to us, that the Senate will meet at such short notice as we have had to face during this year, particularly during 1988, that the Senate will not meet for weeks on end and then you will get a notice three or four days before to tell you that it is going to meet. Some of us have to be abroad, some of us have other business that we have to reorganise, and very urgent appointments, because we make the Senate a very high priority and I wish to formally complain about it.

4.55 p.m.

I don't think it is fair to us. I don't think it is fair to you either. I see that you have been the butt of much criticism, and I don't think it is any more fair to you when you have other business than to us, and I think that the Leader of this Chamber ought to treat us with a little more courtesy, and we ought to have longer and proper notice of meetings of the Senate.

Now I was led to believe by no less a person than the Leader of the Other Place that today was going to be the last meeting of the Senate. I don't want to hear that he does not have the power to say that because he does have the power to say that and he said it to me in another place, and now today I am going to hear at this eleventh hour that the Senate is to meet next week. The notice for this Senate meeting which came after many weeks of the Senate not meeting at all was served on me less than a week ago. We cannot do business in this fashion. You know that you are dealing with the onset of a holiday month when Senators have to be up and down with their families and so on and so forth, and they have commitments, and it is very difficult sometimes to reorganise your business and to reschedule your business in order to accommodate the Senate and I really must voice my disapproval and my displeasure at the way in which we are treated. I think we deserve more than this.

In the private sector and in other circles where people are on boards and have meetings to attend, they have long calendars and they are given proper and decent notice. It is felt in some companies that fourteen days is the minimum notice that you can give to someone, and I don't think that I am really asking too much when I am asking for us to be given fair and reasonable notice of Senate meetings. That is the first matter I wish to raise speaking on the adjournment.

The second matter I wish to raise, Sir, has to do with the state of the Senate Chamber. There are some days when we come in here when the air conditioning makes it very uncomfortable for us or at least those of us who don't like it too cold, and then there are other days like today when we come in and it is very uncomfortable because it is too warm for those of us who do not like it to be too warm. The carpet is in a terrible state of disrepair. I should know better than any.

I know, I am fully aware that there is a Committee appointed to deal with the whole business of renovation and refurbishing of Parliament. That Committee, like so many other Parliamentary Committees hardly ever sits. We know what next year is. We have seen the completion now for some time of the Other Place and Members there are comfortable. I wish to say, Sir, that it is really asking too much for us to continue to sit in a Chamber as badly decorated and as uncomfortable as this one gets to be. Every time we come here, it gets worse.

Now we have a summer recess coming up, I believe. I also believe, Sir, that no arrangement has been made for renovation, cleaning or refurbishment of this, and that we are going to come back to this same condition, this same environment after a long summer recess. I have seen it happen before and I have no doubt – I would love for somebody to contradict me on this but I fear I would not be contradicted – that no plans have been made to take advantage of the fact that the Chamber is going to be in long recess and that would be an opportunity to do the rest of remedial work which has to be done in this Chamber. The rest of work which has to be done here is not major structural work at all, and can be accomplished in a matter of weeks if only somebody will insist upon it, and I am calling upon you, Sir, as President of this Chamber to make your voice heard in the quarters where a voice will make a difference, where your influence can be brought to bear, to do something about improving at very short notice the condition of this Chamber. It is disgraceful; it is positively disgraceful, and there really cannot be any excuse on-going for it.

If arrangements cannot be made after the recess for us to be comfortably accommodated here, I would love to suggest, Sir, I beg to suggest humbly that perhaps we can be given the privilege of meeting in the comfort of the Other Place while this place is made suitable and decent for us. It is just not on anymore. I don't see why we should go on putting up with this, and I don't see why other lesser priorities should take precedence over this. We are treated

to every possible discourtesy; our papers come late, they sometimes come to the wrong address with a lot of foolish excuses, we are not given decent notice, there are not suitable accommodations here for men or women when it comes to rest rooms, the dining room is really most unsuitable, we are told it is a temporary arrangement and it goes on and on, and we begin to wonder how long or how temporary is temporary. I do believe that if the Presiding Officers of both Houses, Mr. President, do not put their feet down and make their displeasure felt, because I am sure your displeasure can be no different from mine, I am sure that you are no more or no less uncomfortable than I am with the situation under which we are forced to work, nothing will be done.

I am really urging you, Sir, bearing in mind that we have, I believe, again I may be contradicted on it, a fairly long recess before us, that something be done to make life a little more comfortable for us.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I want to say to Senator Miller that I share her feelings about these matters. I think she is a member of a Committee that I am a member of that is looking after the celebrations. We are going to have a meeting tomorrow, and I promise her, although this will not be on the agenda as such, that I will raise with the Chairman of the Committee those matters you have raised, and maybe if you are there you might be able to buttress the points that I raise. I will raise this matter with him and tell him that it is an urgent matter. I am aware of this. The feeling is that the Chamber does look a bit shabby, but we take it that we are on the event of renovations and cleaning up and we were living with it, but I hope that we can do something about it.

The question that the Senate do now adjourn until Wednesday, August 3, 1988, at 11 a.m. was put to the Senate and agreed to, and Mr. PRESIDENT, adjourned the Senate accordingly.

5.05 p.m.

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BOXILL, N. W.

CLARKE, Hon. C. D.

COMISSIONG, D. A.

FRASER, V. C.

JONES, Can. I. McK.

LEWIS, Hon. L. V. H.

MILLER, B. A.

MORRISON, A.

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